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Rockingham reviews local agency budgets

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Earlier this year, the Rockingham Selectboard appointed a special committee in order to determine recommendations regarding the funding requests of nearly 20 local service agencies. A few of the agencies included the Visiting Nurse Association of New Hampshire and Vermont (VNA), the Bellows Falls Senior Center (BFSC), Senior Solutions, Parks Place, Greater Falls Justice Center, Springfield Supported Housing, Southeast Vermont Transit (MOOver), Vermont Adult Learning and Health Care, and Rehabilitative Services.

Consisting of local residents Deborah Wright, Jonathan Wright, and Gaetano Putignano, the three-person committee was given the task of reviewing the operations and asking questions about each agency's mission statement, goals, services, and finances. Some of these agencies were permitted to submit additional information in regards to the questions that were asked. Deborah Wright was named the committee's chairwoman.

"The selectboard request-

ed our help in reviewing the requests, reviewing each organization's documentation – including previous tax filings, P&L statement, and tax status – and making a recommendation to the selectboard as to the funding request," committee member Jonathan Wright said in a recent interview.

"In total, we reviewed the 18 budget requests that the town received from local organizations, with 17 of those groups attending our open meetings to review mission statements, talk about the services they provide, and to answer their questions we or the public may have had. The meetings each took about two hours, with more time being spent to draft our final recommendations to the selectboard."

After careful consideration, it was announced at a recent selectboard meeting that the two largest agencies, the VNA and BFSC, would have their overall budgets reduced, while the other smaller agencies were approved with no drastic changes.

It was recommended by the committee to the selectboard that the budgets of both the BFSC and the

VNA be trimmed down to \$15,000. It was reported that the VNA was seeking funding of an estimated \$26,000. It was also noted that the cuts were not caused by the VNA's work or mission being fulfilled, but more an issue with the seemingly high salaries of the agency's executives.

As for the recommendation of budget cuts to BFSC, who requested a budget of an estimated \$23,000, it was more a case of the agency not providing adequate information about their budget request and overall operation. Currently, Rockingham pays for roughly 75% of the center's budget, while Rockingham residents only make up roughly 50% of the center's visitors.

Two local organizations that were awarded increases in their budgets were Parks Place of Bellows Falls, and Senior Solutions. Parks Place had requested a \$1,000 increase from their current budget of \$4,000, while Senior Solutions requested a \$1,500 increase from the previous budget of \$4,200.

Sustainable and Resilient New England Libraries Grant

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Town Library is delighted with the success of its Sustainable and Resilient New England Libraries Grant projects. The library received \$8,580 in December 2022 to address needs of marginalized or underserved populations in Springfield. The grant supported the library's pursuit of Sustainable Library certification. The Sustainable Libraries Certification Program (SLCP) provides a tested, structured path forward to increase the library's commitment to environmental stewardship, economic feasibility, and social equity. The projects touched on all three pillars of sustainability.

Three little libraries were built. Two were designed and decorated by students and local artists, were filled with books, and placed at two Springfield Housing Authority properties. The last one, the work of Karen Longo of Dragonfly Designs, will be at the Springfield Family Center when it moves to the Springfield Plaza. The 24/7 access to reading material increases literacy skills for all. It also recycles books already read by others.

The funds allowed the library to redesign its gardens to feed the birds, bees, and people. Pollinator plants, herbs, blueberry bushes, and vegetables were planted in the front of the library. More vegetables were planted in the side garden. Produce

was freely available for all to take as needed. Plants and supplies were purchased at nearby gardening centers to support the local economy. Springfield Fence Company created an accessible gate from the library's ramp to the side garden. The Hartness House donated pavers, and the grant funded their installation in the side garden. Many thanks to Bette of Woodbury Florist for her valuable help on the garden design and implementation.

The library improved its environmental sustainability. Hand dryers were installed in the public restrooms, reducing use of paper towels. A timer switch was installed by the staff entrance, ensuring the lights are on in the evening and off during the day. A small composter was purchased to handle food scraps from the children's summer lunches, reducing the volume of waste material. Library staff is working on other ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

The bottom shelf of the large print collection sat low to the ground, making it difficult for people who needed those books to reach them. The grant funds allowed our custodian to put the shelving units on casters, raising them 5 inches. The three units were separated for better movement on the first floor. It also allows the units to be moved easily when the space needs to be reconfigured for events.

People are more resilient when provided op-

portunities to learn and get together. The grant funded a springtime Edible Gardening program. Participants learned the best items to plant. In October, pumpkins were purchased from the Springfield Food Co-op for pumpkin painting. Eighty-five family members filled the library's lobby for the event. Community partners, such as Christine from Eureka Organic Farm and Ben from Claremont Spice and Dry Goods, volunteered their time to teach how best to use herbs in cooking.

Some people are not able to attend library programs due to mobility or time concerns. The library collaborated with SAPA-TV to record many events since May. Recordings are shown on the public access channel, as well as on-demand via their website. SAPA-TV volunteers are not always available. Library staff have learned to record programs. The grant funds provided the library its own camera equipment, as suggested by SAPA staff, to ensure all events can be recorded. Accessibility is key to education and social connection. Library staff will work on ways to make more programs available in person and via Zoom at the same time in the

See **GRANT** on Page 2

Westminster student attends STEM forum

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – For many students, their first trip to New York City is a memorable experience, but for Westminster Center School sixth grader Alexa Bush, it was not just a visit to the bustling city – it was an immersion into the world of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) at the National Youth Leadership Forum in July of this year.

Nominated by her teacher Amanda Mayo and selected to attend, Alexa found herself at St. John's University, participating in the National Youth Leadership Forum: Pathways to STEM with students from across the Northeast. Mrs. Mayo's recognition of Alexa's strengths in math and science, and her encouragement, played a pivotal role, paving the way for Alexa to explore and thrive in the STEM environment. This unique opportunity allowed her to delve into her passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, while giving her a taste of that science camp life.

According to her mother Taya Prior, this

experience contributed to a sense of independence; Alexa had no qualms about traveling four hours away from home and staying overnight on the St. John's campus, an experience that has allowed her to already envision her future academic pursuits.

One of the highlights of Alexa's STEM adventure was the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities, including dissecting a calf heart, which allowed her to explore the medical field and her interest in becoming a veterinarian, finding the activity both 'gross and cool.' The camp's activities extended beyond traditional classroom learning, incorporating group projects that included engineering challenges like creating an amusement park ride, and technology challenges like beginning robotics programming.

Alexa's STEM journey wasn't just about academic exploration; it was also



Alexa Bush.

PHOTO PROVIDED

about building connections. Through these group projects and collaborative activities, she had the opportunity to meet and work with likeminded students from all over the Northeast, sharing fun experiences that extended beyond science experiments and included magic shows, movies, and variety shows, and Alexa continues to stay in touch with some of the students. As her teacher noted, "I was so glad to be able to encourage Alexa in this direction, and am excited about sharing her experience to encourage other students in STEM activities."

