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# SHOPPER Newspaper

DECEMBER 20, 2023 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

**VOLUME 62, ISSUE 51** 

## Liberty Food Fest hosts dinner, film showing At BFOH

**BY JOE MILLIKEN** 

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -Hosted by Village Square Booksellers, the Bellows Falls Opera House (BFOH), and Saxtons River resident and documentary filmmaker Graham Meriwether, the recent Liberty Food Fest concentrated on a hands-on approach to advocating the importance of the local food economy.

The three-day proceedings included a special dinner hosted by the Hungry Diner in Walpole, N.H., followed by a two-day series of films and guest speakers - including two national experts - at the Bellows Falls Opera House on The Square. Co-founder of The Hungry Diner Caitlin Caserta was also a guest speaker. She and her husband Chris launched their farm in 2006 called Walpole Valley Farms, with a love of food and natural health as their main motivators. She is also a member of the American Pasturized Poultry Producers Association.

Founder of Leave It Better Media and co-founder of Filmshop, Meriwether is the creator of documentary films concentrating on the politics and constant challenges of local food movements and farming. His films include "American Meat," a pro-farmer look at the grass-fed local food movement, and "Farmers For America," a mosaic of young farmers who are attempting the vital task of feeding us, which aired on

PBS two years ago. Meriwether invited and was successful in bringing in renowned food experts Joel Salatine and Wiona LaDuke, who spoke at the Opera House events. Salatine, from Polyface Farm in Swoope, Va., is a farmer and author, while LaDuke is an environmentalist and economist in the White earth Land Recovery, and was the Green Party's vice presidential candidate in 1996 and 2000 under presidential candidate Ralph Nader. She is also an author of multiple books, and an industrial hemp grower.

Salatin, also affectionately known as the "lunatic farmer," has been an important advocate for regenerative agriculture for many years. Through hosting summits, Joel educates people around the country about food systems, food tyranny, and policies to improve soil, animal, and human health.

This work is very important, helping Americans to overcome the environmentally destructive, profit-driven corporate control of food production in the U.S. The events help unite people in sharing awareness of fresh, local food for community and human health.

Additional guest speakers at the Opera House gathering included Craig Hickman, a Maine state senator, and Dan Kittredge of Bionutrient Food Association, a nonprofit organization based in Barre, Mass., whose

objective is to support, educate, and empower farmers and scientists in building human vitality through principles of na-

Several local food-related businesses participated in a panel session at the event, including local farmers Paul Harlow of Harlow's Deep Root Farm in Westminster, and John Janisyn of Pete's Stand in Walpole, as well as Lauren Griswold of Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont, Sherry Maher of the Brattleboro Winter Farmer's Market, and Richard Berkfield, the executive director of Food Connects in Brat-

Additionally, local food trucks Jamaican Jewelz and

tleboro.



SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Once a month, a Springfield Garden Club committee creates 24 small flower arrangements to accompany meals distributed by volunteers to the local Meals on Wheels recipients. Pictured from left to right are Lynn Likus, Therese Burton, Deb Smith, Linda Jones, and Rosann Sexton.

Dosa Kitchen provided food for the event. There are already plans in motion to launch the "second annual" Liberty Food Fest some time

## Springfield works to wrapup town budget talks ——

**BY PAULA BENSON** 

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -The Springfield Selectboard held meetings on two consecutive Mondays this month, Dec. 11 and 18, to conduct the third and fourth town budget workshops. The board has been clocking three to four hours on meeting nights, committed to finalizing the budget for fiscal year 2024-2025, while continuing with regular selectboard meetings and executive sessions.

On Monday, Dec. 11, after Board Chair Kristi Morris called the regular meeting to order, he announced that the board had reviewed three candidates applying to fill the selectboard seat recently vacated by Crissy Webster. Morris reported that after much discussion, the board voted to appoint Heather Frahm to the position. Frahm was sworn in by Springfield town clerk Barbara A. Courchesne before taking her seat with the

Town manager Jeff Mobus requested that Frahm relinquish her position on the budget advisory committee upon accepting her seat on the selectboard, stating that to hold both positions presents a conflict of interest.

Kathy Urffer joined the meeting via Zoom to offer a presentation on the licensing of three dams on the Connecticut River – the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon hydro facilities. A River Steward with the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC), Urffer detailed the CRC's proposal for Vermont and New

Hampshire to federally li- levels of PFAS that were cense the dams for the next 40 years. The license is issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the last time it was updated for the three dams. all owned by Great River Hydro, was in 1979.

Urffer explained that the push for the relicensing program began in October 2012, experienced several delays, and the final revised license application was submitted in June 2023. She said the owner is required to mitigate for impacts of those facilities on the river, such as enhancements to recreation, while monitoring banks that are eroding, taking into consideration the protection of endangered species and migrating groups of "critters." She wanted the board to be aware that there will be an opportunity for the town to comment on the licensing sometime next spring or

early summer. Springfield town planner and zoning administrator Charles Wise was appointed as a second deputy health officer, to work with the health officer and fire chief Paul Stagner, and deputy health officer and deputy fire chief John Claflin.

Mobus announced that the community center was now equipped with heat, after having chimney work completed and a new pump installed. A new boiler is needed to operate the system properly, and Mobus discussed that the cost of the boiler, \$47,750, is included in the capital plan for next year.

