

## HIRING CUSTODIAL POSITIONS

SPRINGFIELD  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

802-885-5120  
mtarbell@ssdvt.org



Holiday Happenings Pages 8+9

ECRWSS  
PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BRUNSWICK PUBLISHING, LLC

77 GROVE ST  
RUTLAND, VT 05701-3403  
Postal Patron

# THE SHOPPER Newspaper

DECEMBER 06, 2023 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 49

## Grafton and Springfield plan holiday festivities

BY PAULA BENSON

The Shopper

**GRAFTON, Vt.** – Main Street in Grafton, Vt., strongly resembles a Norman Rockwell painting when blanketed in snow, especially when decorated for the holidays. Annual events sprinkled through the winter months give visitors the opportunity to create quintessential Vermont moments while enjoying the Christmas cheer.

On Saturday, Dec. 2, Grammy-nominated a cappella voice ensemble Seraphic Fire performed in front of a packed crowd at the Grafton Brick Meeting House.

Saturday, Dec. 9, is the official date for Christmas in Grafton, a full day of events from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., that includes a variety of activities, demonstrations, sleigh rides, live music, and much more.

From 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Grafton Fire and Rescue will be selling freshly cut, Vermont Christmas trees in front of the Phelps Barn at

the Grafton Inn. The Grafton Historical Society and Museum are selling wreaths, and at the Grafton Chapel, a holiday arts and crafts fair and food sale will feature homemade crafts, bread, and soup for purchase, to benefit the Grafton Community Church and food bank.

The popular Gingerbread House Extravaganza is at the public library again this year, with gingerbread houses on display from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Created by residents and local organizations, the houses are available for purchase via silent auction, with proceeds going to support library programming.

The Windham County Humane Society, along with local volunteer group Phinney's Phriends, will be selling their charming Dogs of Grafton Calendar, which sold out last year. Phinney's Phriends sells other crafty items, like catnip mice, dog toys, bow ties for dogs and cats, and hand-quilted items for pet lovers.

Dogs and their humans are invited to participate in



Christmas tree twinkling in Springfield.  
PHOTO PROVIDED BY SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Grafton Fire and Rescue selling trees in 2022.  
PHOTO PROVIDED

the dog parade beginning at the elementary school just after 11 a.m., and are encouraged to dress up in festive holiday attire.

At 11:30 a.m., Santa will ride through town before visiting with children at the library, where Santa's elves will read stories.

A free concert from Vermont musician and composer Spencer Lewis

at the Brick Meeting House is planned for 1-4 p.m. Lewis will perform songs from his album "Calling in the Winter," which includes traditional Christmas songs and original compositions.

A link to the complete schedule for the day can be found at [www.visitgraffton-vt.com/events/christmas-in-graffton-2023](http://www.visitgraffton-vt.com/events/christmas-in-graffton-2023).

The holiday festivities in the Town of Springfield of-

ficially kicked off on Friday, Dec. 1, when the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce and Springfield On The Move (SOM) teamed up to present their annual Downtown Holiday Program.

Sticker maps from SOM, giveaways, goodie bags for kids, performances from Avant Vermont Dance and the Springfield Community Band, and a tree lighting ceremony featuring Santa were highlights of the day.

The Springfield Garden Club held a Christmas Holidays Pop-Up Market on Dec. 1-2 in the Springfield Plaza, at the former location of Young's Propane, selling handmade boxwood trees, wreaths, centerpieces, and other fresh holiday decorations.

This season, downtown businesses decorated their

See **HOLIDAY** on Page 2

## Springfield public hearing on Riverwalk alternatives

BY PAULA BENSON

The Shopper

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – At 6:02 p.m. on Monday night, Nov. 27, Springfield Selectboard Chair Kristi Morris called a public hearing to order for the purpose of discussing three options for a pedestrian and bike path along River Street, from Chester Road to Elm Hill Street. Stantec engineer Israel Maynard was at the meeting to present the three alternatives and hear any questions and concerns from the public.

The Riverwalk Scoping Study has been underway since January of this year, with the first public meeting on the project held in February. Maynard reviewed with the board the feedback from the February meeting which cited safety, aesthetics, and funding as three important concerns.

"One purpose of conducting the study," said Maynard, "is to put the town in a good position to apply for grant funds, should the town decide to move forward [with the project]."

Alternative one would include sidewalks on each side of the road in the north section, with two buffered bike lanes, which Maynard said results in a "traffic calming effect," and would help reduce traffic speeds heading into downtown. In the south section, a buffered bike lane would stretch along the northbound side, and on the southbound side would be a 10-foot-wide shared use path. The shared use path would start after the pedestrian bridge accessing the Great Hall, and move away from the road, creating a riverwalk trail, green space, and an upgrade to the

gravel parking lot with no reduction in the number of parking spots.

Alternative two includes a 10-foot shared use path for the entire length of the study area, adjacent to the street, with off-street parking. This plan would not include the riverwalk feature, and instead the pedestrian pathway would go through the parking area.

Alternative three would see cyclists and cars sharing a lane, and, as Maynard explained, "with a 25 mile an hour speed limit, [sharing lanes] is certainly doable."

"Experienced bicyclists that are really making time would be riding in the lane with the traffic," Maynard said. "Anyone that isn't so experienced, or feels uncomfortable riding that way, would be out on the shared-use path."

The third alternative narrows the road the most, but will provide more area for green space. This option puts the path back on the river, as with alternative one.

What Maynard called "conservative" cost estimates included in the presentation quoted alternative one at \$900,000, with alternatives two and three at \$1,500,000. Conservative, because the project is still years away, and not fully designed.

The full Northern Gateway Alternatives presentation packet is available to review on the Springfield town website, along with four voting options: alternatives one, two, or three, and a fourth choice to make no changes to the existing traffic flow.

During the regular meeting, the selectboard regretfully accepted the resignations of GinaMarie Russell

from the planning commission, and Crissy Webster from the selectboard.

Quoting the town charter, manager Jeff Mobus explained that when a vacancy occurs on the selectboard, the vacancy is filled by vote of the remaining board members. Mobus announced that any resident of Springfield who was interested in applying to fill the position should contact Morris or Mobus directly. Mobus expressed a sense of urgency in appointing a replacement for Webster, since the town is in the middle of budget season.

The board will hold its next meeting and budget workshop on Monday, Dec. 11, and again on Dec. 18.

## Rescued stained-glass window has new owner

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Shopper

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – A very large and elaborate stained-glass window, known as the Parable of the Sower, which was rescued from the old and now demolished Methodist meeting house two years ago, is now being moved from its current location at the Bellows Falls train station. Two years ago, the window, which is 14 feet tall and 8 feet wide, was removed from the building at 66 Atkins Street and stored at the local train station facility.

This came after a group of local citizens organized a GoFundMe campaign to raise the funds necessary to pay the local Basin Farm to remove and relocate the large and heavy window.

In October, Rockingham resident Charlie Jar-

ras was awarded the window at an auction hosted by the local Sustainable Valley Group. However, after it was learned that the window cannot reside in a town-owned building, and that restoration costs of the elaborate creation will exceed \$60,000, retaining the window was simply not feasible for the group.

Additionally, there was also the threat of a lawsuit from a Washington, D. C. organization called Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU). Founded in 1948, AU is a nonprofit organization designed to advocate for the disassociation of religion and religious organizations from government. AU also describes itself as officially nonsectarian and nonpartisan.

The stained-glass window, which weighs over 1,000 pounds and features a Jesus-like figure and the scripture "The Parable of the Sower

of Seeds," dates back to the 1880s, when the Methodist church underwent an expansion and several stained-glass windows were installed. When the building was demolished two years ago, the town took ownership of the window due to delinquent taxes against the building.

However, according to a letter sent to town officials by AU, the organization claims that because the train station is going to be town owned, it is against the constitution for a religious object to be located in a town building.

The town is currently working to receive over \$1 million in federal grants to start the process of restoring the train station, and does not want a potential lawsuit to derail receiving grant money for the project. The owner, Jarras, who also owns Rockingham Hill Farm, had been previously unsuccessful in his search of finding someone to move the large and fragile window.

## Springfield Elks recognize Students of the Month

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – The Student of the Month program of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks recognizes young men and women for achievements in school and community life, hobbies, athletics, club, and community service. The Springfield Elks Lodge is pleased to recognize Jermaine Anders and Cameron Williams, both students of Springfield High School, as the Elks Students of the Month for September and October.

Jermaine, son of David and Desiree Anders, who is a senior, is a very

conscientious student, is a great partner to his fellow students, completes his work, asks for and receives constructive feedback, and strives to improve his work. Jermaine has been a two-year participant in football, and four years in baseball. He currently works while attending school and participating in athletics.

Cameron Williams, grandson of Shawn and Diane Knight, is a junior, works hard in his classes, and takes his education seriously. He is a team player, spending afternoons training students for the Powder Puff games, serving as a team captain to the



Jermaine Anders (left) and Cameron Williams, the Springfield Elks Students of the Month for September and October.  
PHOTO PROVIDED

football team, participating in basketball the past three years, and most recently adding track and field to his athletic resume. Cameron currently works

while attending school and participating in his extracurricular activities, and has proven to be a dependable person time and time again.

### INDEX

Arts & Entertainment .....	3
Opinion.....	4
Obituaries/Services .....	5
Calendar .....	6
Legal Notices .....	6
Classifieds/Business Directory ...	7

### CONTACT US

**OFFICE ADDRESS:**  
8 High Street • PO Box 228 • Ludlow, VT

**BILLING ADDRESS:**  
PO Box 116 • Rutland, VT 05702

**PHONE NUMBER:**  
802-228-3600

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.VermontJournal.com](http://www.VermontJournal.com)



### DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is **Friday at 12 p.m.** for the following Wednesday publication.

**EMAIL YOUR SHORT, 2-3 SENTENCE CALENDAR EVENTS**  
[calendar@vermontjournal.com](mailto:calendar@vermontjournal.com)

**EMAIL YOUR DISPLAY ADS AND CLASSIFIED LISTINGS**  
[ads@vermontjournal.com](mailto:ads@vermontjournal.com)

**EMAIL YOUR PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES, AND PHOTOS**  
[editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com)

# Seraphic Fire performs in Grafton

GRAFTON, Vt. – “A Seraphic Fire Christmas” in Grafton, Vt., returned for a third performance and did not disappoint, drawing a packed crowd to the Grafton Brick Meeting House, including many new faces. The program featured a celebration of Seraphic Fire’s “best of the best” of their four Christmas recordings. A sampling of the pieces included audience favorites like “O come, O come Emmanuel,” and “Carol of the Bells,” also known as “the Ukrainian Bell Carol,” along with the most requested, “Jesus Christ the Apple Tree.” The hour and a half program received several standing ovations, and closed the evening with “Silent Night.” Seraphic Fire’s associate conductor James K.