Leland and Gray Project Based Learning Festival

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Leland and Gray Union Middle and High School invites the public to its biannual Project Based Learning Festival on Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 9:35 a.m. – 11:45 a.m., at the school campus. The Festival will begin at 9:35 a.m., in the school gymnasium, with a performance by Leland and Gray's School of Rock project group, and video presentations from the Humans of Windham County project group. At

10:10 a.m., visitors will be led through the school building by student tour guides to see what project based learning has been happening over the semester. There will be an array of projects for festivalgoers to engage with, including plastic made out of milk from the Science of Cooking group; Rebel Responders, a group working with VEMSA to develop emergency first responder skills; the planning and hosting of the Townshend Pumpkin Festival; cooking with locally sourced Ver-

mont foods; fundraising for the Journey Away spring semester exploring food and culture in Vermont, the U.S. South, Vietnam, and France; creating new worlds through Dungeons and Dragons; student-led passion projects; and much more. Weather dependent, the festival will conclude at 11:30 a.m. on the soccer fields with a rocket launch, designed and built by students. Come see the creativity and innovation of this year's Leland and Gray middle and high school students.

Donations to Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity matched until Dec. 31

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Housing costs have skyrocketed. Interest rates are high. Financing is out of reach for many. Families live in inadequate housing.

For over 20 years, the Greater Springfield Area Habitat for Humanity (GSAHFH) has been actively addressing the housing problem. Habitat volunteers have built 12 homes in the greater Springfield area, which are now occupied by deserving families who would not have been able to own a home any other way. Habitat's mission is to bring people together

to build homes, communities, and hope.

Each family must put in at least 500 hours of "sweat equity," labor helping to build or rehabilitate their own home. They must take a financial management course, and work beside Habitat volunteers to complete their home. Upon completion, they pay back an interest free mortgage.

With so many families unable to find decent, affordable housing, the GSAHFH is looking to start another home. But, to do so, the support of the community is needed. Money, volunteers, people with ability in building, finance, fundraising,

finding potential building sites, or homes to rehab or donate are needed. Habitat is appealing to the community now to help make a dream come true for another deserving family.

Help us reach our goal of raising \$10,000. Local contributions in the Springfield area made before Dec. 31 will be matched up to \$5,000. Checks must be made out to the local affiliate: Greater Springfield VT Area Habitat for Humanity, and sent to Greater Springfield VT Area Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 143, Springfield, VT 05156.

Please contribute now, while it doubles the impact.

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DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is **Thursday, Dec. 21 at 12 p.m.** for the Dec. 27 publication.

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Santa came to town

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce and Springfield On The Move (SOM) express profound gratitude to the multitude of individuals and organizations whose support culminated in the resounding success of the Downtown Holiday Program. Despite the light drizzle, the event drew over 125 families who flocked to downtown businesses, eagerly anticipating Santa's tree lighting. There were so many smiles and happy, positive comments about the program and our downtown area.

The heartwarming success of this celebration owes much to the amazing efforts of the HB Energy Elves, who adorned the tree, light poles, and Santa's house. When Santa lit the tree, one could hear the collective "ahhh" all the way down at the Woolson Block Building. Additionally, special thanks go to Jeffrey Graham of Springfield, Vt., whose generous donation of a stunning tree added a touch of magic to the festivities.

Jessica Martin and the awesome team at Springfield On The Move orchestrated a delightful sticker map, created by Renee Capen, and a window decorating contest, infusing the downtown area with an infectious festive spirit. Gratitude extends to the myriad of individuals and businesses whose en-

thusiastic participation further enriched the vibrant atmosphere of downtown Springfield. Thank you to Uplift Acrobatics and Dance for use of their space to kick off the sticker map.

Acknowledgment and appreciation are extended to the invaluable contributions from 802 Restrooms, Springfield Senior Center Knit Wits, Shirley Cooper, SOM volunteers, and the Town of Springfield. Special recognition is also due to chamber board volunteers Marlo Mora of Mascoma Bank, Astrid Bradish Hoyt of Turning Point Recovery Center, as well as Andie Spaans and Kristen Bruso from VTel, whose dedicated assistance was instrumental in ensuring the event's success.

The lead-up to Santa's arrival was adorned with music and live broadcasts from WCFR Your Hometown Classic Hits' John Landry, Vermont Avant Dance's captivating performance of "Winter" as part of their "SEASONS" series, musical interludes by The Richards Group on the light pole speakers, and the delightful melodies from the Springfield Community Band.

Adding to the festive spirit was the delicious fare provided by Clafin Family Food at the entrance to Comtu Cascade Park, while Springfield Food Co-op and M&T Bank graciously opened their parking lot for this annual community celebration. Heartfelt appreciation is extended to the Springfield Fire Department and Springfield Police Department for ensuring Santa's safe arrival at the event.

Last but not least, a resounding thank you to Santa for gracing the event with his presence amidst the

busiest time of his year.

We also want to express our deepest gratitude to the attendees – children and adults alike – who embraced the spirit of the celebration despite the wet weather. Wishing everyone a safe and joyous holiday season, we look forward to welcoming everyone back on the first Friday in December 2024.

For a glimpse into the magic of the event, visit our blog for a collection of photos at www.springfieldvt.com.

Bellows Falls Elks Hoop Shoot

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Elks Lodge #1619 held their annual Hoop Shoot on Saturday, Dec. 2. The event was well attended, with 24 local area players participating. Divided into boys and girls, contestants shot free throws in separate age brackets of 8-9 years old, 10-11 years old, and 12-13 years old. The first place shooters of each group are moving on up to the district level. Districts will be held in Windsor, Vt., on Jan. 7, at 10 a.m.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Springfield Library Thursday programs

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Town Library is hosting two children's Thursday Thunder programs in the coming weeks, both at 3:30 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 21, participants will learn basic piping skills as they decorate (and eat) their own festive cookies. There are limited spots left for this event, so sign-up is required. Please call the library at 802-885-3108 to secure a place.

Youth will design and make their own 2024 custom desk calendar on Thursday, Dec. 28, at 3:30 p.m. This is a fantastic way to relax with others during school vacation week. Contact

youth services librarian Jeni Clary at stlys@vermontel.net for more information on this or other children's events.

Please plan for changes in library hours during the last two weeks of December. The library will be closed on Friday, Dec. 22 – Tuesday, Dec. 26. It will reopen on Wednesday, Dec. 27, at 9 a.m. Due to the New Year's holiday, the library will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 30, and Monday, Jan. 1. The library's online services are always available 24/7. Library staff wishes everyone a healthy and happy New Year filled with learning and relaxation.



Elks Veterans Day Lunch

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Elks Lodge held a Veterans Day take-out lunch on Saturday, Nov. 11, and provided close to 40 free meals to those who have served.

The lodge was honored to have Commander Sgt. Ronald S. Griffin (Ret), from the VFW in attendance, along with the Lodge's Exalted Ruler Carolee Murchie, to greet and thank our guests as they arrived.

Along with the meals, veterans received letters of thanks, pictures, and patriotic artwork made by youths from the Springfield All4One after school programs.

The fraternal organization takes great pride in honoring veterans, and looks forward to providing this service next year. So long as there are veterans, the Elks will never forget them.

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GRANT

From Page 1

future. The grant funds have been stretched to provide so many different opportunities for Springfield residents. The library staff, in collaboration with Clever Cow Designs, designed and created a 5-foot by 8-foot banner that now hangs from the second floor balcony. It reads, "All Are Welcome. Kindness Matters." This

motto is one that the library wants everyone to take to heart. The Springfield Town Library is very grateful to an anonymous donor and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries for providing the funding to make all these opportunities a reality. The Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) builds strong communities through professional development and elevating the impact of rural and small libraries. ARSL recognizes the uniqueness of small and rural libraries, and is

committed to providing an environment that encourages excellence within this community of practice, supporting their goals of service and speaking on behalf of this important constituency. One in three public libraries in the U.S. serves a population of fewer than 2,500 people. ARSL believes in the value of rural and small libraries, and strives to create resources and services that address national, state, and local priorities for libraries situated in rural communities.