Advisory notices were sent to all Springfield town water users to warn of low

detected in one of the three wells that provide water to the town. Mobus and water system superintendent Roy Farrar led the discussion about what the town might do to remedy the concern, although they pointed out the two readings conducted showed the contamination was well below the Sate of Ver-

mont allowable limit. One option would be to shut down the one well, which would put some strain on the two remaining. Farrar mentioned the town would go back to annual sampling now that the chem-

icals had been found. The state is currently requiring all water systems to complete a lead inventory, and residents received a notice asking them to look at their connection and verify the material used. If possible, the town is asking users to take pictures and send them to the water department. Mobus reported that 30% of users have replied, and stated that they'd really like to have as many people respond as possible, as that lowers the cost of doing the inventory. He invited anyone unsure of the material of the connection, or with any questions, to contact the water department directly at 802-886-

Finally, Mobus wanted to thank two town employees who were retiring, David Tewksbury and Dan Farrar.

See **BUDGET** on Page 2

## Springfield Garden Club's Holiday Market a success

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -The Springfield Garden Club would like to thank the local community who showed up in force to attend their 2023 Christmas Holidays Pop-Up Market at the former Young's Propane location in the plaza. The garden club is grateful to the members and spouses who made the event possible. Members handmade and decorated 184 items for sale in the days prior that included 34 wreaths, a decorated snowshoe, 14 boxwood trees, 49 evergreen centerpieces, and pinecone angels and snowmen. Eleven beautiful baskets chock full of goods were provided by members Bonny Andrews, Adrienne Faulhaber, Sue Hernon, Linda Jones, Linda Kelley, Delores Kuhn, Rosann Sexton, Deb Smith, and Wendy Stephens, to be raffled off. The market was a tremendous success, and will allow the club to continue their community projects in 2024.

The garden club was also overwhelmed with gratitude for the many business and private donations. Sincere thanks go to All Seasons Construction Corp., Bibens Home Center, BillGO Inc., John and Corky Bond, Kelly Burke, Shirley Cooper, Warren Cross, Bev and B.J. Crowley, Crown Point Country Club, Flo Ann Dango, Christopher J. Fauver DDS, John and Pat Graves, Steve Green, Mary Helen Hawthorne, HB Energy Solutions, Linda Husband, ImageTek MFG, Fredda and Bob Kischko, Lamb and McNaughton PC, Darlene Larochelle CPA, Juliet and Jim Loutrel, Geri and Rick Marasa, Patricia Martin, Walter Martone and Marc Kimball, Winifred Mc-Dowell, Linda and Kurt Merriman, Priscilla Millay, Gay Mobus, Diane Neronsky, Karen and Chris Oehl, P&S Distributors, Brian and Christina Perkins, Ellen and Tony Petrillo, Springfield Housing Authority, Margaret Straub, Gwynna Taylor, Vermont Timber Works, Harriet and Lyle Wood, Woodbury Florist, and Sharon Yesman. Thanks as well to the many

made a personal donation.

Every summer, the garden club plants and maintains more than 30 planters and window boxes along main street, as well as six larger garden areas at town hall, the plaza traffic island, Route 10/106, the Eureka schoolhouse, the Blue Star Memorial Garden (on Main Street at Valley Street), and a Plant-It-Pink Memorial Garden (at the intersection of Route 11 and Paddock Road). The club sponsors and co-sponsors public talks related to gardening, provides scholarships to local students, creates floral arrangements every month for Meals on Wheels recipients, and engages local youth and the elderly in garden projects. The club also collaborates with Springfield on the Move, the Town of Springfield, and the Springfield Chamber of Commerce on the revitalization of the down-

To learn more about the Springfield Garden Club, see their website at www. springfieldgardenclub.org, or their Facebook page, "Springfield Garden Club of Vermont."

## SAPA TV's sixth annual Public Domain Christmas

garden club members who

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -SAPA TV, the Springfield area's public access TV station, will once again run 24 hours of Christmas movies and short subjects from 7 p.m. Christmas Eve - 7 p.m. Christmas

Viewers in Springfield, Weathersfield, and Chester, Vt., and in Charlestown, N.H., are welcomed to spend the day with 1964's "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians," the 1959 Mexican production

"Santa Claus," and a host of classic cartoons, all of which have entered the public domain.

The marathon will run on SAPA's public channel (Comcast 1077, VTel 160), while local Christmas programming will air at the same time on SAPA's government/educational channel (Comcast 1087, VTel 161).

There will also be other special programming for the holidays this year. Tune in to the public channel at 6:45 p.m. every day between

now and Christmas to see Stories with Santa segments. For Dec. 20-24, specials with Mrs. Claus will air at 6:15 p.m., followed by the Stories with Santa segments.

Those staying in on New Year's Eve can also see a marathon of Silver City Password, a game show, which will begin at 7 p.m. and run until 11 a.m. on New Year's

Viewers outside SAPA's service area can watch online with SAPA's live stream at www.sapatv.org.

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#### **CONTACT US**

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## **DEADLINES**

The deadline for all content is Thursday, Dec. 21 and 28 at 12 p.m. for the Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 publications.

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The Shopper 2 | December 20, 2023

## Ludlow business owner facing federal bribery charges

**BY NICK GIBERTI** 

The Shopper

LUDLOW, Vt. - A major business owner in Ludlow was indicted on federal bribery charges on Thurdsay, Dec. 14, according to an announcement by United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Damian Williams.