Seraphic Fire performs at the Grafton Meeting House. PHOTO PROVIDED

Bass lead the ensemble of 13 singers – professionals from all over the U.S. Many were excited to come to Grafton to see snow – some for the first time – and Grafton delivered just enough, and not too much. The ensemble stayed at the Fullerton Inn in Chester, where they were honored

with a celebratory party after the performance. Grafton is the only “A Seraphic Fire Christmas” performance outside of south Florida thanks to Elizabeth and Joe Pollio, who were both at the event and received grateful cheers and applause.

# Springfield Citizen and Organization of the Year

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Every year, the Spring-

field Regional Chamber of Commerce honors a Citizen of the Year and an Organization/Business of the Year for their outstanding leadership, civic pride, and commitment to the betterment of Springfield and the surrounding area.

We invite you to join us in recognizing those who are fostering growth and prosperity in our region. Do you know a person who has been making a difference in the neighborhood? Maybe someone who is always immersed in important community activities, or someone who has been devotedly involved with our local government?

Are you thinking of an organization that always goes above and beyond? A business that supports worthwhile causes and is committed to giving back to the community? Show appreciation by nominating them.

Winners of the 2023 Citizen of the Year, Organization of the Year, and Business of the Year will be announced at the Chamber’s Annual Meeting in 2024. Help us give thanks to folks who matter.

For more information, contact Taylor at the chamber at 802-885-2779, email [taylor@springfieldvt.com](mailto:taylor@springfieldvt.com), or visit our website for the official nomination forms, at [www.springfieldvt.com](http://www.springfieldvt.com) The deadline for submissions is Dec. 31.



**commercial & residential**

- paperhanging
- drywalls
- aerial truck
- free estimates

Ray Wilcox  
802-875-3391  
Cell 802-384-1933

• Since 1969 •



# Great Hall Handcrafters holiday tree

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Great Hall Handcrafters (GHH) decorated a holiday tree with their handmade ornaments. It is on display in the Great Hall at 100 River Street in Springfield, for people to enjoy as they pass through this medical appointment.

The GHH come together on Thursdays in the Great Hall, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., to work on a variety of handcrafts. They share their passion for knitting, crocheting, basket weaving, quilting, embroidery, rug braiding, mini-book construction, diamond painting, and decoupage. The group enjoys visiting, encouraging, teaching, and learning



Front, left to right - Laura Batchelder, Ursula Thayer, Marita Johnson. Back - Priscilla Petraska, Annie Katz, Claudia Smith. PHOTO PROVIDED

from each other. They welcome newcomers who wish to share their passion for handcrafts of all types.

# Bellows Falls Woman’s Club December meeting

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Woman’s Club will meet on Dec. 12, at the United Church on School Street, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Members Dianne Potter and Ruth Keefe will demonstrate cake-decorating techniques.

At the Nov. 14 meeting, club members and guests heard Samantha Howard, youth services librarian at Rockingham Free Public Library, speak about banned books and current program offerings

of the library. Club member Pat Fowler added comments about the preponderance of banning books.

During the business meeting, the revised club bylaws were adopted.

December activities of the club include decorating the health center lobby for the holidays, furnishing cookies for the Rotary Club’s Warming Shelter at the Parade of Lights, helping with Central School’s holiday shopping day, and attending Kurn Hattin’s holiday luncheon and musical

presentation.

The local club is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an international women’s organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

Area women interested in joining the club and helping with its community outreach activities may contact Membership Chairman Sally McGaffigan at [frankmcgaffigan@comcast.net](mailto:frankmcgaffigan@comcast.net), or other club members.

## HOLIDAY

From Page 1

windows and vied for best window display in a friendly competition organized by SOM. The top three finalists were Black River Coffee Bar, The Richards Group, and Shear Beauty Salon, who each received a cash

prize. SOM and the chamber encourage visitors to stroll through downtown to take in all the festive and creative efforts.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m., The Dance Factory will present their 32nd annual production of “The Nutcracker,” at Springfield High School. Over the years, the event has raised almost

\$25,000 for local arts initiatives.

The Springfield Farmers Holiday Market is coming to the United Methodist Church in Springfield on Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., and the Springfield Community Band will perform a free concert that evening from 6-8 p.m. at Riverside Middle School. The concert will feature holiday classics, and some “new arrangements with a modern twist.”

Children are encouraged to drop off their letters at Santa’s Springfield House, located at 6 Main Street, in the parking lot of the Springfield Food Co-op and M&T Bank. Letters will be accepted through Saturday, Dec. 16, when Santa will be on site from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., greeting visitors at the little red house.



## SEASON’S BEST SALES EVENT



NEW 2023 CADILLAC XT4 LUXURY SUV

\$42,765 MSRP	
+ \$3,250 Accessory Package	
- \$1,000 Purchase Allowance	
- \$1,000 Purchase Allowance	
<b>\$44,015 Sale Price</b>	

Offers You May Qualify For:

- \$2,250 Cadillac Lessee Loyalty Cash
- \$500 GM Educator Offer

Must take retail delivery from dealers inventory by December 29, 2023.




### SPRINGFIELD CADILLAC

429 RIVER ST. | NORTH SPRINGFIELD, VT

## 802-448-5018

SPRINGFIELDCADILLACVT.COM

Vermont’s Luxury Dealership



### P&L Excavating and Trucking

“Stumps to stones and everything in between”

PO Box 993  
Chester, VT  
Office: 802 875 2819

Owner/Operator  
Palmer cell: 802 291 3417  
Ryan cell: 802 291 3363

“It’s been through the addition of MAPLE that we have been able to get the kids to talk.”





To learn more about **Paws With A Cause** and to find out how you help, just download this app and watch the story come to life!



**GET ZAPPAR**  
ZAP THE CODE TO DONATE

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google play

Provided as a community service by this civic minded publication in conjunction with the Association of Community Publishers and Community Papers of Michigan



**THE VERMONT JOURNAL & THE SHOPPER**  
802-228-3600 | [ads@vermontjournal.com](mailto:ads@vermontjournal.com)  
[www.vermontjournal.com](http://www.vermontjournal.com)

# Bookmaking workshop at The Little Art Supply Store

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – On Saturday, Dec. 9, at 10 a.m., at The Little Art Supply Store in Bellows Falls, there will be a bookmaking workshop offered for teens and adults, “Making and Decorating Unique Folded Books.” This is a chance to create delightful small items for gifts, and to learn how to make simple but elegant small books.

Participants will work with various tools and papers to make two to three small unique books suitable for pocket jotters and notebooks. Basic bookmaking techniques will include working with a variety of papers folded in interesting and varied ways. There will be a rich selection of art materials with which to



Make handmade books like these at the workshop. PHOTO PROVIDED

decorate pages and covers. All will go home with several books they have created, and knowledge of how to continue making books on their own.

No prior bookmaking experience is needed for this workshop. Both begin-

ners to bookmaking and more advanced participants are welcome and will benefit. Teens and adults are welcome. Visit the store’s website at [www.littleartsupplystore.com](http://www.littleartsupplystore.com) for more information or to register.

# Vermont in the movies

**S. LONDONDERRY, Vt.** – On Sunday, Dec. 10, at 1:30 p.m., the Vermont Historical Society’s Amanda Gustin will present “Vermont vs Hollywood, 100 Years of Vermont in Film,” an hour-long discussion on how Vermont has been portrayed in cinema, illustrated with clips from the films mentioned, ranging chronologically from 1919’s “Way Down East” to 2005’s “Thank You for Smoking.” Other titles on the docket include Hitchcock’s “The Trouble with Harry” and “Baby Boom,” which show-

cases much local footage. Vermont has been a featured location in Hollywood movies for nearly a century. It has represented many different ideals during that time, and its portrayal reflects both Vermont’s own history, as well as that of America. Examining those films provides interesting and fun insights into the hold Vermont has had on imagination in the media age.

The venue is the South Londonderry Depot, located on West River Street at the intersection with Route

100, immediately south of the West River Bridge. This talk is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities. For more information, contact Bob Brandt at [rbrandt840@aol.com](mailto:rbrandt840@aol.com).

“Vermont versus Hollywood: 100 Years of Vermont in Film” is a Vermont Humanities Council program hosted by Weston Historical Society and co-hosted by the Friends of the West River Trail and the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society.

# Canal Street Gallery seeks submissions for “Truth Telling”

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Canal Street Art Gallery presents “Truth Telling,” finding reconciliation through art. Opening Jan. 19 and on view through March 2, the “Truth Telling” exhibit supports community wellbeing and resiliency by providing a safe and accepting space to use art as a way to interact with difficult subject matter. To include all artists, “Truth Telling” is curated through an open call for entry, and firstly reaches out to Abenaki, Pennacook, and Wabanaki peoples. Upon announcing the “Truth Telling” show, Canal Street Art Gallery enacts its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). RAP’s are created to help steer organizations’ visions, missions, and actions with respect to relationships, advocacy, and opportunity for Indigenous communities.

Image submissions for the “Truth Telling” show are due Jan. 9. Artists may

submit one to three artworks. The exhibition fee is a sliding scale for one, two, or three entries. Artwork delivery is on Jan. 16. To submit, visit [www.canalstreetartgallery.com/call-for-entry-truth-telling.html](http://www.canalstreetartgallery.com/call-for-entry-truth-telling.html).

Along with the “Truth Telling” exhibit, the gallery shares its land acknowledgment. Canal Street Art Gallery is located on N’dakinna, the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Pennacook, and Wabanaki peoples past and present. The gallery, sitting along the Kwanitewk, or Long River (Connecticut River), next to the Kitchee Pontegu, or Great Falls (Bellows Falls, Vt.) gives gratitude to

the land and waterways and the alnobak (people) who have stewarded N’dakinna throughout the generations.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street, in historic downtown Bellows Falls, Vt., and is open Tuesday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information about the “Truth Telling” show or Canal Street Art Gallery, visit [www.canalstreetartgallery.com](http://www.canalstreetartgallery.com), call Mike at 802-289-0104, or email [artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com](mailto:artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com).

# Antiques picking

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119  
ronpatch27@gmail.com

I began knocking on doors, or “picking,” for antiques over 50 years ago. I had a proven method; I would knock on 20 doors per day. Out of these 20, I would get into five or six houses. I would buy antiques from two or three of these houses. I picked six days a week.

Perkinsville

One summer day, about 50 years ago, I was picking on the Upper Falls Road in Perkinsville. I stopped at an old place to see if I could buy anything. The old guy was friendly enough, but he didn’t want to sell anything.

I remember he collected antique bells of all kinds, cow bells, sleigh bells, school bells, etc. We stepped into a shed where I saw a large anvil. I asked if it was for sale. “Why yes,” he said. “If you can pick it the way I did when I was your age.” I bent over and grabbed the anvil by the horn with my left hand, my right hand to the rear, and picked it up.

“No,” he said. “Pick it with your thumb and forefinger of your left hand on the left front foot, and with your right hand grab the rear right foot with your thumb and forefinger. Then pick it straight up and touch the horn to my nose. If you can do that I’ll sell it to you.” Of course it’s impossible. When I said, “Show me,” he said, “I’m too old now.”