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– Tina & Barry Vittum, Chester, VT

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

Christmas memories

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

I wrote the following story about Hessie some years ago. I have rewritten it, and added "Other memories." Merry Christmas.

I remember my first grade teacher Mrs. Hammond at Chester Elementary School telling us kids that Santa Claus was known to make practice runs before Christmas. She suggested we go out on the playground. Perhaps we could find evidence that Santa had landed his sleigh on the playground.

Sure enough, we found sleigh tracks in the freshly fallen snow. You can imagine our excitement as Mrs. Hammond led us around the playground. It was exciting!

Years later, I learned Clair 'Hessie' Hesselton was the individual responsible for creating the sleigh tracks. Hessie had borrowed a sleigh from Mrs. Kelly at Buttonwood Farm. He came down to the school the night before and pulled the sleigh around the playground, leaving sleigh tracks for us to follow.

A couple years later, and after I knew about Santa, Christmas was still exciting for me. I really wanted a Christmas tree. My father told me he'd pick one up on his way home from work some night. For several nights when my father returned from work, I would run out to greet him. "Dad, did you get a Christmas tree?" "No," he'd say, "I'll get one soon."

One day after elementary school, I walked over to Depot Street where I had seen

trees for sale. I didn't have much money but I really wanted a tree.

The man selling the trees was busy with other customers, so I looked the trees over. They were \$1.50-\$2.50 each. I only had 75 cents in change. Finally, the man came over and asked if he could help me. I told him I wanted to buy a tree. "And what tree would you like?" he asked. I told him I didn't have enough money and reached in my pocket to show him my change.

He told me to pick out a tree I liked, and we could make a deal. I picked out a tree and he took my 75 cents.

I dragged the tree down to Main Street, then onto School Street, across the footbridge to High Street, and up to where I lived.

By the time I got the tree home, there were no needles left on the side that had been dragged. My mother put the bald side facing a corner in our living room. We strung popcorn and made artificial snow. We used Tide laundry powder mixed with a little water to make a paste. This we spread on tips of branches. It looked like snow. I thought the tree beautiful.

The man who sold me the tree was Hessie. He was selling trees on his front lawn for the Chester Fire Department.

In 2005, Hessie received the Town Citizenship Award for 50 years of service to the town. He had been a selectman, special constable, lister, zoning board member, fireman, and more.

I thank Hessie for the great memories he left a young boy.

Other memories

When I was a boy, my folks would take us for a ride after supper, to see all the Christmas lights and decorations around town. Brian, Cheryl, and I rode in the back seat of a 1956 Ford. Dad drove slow, maybe even pulling over now and then, so we could get a good look. Ma would say, "Isn't that tree beautiful decorated in just blue lights. Oh Arn, let's do that next year."

Thursday night in Springfield was the place to do your Christmas shopping; well, there and the Sears and Roebuck catalog. For downtown shoppers, Springfield had W.T. Grant, J.J. Newberry's, Furman's, Paul's Economy, and Wilson Jewelers. Britts came to the new plaza in 1963. Springfield was a prosperous town in those days. They had the machine shops employing a couple thousand men. Springfield businesses thrived in those days. Springfield's Christmas decorations were far better than Chester's. It was a sight to see the square alive with lights and people. It seemed like a metropolis to me.



A young Hessie. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

This week's old saying: "Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat..."

Canal Street Gallery shows —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — Canal Street Art Gallery presents M.C. Noyes' "Water Way" solo show, premiering the artist's newest series of ink wash paintings, and Judi Forman's solo spotlight show, showing the artist's newest work creating one-of-a-kind jewelry. Both shows open Dec. 15, and are on view through Feb. 10. Join the gallery on Third Friday Gallery Night in historic downtown Bellows Falls, Dec. 15, from 5-7 p.m., to celebrate and meet the artists. All gallery events are free, open to the public, and family friendly. For wheelchair access, call 802-289-0104 upon arrival.

Michael C. Noyes, based in Bellows Falls, Vt., has long maintained an oil painting practice. The artist's newest

series, "Water Way," evolved into using ink wash as a primary medium. The materials the artist uses include handmade xuan and mulberry paper of several thicknesses, each made respectively from the bark of the blue sandalwood tree, the mulberry tree and leaves, and rice stocks, along with other ingredients and lengthy processes used for over a thousand years in China.

Noyes' first handmade, stab-bound book of original paintings, a collaboration with Len Emery Photography, is also to be presented during the "Water Way" solo show.

Judi Forman, based in Westminster, Vt., is a metal artist working with silver, copper, niobium, and steel, using techniques such as

anodizing, imprinting texture, and drawing with colored pencil. The artist uses patinated copper with colored pencil along with silver to create works such as "Three Birds Brooch and Pendant." Forman designs compositions often inspired by nature on and with the multiple surfaces she has shaped. Forman's most recent work, using colored pencil on copper, adds both bright color and texture to the artist's jewelry.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street in Bellows Falls. For more information, visit www.canalstreetartgallery.com, call Mike at 802-289-0104, email artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com.

Invitational art exhibition at Art Around Books

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — Local and national artists and poets respond to the word "Nocturne" with paintings, poetry, etchings, film, artists' books, drawings, photographs, and photogravures, in an invitational art exhibition at Art Around Books, 5 Canal Street in Bellows Falls.

"In seeing and saying how dark or moonlit a 'Nocturne' is, we are depending on a multiplicity of voices to highlight this 'mood of making,'" says gallery director and curator Bill Kelly. "This exhibition represents a fragment of the possibilities of what and why art is needed in a time of so much white noise."

The opening reception for this exhibition will be held on Dec. 21, from 6-8 p.m. There will be a screening of the film "Beyond the Blue" by Thomas Downs at 6:30 p.m., and a poetry reading and discussion with the participants at 7 p.m.

The exhibition will be on view through March 19. Visual artists included in this exhibition are Jinane Abbadi, Gretchen Abendschein, Eric Aho, Gerry Biron, Michele Burgess, Candace Chaite, Brian Cohen, Andy Cross, Thomas Downs, Liz Hawkes deNiord, Harold Faye, Elizabeth Gemperlein, Chelsea Herman, Michael Johnson, Bill Kelly, Eric Lindbloom,

Harry Mattison, Nelle Martin, Mare Martin, Lynne Merchant, Rachel Portesi, James Renner, F. Sansone, David Schirm, Paul Taylor, Vaune Trachtman, and Jenny Yoshida Park. Poets and writers included are Susan Narucki, Carolyn Forché, Doug Anderson, Matthew Burgess, Peter Everwine, Bill Kelly, and Chard deNiord.

Art Around Books is an unconventional gallery and idea space featuring fine press artists' books, drawings, paintings, and prints for sale by international, national, and local artists. Housed in the same setting is an eclectic bookstore. For more information call 802-869-4948 or 619-200-1326, email artistsbooks@brigh-tonpress.net, or visit www.artaroundbooks.com.