Troy Caruso, who owns multiple Ludlow businesses, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud, and one count of honest services

wire fraud. Each charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

The charges stem from activities that allegedly occurred from February 2021 - September 2023. During this time, Caruso and another executive at the New York City-based contracting company that he owns, John Nolan, are alleged to have been involved in what is described in the indictment as a "kickback scheme," making kickback payments to an employee at a "global and publicly traded commercial

real estate services company." This employee was responsible for managing the process by which contracting companies like Caruso's bid on and are awarded construction contracts. Caruso is said to have promised 1% of any contracts his contracting company was awarded to the employee in exchange for the employee's aid in the bidding process. For example, the indictment claims that Caruso's company was, as a result, included on the real estate services company's

list," allowing him to submit bids for contracts which he would not have otherwise been able to submit. The indictment also says that the employee provided Caruso with non-public information about the bidding pro-

Caruso was awarded a contract for \$3.55 million by the real estate company, and is alleged to have paid \$35,500 to the employee of the real estate company as result, as well as a further \$33,000 in kickbacks for his continued support. Caruso's contracting company submitted bids for two other projects for which he was not awarded contracts.

Caruso is the owner of Fox Run Golf Course, Off the Rails, Calcutta's, and Alta Tuscan Grille, all in Ludlow. Caruso also owns Sam's Steakhouse and Mr. Darcy's, which were both heavily damaged in the July flood, and have since been shuttered. Caruso is seeking FEMA buyouts for both properties, though the Ludlow Selectbord had denied permission to sell the Mr.

Darcy's property to FEMA, citing the building's historical significance.

If convicted, Caruso could face forfeiture of any assets "derived from the proceeds traceable to the commission of the offenses." If such assets are outside the court's jurisdiction - for example, if the assets have been sold to a third party without connection to the criminal activity - the government intends to "seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendants up to the value of the forfeitable property."

## Rockingham Library presentation on serving on a board

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -In the spirit of encourag-

Rockingham Town Selectboard, Rockingham School ing people to serve on the Board, the Rockingham



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Library Board, and the Bellows Falls Union High School Board, a panel discussion followed by a question-and-answer period is being offered at the Rockingham Library on Monday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. There will be at least two openings on each board this year, except for the library board, which has one opening.

Chris Kibbe, a Rockingham School Board member; Rick Cowan, a Rockingham Town Selectboard member; along with one member each from the Rockingham Library Board and Bellows Falls Union High School Board, will make up the panel. After each briefly shares their board experiences, the floor will be open for questions.

Petitions to run for a board member position will be available to pick up at this meeting. Petitions are due at the town clerk's of-

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fice no later than Monday, Jan. 29, and are required to have a total of 30 signatures. Elections for these board positions will take place through mail-in voting or voting in person on Town Meeting Day, March 2, 2024.

For more information, email programming@ rockinghamlibrary.org, call the library 802-463-4270, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

## Introduction

Acupuncture

#### presentation at Springfield Town Library —

802-885-3997

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -On Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m., join Kerri Casey at the Springfield Town

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Library for her presentation "Introduction to Acupuncture."

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Wednesday-Saturday, from 12-4 p.m. for walk-ins.

Have you thought about trying acupuncture, but are unsure how it can help? Have your friends told you about acupuncture, but you want to know more? You are invited to attend a talk by Kerri Casey, Lic. Ac., from Black River Acupuncture, and hear a brief history and description of acupuncture. Kerri can answer your questions so you may determine if acupuncture is right for

about something unfamil-

Kerri Casey is a licensed acupuncturist with the Vermont Medical Board, and nationally certified by the NCCAOM. Kerri received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Boston College, and a master's degree in acupuncture and Oriental medicine from Northwestern Health Sciences University in Minnesota in 2006.

Visit our calendar of events to sign up, www. springfieldtownlibrary.org/ calendar. If you have any questions, call 802-885-

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Tewksbury worked for nearly 20 years in the public works department, and Farrar was the manager of the town transfer station for 18 years. "On behalf of the town, I'd like to wish them well as they step into retirement," said Mobus. "Con-

gratulations!" The evening concluded with a budget workshop focused on town administration, parks and recreation, the town library, and senior



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## Future of Fletcher Farm Arts School uncertain

LUDLOW, Vt. - The Society of Vermont Artists and Craftsmen (SOVAC), parent group of the beloved Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts, announced today that the organization is facing a pivotal financial crossroads threatening its ability to continue operating in 2024 and beyond.

After years of declining enrollment exacerbated by unforeseen circumstances like the pandemic and recent flooding, SOVAC leadership indicated that the organization can no longer rely primarily on tuition fees to stay solvent. Additionally, recent wire fraud impacted Fletcher Farm's accounts, presenting another financial hurdle.

'We have weathered our share of storms during Fletcher Farm School's 76year history, but this convergence of factors has truly put us in triage mode," said Susan Damone Balch, SO-VAC Board Chair and current head of Fletcher Farm's daily operations. "Our latest financial review shows that tuition alone cannot sustain our organization at prior levels going forward."

As a result of the financial uncertainty, the SOVAC Board has chosen to pause all in-person programming during 2024 to focus urgently on long-term strategic planning. This project seeks to chart a bold new vision and business model to allow Fletcher Farm to reopen sustainably in 2025.

Several longterm board members have stepped down, and Vermont nonprofit law requires that key board positions be in place for Fletcher Farm to legally continue existing. Without new candidates stepping forward for imminent board elections in May 2024, dissolution becomes imminent.

'We are committed to emerging from this stronger than ever with innovative arts education that opens new doors for learners of all ages and abilities," Balch emphasized. "But we cannot do it without an infusion of financial support and volunteer leadership in the coming weeks and months."

