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# THE **FREE** Vermont Journal

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VOLUME 24, ISSUE 04

## OMS receives EpicPromise grant

LUDLOW, Vt. – Eb Kinney Sr., director of mountain operations; Bruce Schmidt, vice president and general manager; and Okemo Mountain Resort are pleased to grant approximately \$5,000 of in-kind donations to Okemo Mountain School's (OMS) Kate Foster, development coordinator; and Mariel Meringolo, head of school, to support their annual Winter Festival fundraiser. This grant is made possible by the EpicPromise grant program. EpicPromise is the charitable arm of Vail Resorts, and supports local communities and employees.

Speaking for Okemo Mountain Resort, Schmidt comments about the strong relationship between OMS and Okemo. "We are so fortunate to have Okemo Mountain School in our community, and the partnership that happens between our resort and the school makes both entities stronger. We look forward to seeing the student-athletes' success, and realize our teams are contributors to that."

Okemo Mountain School



Left to right: Eb Kinney, Kate Foster, Mariel Meringolo, and Bruce Schmidt.

PHOTO PROVIDED

is a ski and snowboard academy that has been supporting snow sport athletes since 1991. OMS's mission is to challenge and support motivated student-athletes as they grow into successful individuals. OMS is dedicated to delivering a rigorous academic curriculum while providing an intense on-snow training schedule that would not be possible within a traditional school setting. The OMS annual Winter Festival is an important fundraising event to support their mission of assisting student-athletes in the realization

of their athletic dreams, without compromising their academic goals.

The Winter Festival is on Feb. 3, from 7-10 p.m., at Outer Limits Brewing. There will be live music, delicious wood fired pizza, and a cash bar. There is also a fantastic online auction, so check out the great items, including an Okemo Groomer Ride. Ticket purchase, the auction, and more info can be found on our website, [www.okemomountain-school.org](http://www.okemomountain-school.org). We hope to see you there.

## Fletcher Farm School new board chair

LUDLOW, Vt. – Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts, a 75-year-old creative center providing arts education, today announced key leadership changes and strategic efforts to ensure the organization's sustainability into the future.

After managing daily operations and serving as board chair, Susan Damone Balch will shift to solely focusing on her administrative role. The board welcomes acclaimed metalwork artist and longtime Fletcher Farm School teaching artist Piper Strong as its new chairperson. Strong brings over a decade of leadership experience in the Vermont arts community.

"We're thrilled to have Piper lend her creativity and management talents to lead Fletcher Farm School at this pivotal moment," said outgoing Chair Susan Balch. "Her passion for the arts and connecting people through hands-on learning is perfectly suited to guide us through renewal



Piper Strong.

PHOTO PROVIDED

and growth."

"As a teaching artist here for years, I care deeply about Fletcher Farm School's mission and community," stated Strong. "I look forward to collaborating with other artists, educators, members, and supporters to strategize an updated vision and sustainable model for the school."

After enrollment declines and financial hardship in 2023, Fletcher Farm is pausing public programming for 2024. This temporary reset will facilitate structural improvements to shore up operational stability. The organization is actively re-

cruiting new board officers to assist Strong in governance and decision-making during this transitional period.

The school also plans to bring on an outside consultant to lead a strategic planning and redevelopment process. This will inform a new creative arts education framework to allow Fletcher Farm to reopen fully in 2025 as a refreshed cultural leader providing accessible and inspiring learning opportunities for all ages and abilities. To date, the organization has raised more than \$15,000 to commit to the strategic initiative.

"By embracing this pivotal moment together, we can renew Fletcher Farm School's roots and grow toward a vibrant, sustainable future," said Strong. "We invite past, present, and future creative spirits to join us in shaping the next innovative chapter."

For those interested in leadership, consulting, and support opportunities to strengthen Fletcher Farm School for the long term, contact [Susan@Fletcher-Farm.org](mailto:Susan@Fletcher-Farm.org).

## Chester Selectboard advances STR discussion

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Selectboard met on Wednesday, Jan. 17, with most of the meeting taken up by continued discussion of the town's short-term rental (STR) ordinance.

Prior to taking up the STR discussion, town manager Julie Hance informed the board that, earlier that day, the town had received a letter from the lawyer representing Julian Brothers LLC, owners of a controversial quarry in the town, withdrawing their conditional use application for the quarry. Hance read the letter to the board, which stated that, "Much of what was originally proposed is no longer part of the plans," and that the company has "heard and considered the comments of neighbors, which has caused it to rethink how it wishes to operate." This met with confusion and skepticism from the board, though at this time no further information was available.

The board then moved on to its STR discussion. Chester is still in the midst of a moratorium on new STRs, and the board is working to determine what amendments, if any, it would like to make to the current ordinance, which requires registration and the payment of a registration fee.

Town planner and zoning administrator Preston Bristow laid out for the board a number of options for them to consider, which he said was based on his research of what ordinances towns across Vermont and

the country have enacted. Some of these options the board had previously considered, while others were novel. Bristow also noted that Chester had signed a contract with a new STR data-provider, Rentalscape, having allowed their contract with previous provider Granicus to lapse. The new contract would cost \$6,500 for one year, and Rentalscape would provide data collection and 24/7 complaint hotline services. Chester would continue to process renewals of STR registrations in-house, which they had been forced to do previously, as Granicus had not made good on their commitment to do this for the town. Bristow explained that processing renewals manually was not a major inconvenience for Chester, which currently has fewer than 60 STRs, compared to other towns with much higher numbers of STR units.

During discussion, the board made clear that their primary concern is with "unhosted" STRs – those which do not have an owner or associated caretaker present while guests are staying in the rental. Hosted STRs were largely exempt from any of the proposed further regulations.

After significant back and forth, the board decided not to pursue the possibility of a residency requirement, which would have effectively banned unhosted STRs, or of a conditional use review. The latter option was rejected based on the fact that it is tied to the property itself, not the owner, and is therefore difficult or impos-

sible to revoke, even if the property changes hands.

While the board did not make any concrete decisions at this meeting, they did ask for more data on several possible options, which were a waiting period after purchase to register an unhosted STR, a cap on total STRs in the town, a density limit, a limit on number of STRs per owner, a ban on corporate STR ownership, and an increase in the fee to register an unhosted STR.

Several of these options generated some discussion, in particular the density limit. The board considered whether or not the density limit should be enacted on a per-zone basis, with differential limits for the residential and rural zones, as well as whether the measurements for density would be from the home or from the property line. Planning Commission Chair Hugh Quinn noted that, while most of the homes in the rural zone are spread out, "There are what I would consider 'neighborhoods' in the rural areas." Quinn said he lives in such a neighborhood, with four houses grouped close together, half of which are now STRs. The board determined to factor this into their consideration of the density limit regulations.

The Chester Selectboard will hold their next regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 6:30 p.m., in the Chester Town Hall.

## Plymouth hears about Woodstock school, tax impact

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB

The Vermont Journal

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The majority of the Jan. 16 Plymouth Selectboard meeting was a presentation from Mountain Views Supervisory Union (MVSU) Board Chair Keri Bristow, Vice Chair Ben Ford, and Plymouth representatives Elliot Rubin and Josh Linton, on the proposed Woodstock Middle/High School reconstruction, and how that will impact Plymouth taxpayers.

Plymouth is one of seven towns in the Woodstock school district, and was the first town to see the presentation. The extensive project, which includes rebuilding an entirely new school, demolishing the old building, and constructing a new football field on the existing building property, has a price tag of \$99 million.

The current building was built in 1958, is in major disrepair, and rated the second worst high school facility in the State of Vermont. Ford explained that the building cannot be remodeled due to the dated materials and concrete cinder block structure. They have a broken HVAC system that leaves students and staff either "boiling" hot or extremely cold, and below standard and acceptable temperatures. The sewage has been

known to back up in the bathrooms. They are down to one shower in the locker room because the mixing valve cannot be repaired from behind the cinder-block walls. There are "horror stories" of all the things that need to be addressed. Bristow added, though it is not a pleasant environment, the air and water quality are being monitored to ensure everyone's safety.

About 70% of the revenue that funds the school comes from education property tax, the remaining funds from sales and use taxes, school choice students, and other sources. Ford assured that the MVSU is trying to keep taxpayers in mind and "cap the impact of taxes that a project like this can have... [and] set a limit so voters can have some confidence," and not be hit too hard. The board scaled back on some of the designs and ideas, which reduced the budget by \$16 million, to bring the project down to the current estimated \$99 million.

Ford also explained that the board is hoping a state school construction program will be offered again in the near future, which would help reimburse some of the construction costs. The proposed design for the Woodstock school comes in at \$627 per square foot, which is within the new state standards to be eligible if the program returns. Ford noted that is also lower than statewide school construction project averages, which ranged from \$633 to over

\$700 per square foot.

Ford expressed that they took a lot of consideration into each space, trying to get 80-90% usage in each room all day, otherwise questioning if they need that room or not. The cafeteria, for example, is currently only used two to three hours a day, but could be used throughout day for events and projects under the proposed new design. The auditorium can also be used for lectures and other events. There is a double gym design for the benefit of the middle and high school students. There are "no spaces in this design plan that would be empty for long periods," which saved a lot of space in the overall design. "We thought really long and hard about every square foot."

The bond repayment for the project would not start until summer of 2027, which gives taxpayers three and a half years before it will impact education property taxes. They provided an example that a home with a fair market value of \$300,000 and a household income of \$85,000, would see an increase of about \$60 per month in taxes.

Each student enrolled in the district reduces the annual amount needed to be raised from taxpayers by about \$20,000. If the school district gains 10 or more students per year, "the taxes would be inverted, and benefit back to the taxpayers" after year 15 of the bond

See **PLYMOUTH** on Page 2

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THE Vermont Journal

THE SHOPPER NEWSPAPER

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

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# Fundraising for a cause

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB  
The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – Victor and Clay braved the cold temperatures on Jan. 19 to sell handcrafted wooden cutting boards. All the proceeds from these beautiful crafts support the Adult & Teen Challenge Christian residential drug and alcohol recovery program they are participating in.