Fingerstyle Guitar Masterclass

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — Internationally acclaimed fingerstyle guitarist Hiroya Tsukamoto will lead a comfortable, informal masterclass for players of all levels of ability on Dec. 17, at 11 a.m., at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt., in advance of his 2 p.m. concert. This workshop is strictly limited to 10 participants, and advance registration through the www.stage33live.com website is strongly recommended. Walk-ups will only be accepted if there is still room.

Wisdom on scales, thumb placement, tunings, improvisation, and more to

help players improve and expand their talents will be presented with kindness, patience, and easy laughter. Hiroya will demonstrate fingerstyle techniques, including chords and basic theory, breaking down elements such as tone and rhythm, explaining how to apply them to a practice routine. Questions will be warmly received.

Bring your instrument. A discounted class-plus-concert bundle is also available. Feel free to bring a lunch to eat after the class, or pop out to a local restaurant before the concert.

Born and raised in Kyoto,

Japan, Hiroya Tsukamoto received a scholarship to Berklee College of Music and came to the U.S. Since then he has been performing internationally, and has released seven albums. In 2022, he won second place

in the International Fingerstyle Guitar Championship. His concert performances are an eclectic, immersive, and mesmerizing impressionistic journey filled with earthy, organic soundscapes rich in subtle detail.

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- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veteran's Pension and Survivor's Pension Benefits

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If you qualify for Lifeline, you may also be eligible for the FCC's low-income internet assistance program called Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP is a government program that helps qualifying consumers pay for internet service. If you qualify for ACP, you may receive up to a \$30/month discount on your internet service. For more information about ACP, visit <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>.

Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program are government assistance programs. The programs are non-transferable. Only eligible consumers may enroll in either program. There is a limit of one discount per household, per program. Lifeline credits on internet service are only available where minimum supported broadband service is available. If the household becomes ineligible for Lifeline and/or ACP, the household will be subject to TDS' regular rates, terms, and conditions.

For more information from TDS about these programs, visit <https://tdstelecom.com/lifeline.html> or tdstelecom.com/acp, or call 1-888-CALL-TDS.



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opinion

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to the members and supporters of the Springfield Telescope Makers on this centennial anniversary of the founding of our club.

The friendship and camaraderie felt by the club's charter members as they met in the home of Oscar Marshall on Dec. 7, 1923, to hold the first official meeting of the Springfield Telescope Makers continues to draw us all back to our beloved Stellafane. Imagine how these founding members would have felt if they were aware that their actions that evening, as they enjoyed fritters, syrup, and coffee, would reach thousands of amateur astronomers into the next century and around the world.

As we begin the second

century of the Springfield Telescope Makers, we extend appreciation to all the club members, their families, and all our supporters who have contributed their talents and resources to our mission to stimulate interest in astronomy and allied sciences by preserving and fostering the skill of amateur telescope making.

We are all looking forward to gathering together on the hill at our next Stellafane Convention, Aug. 1-4, 2024.

Clear Skies,
Cecilia Detrich
President, Springfield Telescope Makers

Dear Editor,

Each year, the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce orchestrates the illumination of downtown Springfield, going beyond the lamp posts on Main Street. The lamp posts, Santa's house, and the community holiday tree are all infused with a festive glow that fosters a sense of warmth and unity throughout the winter months. This cherished tradition not only transforms the townscape into a welcoming spectacle, but also provides a delightful experience for both residents and visitors. Due to weather and the elements, many of the lights we used in the past were worn out or broken, so we asked the community for help with replacing them. The outpouring of enthusiasm and financial support has been overwhelming. We are so grateful and moved by everyone's generosity.

The downtown avenue is

looking festive and bright, and the Chamber wants to express the utmost appreciation to the following organizations and individuals who helped brighten Downtown for the holiday season: Alexander Sirocki, Alexandra Arlette, Alice Emmons, All Seasons Construction Corp., April and Tom Coen, Barrett & Valley Associates Inc. Bear's Cleaning Services LLC, BHG Masiello Real Estate, Carol Cole, Black Rock Steakhouse, Briar Patch Farm - The Fogs, Buddy and Deanna Dexter, Buddy the Elf, Char Osterlund, Charles and Jon Malinowski, Christopher E. Polidor, Christopher Fauver, Class of 1972, Dale and Marie Nemkovich, Doug and Diane Brown, Dragonfly Designs, DuBois & King, Ed and Denise Caron, Ed, Scott, Lori, and Heidi Huber, Edward J. Foster, Elizabeth and Fred Willis, First Congregational Church, George

R. Brooks, Greater Falls Community Justice Center, Gurney Brothers Construction Inc., HB Energy Solutions, HCRS, Heather Frahm and Bill Cronin, ImageTek MFG, Jack Hurlley, Jay and Pamela Clace, Jim Magoon Construction, Joanne Baltz and Colin Hadley, John and Corinne Bond, Katherine A. Adams, Kristi and Sharon Morris, Marc Kimball, Marilyn A. Young, Mary Perry, Michael Schmitt, Mike and Judi Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Flaminio, Nathan Marshall Fitness LLC, Nick Nicoletos, Pat Townsend, Patricia Martin, Quevyn Kellogg, Rick Steele, Senior Solutions, Sponsored by Great Northern Liquidation, Springfield Area Parent Child Center, Springfield Democratic Town Committee, Springfield Farmers' Market, Springfield Housing Authority, Springfield Regional Development Corp,

Springfield Supported Housing Program, Steve Greene, Tamara, Natasha, Handsome, The Conway Family, The Dance Factory, The Richards Group, Tony Petrillo and Ellen Pinter, Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse of Springfield, Vermont Dry & Cure Technologies Inc., VTel, Walter Martone and Marc Kimball, Warren and Tamara Richardson, Warren and Kevin Cross, Whipple/Reixach Family, William P. Simoneau, and Yukon Cornelius.

In memory of Glenn D. Corder, my son Earl, Bill Maynard, Doug Priestley, Harriette and Hubbard Richardson, Hugh Ryan by Ryan's Service Center, and Sandy MacGillivray.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

Sincerely,
Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce

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.

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Okemo Valley Coat Drive a success

LUDLOW, Vt. - The Okemo Valley Coat Drive is an annual initiative aimed at collecting warm jackets and winter coats to distribute among individuals and families in need within the Okemo Valley community, and is organized by William Raveis Vermont Properties. This year, the Vermont Properties Team collected an abundant supply of jackets and coats to support the local community in need. All the donated jackets will be distributed to the Black River Good Neighbor Services, a prominent nonprofit organization dedicated to providing essential resources and support to individuals and families in the area.

The Black River Good

Neighbor Services has been a pillar of support for the Okemo Valley community for many years. Through its various programs and services, this esteemed organization strives to address issues related to food security, clothing, household items, and more. They remain committed to their mission of helping those in need, and the donated jackets will significantly aid them in fulfilling their objectives.

Thank you to the community members who generously donated. We hope this contribution will provide much-needed warmth and comfort to individuals and families facing challenging circumstances during the colder months. Visit www.vtprop.com to learn about future events and initiatives

aimed at bettering the Okemo Valley.



BFWC decorates health center

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Bellows Falls Woman's Club (BFWC) recently decorated the Bellows Falls Health Center waiting area for the holidays, bringing cheer to those waiting for appointments. Pictured are club members Betty Haggerty, Club President Nancy McAuliffe, and Wendy O'Dette. Also helping was club Vice President Dianne Potter. Adjacent to the decorated area is the club's Little Library, where adults and children may help themselves to books to read while there, or to keep.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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obituaries

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

Brownsville Community Church, 66 Brownsville Hartland Rd., Brownsville, Vt.