Since 1947, Fletcher Farm has provided over 100 fine art and traditional craft workshops annually from its historic property in Ludlow, serving more than 300 adult and youth students each year. Course offerings span creative disciplines like writing, metal working, fiber arts, photography, and shaker box mak-

Community members interested in supporting Fletcher Farm's mission have several options. They can volunteer for a vacant board leadership position, make a yearend financial contribution to help bridge the income gap, and/or participate in strategic planning efforts and other professional services pro

Those able to get involved should contact Susan Balch at susan@ fletcherfarm.org or 802-228-8770.

Make a year-end donation at www.fletcher-

## Two picking stories -

#### BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119 ronpatch27@gmail.com

I have spent a lifetime buying and selling antiques. There are countless stories I could tell. Chelsea, Vt.

One day, 50 years ago, I was picking up in Chelsea. I had a lot to learn. I stopped at a place in the village, and knocked on the door. A rather thin, older gent came to the door. He let me in. Immediately, I'm greeted by an 18th century Queen Anne highboy. Beside it was a Hepplewhite light stand with drawer. More on this stand below.

I was out of my element for sure. In another room was a large painting, maybe 6 feet by 10 feet. It was huge.

I was in awe as I stood before it. It was a scene of Indians on horseback, driving a herd of buffalo over a cliff. In the left foreground was an Indian on horseback. He had just thrown his lance, striking a buffalo behind the shoulder. The buffalo looked back at the Indian with a Moby Dick eye. It was signed Frederic Remington.

The old gent told me he had been offered \$10,000. He had a brother who lived in Woodstock, Vt. His brother had a Remington bronze.

More at my level of knowledge at the time, the old gent had some Victorian items. In his office was the best roll top desk. With the roll up, I could see numerous black pushbuttons. These buttons called different departments within the factory.

Above the desk, on the wall, was a large, colored lithograph for Hood's Sarsaparilla. This was the old gent's grandfather Hood's desk.

The Hepplewhite light stand I did not understand so many years ago. I have only seen one such example in the 50 years since. It was made in a cabinetmaker's shop, probably in Windsor or Hartland. It had splayed legs, canted drawer, and a stretcher from the left rear leg to right front leg and another from right rear leg to left front leg. The pierce carved stretchers were about eight inches off the floor. Where these stretchers intersected was a raised hump. These light stands are very rare today, only a handful are known. They date to 1810-1815.

About 40 years ago, I bought the remaining contents of the Attridge place on Woodbury Road in Springfield. In that estate, and kept by the family, was the only other example I have seen. It wasn't for sale.

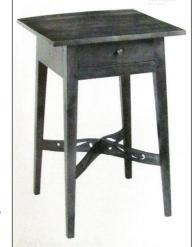
The photo with this article is from Ken Zogry's book "The Best the Country Affords." It is an example of a Hartland light stand. Ken and I collaborated some in the early 1990s.

I have learned a lot in 50 years. Today, I could market these antiques.

#### The round oak table

I was picking up in Orwell, Vt. about 40 years ago. I stopped at an old farmhouse. This place was rather run down. I was downstairs in the kitchen when I saw the round oak table.

Round oak tables came in different sizes. The least expensive had 42-inch diameter tops. They also came in 48, 54, and 60-inch tops. A larger top equaled more money. This table had a 54-inch top. It had a split pedestal with a center leg.



Hartland light stand. Notice pierced stretchers.

PHOTO FROM KEN ZOGRY'S BOOK "THE BEST THE COUNTRY AFFORDS"

When opened and leaves added, the split pedestal provided excellent support. This table had massive carved ball and claw feet, and a carved apron. It was one of the best.

It sat in their kitchen. Over the kitchen was an apartment. Coming down through the ceiling from the upstairs bathroom was a 4-inch diameter cast iron sewer pipe. They had cut a hole in the center of the table, through which the sewer pipe passed.

Can you imagine eating your breakfast when someone upstairs flushed the toilet? I bought the table and took it to Ron Davis in Perkinsville. He did a nice job restoring the top.

Instead of an old saying, I offer a song I learned in first grade.

"Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat Please put a penny in the

old man's hat If you haven't got a pen-

ny, a half penny will do If you haven't got a half penny, then God bless you.'





## **History of Christmas cards**

CHESTER, Vt. – On the evening of Dec. 13, Chester Historical Society members Rachael Spafford and Carla Westine entertained the society with an interesting presentation on the history of Christmas cards in the United States at the organization's Christmas Party at Chester Town Hall.

## Rockingham Vet raises over \$400 for Foxy Fund —

CHESTER, Vt. - On the first weekend of December, the staff at the Rockingham Veterinary Clinic on Main Street in Chester sponsored a delightful "Photos of Pets with Santa" event at their offices. On Friday night and Saturday, residents brought their cats, Dobermans, retrievers, Labradors, bloodhounds, Chihuahuas, and other lovable critters to pose with Santa for holiday pictures. All of the voluntary donations went towards the Foxy Fund. Senior Solutions' program that delivers pet food to home-bound seniors and assists with veterinary bills. \$404 was raised by the staff, who decorated the office and came outfitted as elves and helpers, and even the pets seemed excited at the prospect of meeting Santa. Senior Solutions was present on site to assist with the tail-wagging excitement. Participants also took part in a contest to guess the number of Milkbones filling a huge glass jar. The contest was won by Fred Probst, whose guess of 300 was nearly spot-on: there were 297 treats in the jar.

Senior Solutions is very grateful for the effort put into the event by the Rockingham Vet Clinic, and looks forward to a continuing working relationship



Santa with a good boy.
PHOTO PROVIDED

with this important community resource.