The four-phase, 10-12 month program offers spiritual, academic, and vocational training all over New England and New Jersey, which equips individuals to return to society and become responsible citizens. Many graduates have experienced a complete recovery from drug and alcohol addiction.

The cutting boards are crafted by members of the program in their carpentry shop, and sold by the



Victor (left) and Clay with handcrafted wooden cutting boards to support the Adult & Teen Challenge program. PHOTO BY SHAWNTAE WEBB

program participants. Each piece has a unique tag with a photo of a program graduate, and a QR code to learn about their recovery story.

Look for their booths set up in the area to purchase a cutting board and support

the Adult & Teen Challenge program, “bringing hope to addicts and their families.” You can find more information and donate at [www.tcvermont.org](http://www.tcvermont.org), or email [info@tcengland.org](mailto:info@tcengland.org).

# Rolling Twenties Dispensary

BY DANIELLE GOODWIN  
The Vermont Journal

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Are you getting close to Exit 6 so you can make it to Okemo Mountain to enjoy a ski vacation? Just off of

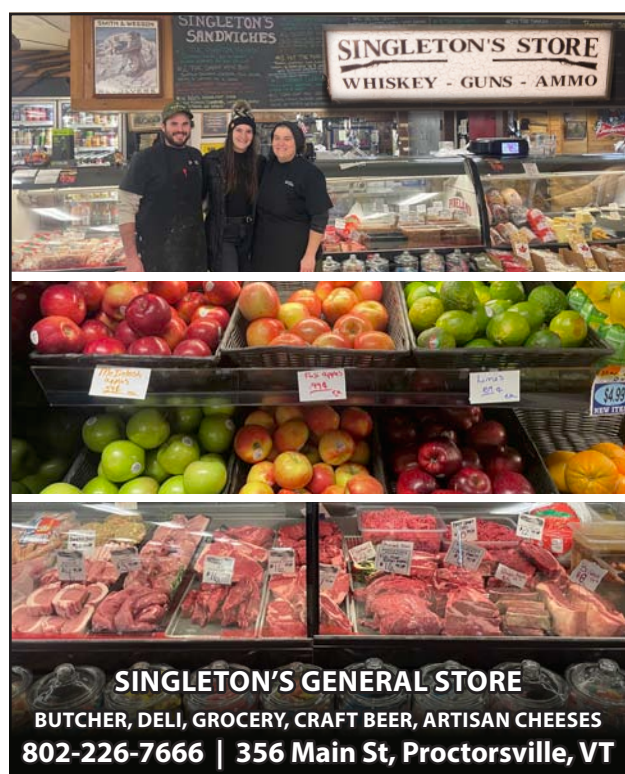
Interstate 91, you will find a bright red building with a staff that is sure to bring fun into your dispensary experience. A local, popular, serial entrepreneur, Joe Ruggiero (yes, the family that owns the local trash removal service),

embarked on a journey to open the first dispensary in Rockingham over 18 months ago.

Ruggiero wants this to be a place that he can pass on to his daughter and son-in-law, who also work in the business every day and are eager to help launch this dream.

Rolling Twenties has been busy cultivating relationships with the local farmers, and is trying to maintain relationships with small batch, locally grown and sourced Tier 1 growers – the smallest level of cannabis grower. Ruggiero has established a rapport with this level of grower, because they have a heart and are meticulously focused on producing some of the best cannabis that Vermont has to offer.

Rolling Twenties is open seven days a week, because when you are part of the Ruggiero family that means two things, “work hard, and have fun doing it.”



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# ESBR offering merit scholarships

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR) is pleased to announce that they are offering three merit scholarships for the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year. The merit scholarship offers full tuition for students who qualify.

ESBR offers a full curriculum built on the expeditionary school model that allows students to explore learning through in-depth, meaningful, project-based learning. We offer small classes, caring faculty, and a personalized learning experience.

Students who reside in Ludlow, Mount Holly, or other “choice towns” are invited to apply for second semester as well. For



ESBR is offering second semester merit scholarships. PHOTO PROVIDED

more information, contact ESBR Chair Gary Blodgett at [gblodgett@esblackriver.org](mailto:gblodgett@esblackriver.org), or call 802-558-3147.

# OVWC January meeting

LUDLOW, Vt. – The General Federation of Women’s Clubs Okemo Valley Women’s Club (OVWC) held their January meeting on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024. Twenty-four women attended, including two guests.

A business meeting was held to discuss past, ongoing, and upcoming projects. Those projects include the ongoing annual Tree of Remembrance fundraising project, in which the community remembers and honors loved ones. This project raises funds through donations for the club’s scholarships for local high school students and Vermont women who are reentering the work force, and other club beneficiaries. An upcoming event is the club’s annual Bake and Appetizer sale,

which will be held Friday, Feb. 16.

Following the business meeting and snacks, the club was treated to another fun discussion of what to read in 2024, presented by local business owners of the Book Nook in Ludlow Scott Stearns and Patty Greenwood. Scott and Patty have presented their book recommendations to the club for several years, and their book discussion always yields interesting and thoughtful suggestions of several genres. This year, some of their suggestions include “The Armor of Light” by Ken Follett, “The General and Julia” by Jon Clinch, “Prisoners of the Castle” by Ben Macintyre, and “The Heiress” by Rachel Hawkins. Coming in March is another Chris Bohjalian novel, “Princess of Las Vegas,” and “The Hunters” by Tana French.

The Book Nook also holds a nonfiction book club, which is a round table discussion. This month the club will meet Jan. 25, at 6 p.m., and is reading “The Revolutionary Samuel Adams” by Stacy Schiff.

The Okemo Valley Women’s Club is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an international women’s organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. OVWC meets the second Monday of the month, and always welcomes guests and new members. The next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 12, at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in attending may contact President Penny Trick at 860-305-6558; Membership Chairwoman Suzanne Garvey at 802-236-4341; or any member.

## PLYMOUTH

From Page 1

payments, “and that’s the goal,” Ford said.

Bristow said that there are many Ludlow students who seriously consider Woodstock because they’re not happy with the options they have, and it is a similar distance to Green Mountain. The board is looking at opportunities and strategies to visit selectboards and school boards, and encourage students to come visit and apply for school choice.

Alternatively, if they do

not get the bond and reconstruct the school, the expenses each year to keep it together would rise, and tax rates would increase exponentially every year.

If the bond vote passes, they would take a couple of months to finalize the details of the construction. There would be an 18 month timeline to construct the new building, move students over to the new building for the start of the 2026 school year, demolish the current building, and construct a new football field on the existing property. The supervisory union is urging

everyone to vote on Town Meeting day, March 5.

The selectboard then tabled a discussion on a proposal of \$15,325 to add three heat pumps to the annex building, since it is currently only being used for town record storage and does not have any use in the main area. They discussed reappraisals being slated for 2026, and then compared companies that assist with land records, and the importance of keeping those documents on site.

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 5, at 6 p.m.

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# Cross writing

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119  
ronpatch27@gmail.com

What is cross writing? I can only speak from my own experience from handling these early pieces of ephemera. In my 50 years buying and selling early letters and other old documents, I have only seen a handful of cross letters. Here is one I managed to hang on to. I think some will find this interesting.

It's really difficult to read – and this is on both sides of a 7.5-inch by 9.5-inch piece of paper. The author was competent writing with a quill pen. Probably it was a gold nib, housed in an abalone or wooden pen-shaped instrument. She knew when to dip the nib in the ink, to reload the nib with ink, and continue writing. It is flawless, with very fine letters.

In those days, penmanship was taught in schools. The paper has yellowed, and the old iron-based ink turned brown, and soiled some, so it's difficult to read, but here is some of what I can make out. There

is more to be gleaned from this letter.

The photo with this article is a close-up of a small section of the letter. I'm not sure how well it will reproduce on newsprint. Read what you can, and then turn the newspaper 90 degrees to your right, to continue reading. In part, it reads:

“Proctorsville, Vt, March 13th, 1850

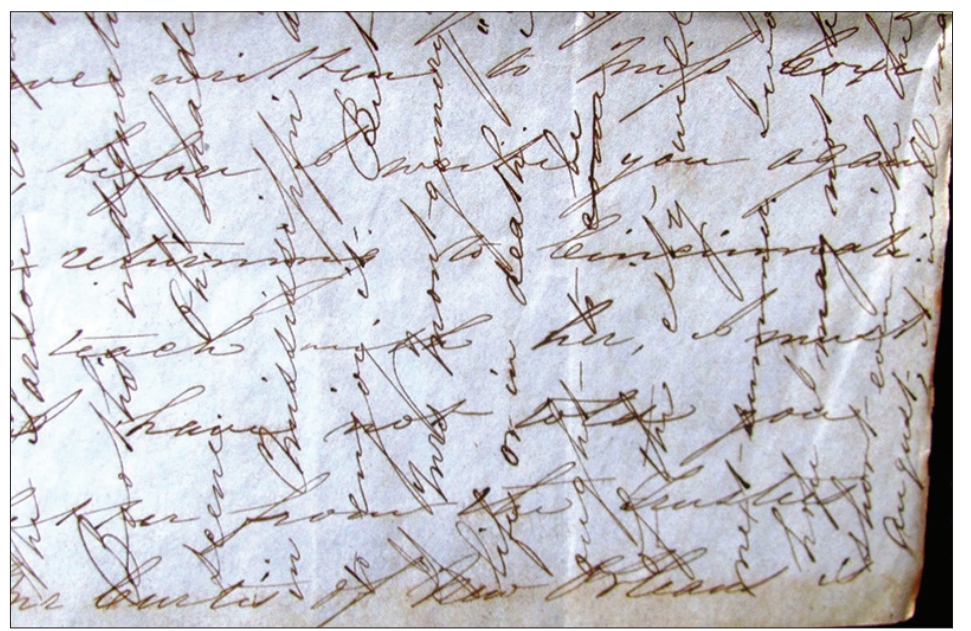
My dearest [illegible], I do wish that it were in my power to write you an interesting letter, full of life and good spirits, but I am dull and what is worse so nervous that I scarcely know what I am about. Your blessed letter of Feb. 20th is safely here and having only delayed one day I hasten to send this envelope full to you [‘full to you’ is in reference to cross writing]...”