On Sunday morning, Dec. 24, at the Brownsville Community Church, there will be a Festival of Nine Lessons at 9:30 a.m. At 7 p.m., there will be the beautiful Christmas Eve Candle Light Service. The church will be adorned with an abundance of poinsettias shared by members of the congregation for all to enjoy at this special service.

First Congregational Church of Weathersfield, 79 Yewell Ln., Weathersfield, Vt.

After a four-year hiatus, the annual Christmas Carol and Candlelight Service will return to the First Congregational Church (aka The Brick Church) in Weathersfield Center on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. All are welcome. Please come and join us as we celebrate Christmas with songs and readings. A candlelight sing will conclude the event.

First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Route 5, Westminster, Vt.

Pastor Rich O'Donnell welcomes you and your family to join the First Congregational Church of Westminster on Dec. 24, at 5:30 p.m., for our Christmas Eve service. Please note there is no Sunday morning service; we will celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent on Saturday, Dec. 23, at 10 a.m.

Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, 2051 Vermont Route 11, Londonderry, Vt.

The community is warmly invited to the Christmas Eve service on Sunday evening, Dec. 24, at 5:30 p.m., at the Second Congregational Church in Londonderry. This will be a service of lessons, carols, and candlelight. Our Christmas Eve service will also be live streamed on the church YouTube channel, "Second Congregational Church, Londonderry VT," or the church website, www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org. If you have questions or need directions, please call the church office at 802-824-6543.

St. Mark's Church, 33 Fairground Rd., Springfield, Vt.

St. Mark's Church in Springfield will hold a Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24, at 4 p.m.

United Church of Ludlow, 48 Pleasant St., Ludlow, Vt.

The United Church of Ludlow will be having a Christmas Eve candlelight service of lessons and carols on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m. All are welcome.

CHURCH SERVICES

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Open Bible Baptist Church, 168 Cemetery Rd.

Sunday services are being held in the church. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m., Sunday morning service is 11 a.m., and the afternoon service is 1:30 p.m. Wednesday evening service is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at 802-674-2266 or visit www.obbcvt.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.

Services are held most Sundays at 10 a.m., in-person. Please join us. All are welcome. For more information go to Facebook @ImmanuelEppiscopalChurch or to our website www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

Living Hope Assembly of God, 582 Rockingham Rd.

Pastor Brenda Farkas welcomes all to Sunday worship at 10 a.m., the message at 10:30 a.m. with Children's Church for ages 3-7, and fellowship. Live streaming available at 10:30 a.m. at Living Hope Fellowship Facebook page, and Living Hope Fellowship Youtube. Services can also be found at www.sapatv.org and www.fact8tv.com.

CAVENDISH, VT.

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.

Please join us Sundays at 8:45 a.m. with Pastor John Hawkins. All are welcome. For more information, call 802-674-3443 or go to www.facebook.com/stjamesumproctorsville.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

Charlestown Bible Church, 37 Hammond Rd.

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7 p.m. To hear a sermon or learn more go to www.charlestownbiblechurch.org. Call 603-826-5121 for more info or to request a personal Bible study.

Charlestown Seventh-day Adventist Church, 242 Main St.

Saturday Services include Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service at 11:15 a.m. and a healthy lunch for all after the service. All are welcome, call 603-276-2383 for more information.

CHESTER, VT.

First Universalist Parish of Chester, Route 103 North

Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. in person. Sunday services run from September to early June. Contact chestervtuu@gmail.com for a Zoom link for the service.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main St.

Services are on Wednesdays at 5:30-6 p.m. and on Sundays at 10 a.m., both in person and by Zoom, followed by coffee hour. All are welcome. Handicapped accessible. For a link to the Zoom service or more information about services and events, please visit www.stlukeseiscopalvt.org.

GRAFTON, VT.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St.

Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to www.graftoncommunitychurch.org or call 802-843-2346.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, 2051 N. Main St.

Worship service is at 9:30 a.m. in person or online. Fill out a form at www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org to be sent a link to the live stream.

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.

Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 9 a.m. For further information, see our website at churchoftheannunciation.org, or call us at 802-228-3451.

Tyson Community Church, Corner of Rt. 100 and Dublin Rd., opposite Echo Lake Inn.

Services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. No service last Sunday of the month. Email terry.bascom@pm.me or call 802-228-2480.

MOUNT HOLLY, VT.

Village Baptist Church, 32 Church St.

We welcome all to come and worship with us Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-259-2440.

PERKINSVILLE, VT.

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5, Weathersfield Bow

Sunday services are 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study and prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-546-4902.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.

Sunday services are 9:30 a.m. in person. Services are still streamed at www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt. For more information, go to www.calvarylovesspringfield.com.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 90 Park St.

Sunday Liturgy is 9:30 a.m. and Saturday vespers at 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-2615 or Parish Council President Thomas Barton at 802-263-5719.

First Congregational Church, UCC, 77 Main St.

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in person. Singing is encouraged! For more information, call 802-885-5728, email fccucc@vermontel.net, or go to www.firstchurchspringfield.org.

North Springfield Baptist Church, 581 Giddings Street, North Springfield.

All are welcome and invited to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. For more information, please email the church office at office@nsbcvt.org, or call 802-886-8107. We are handicap accessible.

Kate Lorenz Memorial Community Fund awards

REGION - As the year draws to a close, many thanks are extended to the generous friends of the Kate Lorenz Memorial Community Fund, which was founded in 2022 in honor and in memory of Kate Lorenz, who lived her 42 years with sparkling passion and generosity. As a teacher, musician, community member, and planet advocate, her compassion and empathy knew no bounds. The fund provides gifts to organizations that represent Kate's passion for supporting children and early literacy, women's rights, visual and performing arts, environmental education, and more.

The fund announces gift awards for 2023 to the following Massachusetts and Vermont organizations: The Nature Museum in Grafton, Vt.; Holly's Hugs and Kisses DayCare Center in Springfield, Vt.; Cavendish Fletcher Memorial Library in Ludlow, Vt.; Next Stage Arts Project in Putney, Vt.; Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee, Vt.; Shea Theater Arts Center in Turner Falls, Mass.; The Institute for the Musical Arts in Goshen, Mass.; Sunder-



Kate Lorenz. PHOTO PROVIDED

land Elementary School in Sunderland, Mass.; Northampton Arts Council in Northampton, Mass.; and Spring Street Preschool in Amherst, Mass.

Kate's family and friends will continue to grow the Kate Lorenz Memorial Community Fund to keep Kate's spirit, caring, and kindness alive in the world, and continue using these funds to support organizations that represent her interests and passions.

Donations to Kate's Fund can be made at www.kate-lorenzmusic.com via PayPal, or by mailing a check to The Kate Lorenz Memorial Community Fund, P.O. Box 418, Chester, VT 05143.

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.

Constance A. Apgar, 2023

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Constance Ann "Connie" Apgar, 86, of Charleston, passed away Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, at Hubbard Hospice House, after a brief illness.

She was born in Keene, N.H., daughter of the late Edward D. and Edna Smith Cray.

Connie is survived by her loving husband of 54 years William "Bill" Apgar; sons Michael (Elizabeth) Apgar and Kevin (Elizabeth) Apgar; daughters Angela Apgar and Tiana Apgar; sister Dolores Judge; brother Edward (Janet) Cray Jr.; and grandchildren Grace, Oliver, Sebastian, Amelia, Addison, and Natalie.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in South Charleston, W.Va., with Father Paul Wharton officiating. The family received friends from 10-11 a.m. at the church.