I was about 21, and even though I knew he was playing me, deep down, I wondered if he really could have done it. I was still wet behind the ears. Some of these old Vermonters were storytellers. We are still here.

Mr. Farnsworth

Another summer day, I was on a dirt road in Vergennes when I stopped at an old place. I walked up on the porch and knocked on the door. A nice old gent came to the door. I introduced myself, and told him I was buying antiques. I could see antiques in the kitch-



Antiques from a generational attic. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

en behind him. He let me in and showed me around.

I probably spent 45 minutes with him going from one room to another. I made many offers, but he wouldn’t sell anything. I had to get back on the road, so I stepped out onto the porch to leave. He said, “Wait, I want to show you something.” I wanted to get going, but I could tell the old guy was lonely, so I humored him a little longer.

There was an ell on one end of the house. We started up these creaky old stairs when I looked up to the upper floor. I could see shelves loaded with Edison record players. There were over 70 Edison machines. He had two figures of Nipper, Edison posters and signs, extra horns, and thousands of records.

He asked, “What would you like to hear?” Having already struck out and knowing he wouldn’t want to sell his machines I said, “I’d like to hear you’d take

*This week’s old saying I was told by an old-time antiques dealer 50 years ago. I asked him what something was worth. “It depends whether you’re buying or selling.”*

**RON PATCH**  
Buying Antiques  
Photographs, Military, Clocks, Guns, Coins  
802-374-0119

**FOOD SHELF**  
BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES  
378 Main St, Ludlow, VT 05149  
Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 AM-3 PM  
Phone: 802-228-3663  
[www.brgn.org](http://www.brgn.org)  
“We are here to help”  
Serving Ludlow, Mt. Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville & Plymouth

**BLACK ROCK STEAKHOUSE**  
284 River Street • Springfield, VT • 802-885-2200  
Open 7 Days a Week, from 12 Noon to Closing  
Gift Certificates Available  
11:45-9 Mon-Sat and 12-8 Sun  
Now Taking Reservations  
All Meals are Served with House Salad, Caesar Salad, or Veggie of the Day  
Early Bird Specials  
\$20.00 SHRIMP & SCALLOPS BROILED OR FRIED  
\$16.00 JR. PRIME RIB  
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm  
Monday - Friday. Excludes Holidays

**BEARDMORE PAINTING**  
COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL  
INTERIOR / EXTERIOR  
802-353-9493  
DERK BEARDMORE  
[beardmorepainting802@gmail.com](mailto:beardmorepainting802@gmail.com)

**HUNTLEY FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
Getting a second opinion on your financial future may:  
• Lower your investment fees  
• Improve your performance  
• Help you understand your investments and risk  
• Make sure you don’t outlive your money  
Call us today to set up a no risk private consultation.  
Isn’t your peace of mind worth the time?  
802-228-5774  
116 Main Street, Ludlow, VT  
Member FINRA/SIPC  
Securities offered exclusively through American Portfolio Financial Services Inc.

**CHAVES EXCAVATING**  
ALL MATERIALS FOR COMPLETE SITE WORK  
Sand • Gravel • Stone  
Shurpac • Topsoil • Fill  
5,000 lb. Hydraulic Hammer for Ledge & Rock Splitting  
Portable On-Site Crushing & Screening Equipment  
802-824-3140  
Londonderry, VT

**Noel Hoffmann Dog Training & Behavior Consulting.**  
CPDT-KA, KPA-CTP, IAABC- CDBC, Fear Free certified.  
**The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.**  
There is a positive solution for every behavioral problem.  
Aggression, Resource Guarding, Reactivity, Separation anxiety .....and more!  
Private training in a quiet and safe environment, so that you can learn. Fully certified to work behavioral cases.  
Westminster, Vermont - Five minutes from Exit 5, I-91.  
[www.noelhoffmann.com](http://www.noelhoffmann.com) 802 375-5560 [noel@noelhoffmann.com](mailto:noel@noelhoffmann.com)

**AQUA AID SYSTEMS**  
SOLVING HARD WATER, IRON, BLUE STAINING, RADON, AND ARSENIC PROBLEMS IN THE CENTRAL VT AND NH AREA SINCE 1984  
Service Pumps & Tanks  
Water Conditioning  
Free on-site Water Analysis & Estimate  
Radon & Arsenic Removal  
Systems Maintenance  
Home Supplies Delivery  
800-252-8484 • [AQUAAIDSYSTEMS.COM](http://AQUAAIDSYSTEMS.COM)

# opinion

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

We hope you were able to join us this past Saturday, as Santa arrived on the big blue fire engine with lights and sirens, spreading holiday joy at the annual Christmas in Weston celebration. With just a few sprinkles, families enjoyed a full day of horse-drawn wagon rides, food and drink, children's arts and crafts and storytelling, wreath sales, cookie decorating and sales, along with lots of caroling both in the Church on the Hill and on the Green. Commemorative mug and tea towel sales were made possible by the Vermont Country Store. Burr and Burton Academy Carolers led songs on the town Green, followed by Santa lighting the gazebo Christmas tree, and a fantastic fireworks show above the beloved Weston Play-

house, currently still closed due to flood damage. The Weston Theatre Company read "A Christmas Carol" during the day, and shared their talents both Friday and Saturday nights at their Winter Cabaret.

As you know, both The Little School and the Weston Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) suffered significant losses during this past July flooding, along with many buildings in the neighboring towns. Funds raised this year were allocated to those two groups. With a flurry of donated gifts from our community businesses, a successful flood relief raffle was held. The WVFD and The Little School would like to thank the following businesses for making the raffle possible: Benny's Power, Black Powder Farm,

Blue Sky Trading Company, David Bonanno Masseur, Brown's Enterprises, Patricia Connelly, Grandma Miller's, Le Spa at The Weston, Johnny Seesaws, Londonderry Hardware, Mountain Community Arts, Smith Family Maple, The Hub, The Vermont Country Store, Vermont Butcher, and West Town Gallery. Thank you also to our bakers and many event volunteers. The continued generosity of our neighbors, citizens, and entire community is what makes Vermont such a wonderful place to live and brings visitors back year after year.

Sincerely,  
WVFD and The Little School  
Weston, Vt.

Dear Editor,

The 2023 Warm Hands Warm Hearts Coat and Warm Clothing Drive, held Oct. 20-21, at the Baptist Church on Main Street in Chester, Vt., wishes to thank the many volunteers and donors to this much-needed and well-attended event. Last year there were 427 voluntary hours clocked, not including those behind the scenes. This year's got to be more.

In its 16th year, clean, usable, warm clothing and winter wear of all sizes are donated. Volunteers sort and display items for those looking for warmth, free of charge, in the Chester/Andover community. Leftover clothing is then sent to the Boy Scout Shed for further distribution.

Thank you to the en-

titles that let us have drop boxes at their establishments, students from Green Mountain Union High School volunteering for community service, snack and food items from The American Legion Auxiliary Chester Unit 67, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Parish, First Universalist Parish of Chester, Chester Baptist Church, Andover Community Church, St. Luke's Church, and Smitty's Chester Market.

Thanks also to Chester Andover Family Center for saving coats for us all year, United Methodist for donating rummage sale extras, Gasset's Grange for new socks, Springfield Humane Society for towels, blankets, etc., NewsBank Print Shop

for posters, our muscle and vehicles of the event for lifting, moving, setting up, and carting away the heavy items, and Mr. G's of Walpole for donating our new free clothing racks.

All of you, and those behind the scenes, are an important part of this event. Thank you ever so much.

Sincerely,  
The 2023 WHWH Committee:

Carla Rumrill, chair  
Asta Spafford  
Mary Semones  
Faith Goodwin  
Marge Massey  
Lynda Farmer  
Ellen LaFlamme  
Sandy Vincent  
Nancy Roberts

## Trans 101 at Springfield Town Library

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – What does it mean when someone says they are transgender? And what's the deal with the pronouns? Unsure of what to say/not say to a trans person? Are you looking for a better understanding of transgender issues?

Respectful conversations begin with a shared

language. Come learn the basics at this Community Conversation with Owen Daniel-McCarter, a member of Bethel's Equity and Inclusion Committee. This in-person, interactive, and engaging opportunity for individuals of all backgrounds will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at

6 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library.

Owen is a graduate of the University of Vermont, and worked as a civil rights attorney in Illinois for 11 years before moving back to Vermont. Owen will provide valuable insights to dispel misconceptions and stereotypes. This event aims

to create a space where questions can be asked openly and respectfully, fostering mutual understanding and empathy.

Springfield Town Library is located at 43 Main Street, Springfield, Vt. Let's learn more to help create a more accepting world.



Greater Springfield, VT Area  
**Habitat for Humanity**  
An EOH Affiliate

**BUILD HOME, BUILD HOPE**

**WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT NOW!**



Greater Springfield Area Habitat for Humanity  
PO Box 143, Springfield, VT 05156  
infospringfieldhabitat@vermontel.net

**Board of Directors:** Walter Pluss, Phil Atwood, Paul Kendall, Patti Kemp, Gay Mobus, Rita Burton, Alex Buron, Tony Klementowicz, Oliver Peck

Dear Editor,

Town meeting is a Vermont tradition that allows ordinary citizens to meet annually with their neighbors to create local legislation and oversee their town's affairs. It is democracy in action at its most basic level.

Rockingham residents may recall that voters at last year's town meeting discussed whether to continue the tradition of an annual in-person town meeting, or to switch to voting all articles by Australian ballot. Although the decision was made to continue holding in-person town meetings, there were good arguments on both sides. One idea that all seemed to support was that if we are to continue the town meeting tradition, we should do all we can to encourage increased attendance.

To this end, the Rock-

ingham Selectboard is in the process of surveying voters to learn what changes would make it easier for people to attend. I encourage all Rockingham voters to respond thoughtfully to the survey.

Furthermore I am convening a working group of interested citizens to support the selectboard by researching and developing additional ideas for making our town meeting more accessible, relevant, and inviting. My hope is that we will come up with a number of ideas that could be implemented in time for our next town meeting in March 2024. If you'd like to join this working group, or if you have suggestions, please contact me directly at [steve.crofter@gmail.com](mailto:steve.crofter@gmail.com) or 802-275-4646.

Here's to democracy!

Steve Crofter  
Rockingham, Vt.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Subject to space. May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication. Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper.

**AS OF MARCH, 2023, we will charge for POLITICAL LETTERS at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter.**

**Shawntae Webb**, publisher@vermontjournal.com

**Danielle Goodwin**, sales@vermontjournal.com

**Nick Giberti**, editor@vermontjournal.com

**Paula Benson**, billing@vermontjournal.com

“Recently, on separate occasions, we both needed emergency care. For each of us, the staff at Springfield Hospital worked with great skill to determine the cause of our extreme health concerns. Barry required emergency surgery performed by Dr. Kloos, who provided excellent care, communication and follow-up with Dr. Ciochi. The talent and genuine kindness shown by the surgeons and nursing staff was phenomenal. A month later, Tina entered the Emergency Department, where Dr. Gray, the nurses, radiology staff, and a tele-neurology consultation, delivered care when time was of the essence. We received “top notch” care from everyone, including nurses, housekeeping staff, and Dietary Technician, Arlene Runnells. It was such a relief for us to be cared for at Springfield Hospital. It was important to us to be close to home. Thank you all.”