It then goes on for a page regarding how others are doing or gifts received. The letter continues:

“...I am very happy when I think of you at Anchonca. I hope the pleasure you enjoy there may be some reward for the tears you shed while you prepared for

Mount Holyoke. I hope you do not regret having gone there or the consequent trip to Mississippi. It is one of the pleasantest events I ever think of. I have been solicited to teach here, the older school this summer. I would not hesitate could I make my parents more comfortable or happy, to undertake the task, but as I can not accomplish any thing for them I intend to go to Mr. Mason's as soon as the travelling is good and remain till I go Westward. They very cordially invite me to do so. I have written to Mifs Coxe and shall know, I presume before I write you again what my prospect will be for returning to Cincinnati. If she does not wish me to teach with her, I must make some other plan. I have not told you that I have received a letter from the Trustees of Fayette Academy. The Rev. Mr. Curtis of New Orleans is expected to take the academy. He is Methodist and is recommended by Bro. Drake...”

From Wikipedia: “A crossed letter is a manuscript letter which con-



A cross-written letter.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

tains two separate sets of writing, one written over the other at right-angles. This was done during the early days of the postal system in the 19th century to save on expensive postage charges, as well as to save paper. This technique is also called cross-hatching

or cross-writing. A cross letter is distinct from a palimpsest, as cross-hatched manuscripts were written this way at one sitting or for the same purpose (such as a diary), rather than being re-used later.” If you have any old letters or documents, I am a buyer.

I like reading other people's mail.

*This week's old saying is from George Burns. “First you forget names, then you forget faces. Next you forget to pull your zipper up and finally, you forget to pull it down.”*

# AI and the Rumsey Map Collection in genealogy

WINDHAM COUNTY, Vt. – On Saturday, Feb. 3, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., the Windham County Genealogy Interest Group (WCGIG) will present two topics: “Using Artificial Intelligence in Genealogy,” and “Using the David Rumsey Map Collection for Genealogy,” over Zoom only. Please register at [www.bit.ly/WCGIGFEB2024](http://www.bit.ly/WCGIGFEB2024). A Zoom link will be sent before the meeting. Pose any questions you have when you register.

Wayne Blanchard, co-founder of Windham County Genealogy Interest Group and genealogy volunteer at Rockingham Library, will give us his insights into artificial intelligence (AI) and its current and future use in genealogy. Artificial intelligence is expanding into all sorts of areas, and genealogy is no exception. Although it can't replace the human genealogist, some of the new tools can be very helpful. AI is used in colorizing black and white photos, translating records into another language, transcribing and indexing records or newspaper articles, extracting and summarizing information from a document, and creating a genealogical sketch of an ancestor. Companies such as Ancestry and My Heritage are beginning to incorporate AI in their websites to support users in their family research. Wayne Blanchard has been experimenting with some of these tools, and he will share what he has learned.

Jerry Carbone of Whetstone Brook Genealogy will discuss the massive map collection, using the David Rumsey Map Collection for genealogy. The David Rumsey Map Collection at Stanford University began in 1966, and contains more than 200,000 maps, 128,000 of which are online. The collection focuses on rare maps from the 1550s through the present day. The collection's scope is worldwide, but is very strong on various maps of the United States. The collection includes at-

lases, globes, wall maps, school geographies, pocket maps, books of exploration, maritime charts, and a variety of cartographic materials including pocket, wall, children's, and manuscript maps. Maps of importance for genealogical use are property, insurance, railroad, military, and topographic maps. The presentation will focus on how to find the maps and use the various tools that are part of the collection.

The Windham County Genealogy Interest Group is an informal organization whose members are dedicated to genealogy education, research, and best practices. Meetings are held every other month on Zoom. Many of these sessions were recorded and are available on the WCGIG YouTube Channel at [www.bit.ly/WCGIGVIDEO](http://www.bit.ly/WCGIGVIDEO). They cover topics such as

improving your search results in [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); using family tree software; navigating the crowd sourced cemetery database Find A Grave; using land records for genealogy research; using [www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org), the database of the New England Historical Genealogical Society; and finding people in the newly released 1950 U.S. Census.

WCGIG is also supported by Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro, Vt., and Rockingham Free Library in Bellows Falls, Vt., with use of their Zoom accounts, publicity, and use of their facilities.

Feel free to contact Jerry Carbone and Wayne Blanchard at [windham-countygig@gmail.com](mailto:windham-countygig@gmail.com).

# “Murder in the Vermont Woods” at the library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Saturday, Feb. 10, at 11 a.m., join historian Jill Mudgett at the Springfield Town Library for her presentation “Murder in the Vermont Woods: A Story About Race, Class, and Gender in the 19th Century.”

Jill tells the story of an Indigenous man from southern New England who came to central Vermont during the late 19th century, and was the victim of a murder. Recreating community connections in a rural Vermont hill town, this story is about poverty, racism, disability, and gendered violence against women, but is also an account of Indigenous movement and choice despite great obstacles.



“Murder in the Vermont Woods.”

PHOTO PROVIDED

This is a Vermont Humanities Council event hosted by Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street in Springfield. For more in-

formation, contact Tracey Craft at 802-885-3108. Visit our calendar of events to sign up at [www.springfield-townlibrary.org/calendar](http://www.springfield-townlibrary.org/calendar).



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# opinion

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

Dear Editor,

The Springfield Santa Claus Club would like to thank the many individuals and businesses that helped make the 2023 season another successful one.

The generosity and caring is especially appreciated again this past season. Because of your generosity, the Santa Claus Club was able to again help make the holidays a lot brighter and warmer for many children and seniors. This year we supplied outerwear and gifts for 104 families/241 kids, as well as gifts for 182 senior citizens.

Santa had the outerwear giveaway in October for youth, and in December we were able to do the gift giveaway for both the children and seniors. The gifts are based on the needs and wishes of youth of the Springfield School District and seniors of our community. This was completed even though we were packing and cleaning for the move to the new location of the Family Center.

Also, a special thank you to Trisha Paradis, Family Center executive director, and the center's volunteers for a great job working in conjunction with us for supplying the holiday meal boxes that were requested by families. Thank you to the Family Center for providing space for us to do what we do.

2023 is the fifth year I have been the director of the Santa Claus Club. I am thrilled

at what has been accomplished by the wonderful community members and the wonderful volunteers we had helping in one way or another. The 2023 season may be over, but Santa's elves continue the work year round.

If you would like to get involved in any capacity, we can always use the help. Give me a call or text message at 802-591-7230, a message on my Facebook page, or email me at [jeanpatoine1950@gmail.com](mailto:jeanpatoine1950@gmail.com). We have lost a couple volunteers, but luckily we had five more step up in their places. We can never have enough volunteers. The more people helping makes the job so much easier.

Over the last years especially, I have been told that people didn't know anything about the Santa Claus Club and what we do. This has come from both the people who need help as well as those that wish to help. Please feel free to contact me if I can bring our "mission" to light.

Thank you one and all for your support through this holiday season. We wish you and yours a very happy and healthy 2024.

Sincerely,  
Jean Patoine, Director  
Springfield Santa Claus Club

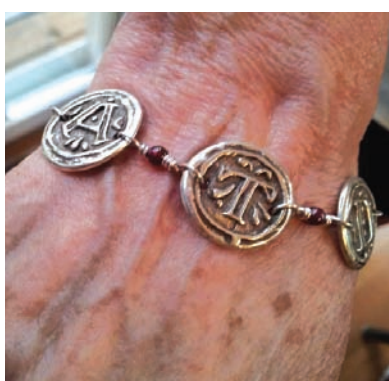
## Creative Aging artistic program

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Main Street Arts (MSA) will begin to offer a Creative Aging program beginning in February for seniors in the Greater Rockingham area. There will be three sessions featuring diverse artistic opportunities taught in-person by local teachers.

The first session, from Tuesday, Feb. 6 – Tuesday, March 26, will include "An Expressive Arts Exploration" with Susan-Marie Beauchemin, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., and "Make a Family Heirloom" with Annabelini Questifari, from 1-3 p.m. There will be an optional lunch from 12-1 p.m. There is a one-time small registration fee. Classes and lunch are free. Register at [www.mainstreetarts.org](http://www.mainstreetarts.org).

Future class offerings include "Start an Art Journal" by Susan Rosano, "Memory Book Boxes" with Amber Paris, "Make Your Own Mosaic Jewelry Pendant" with Susan Rosano, and "Cyanotype Photography" with Evie Lovett. The program will culminate in an event on Saturday, June 8, from 1-3 p.m.

"I hope to transform negative ideas about aging in our culture into positive beliefs about the strength, wisdom,



"Make a Family Heirloom" class. PHOTO PROVIDED

and contributions of senior citizens to their communities by documenting their personal histories through visual arts and storytelling," said instructor Susan Rosano. "Once the art and storytelling projects are finished, the results will be exhibited at a public venue so that the public can acknowledge these stories and appreciate the wisdom and history contained within."

The Creative Aging program is a collaboration between MSA and Senior Solutions, the agency on aging located in Springfield. Funding for the program and lunches is provided by Senior Solutions, along with a grant from the Vermont Arts Council.

"When we piloted MSA's

Creative Aging program last year, many participants were surprised at how creative they could be. There's research showing that creativity actually increases with age – contrary to the idea that you can't teach an old dog new tricks," said Susan Still, chair of the MSA board. "Our new mission statement focuses on the social-emotional wellbeing for community members of all ages. This program achieves this by expressing creativity and making social connections for seniors, which is good for your health."