Constance A. Apgar, 2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

Interment was on Monday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m., in the St. Charles Cemetery, Westminster, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to HospiceCare at www.hospicecarewv.org, or Arthur B. Hodges Center at www.edgewoodsummit.com/arthur-b-hodges-center.

Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, is assisting with arrangements.

Wilson L. Gallion, 1940-2023

WALPOLE, N.H. - Wilson L. Gallion, 82, of North Walpole, N.H., passed away on Dec. 4, 2023, at his home.

Wilson was born Dec. 21, 1940, in Holden, W.Va., son of Oakley and Lorraine (Stapleton) Gallion. Wilson entered the U.S. Army and earned a Purple Heart. He later retired from the Army and worked for the U.S. Postal Service. Wilson was a member of the American Legion Post 37 in Bellows Falls, and Amvets Post 983 in Florida. He married Rosemary (Saddler), who predeceased him.

Wilson is survived by his children Charles Gallion and Kellie (Rodney) Harper; his grandchildren Brad and Kyle; and great-grandchildren Jayden, Carter, Rieley, and Brody. Wil-

son was predeceased by his wife; parents; and siblings Samuel, Clyde, Bobbie, and Billie Gallion, Betty Ward, and Mildred Vinnatter. He was also predeceased by his grandson Shawn.

A graveside service will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 10 a.m., at the Rockingham Meetinghouse Cemetery in Rockingham, Vt.

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



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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley Street, is having a Christmas Cookie and Bake Sale on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. We look forward to seeing you. Everyone is welcome.

DEC. 17 –
CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Historical Society will be hosting a Holiday Open House on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m., at the Bakery Building, 216 Main Street. Join us for

Christmas stories, cookies, and punch.

DEC. 19 –
PLYMOUTH, Vt. – Plymouth Emergency Services 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.

DEC. 21 –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The First

Congregational Church of Springfield, 77 Main Street, will celebrate The Longest Night on Dec. 21, at 3 p.m. This will be an hour of quiet for a time of music, prayer, and reflection in a busy season.

SUNDAYS –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Loyal Order of Moose will be hosting a community breakfast on the first and third Sunday of every month downstairs at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, from 8–10 a.m. All you can eat for a minimal cost.

MONDAYS –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Mondays at 6:30 p.m. there will be Pub Trivia Night at Vermont Beer Makers on River Street in Springfield. Up to five people per team. Free entry.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Free Gentle Hatha Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Mondays from 10-11 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

TUESDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Tuesday, 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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Free Chair Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Tuesdays from 9-9:45 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

WEDNESDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Knitting with Friends at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common, Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Frances Barsky leads a weekly creative writing workshop at the Rockingham Library from 1–2:30 p.m. Bring a laptop or a pen and paper.

THURSDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Knit Knite at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common Thursdays, from 5-8 p.m., and via Zoom, from 7-8 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Free Chair Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Thursdays from 9-9:45 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

FRIDAYS –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Fridays from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., John Bohannon will teach Tai Chi and Qi Gong at the Rockingham Library. No special equipment or clothing is required.

SATURDAYS –
LUDLOW, Vt. – Zumba classes, Saturdays at 9 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

State of Vermont

Superior Court Windsor Unit
Probate Division Case No. 23-PR-07240

In re: Estate of Margaret Kennedy

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the creditors of Margaret Kennedy, late of Chester, Vermont.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or estate must present their claims in writing within 4 months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be forever barred if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: December 8, 2023

/s/ Peter Powers
Peter Powers, Executor
c/o Dakin & Benelli, P.C.
PO Box 499
Chester, VT 05143
802-875-4000

Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal
Publication Date: Dec. 13, 2023

Address of Probate Court:
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Windsor Unit, Probate Division
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STATE OF VERMONT

**SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION
WINDSOR Unit Case Number 23-CV-02615**

Vermont Housing Finance Agency,
Plaintiff

v.

**Stephen N. Villone
Windham & Windsor Housing Trust, Inc.,
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and
Occupants of 21 Olive Street, Springfield, Vermont**
Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

By virtue of the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale ("Foreclosure Judgment") filed September 15, 2023 and the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage granted by Stephen N. Villone ("Mortgagor") to TD Banknorth, N.A. dated October 3, 2006 and recorded in Book 381 at Page 124 of the Town of Springfield Land Records, assigned to Vermont Housing Finance Agency by Assignment of Mortgage dated October 3, 2006 and of record in Book 388 at Pages 173-174 of the Town of Springfield Land Records, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the undersigned will cause to be sold at public auction ("Sale") at **11:00 AM on January 11, 2024** the lands and premises known as **21 Olive Street, Springfield, Vermont** ("Mortgaged Property") more particularly described as follows:
Being all and the same land and premises conveyed to Stephen N. Villone by Warranty Deed of Rockingham Area Community Land Trust, Inc dated October 3, 2006 and of record in Book 381 at Pages 120-121 of the Town of Springfield Land Records.

Being a parcel of land containing .50 acres, more or less, together with all buildings and improvements and rights appurtenant thereto as may now or hereafter be situated on land located at 21 Olive Street in the Town of Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont, as the same may be more particularly described by referenced to the following two deeds:

(1) Warranty Deed of Joanne P. Lemay to Rockingham Community Land Trust, Inc. dated October 3, 2006 and of record in Book 381 at Page 316 of the Town of Springfield Land records, which Warranty Deed conveys all the buildings and improvements on the subject property.

(2) Warranty Deed of Joanne Lemay to Rockingham Area Community Land Trust, Inc. dated January 31, 2001 and recorded in Book 222 at Pages 1-4 of the Springfield Land Records, which Warranty Deed conveys the .50 acres on which the subject buildings and improvements are situated.

This conveyance is subject to and with the benefit of any utility easements, spring rights, easements for ingress and egress, and rights incidental to each of the same as may appear of record, provided that this paragraph shall not reinstate any such encumbrances previously extinguished by the Marketable Record Title Act, Chapter 5, Subchapter 7, Title 27, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Reference is hereby made to the above mentioned instruments, the records thereof, the references therein made, and their respective records and references, in further aid of this description.

TERMS OF SALE: The Sale will be held at the Mortgaged Property. The Mortgaged Property will be sold to the highest bidder, "AS IS, WHERE IS, WITH ALL FAULTS, WITH NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND", subject to easements, rights of way, covenants, permits, reservations and restrictions of record, superior liens, if any, encumbrances that are not extinguished by the sale, title defects, environmental hazards, unpaid real estate taxes and municipal liens (delinquent and current, including penalty and interest, if any to the date of closing on the sale).

The successful bidder shall pay a deposit of at least \$10,000 of the purchase price in cash or bank treasurer's/cashier's check at the time of Sale. The deposit must be increased to at least ten percent (10%) of the successful bid within 5 calendar days of the Sale. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within fourteen days after entry of a confirmation order. The successful bidder will be required to sign a purchase and sale contract with NO CONTINGENCIES except confirmation of the sale by the court. The deposit is subject to forfeiture. Title will be transferred by Confirmation Order. The Sale may be postponed one or more times for a total time of up to thirty (30) days, by announcing the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice at a conspicuous place at the location of the sale. Notice of the new sale date shall also be sent by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the Mortgagor at the Mortgagor's last known address at least five days before the new sale date.