- Tina & Barry Vittum, Chester, VT



Dr. Kloos    Dr. Ciochi    Dr. Gray    Arlene

802-885-2151



25 Ridgewood Road, Springfield, VT  
[www.springfieldhospital.org](http://www.springfieldhospital.org)

## Two Emergencies. Two Incredible Stories. Two Very Grateful Patients.



# obituaries

## Doris E. Rice, 1922-2023

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Doris E. Rice, 101, of Saxtons River, passed away on Nov. 29, 2023, at the Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, N.H. Doris was born March 20, 1922, in Athens, Vt., to Raymond and Pearle (Torrey) Haley.

Doris attended schools in Grafton and Cambridgeport, Vt. Doris worked at the Mary Meyer Toy Company in Townshend, Vt., and retired from Readex in Chester, Vt. Doris loved cats, and sending cards to people, and she had an outstanding memory for dates. Doris was also known for keeping up with current events and news. She was also a fan of Bernie Sanders.

Doris is survived by her daughter Iris Haley of Somerville, Mass., and one brother Bernard "Pete" Haley of Grafton, as well as several nephews and nieces.

Doris was predeceased by her parents, and siblings Charlotte, Gertrude, Merton, Lewis, Cecil, Gordon, Ruby, and Lawrence.

Visiting hours will take



Doris E. Rice, 1922-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

place on Monday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, with a graveside service starting at 12:30 p.m. at the Saxtons River Village Cemetery

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Saxtons River Volunteer Fire Department, or to the Bellows Falls Senior Center.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls, Vt.

## Deborah L. Swisher, 1950-2023

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Deborah Swisher, 73, passed away on Nov. 24, 2023, at home in Rockingham. Deborah was born Jan. 8, 1950, in Springfield, Vt., to Charles and Flora (Parkhurst) Anderson.

Debbie worked at Vermont T's for over 15 years, and later at NewsBank, both in Chester, Vt. Debbie loved making crafts and crocheting. She gifted most of her handmade treasures to children, family, friends, and several care facilities. She had an annual fun-loving holiday tradition of making Christmas cookies with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Debbie was a member of the Bartonville Grange for 20 years, where she held multiple offices including master for four years, and was a member of the executive committee. Most of all, Debbie loved spending time with her family.

Debbie is survived by her children Gloria (Paul) Thomas of Walpole, N.H., and Patrick (Fawna) Start of Johnson, Vt.; her four sisters Judy Chernouski, Nancy Rodgers, Charlyn Start, and Sandy Kiablick; her grandchildren Kristina Thomas, Selina



Deborah Swisher, 1950-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

Meisenhelder, Holly Strait, Taylor Palmer, and Natalie Start; as well as eight great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her parents and Gary Swisher, her husband of 25 years.

A graveside service will be held in the spring in Houghtonville Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider giving to the Bartonville Grange. Donations can be sent to Bartonville Grange, C/O Nancy Rodgers, 243 Lower Bartonville Road, Chester VT 05143.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

## Wilma B. Weghorn, 1929-2023

CHESTER, Vt. – Wilma B. Weghorn, our Oma, died at her home in Chester with her loving family in the early morning of Sunday, Nov. 26, at the age of 94. She was born in Furth, Germany, on Feb. 28, 1929, to Wilhelm and Louise (Kimmel) Weghorn. During World War II, she worked in the commissary of a United States base and met an American soldier. The two married, and after the war she emigrated to the United States. The two parted ways after a time, and she worked very hard to provide for her two children.

She dearly loved building and operating The Alpina Haus, a lodging, restaurant, and fuel station near Magic Mountain in Londonderry in the early 1960s. She found great joy hosting the skiers and cooking traditional German food for travelers as they gathered for skiing holidays; her Saturday evening roast pork suppers were always well attended, and everyone ended the evening well fed. Through the years she also took care of homes around Magic Mountain, and kept the concessions at the Weston Playhouse well stocked with homemade pies. She also worked at Readex/NewsBank for 30 years, and made great friends there. She lived in Chester for 55 years (30 with her daughter); she was the community Oma, hosting and feeding scores of her grandchildren's friends and community children in the evenings and after school. During the U.S. Open the house was full of young skiers, and she would often stay



Wilma Weghorn, 1929-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

up late in the night with them sharing stories and food.

Oma enjoyed coordinating trips and traveling the world with her family and friends, gardening, baking, and playing cards. She also loved the many pets that also shared their household in her final years and days. She is survived by two children Ken Birdsey and partner Jan Campbell of Treasure Island, Fla., and Lu Parker and husband Gary of Chester; a former daughter-in-law Debbie Birdsey of Hampstead, N.H.; four grandchildren Michael (Corrine), Katie (Rob), Shannon (Mark), and Hannah (Wes); six great-grandchildren Payton, Kylee, Dahlia, Makaylah, Abby, and Logan; and other relatives and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at her daughter's home next spring when the peonies are in bloom and the croquet court is set up and ready for a game.

Arrangements have been provided by Knight Funeral Home, and online condolences are appreciated at www.knightfuneralhomes.com.

## Marylou Britton, 1942-2023

WALPOLE, N.H. – Marylou Britton of Walpole passed away at home on Thursday Nov. 30, 2023. She was born on Jan. 21, 1942, in Keene, N.H., the daughter of John and Louette Johnson. She enjoyed her family farm, her gardens, and spending time with her family putting on holidays, and especially her grandchildren.

On Nov. 4, 1966, in Keene N.H., she married Alfred Britton, who predeceased her. Besides her husband, she was predeceased by a son Andrew John Britton.

Marylou is survived by her children Marlo Britton

(Fred), Molly Banik (Paul), and Lawrence Britton (Josette); and grandchildren Lacy Davis, Kelsey Zielinski, Emily Britton, Josephine Britton, Megan Banik, and Wyatt Britton. She is also survived by five great-grandchildren Taylor, Tulley, Arabelle, Tucker, and River. She also leaves behind one brother John Johnson.

A graveside service will take place on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 12 p.m., at the Walpole Village Cemetery.

Arrangements are entrusted to Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

## Jerry W. McGreer, 1937-2023

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Jerry W. McGreer, 86, of Birmingham, Ala., and formerly Walpole, N.H., passed away on Nov. 10, 2023, at his home.

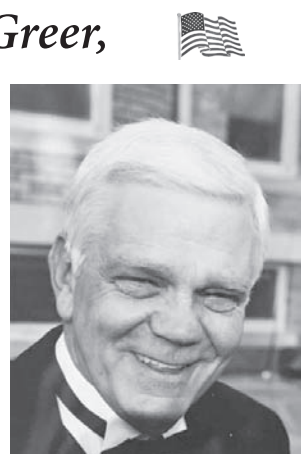
Jerry was born to Audrey and Goldia McGreer on June 28, 1937, in La Grange Park, Ill. He was the oldest of five siblings, and he loved working on cars, trains, playing sports, and music. He was good at everything he did. There seemed to be nothing he couldn't fix. He was the first in his family to attend college, and graduated from DePauw University in 1959 with a liberal arts degree.

After graduating, Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in central Florida. As an ICBM crew commander and pilot, it was there that he met the love of his life, Diana Dunning, who was attending an all-women's college nearby. It was on his pilot's helmet where he first donned his infamous XOOX letters, which later became their license plates. Diana could always tell it was him, as he purposefully flew formations over the school campus. He married Diana on July 16, 1960, and they started their family soon after.

After leaving the Air Force, Jerry and Diana moved to Ridgefield, Conn., in 1963, where he was employed by Danbury Plastics, now PARR Molding Compounds. They relocated to Walpole in 1971, where Jerry became the vice president of sales at JH Dunning Corporation, and was there until 1983. Jerry went on to work in sales at Patriot Motors in Keene, N.H., but really found his calling as a master kitchen designer for the rest of his career.

Jerry spent the last 20 years in Birmingham, Ala., and on July 11, 2018, he married Veronica Z. McGreer. Jerry would say, "I have lots of children and grandchildren to brag about and love. I'm pretty gregarious and can get along in most any situation. I'd rather be working than idle, I get to meet great people which is fun and rewarding to help others." Jerry retired from working in 2022.

Jerry is survived by his wife Veronica Z. McGreer; his four



Jerry McGreer, 1937-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

children Stacey (Tim) Allen of Walpole and their three children Matt, Harrison, and Whitney; his son Andrew (Stephanie) McGreer of Birmingham, Ala., and their four children Taylor, Anthony, Taylor B., and Zarah; his son Ted (Heather) McGreer of Keene and their two children Mackenzie and Matthew; and his daughter Lynn McGreer of Newbury and her three children Riley, Abigail, and Luke. He is also survived by his brothers Donald (Pam) McGreer of Sugar Grove, Ill.; David (Terri) McGreer of Wildwood, Mo.; and Steven (Deena) McGreer of Saint Louis, Mo.

Jerry was predeceased by his sister Velma (John David) Tucker of Milan, Tenn.

He was a loving grandfather of 10, and great-grandfather of seven.

Aside from his love for family, Jerry was passionate about giving back. He was a man of faith, an elder at Christian Family Circle Church, and an overall kind, sincere and generous man. He was always the first to volunteer his time, serving at church suppers or feeding the homeless. Jerry positively impacted his community, and he will be truly missed.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services (HCS) in Keene in his name (www.hcsservices.org/give/).

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, at 1 p.m., at Redemption Church, 1512 Back Westminster Road, Westminster, Vt. Following the service, the family will hold a Celebration of Life at Alyson's Orchard in Walpole.

## John Kevin O'Shaughnessy, 1938-2023

WINDHAM, Vt. – A man of many talents and accomplishments, J. Kevin O'Shaughnessy, passed away on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, 2023, at his home in Windham, Vt.

Born Sept. 2, 1938, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to John Quinn O'Shaughnessy and Lucy Marie O'Sullivan O'Shaughnessy, the third of their four children, Kevin grew up in Floral Park, N.Y., graduating with honors from Chaminade High School in Mineola, N.Y.

Kevin was first and foremost a consummate teacher and scholar, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgetown University, and was a Fulbright Scholar in attendance at the U.S. Embassy in Guadalajara, Mexico, while earning his advanced degrees from Georgetown. Fluent in several languages and a world traveler, Kevin's Georgetown major was in Latin American studies, but his interests covered centuries of world history, as well as many areas of the natural sciences.

Kevin taught biology and earth sciences from 1968 to 1974 at the Cranwell School in Lenox, Mass., as well as at other schools both private and public in the Northeast and Florida, including Tabor Academy in Marian, Mass. He concluded his lengthy career as a teacher with Vermont Public Schools.