Thom Simmons, nutrition and wellness director at Senior Solutions, agrees. "Senior Solutions recognizes creative aging as an integral part of healthy aging. Humans have an innate desire for expression and creation. Arts projects help us communicate the human experience in fun, meaningful, and impactful ways. "Sharing our creative work is a great way to connect with others and build new connections. The arts can

also help people achieve a sense of purpose and personal growth, and can have a positive impact on social, emotional, mental, and physical health," he continued.

Instructor Evie Lovett is excited about the collaboration between the participants and herself. "I can share a visual language – cyanotype-making, photography, collage – that can be a platform for older adults to excavate a richly lived life for meaning and imagery, and learn skills in the process. I believe we can all be artists, we are all artists."

"I take delight in supporting the unfolding of crushed artistic attempts earlier in life and banishing the phrase 'I'm not an artist' from the room," she continued. "Working in community gives us the opportunity to build our artmaking skills while seeing ourselves as threads in a communal tapestry."

MSA is ADA accessible with a concrete, covered ramp to the front door near an accessible parking place. For full class descriptions and to register, please visit [www.mainstreetarts.org](http://www.mainstreetarts.org), or email [info@mainstreetarts.org](mailto:info@mainstreetarts.org).

## Vermont's area agencies on aging form consortium

REGION – Vermont's five area agencies on aging (AAAs) announce their new affiliation, called the Vermont Aging Network Consortium (VANC). Boards of directors from each of the AAAs have approved the affiliation.

This new consortium will positively impact the overall cost of health care by leveraging economies of scale, combining resources, and reducing duplication within the community-provider network of home- and community-based services. A focus on establishing future contracts with payers and healthcare systems is expected to further enhance financial sustainability

for aging services as they evolve.

The Vermont Aging Network Consortium will be a separate, nonprofit entity within which the individual AAAs will remain active and independent nonprofits as they continue to serve clients in their communities. It will help the AAAs create a sustainable financial model of service by leveraging their strengths, their buying power, and their high-quality systems of service. The AAAs trade association, the Vermont Association of Agencies on Aging (V4A) will continue to separately serve as the lobbying, advocacy, and educational organization for the AAAs.

"We are coming together as AAAs to ensure we are prudent financial stewards for our future, which is the central focus of all of our strategic plans. Our mission is to serve more clients in the future, with a sustainable operations model at each agency, and this is a way to help us create an efficient and integrated system to help each other do just that," says Susan Gordon, Vermont Aging Network Consortium's board president.

This initiative will support the Vermont area agencies on aging as a unified entity providing a high standard of services throughout the state. It will promote the pursuit of best

practices within our case management, nutrition, and caregiver support programs, to list just a few, and will strengthen the role of the AAAs as community partners in delivering critical services that reach a growing population of older Vermonters.

The leaders of the five AAAs have been diligently collaborating with their respective boards of directors to conclude agreements for the establishment of the consortium. This includes finalizing the governance structure through the formation of a new 10-member board of directors, and overseeing the recruitment process for the new VANC executive.

**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.

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## HCRS welcomes new staff

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's community mental-health agency, is pleased to announce the appointment of 24 new professionals in November and December, whose talents will augment HCRS' services across Windham and Windsor

counties. HCRS welcomes the following new employees: Sarah Allain, substitute teacher at Kindle Farm School; Miguel Cruz, DSP community in Windsor; Teagan Day, behavioral interventionist in Brattleboro; Ashley Donovan, behavioral interventionist in Springfield; Kyleigh Dressel, be-

havioral interventionist in Springfield; Oliver Druen, facilities maintenance technician in Springfield; Karen Esterline, clinician I in Springfield; Deborah Foti, residential specialist at Alternatives; Ryan Gilbert, residential specialist at Hilltop; Rachel Hebert, service coordinator in Brattleboro; Shannon McHugh, behavioral interventionist in Hartford; Tim Morin, residential specialist at Hilltop; Sohaila Nabizada, case manager in Brattleboro; Jose Navarro, IT network administrator in Springfield; Lindsay Polito, behavioral interventionist in Hartford; Greg Portnoy, residential specialist at Woodstock House; Nicole Randall, DSP community

in Bellows Falls; Eric Resseguie Jr., residential specialist at Hilltop; Catherine Rose, service coordinator in Bellows Falls; Christina Salavec, stabilization specialist in Bellows Falls; Carmen Sleeper, registered nurse at Woodstock House; Gikanh Timberwolf, clinician I in White River Junction; Elibee Valentine, admin support in Brattleboro; Sherry White, stabilization specialist in Bellows Falls.

These new hires will support the nonprofit agency's team of more than 500 staff, providing comprehensive mental health, substance use, and developmental disability programs, which serve more than 4,000 individuals annually across southeastern Vermont.

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# CHURCH SERVICES

# obituaries

## 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](http://www.obbcvt.org).

## BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

**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](http://www.sapatv.org) and [www.fact8tv.com](http://www.fact8tv.com).

## 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](http://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](mailto:chestervtuu@gmail.com) for a Zoom link for the service.

## 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](http://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](http://www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org) to be sent a link to the live stream.

## LUDLOW, VT.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt). For more information, go to [www.calvarylovespringfield.com](http://www.calvarylovespringfield.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](mailto:fccucc@vermontel.net), or go to [www.firstchurchspringfield.org](http://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](mailto:office@nsbcvt.org), or call 802-886-8107. We are handicap accessible.

## WESTMINSTER, VT.

**First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Route 5**  
Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in our historic church and on Zoom. For more information, call 802-518-0321, email us at [westminstercongonline@gmail.com](mailto:westminstercongonline@gmail.com), or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057](http://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057).

## Ruth Friedman, 2024



Ruth Friedman, 2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

LUDLOW, Vt. – Ruth Helen (Miehling) Friedman of Westminster West, Vt., passed away peacefully at the Gill Odd Fellows Home in Ludlow, Vt., on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. She was 85.

Ruth is lovingly remembered by her sons Russell Friedman and Stewart Friedman (and wife Linda); daughter Kim Friedman Clark (and husband Charles); grandchildren Elizabeth Grosso, Harrison Friedman, Amy Friedman, Ryan Friedman, Victoria Wolliston, and Charles (Zack) Wolliston; as well as great-grandchildren Olivia, Waylon, Emma, Jackson, and Russell. She is predeceased by her beloved husband Charles “Chuck” Friedman (d. 2018), son Todd Friedman (d. 2019), and brother Bob Miehling (d. 2018). Ruth is survived by her sister Doris Gerken, brother Don (and wife Judy) Miehling, and sister-in-law Terri Miehling.

Born to Helen (Veit) and Charles Miehling in Chicago, Ill., Ruth was the eldest of four children. The Miehling family later moved from Chicago to New York, settling in New Hyde Park. Ruth's journey led her to marry her true love Charles Friedman in 1957. In 1972, the family relocated from Massapequa Park, N.Y., to Westminster West, Vt.

A proud wife and caring mother, Ruth treasured her four children Russell, Stewart, Todd, and Kim. Throughout her life she wore many hats – a telephone operator for Bell, playschool teacher and church secretary for Christ

Church in Saxtons River, and daycare director for Hill House in Bellows Falls. Ruth was a vibrant and integral member of the Saxtons River community.

Ruth's creativity knew no bounds; she was a gifted artist with a passion for watercolors and oils, paper cutting, and various other hobbies. Ruth enjoyed shopping (with a penchant for shoes), crafting, and spending time with family. She leaves behind a lasting legacy of love that will be cherished by all who knew her.

A funeral service was held this past week at Fenton and Hennessy Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. The memory of Ruth Helen Friedman will live on in the hearts of those she touched, and her vibrant spirit will not soon be forgotten.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Ruth's name be made to the American Cancer Society.

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

## OVWC Tree of Remembrance

LUDLOW, Vt. – This year's Tree of Remembrance is shining brightly in memory of the following:

Sharlene Ahern, Joan Albert, Charles Baitz, Priscilla Baitz, John Bazzano, Oscar and Nellie Beckman, Ernie Belanger, Helen Ballard, Hank Berger, Charlie Bidwell, Mary Bolduc, Earl Bonneau, Harley and Ida Bragg, Harold and Mary Bragg, Dave Brown, Evelyn Bryant, Kim Bryant, Oscar and Margarita Bryant, Roy and Marie Bryant, Stanley and Francis Bryant, Gail Caldwell, Charlotte Chardonet, Joan, Amelia, John, Vic, and Tony Ciuffo, Peter Connor, Dottie Clark Davis and Jim Davis, Ellsworth and Dorothy Davis, Ellsworth R. Davis, Roy and Leta Davis, Nancy DeLong, George and Ethelyn Dever, Kathleen Dever, Suzette Durgin, Finneas Egan, John Ewen, Harry Fisher, John Foscolos, Leonard Gendron, Chizzie and Frank Geraci, Dan Giordano, Norman Gordon, Mary Gould, Jim Grossbard, Stan and Ann Hart, Diane Hart, Richard and Jean Hasset, Jim Havell, Rita Higgins, Brian Hodgeman, Leta Hudgings, 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 Matulonis, Jim Mays, Mr and Mrs JR McLean Sr, Aaron W. McNabb, Shirley P. Merriam, Edwin and Elizabeth Merrill, Dick Merrow, Jim Misuraca, Don and Ginnie Moore, Rud and Marnie 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, Gardner and Laura Ripley, Constance Rockhill, Lucille Ryan, Kelley Sanderson, Ronald Schuster, Nancy Sears, Allyn and Helen Seward, Leon and Mary Shabbott, Bernard and Shirley Snow, 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, Carl Trick, Marilyn Trick, Beverly P. Tucker, Kathy Tyrrell, Kenneth Tyrrell Sr., Pat Walsh, Sally Vic, and Tony Ciuffo, Peter Connor, Dottie Clark Davis and Jim Davis, Ellsworth and Dorothy Davis, Ellsworth R. Davis, Roy and Leta Davis, Nancy DeLong, George and Ethelyn Dever, Kathleen Dever, Suzette Durgin, Finneas Egan, John Ewen, Harry Fisher, John Foscolos, Leonard Gendron, Chizzie and Frank Geraci, Dan Giordano, Norman Gordon, Mary Gould, Jim Grossbard, Stan and Ann Hart, Diane Hart, Richard and Jean Hasset, Jim Havell, Rita Higgins, Brian Hodgeman, Leta Hudgings, 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 Matulonis, Jim Mays, Mr and Mrs JR McLean Sr, Aaron W. McNabb, Shirley P. Merriam, Edwin and Elizabeth Merrill, Dick Merrow, Jim Misuraca, Don and Ginnie Moore, Rud and Marnie 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,

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. All donations go to local charities or scholarships.