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## opinion

Dear Editor,

My Okemo ski day on Jan. 23, 2022, could have had a tragic ending for me and my family. I was skiing on Limelight trail with my eight-year-old grandson Ben, when I went into cardiac arrest and collapsed on the trail.

The well-trained Okemo Ski Patrol Team saved my life that day. I returned to Okemo Mountain this year on Dec. 9, and had the pleasure of meeting the team that saved my life on the mountain. It was a heartwarming experience at the top of the mountain for me to personally thank the Okemo Ski Patrol Safety Team. I was able to hug Jen, who rode my transport sled and continued to perform CPR the entire route down to Jackson Gore. She was my heart pump off the mountain that day.



David Piche with Okemo Ski Patrol Member Jen.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Okemo Ski Patrol Safety Team, thank you.

David Piche North Kingstown, R.I.

Sincerely,

Dear Editor,

It is with heartfelt gratitude that the Weston Volunteer Fire Department would like to recognize Mr. Robert A. Csanadi for his profoundly generous donation to our organization. This timely gift will help us to move forward in our service to Weston and our neighboring towns.

There is truth to the notion that extraordinary people emerge in times of crisis. We thank him and his family. The Weston Volunteer Fire Department will always hold Mr. Robert A. Csanadi in a place of honor.

Sincerely, The Weston Volunteer Fire Department Weston, Vt. season finds everyone in our community healthy and enjoying time with family and friends. We are writing to thank everyone who has participated in our many activities, introduce folks who may not know us or what we do, and to give the community an opportunity to support our work. Over the past several years, the WRCP has become a thriving hub of our community in its home

We here at the West

River Community Project

(WRCP) hope this holiday

Dear Editor,

support our work. Over the past several years, the WRCP has become a thriving hub of our community in its home in the historic West Townshend Country Store in the heart of West Townshend. As you know, we operate a small café using fresh, local ingredients, a tiny grocery that sells locally produced goods at well below retail prices, and a thrift shop offering top quality clothing for very low prices. We also host the West Townshend Post Office and

Townshend Farmers Market,

operate a state-licensed com-

mercial processing kitchen

to incubate small local businesses, and actively collaborate with other nonprofit organizations.

Perhaps you have participated in one of our many craft classes this past year, or joined us for one of our three weekly community donation-based meals. Did you have the opportunity to visit our farmers market on Fridays this past summer? Have you shopped the excellent values in our thrift store? Made use of the West Townshend Post Office instead of driving to Townshend?

None of what we do can be supported by sandwich, coffee, and used clothing sales alone, and our survival here depends on the generosity of our neighbors. This is your invitation to help and make a real impact in our community. The West River Community Project continues to do the hard work that needs to get done through your kind donations. We humbly acknowledge that without

your compassionate help we would not be able to continue to build on the financial momentum you have provided us in the past. Let us continue to celebrate, and together build a better future for our community and its needs.

Your donation, no matter how small, can create a significant impact. Help us make a difference in the lives of people in our community. All gifts to WRCP are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

To make a credit card donation, please visit our website at www.westtownshend. org.

To make a donation by check, please make check payable to West River Community Project and mail to West River Community Project, P.O. Box 1066, West Townshend, VT 05359.

With thanks, WRCP Board of Directors and staff



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

#### Dear Editor,

During this holiday, it is time to be grateful for those that have given so much to the Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR). Our students are fortunate to have a unique middle and high school opportunity in our community. First, we are so grateful for our exciting and talented staff. Our staff includes a Harvard graduate in English, a college professor and Argentinian-born Spanish teacher, a seasoned, well-respected, and wellknown local math instructor, a local artist and teacher, and two doctoral college science teachers. What brings them to the Expeditionary School? Mostly, it is

their passion for education, the vision of the school, and their desire to help young people. They have gravitated to 43 Main Street in Ludlow, Vt., because of the spirit of exploring at the school, and wanting to be of help to our community.

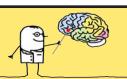
Top on the list of talented people at ESBR is our head of school Judy Pullinen. Judy is no stranger to the Ludlow community. She is a longtime resident of Ludlow, and was superintendent in Ludlow for years. She also brings a wealth of background in education as a tech center teacher, and leadership at a middle school and the tech center. She brings wonderful ideas for running an effective, innovative school, and wonderful connections.

This year, Ludlow went through a terrible flood. Our school is so grateful to the many people in town that shared their stories of the effects of the storn, our town's reaction to it, and the recovery process. This community has shown the students how a community comes together in a crisis. We have seen the hard work of the people at the water and sewer treatment plant, the transfer station, the town office and town manager, the Ludlow disaster coordinator, BRAT, the FEMA workers, and so many local homeowners.

We are so fortunate to have so many people that care about this community and our school. On behalf of the Expeditionary School at Black River Trustees, which I am also grateful for their hours of commitment to this endeavor, I want to express our gratitude to the whole community for their encouragement and support.

Sincerely, Gary Blodgett Chair, ESBR Board of

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.



#### Dr. Henry Hasson

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## obituaries

### **CHRISTMAS 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 Sunday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m.

Tyson Community Church, 39 Dublin Rd., Ludlow, Vt. The Tyson Community Church will hold a Candlelight Christmas Service on Dec. 22, at 5:30 p.m. Hear the Christmas story, and sing your favorite Christmas carols with Pastor Terry Bascom and musician Erik Johansson. There will be hot chocolate, cookies, and fellowship to

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.

### Walpole Unitarian Church, 18 Main St., Walpole,

The Walpole Unitarian Church will hold a Community Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.