Other terms to be announced at the Sale or contact the Thomas Hirchak Company at 1-800-634-7653 or www.theauction.com

The Mortgagor, or his executors, administrators or assigns, may redeem the Mortgaged Property at any time prior to the Sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including post-judgment expenses and the costs and expenses of sale.

Dated at Cabot, Vermont, this 30th day of November, 2023.

Vermont Housing Finance Agency
By: Steckel Law Office
By: /s/ Susan J. Steckel
By: Susan J. Steckel, Esq.
P. O. Box 247
Marshfield, Vermont 05658-0247
802-563-4400

STATE OF VERMONT

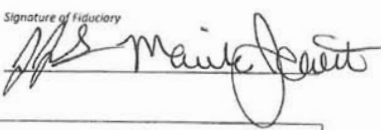
**SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
Windsor Unit Docket No.: 23-PR-05062**

In re ESTATE of: Lester J. Gilcris

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Lester J. Gilcris Decedent
late of Cavendish Decedent's Town of Residence

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: 12/1/23 Signature of Fiduciary: 

Executor/Administrator		Mailing Address	
Jeff J. Gilcris, Sr. & Martha J. Jewett		c/o Parker & Ankuda, Esq. P.O. Box 519	
Phone Number	Email	City, State, Zip	
802-885-2582		Springfield, VT 05156	

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal
Publication Date: December 13, 2023
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Probate Division
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green
Woodstock, VT 05091

Public Hearing Notice
Village of Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulation amendments

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4441 and §4444, notice is hereby given of a public hearing by the Ludlow Planning Commission to hear comments regarding proposed amendments to the Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulations, including the zoning map. The public hearing will take place on Thursday January 4, 2024, beginning at 6:00 pm.

You may attend the Public Hearing in-person at the following address:
Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot Street, Ludlow, Vermont 05149

Or with a computer or phone:
Zoomlink: <https://zoom.us/j/96486146754?pwd=RmdZQkRpczd5M3laU1J1WTdnblVVQT09#success>
Meeting ID: 964 8614 6754 Passcode: 282610

Comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulations and the zoning map may be submitted verbally at the Public Hearing. Written comments may also be submitted via email to Terry Carter, Ludlow Planning Commission Chair, at tmgcarter@gmail.com or Martha Harrison, Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, at mharrison@marcv.org

Statement of purpose:
The purpose of the proposed amendments to the Village of Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulations, including the zoning map, is to:

- implement both the 2019 Municipal Plan and Act 47 (the HOME Act);
- further village revitalization by facilitating commerce in the Residential-Commercial district;
- make it easier to permit additional housing of various types, including affordable housing and senior housing, throughout the village;
- comply with the provisions of 24 VSA §4412, 4413 and 4414.

Please see the Planning Commission's report on the amendments for more detailed information.

Geographic areas affected:
Portions of these amendments apply to all areas of the Village.

List of section headings affected:
The following new sections were added to the Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulations:

- Section 255, Administrative Review
- Section 290, Affordability Requirements
- Section 425, Village Residential-2 (new zoning district)

In addition, amendments are proposed which modify the following sections of the Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulations:

- In Article 1, Section 140
- In Article 2, Sections 220, 221, 221.5, 224, 226, 227, 260, 260.3, and 270.5
- In Article 4, Section 410, 420 and 430 (including supplemental standards for outside dining and curbside pick-up)
- In Article 5, Section 510.1, 510.3, 520.2 (eliminated), 520.3, 520.8, 530.1, 530.3, and 540
- In Article 7, a number of new definitions were added, definitions that aren't used in the document were eliminated, and many existing definitions were revised.
- Minor clarifications and corrections were made throughout the document.

The full text of the amendments to the Village of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulations, including the revised zoning map and the Planning Commission's report, are available online at <https://www.ludlow.vt.us>. The proposed amendments and report can also be reviewed in hard copy format in the Town Clerk's Office in the Ludlow Town Hall located at 37 Depot Street, Ludlow, VT 05149.

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.

ESTATE SALE

Estate sale Friday, Dec. 15, from 9 am - 4 pm, indoors at 76 Elm Hill, Springfield, VT 05156. 802-885-3050. New items. Antiques and modern décor. Cash, no junk.

FOR SALE

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

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

Weston Volunteer Fire Department is taking estimates for interior work for our firehouse. Work consists of hanging doors, wall board and trim. Please call 802-779-3414 if interested.

Looking for a dependable person to shovel snow in Ludlow, must have own transportation. Call Tom 802-228-8768.

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: kkelingtonbrngns@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.

OTHER

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. - Looking for other dog owners interested in establishing a reciprocal dog-care arrangement. We watch your pup in our home when you're away. You watch ours in your home when we're away. Let's talk! Dave at 802-380-0603, leave a message.



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USDA guidelines do apply

Call or Write to:
THM Property Management
129 Lincoln Ave.
Manchester Center, VT 05255
802-362-4663 or 802-367-5251
Hearing Impaired 1-800-545-1833 ext. 326

We do not discriminate against tenant applications on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, age, creed, gender identity, gender related characteristic or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling unit with one or more minor children or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, sexual orientation, marital status or disability.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

THM is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

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King Crossword

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		

ACROSS
1 North —
5 Green prefix
8 Oodles
12 Writer Kingsley
13 As well
14 Capri, e.g.
15 Souvenir seller
17 Move like a butterfly
18 Tours season
19 Snaky fish
20 Ceases
21 Solidify
22 Twitch
23 Shroud city
26 He can hold his head high
30 "Dream on!"
31 Zero-star review
32 Santa's runway
33 Old English Sheepdog feature
35 Skilled
36 Tramcar contents
37 "— the season ..."
38 Poker play
41 Fish propeller
42 Spa sounds
45 Protracted
46 Decorative paper
48 "There!"
49 Santa's help-

DOWN
1 Leaf
2 Skip
3 Biography
4 Ballpark fig.
5 Lucy's pal
6 "Neato!"
7 "Alley —"
8 Prepaid stocking stuffers
9 Capital on a fjord
10 Radar image
11 Collections
16 Beheld
20 — Lancelot
21 Eloquent person's talent
22 Can metal
23 Indent key
24 GI entertainers
25 Tease
26 Cowboy's sweetie
27 Nemesis
28 Dandy guy
29 Newt
31 Bakery pur-

er
34 Canine cry
35 "— Misbehavin' "
37 Squabbles
38 Diner orders
39 Cash advance
40 Loosen
41 Motion picture
42 Folksinger Guthrie
43 Saintry ring
44 Bridge
46 "My word!"
47 Pallid

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Specials of the Week

2015 Dodge Ram
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Fully Loaded
Cruise Control
4x4

2016 Kia Sedona EX
7 Passenger Auto
4 Cylinder
Fully Loaded

2017 Kia Sorrento LX
AWD Auto
Cruise Control
Fully Loaded

2016 Honda HRV
AWD
Cruise Control
Sunroof
Fully Loaded

2015 Honda CRV EX-L
AWD Auto
Heated Seats
Bluetooth

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Tel: 802-885-4963 • 802-885-6200

Art Crafts Gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Vermont State Craft Center
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Shop handmade for the holidays!
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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/ Mindy Fisher 2/24/24
Pine Needle Basket w/ Irene Dizes 3/8/24 & 3/9/24
Wire-wrapped Pendant w/ Thomas Alyxander 4/6/24
Flowers in Texture & Color w/ Julie Crabtree 4/27/24 (01/24/24 - TFN - 13)