## Howard G. Papineau,



1966-2024

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Howard G. Papineau, 57, of Perkinsville, Vt., passed away peacefully at his home on Jan. 15, 2024, after a long illness.

He was born on Nov. 29, 1966, in Proctor, Vt., to Howard and Dorothy (Eugair) Papineau.

He graduated from Otter Valley Union High School in 1984.

He served in the United States Air Force from 1986-1990.

Howard married his wife of 24 years, Susan, on Oct. 2, 1999.

He worked for Precision Valley Communications for several years, as well as the State of Vermont Department of Corrections as a correctional officer, before becoming a probation and parole officer in Brattleboro, Vt. After years of dedication and hard work, he became a police officer with the Town of Weathersfield, Vt., where he remained until he retired in 2013.

Howard is survived by his wife Susan, his daughter Heather Papineau, and his sister Shelly Hendee and her husband Danny. He is also survived by his in-laws William and Melissa Barrows, Diana Gould, Heidi Stillings, his beloved pups Dave and Jackson, and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by



Howard G. Papineau, 1966-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

his parents, and in-laws David and Naomi Barrows.

The family would like to thank his medical providers of over 16 years Dr. Brooke Herndon; and Pat Proulx, MSW, LICSW, CCM; for all of their years of dedication and care, as well as the staff at Bayada Hospice for their compassionate end of life care.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, from 1-4 p.m., at the VFW in Springfield, Vt.

A graveside service will be announced at a later date in the spring, and all are welcome to attend.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Davis Memorial Chapel, Springfield, Vt.

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# calendar

# LEGAL NOTICES

**JAN. 26 –**  
 SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, will host Hand and Foot card games on Friday, Jan. 26, at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

Sound Investment will be performing classic rock and modern country music at VFW Post 771, 191 River Street in Springfield, on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 7:30 p.m. This event is open to the public. For more information, call 802-885-6008.

**JAN. 27 –**  
 SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –

**JAN. 28 –**  
 BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –

Grammy-nominated songwriter Reed Foehl will perform at Stage 33 Live in Bellows Falls, Vt. on Sunday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. Singer-songwriter Tommy Crawford will open. Tickets are discounted in advance at [www.stage33live.com](http://www.stage33live.com) or the door. Limited seating. The event will be recorded and filmed.

For more information, contact Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

**JAN. 31 –**  
 SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center Annual Meeting will be held at the senior center, 139 Main Street, on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

**FEB. 1 –**  
 SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Knit Wits will meet on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 1 p.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. For more information, contact Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

**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.

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Rockingham Library hosts a chess club each Monday from 3-5:30 p.m., led by Mike Sola. All levels of players will be welcomed.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Zumba classes, Mondays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

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

**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](mailto: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 –**  
 TYSON, Vt. – The Tyson Ladies Aid Library Association meets the first Thursday of each month, typically at the Tyson Library. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and meetings start at noon. New potential members are always welcome. Please call Janine Norman at 802-228-8764 for more information or to verify meeting location.

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.

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Support group for parents of pregnancy and infant loss on the first Thursday of the month, from 6-7 p.m., at Springfield Area Parent Child Center, 6 Main Street in North Springfield. For details or to register, email [dominiquer@sapcc-vt.org](mailto:dominiquer@sapcc-vt.org) or call 802-886-5242 ext. 258.

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](http://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 –**  
 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 in Bellows Falls, Vt. No special equipment or clothing is required.

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Main Street Arts, 35 Main Street, will hold the “Originals & Traditionals” Open Mic Night on the fourth Friday of every month, from 7-9 p.m., hosted by musician Putnam Smith. Sign-ups begin at 6:30 p.m. All material should be original or “traditional” (i.e., in the public domain). Each performer can perform two songs or up to 10 minutes, whichever comes first. If you have any questions, please contact Smith at [putnamsmith@gmail.com](mailto:putnamsmith@gmail.com).

**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.

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

**Development Review Board  
 Village of Ludlow Vermont  
 Hybrid Public Hearing  
 February 12, 2024 at 6:00pm**

A public hearing before the Development Review Board for the Village of Ludlow, Vermont, will be held on 12 February 2024 at 6:00 P.M., in the Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, and via Zoom, to consider an application for Subdivision:

APPLICANT: Jerry & Heather Tucker  
 Ludlow, Vermont, 05149  
 Parcel No. 100232-000

PROPERTY LOCATION: 68 Flatow Rd.  
 Ludlow, Vermont, 05149

REASON FOR HEARING: Application is a for the Sub-division of one 10.01 acre lot into two lots. This project is located within the Town Residential district.

APPLICATION NUMBER: SUB24-002

The above application is available for inspection at the Ludlow Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing the Board. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Board either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Rosemary Goings  
 Director of Planning and Zoning

**Development Review Board  
 Village of Ludlow Vermont  
 Hybrid Public Hearing  
 February 12, 2024 at 6:00pm**

A public hearing before the Development Review Board for the Village of Ludlow, Vermont, will be held on 12 February 2024 at 6:00 P.M., in the Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, and via Zoom, to consider a Flood Hazard Review:

APPLICANT: The Keenland Group, LLC  
 Lynchburg, Virginia  
 Parcel No. 230432-000

PROPERTY LOCATION: 117 Main Street,  
 aka Blue Duck Deli  
 Ludlow, Vermont, 05149

REASON FOR HEARING: Application is for a covered dining patio with outdoor seating and Flood Hazard Review for compliance with the Ludlow Flood Hazard Regulations Article 6, section 660. This project is partially located within a FEMA Floodway; in the Village Residential-Commercial district.

APPLICATION NUMBER: 083-88-CU, Amd. #6

The above application is available for inspection at the Ludlow Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing the Board. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Board either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Rosemary Goings  
 Director of Planning and Zoning

**Development Review Board  
 Village of Ludlow Vermont  
 Hybrid Public Hearing  
 February 12, 2024 at 6:00pm**

A public hearing before the Development Review Board for the Village of Ludlow, Vermont, will be held on 12 February 2024 at 6:00 P.M., in the Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, and via Zoom, to consider an application for Subdivision:

APPLICANT: Jewell Brook, LLC  
 Branford, Connecticut  
 Parcel No. 220548-000

PROPERTY LOCATION: 1 Parker Ave.  
 Ludlow, Vermont, 05149

REASON FOR HEARING: Application is a Subdivision of one 2.2 acre lot into four lots; Site Plan Review, Act250 Review, and Conditional Use Permit. This project is located within the Village Residential-Commercial district.

APPLICATION NUMBER: SUB24-001

The above application is available for inspection at the Ludlow Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing the Board. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Board either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Rosemary Goings  
 Director of Planning and Zoning

**TOWN OF ANDOVER  
 ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT  
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing before the Zoning Board of Adjustment of Andover, Vermont will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Andover Town Hall to consider the following application for a minor subdivision: Application: #8.2/22.12/23/12/4, Applicant: Jeremy Parker, Owner: Diane Parker, Property Location: off Forbes Rd., Reason for hearing: Application to request a minor subdivision of one existing parcel into two lots.

Dated at Andover, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024  
 Jonathan W. Stevens, Secretary, Andover Zoning Board of Adjustment

**NOTICE  
 WINDHAM HILL ROAD CLOSURE  
 in WINDHAM, VT  
 (Road Closure from 1/22/24 through 2/05/24)**

Windham Hill Road will be closed to all traffic a distance 5 miles south of the Rte. 121 intersection (200’ south of Chase Road intersection) to allow for culvert work. Electronic Message Boards and road signs will be utilized to signify closure. Residents/businesses must use an alternative route during closure. 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

**WARNING  
 RIVER VALLEY TECHNICAL CENTER SCHOOL  
 DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL  
 MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

(Member districts: Bellows Falls Union High School District #27, Expeditionary School at Black River, Green Mountain Unified School District #35, and Springfield School District)

**ANNUAL MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

The legal voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District are hereby warned to meet in the RVTC Café, Rm. B106 at the Howard Dean Education Center, Springfield, Vermont, on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 7:00 PM, to transact at that time business not involving voting by Australian Ballot or voting required by law to be by ballot.

The business to be transacted to include:

- ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for a term of two years
- ARTICLE 2: To elect a Clerk for a term of two years
- ARTICLE 3: To elect a Treasurer for a term of two years
- ARTICLE 4: To see what compensation the School District will pay to the officers of the River Valley Technical Center School District.
- ARTICLE 5: To hear and act on the reports of the School District officers.
- ARTICLE 6: To see if the School District will authorize the Board of Directors to receive and expend funds received through grants, donations, or other outside sources during the ensuing year, so long as such funds do not change the technical-education tuition assessment derived from the operating budget approved by the School District voters.
- ARTICLE 7: To authorize the Board of Directors to borrow funds through a bridge loan to cover expenses while waiting for state funding to arrive.
- ARTICLE 8: To transact any other business that may legally be brought before this School District Annual Meeting.

The meeting will then be recessed to Tuesday, March 5, 2024, on which date the voters of each member district are further warned to vote on the following article by Australian ballot at their respective polling places:

**VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT MARCH 5, 2024**

**ARTICLE 1**

Shall the voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District approve the sum of **three million, two hundred seventy-nine thousand, two hundred seventeen dollars (\$3,279,217)** to defray current expenses for the ensuing fiscal year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations?