## Sheriff Palmer speaks to Rotary—

ing. Staff also must meet four

times a year with a psycholo-

gist, a new requirement that

also reduces the stigma of

In his first year on the job,

Palmer has doubled the size

of the sheriff's department

from 10 officers to more

than 23 sworn and contrac-

tual employees. The depart-

ment's first canine officer in

20 years will join the force

crimes are concerning

trends," he said. The solution

may require a regional ap-

proach that combines police

departments. Meanwhile, the sheriff's office is working

hard to "make a difference."

Palmer related the story of a

suspect who escaped appre-

hension after ramming a law

three days. It wasn't like we

weren't going to find him -

he crashed into my new car."

He's now in custody, and

"three more guns were taken

off the streets," the sheriff

stock, the Windsor County

Sheriff's Department pro-

vides direct law enforcement

to Barnard, Cavendish, Hart-

land, Plymouth, Pomfret,

Reading, Rochester, and

Sharon. Founded in 1781,

10 years before Vermont

had even become a state,

the sheriff's department

provides a number of other

services, including paper-

work on behalf of civil, small

claims, probate, and family

Ludlow Rotary club meets

Written by Glenn

weekly on Tuesdays for

courts, and individuals.

lunch at DJ's Restaurant.

Heitsmith.

Headquartered in Wood-

"We hunted him for

enforcement vehicle.

proudly exclaimed.

"Opiates and violent

after completing training.

mental health issues.

LUDLOW, Vt. - Sheriff Ryan Palmer recently joined Rotarians over a tasty plate of chicken parmesan at DJ's Restaurant. The Dec. 5 luncheon marked a sentimental homecoming for the former Ludlow cop, who launched his successful bid for county sheriff at a Rotary meeting here in 2022.

Palmer, who took office in February, detailed a busy first year filling campaign promises to "change law enforcement in Vermont." Accountability holds top billing. Officers in the field now all wear body cameras, Palmer said, and releasing video footage of arrests or encounters is common prac-

Observers note an increased presence of county law enforcement activity, such as patrols and roadside law enforcement. Greater visibility runs consistent with department rebranding that extends to the expanding fleet of Chevy Tahoe SUVs. A redesigned and enlarged uniform insignia highlights Constitution House in Windsor, recognized as the birthplace of the State of Vermont in 1790.

Palmer highlighted community involvement, school visits, and other interactions with young people. This "problem solving" ranges from unsafe driving (yes, drivers are being pulled over for traveling more than 100 miles per hour) to assisting families with loved ones who are dealing with substance use disorders. Ludlow's new Divided Sky Residential Recovery Retreat is an "important part of helping people get help," he added.

Palmer said he spent "a ton of money" on officer trainJames A. Eno, 1930-2023

WESTMINSTER, Vt. -James Anthony Eno, 93, of Westminster, died Friday morning, Dec. 15, at The Springfield Health and Rehabilitation Center, following a short illness. James was born on July 9, 1930, in Bellows Falls, Vt., to Charlie Eno and Theresa DeNuzzi. James graduated in 1948 from Bellows Falls High School. He married Nora O'Brien on Nov. 27, 1954.

James proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict, where he held the rank of SFC. For his service, he was awarded a Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, a Commendation Metal, National Defense Service Medal, and a United Nations Service Medal.

James worked as a meat manager for First National Grocery Stores for over 50 years, and was a member of The Knights of Columbus. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 37, and past commander. James was an avid Yankees fan, and took part in many a spirited debate with Red Sox fans.

James is survived by his children Michael Eno and his wife Pam of Ludlow, Timothy Eno and his wife Brenda of Bellows Falls, Jane Eno-Oevermann and her husband Dieter of Springfield, and John Eno of West



James A. Eno, 1930-2023.

Palm Beach, Fla.; his grandchildren Christopher, Justin, and Keith Eno of Bellows Falls, Meagan LeBlanc of North Carolina, Eric LeBlanc of Greensburg, Pa., and Elizabeth, Isabella, and Victoria Eno of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.; and several great-grandchildren. He is also survived by a sister Jeanette LaFoe of Connecticut. He is predeceased by his brothers John Eno, Joe Eno, and Charles Eno.

Calling hours were held Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 4-6 p.m. at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls. A Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 11 a.m., at St. Charles Church in Bellows Falls.

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

#### Birgit Sutter-Davis, 1961-2023

WESTON, Vt. - Our community lost a vital member on Thursday, Dec. 7. Birgit Sutter-Davis slipped quietly from this life to the next at her home in Weston, Vt., with her beloved husband David by her side.

She was born in New York City on Nov. 3, 1961. She grew up in Short Hills, N.J., graduating from Milburn High School in 1979. Birgit graduated from Kenyon College in 1983, received Kenyon's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1993, and was nominated to Kenyon's Board of Trustees in 2006. She received her MBA from Columbia University and had a successful career on Wall Street, before retiring in 2006 from the position of global macro portfolio manager and principal at CRT Capital Group in Stamford, Conn.

Birgit loved the game of golf, and joined Baltusrol Golf Club in 1996.

Birgit owned a home in Vermont for 27 years. In 2018, she and her husband David made Vermont their permanent home.

She joined the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad in 2018, and became an EMT, an advanced EMT, and finally a paramedic in November 2022.

Birgit was an active member of the Second Congregational Church in Londonderry, Vt., serving as the head of Christian education for young people, on the safety committee, and as church treasurer.

She had an incredible generosity of spirit, and through the Church and LVRS she fulfilled her passion of helping others. Birgit's optimism, happy personality, and laugh will be especially missed by those who love her.



