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THE SHOPPER Newspaper

FEBRUARY 21, 2024 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM VOLUME 63, ISSUE 08

Trustees prepare for final budget talks

BY PAULA BENSON
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Tuesday, Feb. 13, regular meeting of the Bellows Falls Village Trustees began with public comments. Bellows Falls resident Gary Wallace raised his hand.

“The reason I am here,” Wallace stated, “is that I have a neighbor behind me who has a flock of chickens, 10 of them. They spend more time in my backyard and the neighbors’ yards than they do at his house. At first it didn’t bother me too much, but now they’re pooping all over and making an awful mess.”

Wallace continued, “I think we need some sort of an ordinance saying that [the chickens] need to be restrained to the owner’s property. It’s getting to be a health hazard.” Wallace reported that he’d called the police department three times, but the issue remained unresolved.

Village President Paul Obuchowski said the board would add the topic to a future meeting agenda for discussion, and thanked Wallace for his attendance.

Kathy Urffer from the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) updated the board on a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Connecticut River Hydro relicensing process that began 12 years ago. During that time there were several delays due to government shutdowns and studies conducted between 2014-2019.

Urffer reported that within the next six months there will be an opportunity for a formal comment period, which will be the last chance for citizens to have input on the whole of the application. CRC is reaching out to all towns, covering 175 miles, and including 16 Vermont and 14 New Hampshire towns, to inform everyone of the operational changes, and will be looking for feedback from all impacted communities.

CRC’s focus, as Urffer explained, is to care for the river in a variety of ways, and to advocate for simple regulations such as permits and rules enforcement. CRC also wants to encourage community science awareness and recreational opportunities. Through outreach and educational efforts, CRC plans improvements to recreational infrastructure, conservation of property, restoration of riverbanks, protection of natural habitats along the river, and water quality monitoring.

The board reviewed the village debt schedule, and municipal manager Scott Pickup commented, “Nothing substantially changed here, this is just more informational. I know the board has expressed some concern about our debt leverage in the sewer fund.”

Trustee James McAuliffe pointed to the difference made by federal programs for the water department. “You don’t see any interest payments,” McAuliffe stated. “Versus the sewer projects where we had to pay in-

terest – \$9 million of debt versus \$6 million of debt, and the annual debt services are \$260,000 versus \$800,000.”

Rob Wheeler, chief operator at the water and sewer department, was in attendance to address any concerns and discuss his effort to utilize ARPA funds and available grant funds to move forward on repairs and upgrades to the system’s efficiency.

Pickup commented that the town may only be “on the hook” for about \$250,000 after assessing potential outside funding.

McAuliffe voiced his concern regarding the direction the department budget was heading, saying, “It appears that we’re about 80% spent, through seven months. Being on budget was a big part of our budget process last year, and we seem to be blowing through that.” He asked Pickup and Wheeler to report on how they expect to end out the year financially.

Wheeler said the department has had some unanticipated costs pop up, and he would be happy to sit down with Pickup to work out the next four to five months of anticipated expenses.

Obuchowski reminded everyone that the next meeting is March 12, and as they head into final budget discussions, the trustees would be going back to holding two meetings per month for March and April.

The Youngs take over Young’s

BY PAULA BENSON
The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – “That’s why I think it might have been meant to be,” said Lisa Young, owner of Great Northern Liquidation in Springfield.

Lisa, her husband Rick, and their son Ricky recently opened the thrift and consignment store in the Shaw’s Plaza, taking over the space formerly occupied by Young’s Furniture and Appliances for more than 100 years.

Young was somewhat jokingly referring to the coincidence of sharing the same last name as the previous occupants. For the record, the two families are not related.

Great Northern Liquidation celebrated its grand opening in the new location on June 16, 2023, and in January 2024, the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce named them Business of the Year, an honor based on community nominations. Lisa was thrilled to be given the award. “We really want to be a good fit for the community.”

Lisa and Rick will be celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary this year, and Lisa shared that the couple has been in business together for the past 20 years buying and selling estate items, initially via yard sales and on



Great Northern Liquidators keeps Young’s sign.
PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

eBay.

Their yard sales were huge, four-day events, Lisa recalled. “We called them a ‘pressure release’ to lower our ever-expanding inventory.” In the early days, during the time Lisa referred to as “the Wild West of eBay,” they started small, then kept growing, buying and selling in bulk, and expanding the business exponentially as they went along.

The Youngs started out storing inventory in their garage until moving to a large, rented warehouse in Proctorsville. Ultimately, they purchased a building on Clinton Street in Springfield, which they quickly filled, and where they still navigate their business from today.