The legal voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District are further warned that a Public Informational Meeting will be held concerning the aforementioned Australian ballot article on Thursday, February 29, 2024, in the RVTC Café, Rm. B106 at the Howard Dean Education Center, immediately following the business portion of the School District's Annual Meeting.

For more information about the proposed 2024-2025 budget, please contact the office of the RVTC Superintendent/Director at (802) 885-8301. Copies of the RVTC Annual Report are available at town clerk offices and high schools of the member districts, on our website at [rvtc.org](http://rvtc.org), or upon request by contacting the RVTC office.

Robert Flint, Chair	Lois Perlah
Paul Orzechowski, Vice Chair	Michael Stack
Andrew Pennell, Board Secretary/Clerk	Jessica Burlew
Sarah Vogel	Lyza Gardner
James Rumrill	Brenda Blodgett, Clerk, River Valley Technical Center SD

**Voting Locations and Hours**

Bellows Falls Union High School District #27		
Athens	Athens Town Office	10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Grafton	Grafton Elementary School	9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Rockingham	Masonic Temple	8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Westminster	Westminster Fire Station	8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Two Rivers Supervisory Union		
Andover	Andover Town Office	8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Baltimore	Baltimore Town Office	10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Cavendish	Proctorsville Volunteer Fire Station	10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Chester	Chester Town Hall	9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Ludlow	Ludlow Town Hall	10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Mount Holly	Mount Holly Town Office	10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Springfield School District		
Springfield	Riverside Middle School	8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
 Answer

4	6	9	2	5	3	8	1	7
5	3	8	1	4	7	2	9	6
8	1	7	8	9	6	3	4	5
8	5	1	6	3	4	7	2	9
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7	9	3	5	2	8	4	6	1
1	2	4	7	6	5	9	3	8
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**King Crossword**  
 Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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R	Y	A	N	C	O	N	T	E	N	D	S
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N	E	W	S	R	E	I	P	S	A	P	E

# LEGAL NOTICES

# 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.

## GUNS WANTED

REGION - Guns wanted.

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

## HELP WANTED

PUTNEY, Vt. - ReArch Company has been hired by Windham & Windsor Housing Trust

and Evernorth Property as the General Contractor for ALICE HOLWAY and will be bidding from 1/31/2024 through 2/22/2024. Construction is anticipated to start in April 2024. This project is Federally and State funded and will adhere to all Federal Procurement, Section 3, Fair Labor Standards and Contracting Guidelines. Minority-Owned,

Women-Owned, and Section 3 businesses are encouraged to apply. Seeking all trades! Including, but not limited to, Concrete, Masonry, Steel, Carpentry, Thermal, Siding, Roofing, Windows/Doors, Drywall, Flooring, Painting, MEPF, Sitework, and Landscaping. Interested subcontractors and material providers, please contact Ethan McDonald at ethanm@researchcompany.com.

**Green Mountain Union High School is looking for a Varsity Softball Coach starting in April 2024.**

For more information or to apply please email todd.parah@trsu.org.

Background Check Required EOE.

## Springfield Senior Center

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Here are some updates from the Springfield Senior Center.

The Songsters are looking for more people who would like to join the group. They meet every Friday morning, at 9 a.m.

We have our 60th anniversary booklet for sale at the center for a small donation.

With winter weather, we will follow the Springfield schools for delays and closings. If school is delayed two hours,

the center will open at 10 a.m. If school is cancelled, the center will also be closed.

We are still collecting food items for the local food shelves.

Appointments will be needed for the foot clinics. You can call the center to schedule one. In January, the price will increase.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Lori Johnson, executive director, at either 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.



Whitney Blake is continually growing and looking for associates to join our team. Check us out! We have currently have the following opportunities:

### Quality Tech Assembly Operator Maintenance Tech

To apply, send resume to [humanresources@wblake.com](mailto:humanresources@wblake.com)  
9 Lovell Drive, Bellows Falls, VT 05101  
<https://wblake.com/company/careers/>

### LAWN MAINTENANCE LEAD

- \*Full time seasonal position
- \*5 years experience and knowledge of zero turn lawn mowers use, maintenance and repair
- \*Attention to detail, customer service skills and the ability to work in all weather
- \*Team leader for 1-2 person crew
- \*Competitive wages
- \*Valid drivers license required

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE LEAD

- \*Full time seasonal position
- \*5 years experience and knowledge of plants and their growth habits
- \*Team leader for 1-2 person crew
- \*Competitive wages
- \*Valid drivers license required



For more information and to apply, fill out application at [www.glebemountaingardens.com/employment-application](http://www.glebemountaingardens.com/employment-application)

3714 Route 11, Londonderry

### TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Selectboard of the Town of Springfield will hold a public hearing on February 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall on 96 Main Street in Springfield, VT, to receive comments on proposed amendments to the Town Ordinances. This is the second, and possibly final, public hearing on these proposed amendments. The purpose of these proposed amendments can be summarized as follows:

- To amend the ordinance on non-motorized transportation to allow some non-motorized conveyances, such as skates, on town streets and highways.

The proposed amendment affects the entire jurisdiction of the Town of Springfield.

The full text of the proposed ordinance amendment is available to review at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours and also on the Town of Springfield website: [www.springfieldvt.gov](http://www.springfieldvt.gov).

### TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD Final Public Hearing

The Town of Springfield received \$525,000 from the State of Vermont for a grant under the Vermont Community Development Program. A public hearing will be held at 96 Main Street, Springfield, VT 05156 on February 12, 2024 at 6:00PM to obtain the views of citizens on community development, to furnish information concerning the range of community development activities that have been undertaken under this program, and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine a statement of the use of these funds. The VCDP Funds received have been used to accomplish the following activities:

- Replace the ventilation system at the Huber Building (80 Main St., Springfield, VT 05156).

Information on this project may be obtained from and viewed during the hours of 8:00AM and 4:30PM at Town Hall at 96 Main Street. Should you require any special accommodations please contact

Town Manager Jeff Mobus at 802-885-2104 to ensure appropriate accommodations are made. For the hearing impaired please call (TTY) #1-800-253-0191.

Legislative Body for the Town of Springfield



**AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY  
TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENTS**

**ADAIR HEIGHTS APARTMENTS  
BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT**

Utilities, Snow & Trash Removal Included  
Laundry Facility on Premises for Tenants Only  
USDA Guidelines Do Apply

Call or Write to:  
THM Property Management  
129 Lincoln Ave.  
Manchester Center, VT 05255  
802-367-5252  
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

	6		2							7
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			6	3						5
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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

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ACROSS  
1 Hot tub  
4 Pack (down)  
8 Honeycomb division  
12 Joke  
13 Teen fave  
14 Celestial bear  
15 Capote nickname  
16 Difficult problem  
18 Celery unit  
20 Pantheon member  
21 Morays  
24 Twilight, poetically  
28 "Bravo!"  
32 Wry  
33 Bombeck  
34 Raw rock  
36 Melody  
37 Actress Meg  
39 Maintains  
41 Wheel connectors  
43 Bake sale orgs.  
44 - Victor  
46 Dugout seating  
50 Sociable and lively  
55 "Caught ya!"  
56 Medicinal plant  
57 Vogue rival  
58 Singer Phair  
59 Reporter's quest

DOWN  
1 Boot camp  
2 Section  
3 Water, in  
4 Hearts, slangily  
5 Big fuss  
6 Calendar abbr.  
7 Advertise  
8 Get cozy (with)  
9 Blunder  
10 Baton Rouge sch.  
11 Felon's flight  
17 Eggy quaff  
19 Triathlon segment  
22 Secular  
23 Razor sharpener  
25 Algerian port  
26 During  
27 Red planet  
28 Mrs. Dithers of "Blondie"  
29 African antelope  
30 "Hud" actress Patricia  
31 Faxed  
35 Equine homes subj.  
40 Language suffix  
42 High school  
45 Declare  
47 "The Lion King" lion  
48 Intel product  
49 Visibility hindrance  
50 Fire  
51 Flamenco cheer  
52 At once  
53 -de-France  
54 Jungfrau, for one

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### TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD HELP WANTED

#### Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

The Town of Springfield, VT is looking for an Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation. This is a full-time; non-exempt position with an excellent benefit and retirement package. Salary range is \$22.79 to \$24.83, depending upon qualifications and experience. Position requires graduation from a college or university of recognized standing with a Bachelor's Degree based on a major in Parks & Recreation Leadership; or Sports Management; or Physical Education. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of at least one year of proven, successful, and progressive experience in recreation leadership. Candidates may substitute a combination of education, training, and experience, especially experience within a municipal setting. Applicant must have or will be trained for a Vermont Certified Pool Operator Certificate, required renewal every 5 years, OSHA Required Respirator knowledge and usage. First Aid Certification and renewal required, and CPR Certification and renewal required for Adults & Children. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 ([tosh@vermontel.net](mailto:tosh@vermontel.net)). Applications may also be downloaded from the Town's website (<https://springfieldvt.gov/office2.com/jobs>). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Springfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

# yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

### Art Crafts Gifts

#### GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Vermont State Craft Center  
Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops  
68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111  
OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. 11-7  
<http://galleryvault.org>

Sightings Photography Exhibit By Rich Cofrancesco until 1/31

Chocolate Tasting Feb 3, 1-4  
Student Art Show - month of February

Take a Workshop in 2024!  
Chinese Calligraphy w/ Jonathan Root 2/17/24  
Perspective Drawing Basics w/ Chris Mix (Zoom) 2/4/24  
Pet Portraits w/ Mindy Fisher 2/24/24  
Raku Workshop w/ Andrew Berends (2 part) 3/2 & 3/9  
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)

### 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](mailto:edwin.mortensen@gmail.com). Follow us on Instagram @neatthehammer (11/20/24 - 52)

#### PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

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

#### NEW ENGLAND HOME BUILDING AND REMODEL

802-779-3414 - Located in Weston, VT

Kitchens, Additions, and Remodels. Finish Carpentry and Cabinet Work. Property Maintenance. Fully Insured, Free Estimates.