Birgit Sutter-Davis, 1961-2023.

Birgit is survived by the love of her life, her husband David; her parents Winston and Astrid Sutter; sister Kristen McCutcheon and her husband Tim, and their children Meg (McCutcheon) Cummins, Cameron, and Drew; and stepdaughters Phoebe Weight, Chloe Hartman, and their fami-

A memorial service and Celebration of Life will be held at the Second Congregational Church in the spring.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Second Congregational Church, P.O. Box 77, Londonderry, VT, 05148, Attn: Parsonage Fund, or the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 911, Londonderry, VT 05148. To send the family personal condolences, please visit www.sheafuneralhomes.com.



802-885-3322 99 Summer St, Springfield, VT www.DavisMemorialChapel.net Owners Scott and Angela Page

### Tree of Remembrance

LUDLOW, Vt. - This year's Tree of Remembrance shines brightly in memory of the following loved ones, who are always in our hearts: Joan Albert, John Bazzano, Oscar and Nellie Beckman, Ernie Belanger, Hank Berger, Charlie Bidwell, Mary Bolduc, Earl Bonneau, Dave Brown, Evelyn Bryant, Kim Bryant, Oscar and Margarita Bryant, Roy and Marie Bryant, Stanley and Francis Bryant, Gail Caldwell, Charlotte Chardonet, Dottie Clark Davis and Iim Davis, Nancy DeLong, George and Ethelyn Dever, Kathleen Dever, Suzette Durgin, Finneaus Egan, John Ewen, Harry Fisher, John Foscolos, Leonard Gendron, Chizzie and Frank Geraci, Dan Giordano, Norman Gordon, Mary Gould, Jim Grossbard, Richard and Jean Hassett, Jim Havell, Rita Higgins, Brian Hodgeman, Charlie Hughes, Ed Iles, George Jacobs, Brian Kirkpatrick, Hersh Klein, Carol Sullivan Kuk, George and Eileen Laber, Frank LaCava, Peter Lawless, Irene Lorrain, Joseph Lorrain, George and Rose Macintyre, Sandi Manna, MaryAnn Markowski, Anne and Iggy Matulonis,

George and Violet Matu-

**INSURANCE-**

lonis, Jim Mays, Shirley P. Merriam, Dick Merrow, Jim Misuraca, Jud and Ginnie Nelson, Ernest and Melba Noll, Pete Noyes, Eleanor O'Donnell, Art O'Hare, Mary Lou and Charles Parker, Lana Parks, John Pappalardo, Ellen Parrish, Frank and Marge Peters, Kevin Quinn, Constance Rockhill, Lucille Ryan, Kelley Sanderson, Ronald Schauster, Nancy Sears, Allyn and Helen Seward, Gerard Snyder, Virginia Snyder, Carolyn Spaulding, David Stearns, Clifford Stehle, Bunny and Richard Strong, Donald and Vera Sullivan, Richard Sullivan, Craig Stout, Terri Tabshey, Ray Taksar, Doris and Harold Tedford, Kenneth Tedford, Beverly P. Tucker, Kathy Tyrrell, Kenneth Tyrrell Sr., Pat Walsh, Sally Whitaker, Ed Zawacki, and to all those we have lost this

vear. To add your loved one's name to our list, mail your tax deductible donation to OVWC c/o Pat Archambault, 61 Andover Street, Ludlow, VT 05149. Make your check payable to "Okemo Valley Women's Club" or "OVWC." Include the name(s) of the loved ones you wish to be remembered.

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Journal, LLC is a member of the Vermont Press Association

## calendar

## **LEGAL NOTICES**

#### 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.

#### DEC. 31 -

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Sound Investment will play a New Years Eve 2024 Celebration from Sunday, Dec. 31, at 8:30 p.m. - Monday, Jan. 1, at 12 a.m., at VFW Post 771, 191 River Street in Springfield. They will

perform classic rock and modern country music. This performance is open to the public. For more information, call 802-885-6008.

#### JAN. 3 -

CHESTER, Vt. – Local string band Just the Tip! returns to The Pizza Stone in Chester on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at 6 p.m.

#### **SUNDAYS** -

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness

#### volunteers. **MONDAYS** -

Airport in Springfield.

The Civil Air Patrol is the

auxiliary unit of the U.S.

Air Force tasked with the

mission of supporting

diverse aviation and

development, and

ground services, youth

promotion of air, space,

and cyber power. Cadets

as young as 12 and senior

members of any age make

up this diverse group of

America's communities

with emergency response,

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.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. - On Mondays at 6:15 p.m., join Mikayla for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www. dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

#### 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 suerubl@ aol.com, or Sophia Blanchard at SBlanchard@ seniorsolutionsvt.org.

#### WEDNESDAYS -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -Knitting Together, every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m., at Village Square Booksellers, knitting hats and mittens for our school kids. We provide yarn, some direction, and an enjoyable visit. Acrylic yarn donations are always welcome. For more information, contact Caroline at 802-463-4653.

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.

WALPOLE, N.H. -Alcoholics Anonymous women's meeting, a 12-step recovery program for women who have a desire to stop drinking, is happening every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of Westminster and Elm streets in Walpole, N.H. For more information, call Viva at 802-732-8330.

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

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.

LUDLOW, Vt. - Certified instructor Helena Wu will teach Tai Chi classes every Thursday, from 9-10 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street in Ludlow. Classes are free, and are limited to 10 participants. Registration is required. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 802-228-7421, or Helena Wu at 802-289-7369.