Kevin was a person who was always motivated to learn more, teach more, do more, and accomplish more. He engaged his students in the classroom and in the outdoors. As a teacher, he was a great lover of the natural world, of hiking and skiing, with and without his students. He was a blue water sailor who used his skills to open another part of the natural world to his students, an avid student of all manner of contemporary sailboats, and an expert on the history of classic tall ships.

**WE ARE YOUR LOCAL PAPER!**

WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM



J. Kevin O'Shaughnessy, 1938-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

A chance encounter with Jacques Cousteau developed into full-blown academic programs in oceanography.

Predeceased by his parents and brother Thomas O'Shaughnessy, Kevin is survived by his siblings Alice O'Shaughnessy, C.S.J., of Seaford, N.Y.; Kathleen O'Shaughnessy Hearn and her husband Rex Alan Hearn of Lee, Mass., and North Palm Beach, Fla.; sister-in-law Laura Nuzzi O'Shaughnessy also of Lee; close family friend Lauren Hanley, C.S.J., also of Seaford; nieces Nancy O'Shaughnessy Smith of New Marlborough, Mass., and Ellen Clelia O'Shaughnessy of Chapel Hill, N.C.; nephew Christopher Hearn of Valley Cottage, N.Y., and their families.

Services for Kevin will be held in the spring in Vermont, and a future notice of his memorial service will be published at a later date.

Donations in Kevin's memory may be made to The Benedictine Monks of Weston Priory, 58 Priory Hill Road, Weston, Vt.

Honoring Kevin's affinity for the turn of a good phrase, we leave him with the words he so often left with those he loved: "If I don't see you in the future, I will see you in the pasture."

  
**DAVIS MEMORIAL CHAPEL**  
*Family Owned Funeral Home*  
Funeral & Cremation Services  
802-885-3322  
99 Summer St, Springfield, VT  
www.DavisMemorialChapel.net  
Owners Scott and Angela Page

**LAWRENCE & LOBER ELECTRIC**  
Residential-Commercial-Generator-Fire Alarm-Security  
UL Listed 24 Hour Monitoring  
www.llelectricservices.com • info@llelectricservices.com  
15 Barker St. Tel: 802-460-3479  
Bellows Falls, VT 05101 Fax: 802-460-3480

**GREATER FALLS INSURANCE**  
servicing VT and NH since 1996  
  
Home • Auto • Farm • Business • Motorcycle • Recreational Vehicles  
7190 US Route 5 • Westminster, Vermont 05158  
802-463-1900 • www.greaterfallsinsurance.com

45 TAYLOR HILL ATHENS, VT 05143 FULLY INSURED FREE ESTIMATES  
**TAYLOR EXCAVATING LLP**  
TRUCKING & EXCAVATING  
SEPTIC SYSTEMS, LAND CLEARINGS, DRIVEWAYS  
COMPLETE HOUSE SITES  
LANDSCAPING, WALL BUILDING  
LAWN MOWING, SNOWPLOWING AND SANDING  
802-869-2905 802-289-1508  
DAN

Harvey Replacement Windows, Raynor Garage Door Sales & Installation, Garage Door Repair & Vinyl Siding  
**BILL STANKEVICH Building & Remodeling**  
Full Service Care Taking  
173 Baltimore Road 802-263-9374  
Perkinsville, VT 05151 Fax 802-263-5129

**OBITUARIES:** A basic 200-word obituary is \$75, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. A black and white photo is an additional \$10. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m.  
**CHURCH SERVICES:** We run Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at www.VermontJournal.com.

**David Chaves EXCAVATING**  
*Family Owned & Operated Since 1980*  
Complete Site Work  
From Clearing to Finish  
Grading, Roads, Foundations  
Septics & Drainage Problems  
Specializing In  
Equine Land Development & Ponds  
802-824-3140 Londonderry, VT  
*Sculpting your piece of Vermont to fit your Dreams!*

# calendar

# LEGAL NOTICES

**DEC. 8 –** W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Bard Owl will perform Friday, Dec. 8, from 5-7 p.m., at the West Townshend Country Store's pizza night. Sweet harmonies, old and new tunes, and originals, with Breeze Verdant on guitar, vocals, and stomp box, and Annie Landenberger on vocals and percussion. There is no cover charge. 6573 Vermont Route 30.

**DEC. 9 –** CHESTER, Vt. – The Stone Village Art Guild, in cooperation with the First Universalist Parish of Chester, will hold a Fine Art and Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., at the First Universalist Parish, 211 North Street. The Fair will feature fine art, including watercolors, oil, and pastels by local artists. Crafts, sweater style mittens that Bernie would be proud to wear, fabric baskets, jewelry, ornaments, and a bake sale will also be available. For more information, contact Melody at 802-875-5414 or email melodious54@gmail.com.

GRAFTON, Vt. – Fresh cut Vermont Christmas trees will be on sale next to the Grafton Inn, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., to benefit the Fire and Rescue Scholarship Fund. Santa will arrive accompanied by a fire engine, and tours the village

at 11:30 a.m. on his way to the library for story time.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – There will be a Winter Holiday Arts and Crafts Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at VFW Post 771, 191 River Street, hosted by American Legion Post 18. The bazaar will support the Dodge House for veterans in Rutland, and Springfield American Legion programs. There will be a 50-50 raffle, basket raffle, arts and crafts vendors, and a concessions stand. For more information, contact James Harris at 802-698-3943.

WALPOLE, N.H. – The Walpole Unitarian Church will hold its Holiday Food Sale on Dec. 9, from 9-11:30 a.m., in front of the post office. We will have our popular boxed holiday cookies for gift giving, as well as holiday breads and pies, and savory items such as quiches, casseroles, lasagnas, pot pies, etc. All of our delicious offerings are homemade. Come early to get the best choices.

**DEC. 11 –** LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center will host a Christmas Luncheon with music by Rust and Ruin on Monday, Dec. 11, at 12 p.m., at 10 High Street in Ludlow. Lunch will be hot roast beef sandwiches, string beans,

and cupcakes. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. All are welcome.

**DEC. 12 –** W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Bard Owl will perform Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 5-7 p.m., at the West Townshend Country Store's burger night. Sweet harmonies, old and new tunes, and originals, with Breeze Verdant on guitar, vocals, and stomp box, and Annie Landenberger on vocals and percussion. There is no cover charge. 6573 Vermont Route 30.

**DEC. 13 –** SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The First Congregational Church of Springfield, 77 Main Street, will hold their Unreel Christmas Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m., with Graham and Camille Parker and Jon Clinch. This will be an evening of songs and carols for all, with a free will offering.

**DEC. 16 –** CHESTER, Vt. – Meatball Saturday, celebrating the meatball tradition, will be held at Erskine's Grain and Garden, 54 Grain Store Road, on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. There will be free meatballs and snacks. From 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Peter Hudkins and the Smokeshire Hilltop Farm will lead wagon rides with Suffolk Punch horses Clark and Freel. All wagon rides will benefit the Chester Andover Family Center.

**SUNDAYS –** CHESTER, Vt. – Six Loose Ladies hosts Odd Bobbins Spinners the second Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. at their location on the Common in Chester.

CHESTER, Vt. – The Gassetts Grange holds a dance and open mic night on the second Sunday of every month, from 1-4 p.m., with live music by Green Mountain Express. Admission and food purchases are by donation. Call Doug or Donna with any questions at 802-591-4290.

**MONDAYS –** BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Free Tobacco Quit class led by Sarah Doyle, Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls. Dinner included. Call or text Sarah at 802-289-0045 or email sdoyle@springfieldmed.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Overeaters Anonymous 12-Step Recovery Program is Mondays, from 7-8 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension in Bellows Falls. The program is free. For more information go to www.oa.org.

WALPOLE, N.H. – Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Parish Hall, Walpole.

WESTON, Vt. – Bingo is Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Weston Rod & Gun Club, 982 Route 100,

1.5 miles north of Weston Village. All are welcome.

**TUESDAYS –** BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Come check out TOPS – Take Off Pounds Sensibly. We are a nonjudgmental, affordable, and supportive weight loss group. The first visit is free. We are taking Covid precautions so a mask is required while attending the meeting. All are welcome; youth must be at least 9 to attend and have parental permission. Meetings are every Tuesday at 25 Cherry Hill in Bellows Falls. Weigh-ins start at 5:45 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Senior Solutions is again sponsoring two Fall Prevention Tai Chi classes in the Great Hall, on Pearl Street in Springfield, on Tuesdays. The advanced class will meet from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The beginner class will meet from 10:40-11:40 a.m. When practiced regularly, Tai Chi not only helps to lower the risk of falling, but also improves concentration, leg strength, balance and coordination, reduces joint pain and stress, and builds a sense of belonging. For more information or to register, contact Sue Rubel at sruerub@aol.com, or Sophia Blanchard at SBlanchard@seniorsolutionsvt.org.

**WEDNESDAYS –** LUDLOW, Vt. – Cardio & Sculpt, Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Aqua Sculpt, Wednesdays at 10:35 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

**THURSDAYS –** CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Thursday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For

details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard will be at the Rockingham Library on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. Both beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Thursdays at 6 p.m., join Lori Wright for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

GRAFTON, Vt. – A free playgroup for children from newborns to age 5 will be held at Grafton Elementary School on Thursday mornings, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Activities will include songs, games, and arts and crafts. Contact Heather with any questions at 802-843-4792.

**FRIDAYS –** CHESTER, Vt. – Alcoholics Anonymous meetings held every Friday at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, located at 96 South Main Street in Chester. If you have a problem with alcohol, this is an understanding place to come to.

**SATURDAYS –** LUDLOW, Vt. – Yoga, Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Saturdays at 9 a.m., join Lori Wright for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

**DAILY –** REGION – If you want to drink that's your business, but if you want to stop, that's ours. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at www.aavt.org or call your local hotline at 802-802-2288 and join a meeting. You are not alone.