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

Builders/Contractors

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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)

Chiropractor

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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

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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

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Online: Go to okemovalley.tv/watch to watch Live TV or on video on demand
You Tube: okemovalleytv
Streaming App: Download Okemo Valley TV app for free (Apple TV, Roku, Fire TV, Google Play, & mobile) (01/03/24 - TFN - 13)

holiday happenings

Seasonal events at St. Luke's Mission Theatre –

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – St. Luke's Mission Theatre, 176 Main Street in Charlestown, N.H., is offering two holiday performances. The first is a reading of Dylan Thomas' classic "A Child's Christmas

in Wales," on Dec. 17, 2023. This delightful reading by two professional actors, David Zucker and the Rev. Brian Marsh, will take place during our 10 a.m. service. The second event is a performance of the can-

tata "Glorious Light of Christmas," to be held on Friday evening, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. The choir of local singers is lead by Pastor Timothy Golden of Life on Main. Please join us.

River Artisans Cooperative Holiday Raffle

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – River Artisans Cooperative on The Square in Bellows Falls has launched their annual holiday raffle. The store, which offers a wide range of locally made art and hand crafted items, is the perfect place to shop for unique Vermont-made gifts. The raffle offers multiple items, so there are lots of chances to win. Tickets will be sold now through Dec. 21, when the drawings will give lots of lucky people items which they can enjoy or use as holiday presents. Tickets are priced as single tickets, sets of three, or sets of seven. The

grand prize is a \$100 gift certificate for using in the shop. You can catch a glimpse of what's on offer in the co-op window. The cooperative is a member-run organization that allows local artists and craftspeople to sell their creations locally. As a nonprofit, the raffle supports the shop's presence in the community. You can do your shopping this December during expanded hours. For shoppers looking for gifts and items made in Vermont, we're the place to come. The shop is located at 28 Village Square in Bellows Falls. For more

information, visit www.riverartisanscooperative.com, or call 802-591-2085.

Dickens Christmas Carol Open Studio

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens was written as a social commentary on the deplorable conditions of England's poor. Dickens selected this format as being far more appealing than a tract, which many would have ignored. Cash strapped from his American tour, Dickens thought this was a good way to raise money for his growing family, and besides, it was the right time of year for a good

ghost story. Dickens didn't make much money from the sale of his book – the binding was very expensive – but he left the world a richer place, with an endearing yearly tradition. Given the events of the last five months following the July floods, his messages of charity and hope are quite appropriate. In keeping with the spirit of this famous tale, the Cavendish Historical Society is hosting a Dickens Christmas Carol Open Studio on Sunday, Dec. 17, from

3-5:30 p.m., at the former Crows Corner Bakery, 73 Depot Street in Proctorsville. It will feature a variety of workshops, including wreath and ornament making, and hot chocolate tasting. This event is free and open to the public. It has been made possible by a grant from the Cavendish Community Fund, and with the support of the new owners of Crows. For more information call 802-226-7807, or email margocaulfield@icloud.com.

Springfield Christmas Farmers Market

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Amid the whirl of your holiday preparations, don't forget to stop in at the Christmas Farmers Market on Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the United Methodist Church in downtown Springfield, Vt. All our vendors will be

there, along with some newcomers, and returning old friends, all of whom will add creative gift options. Check out the beautiful collection of handcrafted wooden kitchen accessories, our selection of holiday flower arrangements, holiday-themed beeswax candles,

and delicate personal wooden gifts crafted from locally-sourced woods. For your table, we have natural meats, artisan breads, baked goods, fudge, free-range eggs, a full range of maple products, homemade pies, jams, jellies, pickles, relishes, honey, and finger

foods. As always, we are participating in the Chamber of Commerce Holiday Local Loyalty Program, so pick up your Loyalty Shopper cards as you come in, and vie for our beautiful gift basket at the Chamber drawing on Jan. 2.

"Home for the Holidays" at BFOH

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Karla Bonoff and Livingston Taylor come "Home for the Holidays" with a seasonally-spiced concert at the Bellows Falls Opera House on Saturday, Dec. 16, that will remind you of what a wonderful time of year it is. Ray's the Roof productions is partnering with Next Stage Arts, KOOL-FM, and Falcetti Pianos to bring this very special show to Bellows Falls. Karla Bonoff, one of her generation's great songwriters, and Livingston Taylor, entertainer extraordinaire, have joined forces for an

unforgettable performance of song and joy, featuring seasonal classics including songs from Karla's critically acclaimed Holiday album "Silent Night," as well as some of their best-known songs. Bonoff rocketed to fame in the late 1970s and 80s, writing hits for Bonnie Raitt, Wynona Judd, Lynn Anderson, and Linda Ronstadt, including the classic "Someone To Lay Down Beside Me." Livingston Taylor has written songs for and toured with his brother James, artists such as Linda Ronstadt and Car-

ly Simon, and, for the last 20 years, taught a course on stage performance at Berkeley College of Music. The stage is home for Karla and Livingston, who have always maintained busy annual touring schedules. Now they are excited to be back "home" in New England, playing for audiences with a performance that will be intimate, familiar, enthralling, and inspired by the essence of the season. "These are quintessential performers," says Ezra Veitch of Ray's the Roof Productions. "Both are su-

perb songwriters, and both really know how to connect with audiences. We are at work on our 2024 schedule, but this is a spectacular way to finish the 2023 season." The Bellows Falls Opera House is located at 7 Village Square, Bellows Falls, Vt. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., showtime is 7:30 p.m. Adult beverages will be provided by PK's Irish Pub. Tickets and information at www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com and at the door. For further questions or information about this concert, please call 802-387-0102.

"(Good) King Wenceslas" at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts is thrilled to announce that Vermont Suitcase Company's first-ever Winter Tour, featuring the heartwarming and whimsical production "(Good) King Wenceslas," will include a performance at the Next Stage venue, 15

Kimball Hill in Putney, on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. "(Good) King Wenceslas" invites audiences to follow the charismatic King Wenceslas and his page Edith, as they embark on a comedic and enchanting journey through the deep, crisp, and even snow of Medieval Europe. Set against the backdrop of everyone's favorite Christmas carol, the play weaves a delightful narrative, exploring themes of meaning and goodness with a unique blend

of quick-paced physical comedy, stage magic, and puppetry – all expertly performed by a talented cast of four actors. In a season saturated with traditional holiday classics like "A Christmas Carol" and "The Nutcracker," Vermont Suitcase Company offers a refreshing alternative with "(Good) King Wenceslas." The play promises to captivate audiences with its inventive storytelling and festive spirit, making it a must-see for winter enthu-



The Vermont Suitcase Company presents "(Good) King Wenceslas." PHOTO PROVIDED

siasts of all ages. "Vermont Suitcase Company presents a winter play for winter people," says Keith Marks, executive director at Next Stage Arts. "We are excited to bring this unique and entertaining production to audiences, providing a fresh and memorable experience during the holiday season." Don't miss the chance to be part of this enchanting winter adventure. Join Vermont Suitcase Company at Next Stage on Dec. 14, at 7 p.m., for an unforgettable evening of laughter, magic, and holiday cheer. For ticket information, please visit www.nextstagearts.org, or call 802-451-0053.