#### 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 -

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center offers Springfield residents the opportunity to come for a free swim every Saturday, from 1-3 p.m. Participants may need to show proof of Springfield residency. For more information, call 802-885-2568, email info@edgarmay.org, or visit www.edgarmay.org.

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 ANDOVER** PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to the residents of the Town of Andover, Vermont that the Andover Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:15 p.m. at the Andover Town Hall to receive public comments on adding short-term rentals as a conditional use to the Andover Zoning Regulations.

Dated at Andover, Vermont, this 14st day of December, 2023 Jonathan W. Stevens, Secretary, Andover Planning Commission

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#### STATE OF VERMONT

#### **SUPERIOR COURT** WINDSOR Unit

**CIVIL DIVISION** Case Number 23-CV-02615

Vermont Housing Finance Agency, Plaintiff

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:

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. 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 War-

ranty 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.thcauction.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

#### **TOWN OF WESTON** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE** 

WINDHAM HILL ROAD CLOSURE in WINDHAM, VT

(Periodic Closures from 12/26/23 through 1/18/24)

Windham Hill Road will be closed periodically to all traffic a

distance 5 miles south of the Rte. 121 intersection (200' south of Chase Road intersection) on a periodic bases to allow for

culvert work. Electronic Message Boards and road signs will be utilized to signify closures. Residents/businesses must use

an alternative route during closures. Please call the Town of

Windham if you have any questions. Thank you very much.

Kord Scott, Windham Road Commissioner

Windham Town Hall: 802-874-4211

The Weston Development Review Board will meet at 5:00 PM on Thursday January 11, 2024 at the Weston Town Offices at 12 Lawrence Hill Road to hold a public hearing on the following application:

Anthony Mazzocchi is applying for an extension of the Kinhaven Music School's season through December.

Those interested in seeing the applications, submitting written comments, or attending the hearings remotely should contact the town's Zoning Administrator at: Town of Weston P.O Box 98, Weston Vt. 05161, or Zoning@westonvt.org.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

### NOTICE OF LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON PROPOSED TOWN PLAN

January 16, 2024 at 6:30 pm Mount Holly Town Office - 50 School Street, Mount Holly, VT 05730



Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4529601156 Meeting ID: 452 960 1156

The Mount Holly Select Board will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 PM on January 16, 2024 at the Mount Holly Town Office, and via Zoom, to consider adoption of a new Proposed Town Plan. Members of the public may attend in person or via Zoom.

**Statement of Purpose:** The purpose of the Proposed Town Plan is to provide clear, written standards for orderly development that preserve the town's distinctly rural character and appearance while providing community services and recreational and cultural opportunities.

Geographic Areas Affected: The Proposed Town Plan pertains to the Town of Mount Holly.

Table of Contents: The Proposed Town Plan includes the following subsections: Introduction, Objectives, Land Use, Transportation, Utilities and Facilities, Preservation, Educational Facilities, Energy, Housing, Economic Development, Flood Resilience, Implementation, Regional Coordination, Appendix A: Inventory of Significant Natural Features, Appendix B: Maps.

Full Text: The full text of the draft Town Plan, as adopted by the Mount Holly Planning Commission and submitted to the Mount Holly Select Board, is available at the Town Office, Belmont Post Office, and Mount Holly Post Office, and is posted on the Town website at http://tinyurl.com/mthollytownplan.

Public Comment: Members of the public are invited to make public comments via Zoom or in person at the time of the meeting. If individuals wish to make a public comment but do not have the ability to attend the meeting, they may email comment(s) in advance of the hearing to the Mount Holly Select Board at mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com; mail them to Mount Holly Select Board, P.O. Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758, or hand-deliver them to the Town Office at 50 School Street in Mount Holly.

## classifieds

#### **BUYING/ SELLING**

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

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



#### **BROOKVIEW APARTMENTS Bugbee Street, White River Junction, VT**

#### **Accepting Applications for 2 Bedroom Units**

Utilities, snow, trash removal included. Laundry facility on premises for tenant use only.

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 inten to occupy a dwelling unit with one or more minor children or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, sexual orientation, martial status or disability.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY THM is an equal opportunity provider and employer



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**King** Crossword –

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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

#### **HELP WANTED**

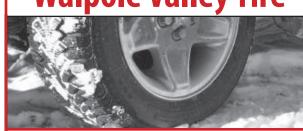
ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - Looking for someone to plow my driveway. Call 802-770-9432.

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.



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

## Walpole Valley Tire



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

## Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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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 TiVo precur 9 America's 12 Consume 13 Heart line 14 La-la lead-in 15 Gym machine 17 And so on 18 Nabokov 19 Bowling lanes 21 Packs tightly 24 Go yachting 25 Yale grad

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JOURNAL & THE SHOPPER

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

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#### **GALLERY AT THE VAULT**

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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 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

#### **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

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#### **NEW ENGLAND HOME**

**BUIDING AND REMODEL** 802-779-3414 — Located in Weston, VT

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#### Chiropractor

Tel: 802-885-4963 • 802-885-6200

#### 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

(01/03/24 - TFN - 13)

#### **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 stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com.

#### Okemo Valley TV

#### Ways to Watch Local Programming

On TV: Comcast 1076 & 1086 | VTel 166 & 167 Online: Go to okemovallev.tv/watch to watch Live TV

or on video on demand

You Tube: okemovallevtv **Streaming App:** Download Okemo Valley TV app for free

(Apple TV, Roku, Fire TV, Google Play, & mobile)

## holiday wishes from local businesses