## TOWN OF ATHENS, VERMONT Equipment Operator / Truck Driver

The Town of Athens, Vermont is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Equipment Operator / Truck Driver. Job duties include snow plowing, salting and sanding in the winter months and general highway maintenance and construction work in the other months. The employee must be able to perform general labor duties and minor repairs and maintenance of highway equipment. The ability to communicate in a courteous manner to coworkers and the general public is required. Must have a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL). The Town of Athens is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer and offers an excellent benefits package. Applications are available at the Athens Town Office at 25 Brookline Rd., Athens, VT 05143, or can be downloaded at www.athensvt.com. Questions can be directed to the Town Clerk at townoffice@athensvt.gov or (802) 869-3370. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

## SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT



## WE ARE CURRENTLY HIRING MUTIPLE CUSTODIAL POSITIONS

APPLY ON SCHOOLS PRING OR CONTACT  
MARTHA TARBELL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
802-885-5120 mtarbell@ssdvt.org

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		1	7			2		
5				8	6		3	
	6				9			7
		5	4					9
	7			2			1	3
8					5	4		
1		3	6			7		
		2			4			6
	4			3				2

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 "Kapow!"
- 4 British ref. work
- 7 Holler
- 12 Director Spike
- 13 Chemical suffix
- 14 Fall sign
- 15 Nest egg acronym
- 16 Large, luxurious car
- 18 Brooch
- 19 Range
- 20 Collections
- 22 – tear (ragging)
- 23 First lady of scat
- 27 Earth Day mo.
- 29 Transparent
- 31 Dolphins' home
- 34 Traces of smoke
- 35 Agile
- 37 Obtained
- 38 Bygone Peruvian
- 39 Flamenco cheer
- 41 Vacillate
- 45 Quick trip
- 47 Shoe width
- 48 Pungent cheese
- 52 Aachen article

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16			17				
18			19							
20		21		22			23	24	25	26
			27	28		29	30			
31	32	33				34				
35				36	37					
38				39	40		41	42	43	44
				45			46		47	
48	49	50	51						52	
53					54				55	
56					57				58	

- 53 Sports figures?
- 54 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 55 Speck
- 56 Dunkable treat
- 57 River blocker
- 58 Actor Brynner
- 7 Pivot
- 8 That guy's
- 9 Kimono sash
- 10 Samovar
- 11 – kwon do
- 17 Ellipse
- 21 Ballroom dance
- 23 Radiates
- 24 Vinyl records
- 25 Back talk
- 26 Billboards
- 28 Picnic dessert
- 30 – Jima
- 31 Roman 1051
- 32 "There's no – team!"
- 33 "Better Call Saul" network
- 36 Bellow
- 37 Swiss metropolis
- 40 Sledded in the Winter Olympics
- 42 Like a neglected garden
- 43 Vowel group
- 44 Streisand title role
- 45 Equitable
- 46 Streetcar
- 48 Leary's drug
- 49 Jurist Lance
- 50 Fortify
- 51 A/C meas.

### DOWN

- 1 Radar dots
- 2 High nest
- 3 Signified
- 4 Fixes a squeak
- 5 Newspaper chief
- 6 Fiend

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

## NOTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN AVAILABILITY

Date: November 2023

TO: Parents, teachers, employees, other personnel or their guardians.

FROM: Springfield School District  
Rick Pembroke, CFO  
60 Park Street  
Springfield, VT 05156  
802-885-5120

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (40 CFR 763.93 [g] [4]) requires that written notice be given that the following schools have Management Plans for the safe control and maintenance of asbestos-containing materials found in their buildings. These Management Plans are available and accessible to the public at the administrative office of each facility listed below.

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	PHONE
Springfield High School	303 South St.	885-7900
Riverside Middle School	13 Fairground Rd.	885-8490
River Valley Tech Ctr.	307 South St.	885-8300



Town of Westminister  
P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158  
Tel. 802-722- 4524 Fax 802-722-9816

## DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB) WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL Westminister, Vermont Legal Notice

The Westminister Development Review Board will meet at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 8, 2024 to consider the following:

**Application # 24-22** Picz Road LLC (John Stebbins - Owner) property located at 17 Picz Road. The Applicant is requesting a Change of Use – Residential to Professional Office Space. This Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 446 Residential District; & Section 215 Zoning Permit Procedure of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Participation in the proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeals.

The application is available for review in the Westminister Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5 Westminister, Vermont 05158, Monday – Friday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.

# classifieds

## BUYING/SELLING

BUYING-SELLING Coins, Paper Money, Vintage Sports-Postcards, Comics. See our displays at ANTIQUE CENTERS in Chester and Quechee. Open 7 Days. 802-379-2353. House calls available.

## FOR HIRE

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Snow removal, salting, sanding, brush removal, tree removal, and various tractor needs. Need a trench dug? I've got a backhoe. 603-443-7009.

★★★★★

## FOR SALE

COOPER SNOW TIRES 225/55/R18. Used 1 month. \$350 for all 4. Call 603-558-1725.

## FREE

Free California King size heated waterbed, if you take down and

take away. Call Janis at 802-259-9823.

## GUNS WANTED

REGION - Guns wanted. Hand-guns, rifles, or shotguns. Top prices paid. Call Ray at 802-775-2859 or 802-236-7213.

## HELP WANTED

Dental Assistant - Chester, VT - full time or part time. Duties include welcoming patients and accu-

rately recording dental and medical records, chairside assisting during dental procedures, taking accurate radiographs as directed, keeping work areas clean and well stocked, and performing instrument sterilization. Experience is preferred but will train the right candidate. We offer a competitive salary and benefits commensurate with experience and fun working environment. Therapy dogs on site so must be comfortable with canine companions. Please send cover letter and resume to info@drchristopherfauver.com.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Nonprofit Windsor County social service agency seeking full-time Assistant Director. Professional, self-motivated and knowledgeable with excellent communication and technical skills. Previous experience preferred. Competitive

salary and benefits. For detailed job description submit cover letter and resume to: kkellingtonbrngs@gmail.com.

Openings for a MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN to provide psychotherapeutic services, and a PSYCHOMETRIC TECHNICIAN to administer psychological and neuropsychological tests. Twin State Psychological Services, PO Box 2003, Springfield, VT. Phone 802-885-5719.

## SNOW PLOWING

LUDLOW, Vt. - Snowplowing and sanding, Ludlow area, residential only. Reasonable rates. Contact SK Logging at 802-384-0313.

# Springfield resident wins Nor'easter Award

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - "Meet the Candidates 2022," a television series produced by Brattleboro Community Television and hosted by Springfield resident Martin Cohn, won a third place "Nor'easter" award in the category of issues and political process at this year's Alliance for Community Media Northeast Region (ACM-NE) conference held in Burlington, Vt.

ACM-NE is a regional membership organization

that advocates, promotes, and preserves the right to media training, production, distribution, civic engagement, and education in support of diverse community voices, through public, educational, and government access channels and other forms of media. The Nor'easter Awards, now in its 25th year, are judged by volunteers from community media centers throughout the northeast.

For "Meet the Candidates," invitations were sent to 62 candidates seeking election (14 federal, 16 statewide, and 32 Windham County) to appear on the series. Seventeen candidates were interviewed.

"The show helped citizens stay informed about local, statewide, and federal races," Cohn said, "and, of those interviewed, 76% won their races."

# GOTRVT seeking coaches

REGION - Girls on the Run Vermont (GOTRVT), a non-profit organization that uses a research and physical activity-based curriculum to inspire girls in third through eighth grade to be joyful, healthy, and confident, is excited to announce that coach registration for GOTRVT's 25th anniversary spring season is now open statewide. Utilizing a fully updated and refreshed curriculum, GOTRVT coaches will empower participants to develop critical life skills, build confidence, cultivate positive connections with peers, and stand up for themselves and others.

The ten-week season begins March 18, with teams meeting twice a week for 90 minutes. The 20-lesson curriculum covers topics such as positive self-talk, friendship, managing emotions, and more. The program culminates with teams participating in one of two non-competitive, celebratory 5K events - one on June 1, at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction, and the other on June 8, at the Manchester Recreation Fields.

All coaches will be trained in person, and will receive the materials and resources neces-

sary to facilitate lessons for the season. Coaches do not need to be runners but are required to be a minimum of 18 years old. Students in high school may register to be a junior coach. All volunteer coaches must complete a background check and

online training modules. Coach trainings are offered at three locations statewide: Feb. 3 in Brattleboro, Feb. 4 in Castleton, and Feb. 10 in Essex.

To learn more or to register to be a coach mentor, visit www.gotrvt.org.

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

4	9	1	7	5	3	2	6	8
5	2	7	1	8	6	9	3	4
3	6	8	2	4	9	1	5	7
2	3	5	4	7	1	6	8	9
6	7	4	9	2	8	5	1	3
8	1	9	3	6	5	4	7	2
1	8	3	6	9	2	7	4	5
7	5	2	8	1	4	3	9	6
9	4	6	5	3	7	8	2	1

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

B	A	M	O	E	D	S	H	O	U	T	
L	E	E	I	D	E	L	I	B	R	A	
I	R	A	L	I	M	O	U	S	I	N	E
P	I	N	S	T	O	V	E				
S	E	T	S	O	N	A	E	L	L	A	
A	P	R	L	I	M	P	I	D			
M	I	A	M	I	W	I	S	P	S		
L	I	M	B	E	R	G	O	T			
I	N	C	A	O	L	E	S	W	A	Y	
J	A	U	N	T	E	E					
L	I	M	B	U	R	G	E	R	E	T	
S	T	A	T	S	E	V	A	D	O	T	
D	O	N	U	T	D	A	M	Y	O	L	



## MARY W DAVIS

### REALTOR & ASSOCIATES

• PROUDLY CELEBRATING 65 YEARS •

#### Full Service Real Estate Sales and Seasonal Rental Service

We provide knowledge and market awareness to guide you to buy and sell with confidence




info@davisandcompany.com  
www.okemorealestate.com  
802-228-8811

**OVER 2000**  
BROKEN-IN TIRES  
**MANY SETS OF 4**



**CANON TIRE**  
I-91, Exit 8, Ascutney, VT  
**802-674-5600**  
NEW TIRES TOO!!



**Like Man's Best Friend... We're there for you.**

THE SHOPPER

## Walpole Valley Tire



Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 5:00 • Saturday 8:00 - Noon  
Route 12 • Walpole, NH • 603-445-2060

## P&M Auto & Service

Quality Used  
Cars and Trucks  
and Auto Services

Ask about our  
**Guaranteed Credit Approval**

Bankruptcy • Bad Credit  
First Time • Divorce

### Specials of the Week



**2015 Dodge Ram**  
Diesel  
4 Door  
Fully Loaded  
Cruise Control  
4x4



**2016 Kia Sedona EX**  
7 Passenger  
Auto  
4 Cylinder  
Fully Loaded



**2016 Jeep Patriot Sport**  
Cruise Control  
Power Windows  
Auto  
4x4



**2016 Honda HRV**  
AWD  
Cruise Control  
Sunroof  
Fully Loaded



**2015 Honda CRV EX-L**  
AWD  
Auto  
Heated Seats  
Bluetooth

280 River Street • Springfield, VT  
Tel: 802-885-4963 • 802-885-6200

# yellow page

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**\$150 for 13 Weeks • \$250 for 26 Weeks • \$400 for 52 Weeks**  
Prices are based on a 20 word listing. An additional 50 cents for each word thereafter.