Like us on FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM!  
[www.newenglandhomebuildingandremodel.com](http://www.newenglandhomebuildingandremodel.com)  
(06/05/24 - 52)

### Chiropractor

#### FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

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

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### Okemo Valley TV

Ways to Watch Local Programming  
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Online: Go to [okemovalleytv/watch](http://okemovalleytv/watch) to watch Live TV or on video on demand  
You Tube: [okemovalleytv](http://okemovalleytv)  
Streaming App: Download Okemo Valley TV app for free (Apple TV, Roku, Fire TV, Google Play, & mobile)  
(04/03/24 - TFN - 13)

# at the library

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Tax prep and Ask Your Librarians in Springfield

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – April will be here before you know it. Springfield Town Library will have tax forms and booklets available. The library will also host SEVCA's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) this year.

VITA offers free tax help to people whose adjusted gross income is un-

der \$64,000, persons with disabilities, and/or limited English-speaking taxpayers. Preparers will be at the Springfield Town Library for those with appointments on many Wednesdays and selected Thursdays from Jan. 31 – April 10. SEVCA will also provide VITA services in Westminster, Brattleboro, Windsor, Ludlow, and other

locations.

A drop-off box will also be available beginning Jan. 29. Please note that in-person returns for those with appointments will have priority, and dropped-off packets will be completed in the order they are received.

To make an appointment, call or text 802-428-3032, or email [estrasser@sevca.org](mailto:estrasser@sevca.org).

Then, do you have a question about Springfield Town Library services and why or how things are done at the library? This is your opportunity. "Ask Your Librarians: A Community Conversation" will take place in the Flinn Room of the library on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m.

Three library staff members will be on hand to an-

swer your questions about the current resources and services in your library. Technical services librarian Tracy Obremski will share her process for choosing materials and getting them shelf-ready. Youth services librarian Jeni Clary will talk

about materials, programs, and services for youth. Library director Sue Dowdell will give insight into the library's plans and answer all other questions.

Suggestions for the library's future are always welcome and appreciated.

### Tech Time Tuesdays

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – The Rockingham Free Public Library will host Tech Time Tuesday classes and drop-in sessions every Tuesday, at 2 p.m., during the month of February. Join us in the youth programming room for one of our upcoming tech sessions this winter to learn more about different applications and digital library resources. Drop-in sessions are first come, first served. Providing your own personal devices is highly encouraged, however, library laptops will be available for class use.

On Feb. 6, the Tech Time program will be "Love your Library's resources – Libby and Biblio+." February is National Library Lovers' Month. Come love your library more by learning how to access e-Books, films, and television for free through our online library resources.

Then, on Feb. 13, there will be a drop-in tech help session. This is our quick tech help option at the library. No registration is required, just walk in and spend 5-15 minutes with a librarian to ask your tech questions.

Feb. 20's focus will be "Tax Time Online Forms Help." Need help finding and printing your tax forms this year? Come to the library to print the tax forms you need. Vermont does not distribute free paper forms through libraries. You can print blank forms at the library. All forms are free.

Feb. 27 will be another drop-in tech help session.

For more information, email [reference@rockinghamlibrary.org](mailto:reference@rockinghamlibrary.org), call 802-463-4270, go to [www.rockinghamlibrary.org](http://www.rockinghamlibrary.org), or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

#### NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders, and mortgagees of property in the Town of Londonderry, in the County of Windham, and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Barton Coburn by Warranty Deed of Milton Thomas Coburn, dated May 30, 2017 and recorded on June 2, 2017 in Book 79 at Pages 766-767 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #019009-502, E911 address: 61 Coburn's Way.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

#### NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders, and mortgagees of property in the Town of Londonderry, in the County of Windham, and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Mountain Energy of Vermont, Inc., f/k/a Green Mountain Energy Systems, Inc., by Warranty Deed of Edward J. Duff and Barbara M. Duff, dated September 4, 2009, and recorded on September 4, 2009 in Book 65 at Page 95 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #104011, E911 address: 3590 VT Route 100)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Duke Enterprises, Inc. by Warranty Deed of Edward J. Brown dated October 14, 1970 and recorded on October 21, 1970 in Book 31 at Page 148 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #102023, E911 Address: 2242 North Main St.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to 452, LLC by Quit Claim Deed of Thomas Jones and Elisa Marie Romeo dated January 14, 2019 and recorded on February 4, 2019 in Book 83 at Page 407 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #035010, E911 Address: 452 Carley Lane)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Antone Dias by Warranty Deed of Center J. Merrill dated July 29, 2022 and recorded on August 1, 2022 in Book 95 at Page 536 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #102004, E911 Address: 2000 North Main St.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Matthew L. Mosher by Warranty Deed of Roger Thorne-Thomsen, dated December 30, 2011, and recorded on

January 6, 2012 in Book 66 at Page 192 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #105022-100, E911 Address: 2.8 +/- acres off Route 100)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Daniel Nowokunski by Quit Claim Deed of Carol C. Merritt dated April 13, 2015 and recorded on April 27, 2015 in Book 74 at Page 723 of the Londonderry Land Records. Reference is made to the Quit Claim Deed of Daniel Nowokunski to Daniel Nowokunski and Susan S. Nowokunski dated August 13, 2015 and recorded on August 13, 2015 in Book 75 at Page 484 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #110079, E911 Address: 7451 VT Route 11)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Christopher M. Ouellet by Warranty Deed of Joseph L. Ouellet dated August 11, 2015 and recorded on August 17, 2015 in Book 75 at Page 490 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #041015, E911 Address: 93 Hilltop Rd.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Edward John Brown by Warranty Deed of Lawrence A. Grover and Hazel E. Grover, dated August 6, 1981 and recorded on August 8, 1981 in Book 40, at Page 53 of the Londonderry Land Records. Reference is made to Easement Deed of Duke Enterprises, Inc. to Edward J. Brown, dated August 25, 1982 and recorded on August 25, 1982 in Book 40 at Page 554 of the Londonderry Land Records.

Excepting, however, approximately 0.12 acres of land conveyed to the State of Vermont by Warranty Deed of Edward J. Brown, dated September 27, 1993 and recorded on October 1, 1993 in Book 51 at Page 8 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #102024, E911 address: 2296 North Main St.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Jean Rogers Smith, as Trustee under agreement with Rochester H. Rogers and Lois S. Rogers, dated December 12, 1949 for the benefit of Fergus S. Smith, by virtue of:

1. Warranty Deed of Herbert O. Smith, dated July 10, 1972 and recorded on July 14, 1972 in Book 32 at Page 78 of the Londonderry Land Records;
2. Warranty Deed of Gordon M. Moodie and Helene Moodie, dated September 26, 1977 and recorded on September 27, 1977 in Book 36 at Page 311 of the Londonderry Land Records; and
3. Warranty Deed of Robert Praeger Venner, dated August 18, 1979 and recorded on October 3, 1979 in Book 38 at Page 259 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #027006, E911 address: 340-342 Melendy Hill)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Melonie Bohlen and Corey W. Stoddard by Executor's Deed of Linda A. Smith, Executor of the Estate of James E. Adamson, dated May 22, 2013 and recorded on May 28, 2013 in Book 69 at Page 521 of the Londonderry Land Records. Reference is made to the Quitclaim Deed of Corey W. Stoddard to Melonie Bohlen dated December 29, 2021 and recorded on March 29, 2022 in Book 94 at Page 672 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #063004, E911 Address: 105 Williams St.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes



# library & scholarships

## GFWC-VT continuing education scholarship

**REGION** – The General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Vermont (GFWC-VT) announces the availability of scholarships for Vermont women, beyond the traditional high school to college age track, seeking to further their education, training, or to upgrade their skills in preparation for entering or advancing in the workplace. Applicants must submit a specific plan for their education or training. Applications are due to Betty Haggerty, 16 Taylor Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, by March 15; her contact information is also included on the ap-

plication. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,500. GFWC-VT has been awarding this financial aid, which is funded through contributions from the state federated clubs and from individuals, for 30 years. The scholarship is named for the late Barbara Jean Barker of Poultney, who served as GFWC-VT president from 1992-1994, and who was instrumental in establishing the program. Women receiving the awards over the years have come from a wide range of Vermont towns.

Applications for the scholarship can be obtained from Betty Haggerty, hubett@hotmail.com; and Beverly Pallmerine, president, GFWC-VT, bpallmerine@gmail.com. They are also available through federated woman’s clubs in Vermont towns, through Community College of Vermont (CCV), and Vermont Tech sites around the state. Information is also available through the VSAC booklet of financial aid. The scholarships will be awarded at the state federation’s annual meeting in April.

## Preparing for the eclipse at Rockingham Library

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – The Rockingham Free Public Library will host Southern Vermont Astronomy Group (SoVerA) member Claudio Véliz, for a presentation about the upcoming total solar eclipse Thursday, on Feb. 8., at 7 p.m.

The total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, is an opportunity to experience a rare – even once in a lifetime – natural event. In this graphic-rich presentation, Véliz will cover how to prepare for the eclipse, where to be, and what to do if it is cloudy. Safe solar filtered glasses will be handed out to in-person attendees,

complete with instructions on how to use them when this stunning event arrives. Claudio Véliz pursues twin professions in architecture and astronomy. He has owned an award-winning architecture firm, Claudio Véliz Architect PLLC/AIA, since 1982, designing residential, institutional, municipal, retail, and corporate facilities. In his astronomy track, he was cofounder and twice president of SoVerA, headquartered in Chester, Vt. Now lecturing in the CALL Program at Keene State College, New Hampshire, previously he worked and lectured at New York’s

Hayden Planetarium, and at the astronomy departments at Columbia University and Castleton University. This program is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities. In case of cancellation due to weather, the program will be rescheduled for Thursday, Feb 15. For more information, email reference@rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270, go to www.rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

## “Norwegian Wood” at Rockingham Library

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Pick up a copy of “Norwegian Wood” by Haruki Murakami today so you can join the discussion on Thursday, March 7, at 6 p.m. This coming-of-age love story set in 1960s Japan captures the huge expectation of youth, while

evoking a keen sense of poignancy. For more information, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, call

the library at 802-463-4270, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

## Magris Talc college scholarships

**REGION** – Magris Talc is now accepting college scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 academic year. Two \$2,500 scholarships are available for students of the greater Ludlow area (Springfield, Chester, Andover, Mount Holly, etc.) in their last year of high school or college, who are choosing to pursue either a four-year

bachelor’s program degree or two-year technical/trade program. To qualify, students must be entering a field of study in one of the following disciplines: earth or natural sciences, mining, engineering, environmental studies or management, health and safety, or the industrial trades such as mechanical, electrical, welding, HVAC, and plumbing.