### Art Crafts Gifts

#### GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Vermont State Craft Center  
Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops  
68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111  
Shop handmade for the holidays!  
**OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. til 7**

**Workshops, details/register http://galleryvault.org**  
Rakue Workshop w/ Andrew Berends 1/6/24 and 1/13/24  
Painting the Winter Landscape in Watercolor w/ Rob O'Brien 1/13/24  
Perspective Drawing Basics w/ Chris Mix (Zoom) 2/4/24  
Pet Portraits w/ Mincy Fisher 2/24/24  
Pine Needle Basket w/ Irene Dizes 3/8/24 & 3/9/24  
Wire-wrapped Pendant w/ Thomas Alexander 4/6/24  
Flowers in Texture & Color w/ Julie Crabtree 4/27/24  
(01/24/24 - TFN - 13)

### Builders/Contractors

#### HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC

"Not just for bangin' nails."  
We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 edwin.mortensen@gmail.com. Follow us on Instagram @nedthehammer (11/20/24 - 52)

#### PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267. (02/14/24 - 13)

#### NEW ENGLAND HOME BUILDING AND REMODEL

802-779-3414 - Located in Weston, VT  
Kitchens, Additions, and Remodels. Finish Carpentry and Cabinet Work. Property Maintenance. Fully Insured, Free Estimates.  
Like us on FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM!  
www.newenglandhomebuildingandremodel.com (05/22/24 - 52)

### Chiropractor

#### FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday 1pm-6pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm. (08/14/24 - TFN - 52)

### Masonry

#### DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stonart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com. (02/21/24 - 13)

### Okemo Valley TV

#### LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- "The Loon & the Eagle" at Reading Elementary School
- Behind the scenes w/ Yoh Theatre Players
- ESBK Students Interview First Responder Angela Kissell
- Gov. Scott Administration Press Conference
- Local Weather Forecast

Okemo Valley TV now has its own app on all of the main streaming platforms! Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Google Play, and mobile (iOS & Android) (01/03/24 - TFN - 13)

# holiday happenings

## Kids holiday crafts programs at libraries

REGION – This season, two of our local libraries are hosting gift-making workshops for children with art teacher Casey Junker Bailey. Wilder Memorial Library in Weston will have its program on Saturday, Dec. 9. South Londonderry Free Library welcomes little elves on Saturday, Dec. 16. Both programs begin at 10:30 a.m.



Kids can make holiday gifts.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Children will be able to make a collection of special gifts for family and friends. The programs are free of charge and appropriate for children of all ages. All materials are provided. Contact the libraries for more information.

## ACT Children's Christmas Party

LUDLOW, Vt. – Santa Claus is coming to town! A local charity, Assisting Children Today (ACT), is delighted to host its third annual Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 17, and everyone is invited. The event will be held at Fox Run Golf Club in Ludlow. Admission is free. Santa and his elves will be there from 1-5 p.m., to hand out an assortment of toys, trucks, dolls, games,



crafts, and more to children of all ages who attend. There will also be cookie decorating, a free community buffet, and plenty of holiday spirit for everyone to share. We have invited many of our local fire departments to participate in the festivities. Make sure to bring your children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors to this can't miss holiday event.

For more information or questions, email [info@assistingchildrentoday.org](mailto:info@assistingchildrentoday.org) or call 413-636-9028.

## Next Stage Arts Holiday Cookie Swap

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts, the heart of cultural expression in Putney, Vt., invites the community to embrace the spirit of giving and sharing at the Next Stage Holiday Cookie Swap. This delightful event, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, promises to add a touch of sweetness to the holiday season.

The Next Stage Holiday Cookie Swap is not just a culinary exchange; it's a chance for the community to come together and spread joy. Participants are encouraged to whip up their favorite

cookie recipes and drop them off at Next Stage from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9. The event offers two options for participation: the "Little Elf" choice involves bringing two dozen cookies, while the "Big Elf" option calls for four dozen cookies.

The excitement continues in the afternoon, from 1-2 p.m., as participants return to pick up a thoughtfully curated assortment of cookies, creating a sweet surprise for each contributor. In the event of inclement weather, a snow day plan is in place for Sunday, with the same drop-off and pick-up times.

"We're thrilled to host the Next Stage Holiday Cookie

Swap as a joyful way to bring our community together during the holiday season," said Keith Marks, executive director at Next Stage Arts. "It's not just about cookies; it's about sharing a moment of sweetness and connection with our neighbors."

As part of Next Stage Arts' commitment to community wellbeing, any extra cookies will be distributed to the community through Meals on Wheels, ensuring that the joy of the season extends to those who may need it most.

To participate in this heartwarming event, sign up at [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org) and join us in making the holiday season a little sweeter for everyone.

## VSO Brass Quintet and Counterpoint concerts

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Vermont Symphony Orchestra (VSO) announces its cherished holiday Brass Quintet concerts, co-presented with the acclaimed Vermont choral ensemble Counterpoint, coming to communities across the state next month.

This traditional annual event will tour to Grafton on Dec. 16, at 5 p.m., at the Grafton Community Church, and Manchester on Dec. 17, at 4 p.m., at the Man-

chester First Congregational Church, presenting audiences with a heartwarming blend of brass, voices, and festive melodies.

Under the expert baton of conductor Nathaniel G. Lew, each performance will showcase the extraordinary talents of Counterpoint and the VSO Brass Quintet, featuring Shelagh Abate (horn), Seelan Manickam and Ryan Noe (trumpet), Matthew Wright (trombone), and Philip Hyman (tuba). Local voices will also join in the festivities,

with young choral singers from Burr and Burton Academy at the Manchester concert.

"I am grateful to the VSO and Counterpoint for this generous collaboration, which affords my students the opportunity to be a part of a professional performance via a traditional choral experience," said Julie Freebern, choral director at Burr and Burton Academy.

"It was such a privilege to be able to sing with the VSO and Counterpoint last year in their holiday concert. It was an out of body experience filling the packed church with gorgeous music. I truly can't wait to do it again this year," said Molly Harper, Class of 2025 at Burr and Burton Academy.

The program will include two world premieres: "The Christmas Truce" for chorus and brass by Saxtons River-based composer Carol Wood, based on the World War I Christmas ceasefire of 1914, and a brass composition by Leela McCann, a U-32 School District and Music-COMP student (Music Composition Mentoring Program). Music-COMP provides young Vermont composers with professional mentors and performance opportunities. The concert program will be rounded out by enchanting traditional carols, timeless arrangements by Robert De Cormier (the founder of Counterpoint and the VSO Chorus), compositions by Bach, Gabrieli, and Farnaby, and fun holiday tunes such as "Frosty the Snowman" and "Santa Baby."

The VSO Brass Quintet will also perform live on Vermont Public Classical Radio on Dec. 14, at 12 p.m., giving an hour-long musical taste of the concert tour.

For ticket information and event details, visit [www.vso.org](http://www.vso.org).

### Sip + Shop

Saturday December 9th  
4-7 pm

Complimentary Beverages & Gourmet Food  
Handmade Gifts from Local Artists

*Please join us!*  
3630 Rte 103N Chester  
[smokeshiredesign.com](http://smokeshiredesign.com)

Happy Holidays

the Vermont Journal  
the SHOPPER Newspaper

COMPLETE SEPTIC SYSTEM MANAGEMENT  
BIG OR SMALL WE PUMP IT ALL!

**BEST SEPTIC SERVICE**

FOR ALL OF YOUR SEPTIC NEEDS

Tank Locating - Cleaning - Pumping - Inspections  
Repairs - Pipe Thawing - Jetting - Snaking  
Portable Toilets • Handwashing Stations  
Restaurant Grease Traps and Line Clearing

802-463-9444

Westminster, VT • [www.bestsepticvt.net](http://www.bestsepticvt.net)

**GREAT NORTHERN LIQUIDATION**

802-885-6464 ~ Like us on Facebook  
Springfield Shopping Plaza

WE BUY AND SELL:  
Furniture, Home Decor, Collectibles, Rugs,  
Housewares, Appliances, Electronics, Tools, more!

# IT'S ELECTRIC!

Clean, Low mileage pre-owned 2020 Chevrolet

## BOLT EV

Fuel Savings! Up To 128 MPGe!

**ZERO DOWN:**  
**\$299** /mo

SALE PRICE: **\$16,987**

Stk # SAP5007 - 11,882 miles. Qualified customers can finance for 72 months at 8.95% APR. Tax, title registration fees extra where applicable.

**9 in-stock NOW to choose from!**

**SPRINGFIELD** HOME OF the **BIG DEAL**

**Call 802-448-5018**  
or visit us at  
429 River St. in North Springfield, VT  
or Shop Online, Any Time at  
**SpringfieldGMC.com**

**Echo Lake Inn** *The Quintessential Vermont Country Inn*

**THE ECHO LAKE INN**  
WOULD LIKE TO CELEBRATE  
THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH YOU

Join us at our 4.5 Star Restaurant for the Holidays  
Chef Inspired Cuisine • Renovated Dining Area

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
THREE COURSE GOURMET DINNER  
\$69 PER PERSON

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
FOUR COURSE GOURMET DINNER  
at 4:00 p.m. – \$79 PER PERSON  
FIVE COURSE GOURMET DINNER  
at 7:00 p.m. – \$99 PER PERSON

Dinners Include Your Choice of Soup or Salad, an Entrée, and a selection from our Dessert Cart

Serving Dinner Tue – Sun, 5-9 p.m.  
Reservations Suggested at 802-228-8602  
Holiday Menus at [www.EchoLakeInn.com](http://www.EchoLakeInn.com)



# holiday happenings

## Spencer Lewis at the Grafton Meeting House

GRAFTON, Vt. - Join Spencer Lewis to welcome Christmas in Grafton at the Grafton Brick Meeting House on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 1-4 p.m. Lewis will be playing solo guitar and violin, and reprising songs from his "Calling in the Winter" album, which includes traditional Christmas songs and originals like "Weaving World Peace."

Lewis currently has 21 instrumental albums in the digital pipeline of iTunes and Spotify. He started out as a folk singer-songwriter in the early 70s in Wilmington, playing The Old Red Mill and Fat City. His career has blossomed over the years, gracing many a farmers market, town green, wedding reception, or summer festival with his signature sound that reflects his love of Vermont and its rural traditions. His music is uplifting,

soulful, and might be described as a soundtrack to his own life living and growing up in Vermont. When he's not playing music or recording albums in his home studio, he works as a stonewaller based in Bethel. Lewis' open house is just one of the many activities in Grafton on Dec. 9, as the whole town celebrates Christmas in Grafton.

## Nordic Harmoni Holiday Concert

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Nordic Harmoni invites all to join them in bringing in the holiday season with some traditional Swedish and American songs on Dec. 8, at 7 p.m., in the Second Congregational Church, Route 11, Londonderry, Vt. The evening will include traditional holiday songs, Lucia pageant, and refreshments. Nordic Harmoni is proud to be part of the American Union of Swedish Singers, and is



Last year's Lucia at the celebration. PHOTO PROVIDED

under the wonderful direction of Lorri Bond. Each year, on Dec. 13, the people of Sweden and Swedish communities all over the world begin the festival of Sankta Lucia before dawn. Sankta Lucia celebrations light up mid-winter darkness. This year's Lucia will be Kamron Yuengling. For more information, visit [www.auss.org/nordic](http://www.auss.org/nordic), find Nordic Harmoni on Facebook, or contact Carl-Erik Westberg at 802-824-6578 or [vartland@comcast.net](mailto:vartland@comcast.net).