Applicants must submit an essay describing their interest in the field they are entering, how that interest developed, and what their plans are for the future. Essays must be accompanied with a cover letter with all contact information, and submitted to Magris Talc, c/o Scholarship Committee, 73 East Hill Road, Ludlow, VT 05149. The application deadline is April 10.

## TRORC 2024 Scholarship Program

**WOODSTOCK, Vt.** – Two Rivers-Ottawa-Quechee Regional Commission (TRORC) announced its 2024 Scholarship Program on Jan. 4. This year, TRORC will be awarding 10 \$2,000 scholarships to the area’s graduating seniors.

“We are so pleased to be able to continue our Scholarship Program this year. It’s our way of supporting the region’s students as they continue their educations,” stated Nancy Jones of Bradford, Vt., who leads TRORC’s Scholarship Committee.

“Investing in our youth is the best investment we can make,” stated Peter Gregory, TRORC’s executive director. The Scholarship Program is open to all students residing in one of TRORC’s 30 towns who are successfully completing a state-approved secondary (high school) education program, and have been accepted into

an accredited post-secondary education or career program. TRORC’s scholarship award payment is made at the end of the awardee’s first college semester, provided they receive an average grade of B or better. Applicants from diverse backgrounds including identities, abilities, economic, and racial backgrounds are highly encouraged to apply. Applications are due via

email no later than close of business on April 12. Full application details are available at TRORC’s website, www.trorc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-Scholarship-Program-Announcement-v2.pdf For more information about the Scholarship Program, contact Mary Olmo at molmo@trorc.org, or at 802-457-3188.

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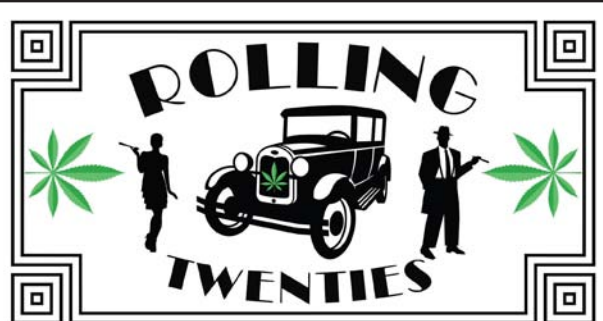


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Cannabis has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For use by individuals 21 years of age and older or registered qualifying patient only. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN AND PETS. DO NOT USE IF PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING. Possession or use of cannabis may carry significant legal penalties in some jurisdictions and under federal law. It may not be transported outside of the state of Vermont. The effects of edible cannabis may be delayed by two hours or more. Cannabis may be habit forming and can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Persons 25 years and younger may be more likely to experience harm to the developing brain. It is against the law to drive or operate machinery when under the influence of this product. National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222.



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# arts & entertainment

## Originals & Traditionals Open Mic at MSA

**SAXTONS RIVER, Vt.** – Calling all songwriters, fiddle players, poets, stand-up comics, slam storytellers, and all you creatives with something to share. Whether you're a veteran performer or a first timer at the mic, consider yourself cordially invited to Originals & Traditionals Open Mic Night at Main Street Arts (MSA).

The open mic night will be held on the fourth Friday of each month, from 7-9 p.m. Sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. The program is hosted by Putnam Smith. Adult beverages will be available by donation.

"This monthly event is about community, about gathering with fellow artists and arts appreciators, about meeting up with old friends, and about meeting someone new," said Smith. "Come to share, to listen, to find inspiration – but come!"

All material should be original or "traditional" (i.e., in the public domain). Each performer can perform two songs or up to 10 minutes, whichever comes first.

Smith has been described as an old-world troubadour fresh from the 19th century. Yet this rootsy multi-

instrumentalist songwriter is a storyteller for the modern age. Called "One To Watch" (Rob Reinhart, Acoustic Cafe), and a 2016 Falcon Ridge Emerging Artist, Smith has had two albums reach into the top five on the national Folk & Bluegrass DJ Charts, and has performed in more than 40 states from the East to West coasts. For more information about Smith, visit [www.putnamsmith.com](http://www.putnamsmith.com).

If you have any questions, please contact Smith at [putnamsmith@gmail.com](mailto:putnamsmith@gmail.com).

## Violinist Johnny Gandelsman at Next Stage

**PUTNEY, Vt.** – Next Stage Arts presents violinist and former member of Silkroad Ensemble Johnny Gandelsman, performing works written in response to the turbulent and disconnected time of the early pandemic and the murder of George Floyd. The anthology of compositions will be performed at Next Stage as part of Gandelsman's year-long residency at the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m.

"We are thrilled to host Johnny Gandelsman at Next Stage Arts for an extraordinary evening of music that transcends boundaries. Johnny's upcoming show, a co-presentation with Dartmouth Center for the Arts at Dartmouth, is not just a performance; it's a journey into the heart of his latest project, "This is America," says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. "With roots in the groundbreaking Silk Road Ensemble,



Former Silkroad Ensemble member Johnny Gandelsman. PHOTO PROVIDED

and as a founding member of Brooklyn Rider, Johnny brings a wealth of cultural influences to the stage. His ability to seamlessly blend genres is a testament to his artistry. Join us for an unforgettable night as we explore the musical landscapes he has crafted through his collaborations and solo endeavors."

In 2020, Gandelsman invited a wide array of American or U.S.-based composers to reflect on the current state of society in a personal and intimate way.

Over the course of a year-long residency at the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth, Gandelsman performs the anthology and expands the project with three new Hopkins Center-commissioned pieces. The winter concert features "Breathe," a composition by Dartmouth alum Kojiro Umezaki, commissioned by the Hopkins Center. Umezaki will be in residence to shed light on his work.

## Perspective workshop at Gallery at the VAULT

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Learn classic perspective drawing skills from the world of fine art, architecture, landscapes, and illustration in this drawing class for teens and adults on Sunday, Feb. 4, from 2-4 p.m., via Zoom. Christine Mix will share drawing demonstrations, along with challenging drawing exercises, using one, two, and three-point perspectives. You will learn how to build your own world by creating your own landscape, be it a country, city, or seascape scene. People really enjoy Christine's classes.

Supplies needed are your favorite drawing graphite or #2 pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser (kneaded or white smart erasers are suggested if possible), drawing paper or sketchbook (8.5-inch by 11-inch white copy paper can also be used), and a 12-inch scale ruler or straight edge.

Technical requirements are an up-to-date



An example of perspective drawing by Christine Mix. PHOTO PROVIDED

computer running Windows 7 or later, or macOS 10.9 or later; a broadband wired or wireless internet connection; and a tablet or smart phone with speakers, microphone, and webcam that can handle Zoom meeting or streaming for 2 hours or more.

Register by Wednesday, Jan. 31, with your email address. You will be sent an email with the link a week and a day before the class via email. A materials list

will be given at registration. The workshop fee is discounted for gallery members.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Friday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information, email [gallervault@vermontel.net](mailto:gallervault@vermontel.net), call 802-885-7111, or visit [www.gallervault.org](http://www.gallervault.org) or the gallery's Facebook.

## Dementia in theater at Windsor Library

**WINDSOR, Vt.** – The Windsor Public Library will host theater professor and author Dorothy Chansky for a readers' theater presentation of Alice Brown's 1914 one-act play "Joint Owners in Spain," and discussion of Chansky's latest book "Losing It: Staging the Cultural Conundrum of Dementia and Decline in American Theatre" on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 1 p.m.

The reading is directed by Sara Vitale and performed by Margaret Jennings, Judy Hallberg, Barbara Ball, and Anna Kendall. Chansky will discuss how her book explores 11 dementia plays that have been produced in the United States over

the past century. Chansky is the author of "Kitchen Sink Realisms: Domestic Labor, Dining, and Drama in American Theatre" (University of Iowa Press, 2015), and "Composing Ourselves: The Little Theatre Movement and the American Audience" (Southern Illinois University Press, 2004). She is immediate past vice president of publications for the American Society for Theatre Research, a past president of the American Theatre and Drama Society, a past editor of Theatre Annual, and a past book review editor of Theatre Journal.

Her work has appeared in Theatre Survey, Theatre History Studies, TDR, The Journal of American

Drama and Theatre, Theatre Journal, and Modern Drama. She writes criticism for New York Theatre Wire. She holds a doctorate in performance studies from NYU, a master's in theatre from The Catholic University of America, and a bachelor's in English from Smith College. She now lives in Bellows Falls.

This program is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities. The Windsor Public Library is located at 43 State Street, Windsor, Vt. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled for Sunday, Feb. 4, at 1 p.m.

Please email [librarian@windsorlibrary.org](mailto:librarian@windsorlibrary.org) or call the library at 802-674-2556 to reserve your spot.

## Chester's Winter Carnival

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Get ready to enjoy the festivities of the Chester Winter Carnival on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 17 and 18.

Kid's snowmobile rides with the Chester Snowmobile Club will take place from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Buttonwood Farms, the

field across from the Pinnacle.

Sledding and ice skating at the Pinnacle starting at 12 p.m.

Horse drawn sleigh rides from Smokeshire Farms at the Pinnacle from 12-3 p.m.

Guided snowshoe hike at Brookside with CCC. Snowshoes if conditions are favorable, or micro spikes/yak tracks required if there's limited snow. Headlamp or flashlight required. Meet behind the Academy building at 5 p.m.



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