## Springfield Community Band Holiday Concert

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield Community Band, directed by Nick Pelton, will be performing a free concert at Riverside Middle School, 13 Fairground Road, on Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. The program will feature holiday classics such as "Let it Snow" and "Sleigh Ride," as well as a number of

holiday tunes with a new and modern twist. The concert will also feature members of the Green Mountain Union High School Choir, as well as members of the Riverside Middle School Choir. We hope to see you all there.

## Smokeshire Designs Holiday Sip 'n' Shop

CHESTER, Vt. - Smokeshire Designs will once again host a Holiday Sip 'n' Shop on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 4-7 p.m., at their store at 3630 Route 103N in Chester, Vt.

Kae, potter Heidi Louise, and fiber artist Jordana Jacobs. Chester's very own Amy Mosher will showcase her latest paintings, along with a live demo of watercolors with Bob Sydorowich.

The store is decked out for the holidays with gifts galore, and we've stocked up on all our favorites so you won't leave empty handed.

## Plymouth Emergency Services Holiday Party

PLYMOUTH, Vt. - Plymouth Emergency Services



Join the Plymouth Emergency Services for a Holiday Party. PHOTO PROVIDED

will hold their first annual Holiday Party on Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Plymouth Town Office, 68 Town Office Road, for Plymouth children 12th grade and under. Refreshments will be served, and each child will receive a gift.

**Mitch's Maples**  
Pure Vermont Maple Products  
Our Own Maple Syrup Maple Cream  
Member VMSMA  
Sugar House Open Daily  
802-952-9570  
In Chester, take Route 11 East for 1/2 Mile. Take Right onto Green Mtn. Turnpike. We're the first house on the left!  
The Perfect Gift!

**Kids Christmas Party**  
Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Open to All Children of the Community 12 & Younger  
Snacks, Presents, Meet Santa at 1:30, and receive a new toy from Jolly ol' Santa Claus  
American Legion Post #37  
42 Rockingham Street, Bellows Falls • 802-463-9700  
CMDR Pete Squires // Pub. Rel. Smokey Aumand

ASSISTING CHILDREN TODAY  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
DECEMBER 17TH  
1:00 - 5:00 PM  
FOX RUN GOLF CLUB, LUDLOW  
SANTA GIFT GIVING  
(TOYS, DOLLS, TRUCKS, GAMES & CRAFTS)  
COOKIE DECORATING  
FREE FAMILY BUFFET

**SINGLETON'S GENERAL STORE**  
BUTCHER, DELI, GROCERY, CRAFT BEER, ARTISAN CHEESES  
802-226-7666 | 356 Main St, Proctorsville, VT

Season's Greetings!  
May your holidays be filled with laughter, love, and cherished moments.  
Here to a bright and successful 2024!  
TPW Real Estate SALES & RENTALS  
Ludlow Office • 207 Main Street • 802.228.9400  
TPWrealestate.com • Facebook

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD INVITES YOU TO...  
**AN UNREEL CHRISTMAS**  
AN EVENING OF SONGS AND CAROLS  
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13 7:00 PM  
UNREEL IS CAMILLE PARKER, JON CLINCH, AND GRAHAM PARKER  
77 MAIN STREET - SPRINGFIELD, VT  
FREE WILL OFFERINGS ENCOURAGED

**J&H Sporting Goods**  
**Ladies Night**  
Friday Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm  
20% Off All In stock Merchandise\*  
\* See store for list of excluded Items.  
**J&H HARDWARE**  
HARDWARE, PAINT, HOUSEWARES, ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING Best

**J&H Sporting Goods**  
**Men's Night**  
Friday Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm  
20% Off All In stock Merchandise\*  
\* See store for list of excluded Items.  
**J&H HARDWARE**  
HARDWARE, PAINT, HOUSEWARES, ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING Best

# health & wellness

## Crissy Webster Counseling Services in Perkinsville

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Crissy Webster Counseling Services LLC, a leading mental health service provider, is thrilled to announce the opening of its second location in Perkinsville, Vt., situated at 7290 Vermont Route 131, Suite 4. The expansion is a testament to the significant growth and success of Crissy's private practice, which initially started in 2014 as a part-time endeavor, and has now evolved into a large multi-practitioner office.

Founder and clinician Crissy Webster began the practice by offering specialized services, including anger management groups and juvenile firesetter assessments and interven-

tions. The practice was initially a supplement to her full-time clinician role elsewhere, operating out of various rented spaces around town. In 2018, Webster made the decision to transition to full-time private practice, marking the beginning of substantial growth. Currently, Crissy Webster Counseling Services LLC boasts two locations, with a dedicated team of eight clinicians, one billing specialist, a case manager, and a part-time office assistant.

The range of services provided by Crissy Webster Counseling Services LLC sets it apart from other smaller private practices. The team offers counseling services, case management,

psychosocial evaluations, group sessions, parenting work, and contract work, catering to clients of all ages, including children and families.

"Our goal is to provide comprehensive mental health services to our community, addressing the diverse needs of our population," says Crissy Webster. "What makes us unique is the variety of services we offer, going beyond the

conventional offerings of smaller practices. We believe in the benefits of these services for all our clients."

Crissy Webster Counseling Services LLC actively contributes to the community by addressing mental health needs and offering specialty groups such as trauma-informed parenting groups. These groups focus on the individual struggles of participants, providing a tailored ap-

proach rather than a one-size-fits-all parenting program.

Looking ahead, Crissy Webster has ambitious plans for the future, expressing the hope to expand the practice further and potentially establish another fully operational location in southwest Florida.

When asked why she chose the Springfield area for the second location, Webster shared, "Spring-

field is a great community, but like most rural areas, there are not many services available to families who live in nearby smaller service areas. I was born and raised in this community, so it feels great to give back to the same community."

For more information about Crissy Webster Counseling Services LLC and its range of services, please visit [www.crissywebstercounseling.com](http://www.crissywebstercounseling.com).

## Rite Aid Healthy Futures grant —

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Kurn Hattin Homes for Children (KHH) has received a \$10,000 Neighborhood Grant from Rite Aid Healthy Futures to continue advancing its important mission, focused on providing children in our care a safe, caring place where they can learn, play, grow, and experience the joy of childhood.

Part of its overall Empowering Children signature initiative for Rite Aid Healthy Futures, the Neighborhood Grants help non-

profits address the toughest health and wellness challenges facing kids today.

Kurn Hattin Homes, one of only two Vermont charitable entities chosen, joins 370 other organizations across 17 states that have each received a \$10,000 grant for general operations. The funds will help them continue to deliver critical services as inflation, food insecurity, troubling mental health trends, and other converging factors impact children.

"We are so appreciative

to receive grant money that can be applied to our general operations budget, because it means we have the flexibility to direct the resources to our most pressing needs," said Adam Hallock, the homes' director of maintenance. "We plan to use the Neighborhood Grant for building improvements across the campus, including weatherization of our residential cottages and new flooring in our Mayo Building academic wing."

The grants are funded through the KidCents customer fundraising program, which allows Rite Aid customers to round up their purchases in-store and online to support children's health and wellness.

By rounding up their nickels, dimes, and quarters, millions of Rite Aid customers contribute to local charities restoring hope, resiliency, and self-esteem in children.

"Children today face acute and converging crises across a range of fields

that adversely impact their quality of life," said Matt DeCamara, executive director of Rite Aid Healthy Futures. "Thanks to the generosity of Rite Aid customers, these hyperlocal organizations can continue to provide much-needed programs and services steadying the course for children today, and guiding them toward promising tomorrows."

Rite Aid Healthy Futures is a public charity that improves the lives and futures of kids in Rite Aid communities through partnerships that help build healthier, more equitable neighborhoods. Launched by Rite Aid in 2001, Healthy Futures supports causes, initiatives, and organizations that help kids live long, happy, and healthy lives. Grants are made possible through the generous donations of customers who round up their purchases at Rite Aid through the KidCents program. Visit [www.riteaidhealthyfutures.org](http://www.riteaidhealthyfutures.org) to learn more.

*Grace Cottage*  
*Wishes You Happy Holidays!*



[gracecottage.org](http://gracecottage.org) • Townshend, VT • 802-365-7357

**Offering Gentle and Positive Children's Dentistry for a Lifetime of Healthy Smiles!**



*Our Pleasure to Serve!*

*We work with all insurances, including NH, VT, and MA state insurance*

*Always Accepting New Patients!*

**Children's Dental Care** Dr. Blake Wullbrandt, DDS

603-357-6385  
113 Railroad St.  
Keene, NH  
[www.drwully.com](http://www.drwully.com)

*Need help with VT Health Connect or Medicare enrollment?*

**Valley Health Connections is here to help!**

- Review Medicare prescription plans
- Explore State and Federal programs to help with Medicare costs
- Apply for VT Health Connect, sign up for the plan that suits you best, and understand the financial help that may be available


**Medicare open enrollment runs until Dec. 7**

**VT Health Connect open enrollment runs until Jan. 15**

**Call us today for FREE assistance!**



**802-885-1616**  
268 River St, Springfield, VT 05156



**Dr. Henry Hasson**  
Specializing in Pediatric Neurology & Epilepsy  
Diagnoses and Treatment:

**SEIZURES, EEG, ADHD, HEADACHES, AUTISM, DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS, NERVE/MUSCLE DISORDERS**

**Telemedicine**  
Appts Available via Phone call, Facetime, Zoom  
**Email [henry@hassonmd.com](mailto:henry@hassonmd.com)**  
Visit Our website for more info:  
[www.hassonmd.com](http://www.hassonmd.com)



**At Brattleboro Hearing Center your hearing healthcare is our top priority.**

Our Doctors of Audiology keep up with the latest technology and our research-driven practices provide the best possible outcomes in the treatment of hearing loss. We're proud to offer personalized, patient-centered care.

*We look forward to hearing from you!*  
Brattleboro, VT • 802-254-3922  
Swansey, NH • 603-354-3325  
Greenfield, MA • 413-773-5119

[www.BrattleboroHearing.com](http://www.BrattleboroHearing.com)



101 Main Street, Ludlow, VT

**Open Seven Days a Week**  
**Couples Massages Available**  
**Purchase Gift Certificates & Book Online**

**802.228.7772**  
[www.calmmomentsmassage.com](http://www.calmmomentsmassage.com)

**KAYEZEN VECTOR** BUILT IN VERMONT


**INTRODUCING VECTOR**  
THE ULTIMATE MOBILE RESISTANCE TRAINING SYSTEM FOR PERFORMANCE AND FITNESS.




**VECTOR 1 SYSTEM**  
WHAT'S IN THE BOX? 

**DOWNLOAD THE VECTOR LIMITLESS TRAINING APP**




Available on the  

**SKI TRAINING SERIES**



The VECTOR is a "cable machine replacement" and the "most versatile band tool"  
Men's Health Magazine



**KLIK denmark**

**SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!**  
**(802) 885-4190**



**SPRINGFIELD FAMILY EYECARE**  
2 SUMMER ST.  
SPRINGFIELD, VT