Lisa said Ricky has quickly become the in-house audio expert, and oversees designing the layout of the selling floor. “Ricky is interested in taking over the business someday, and he’s really good at it.”

The staff is small, with

only four full-time employees. Trystan and Lisa Simano are married, they both grew up in the area, and handle the deliveries.

When Rick told Lisa he felt they needed to be open on Sundays, Lisa was hesitant. “We need a day off,” she said at the time. She was grateful when Trystan and Lisa offered to manage the store on Sundays, and reports that the arrangement has been working out well.

The 15,500 square foot store is bright, organized, inviting, and full of everything from soup to nuts. Lisa said they are trying to consistently stock certain staple items, and want to expand their inventory of appliances to honor the previous Young’s intention.

“The Youngs built this plaza,” Lisa commented. “They were a huge part of growing and serving the Springfield community,” Lisa, Rick, and Ricky plan to continue those traditions. And they are keeping the original sign.

Kurn Hattin singers deliver Valentine’s Day greetings

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The gift of music is powerful, especially on Valentine’s Day. That’s why 16 Kurn Hattin Homes singers and four chaperones loaded into three vans to deliver the gift of song to visitors, patients, and residents at three stops: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical in Lebanon, N.H.; Keene State College in Keene, N.H.; and Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities, also in Keene.

At each destination on the travelling Valentine’s Day concert tour, the Homes’ chorus performed a medley of five songs, including “Let Me Call You Sweetheart,” “A Million Dreams,” “Somewhere Out There,” “You are the Reason,” and “Lean on Me,” to audiences in the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Main Atrium and Norris Cotton Cancer Center, the Keene State College Student Union, and the Cedarcrest atrium.

Lisa Bianconi, the Homes’ musical director and a cancer survivor who received treatment at the Norris Cotton Center in Leba-



The chorus before they headed out on a special day.
PHOTO PROVIDED

non, beamed with pride and emotion as she recapped the day. “Our singers performed beautifully and brought many smiles and tears of joy to the audiences they reached. This was truly a gift of kindness, relationship building, and giving back to community that we hope to repeat every Valentine’s Day.”

While the intent was to deliver something special by performing, the singers also received something very special. Especially impactful for the singers was the stop at Cedarcrest, which is home to children with disabilities. “After performing for the children and staff, the Kurn Hattin

Homes singers were filled with emotion and realized how much their music touched and moved the non-verbal audience,” said Bianconi.

Afterward, the chorus had the opportunity to meet each of the children individually, which reinforced the importance of this experience. “All three performance venues were very different, and all were very rewarding for the singers,” Bianconi said upon reflection.

Sir Elton John once said, “Music has healing power. It has the ability to take people out of themselves for a few hours.” He was right.

BFWC Valentine’s Day bags

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Pictured are Bellows Falls Woman’s Club President Nancy McAuliffe and Vice President Dianne Potter, with some of the 24 bags, which club members filled with Valentine’s Day cookies. The bags were distributed to several municipal, essential and emergency, health and elder care, and social service agency workers in Bellows Falls, Westminster, Walpole, and Springfield, as a gesture of thanks to all for services provided to the towns’ citizens.



PHOTO PROVIDED

NEOF new owners eager to share efficiency knowledge

NEWPORT, N.H. – Sarah and Matthew Pikus, new owners of New England Outdoor Furnaces, are eager to share their efficiency knowledge with the community. Sarah handles the marketing side of things, while Matthew handles the technical product questions, and can tell you about every square inch of the outdoor furnace units, and their office manager Ellen helps run the store. Stop in and say hello at 877 John Stark Highway in Newport, N.H., call 603-863-8818, visit their new website www.newenglandoutdoorfurnaces.com, or like them on their new Facebook page www.facebook.com/people/New-England-Outdoor-Furnaces/61555859889906/?mibextid=uzslk.



PHOTO BY DANIELLE GOODWIN

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Springfield Elks Student of the Month —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Student of the Month program of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks recognizes young men and women for achievements in school and community life, hobbies, athletics, club, and community service. The Springfield Elks Lodge is pleased to recognize Ella Donahue, a student at Springfield High School, as the Elks Student of the Month for December.

Ella, daughter of Bren-

den and Kathleen Donahue, is a sophomore, who consistently works to do her very best in whatever it is she is doing. Ella is humble, conscientious, and a determined student, who is a pleasure to have in class. She is open and frequently contributes to class discussions, shares ideas, and helps her peers.

Ella adds to the betterment of the school whether it is in academics, sports (soccer, indoor track), so-



Ella Donahue.
PHOTO PROVIDED

cially, or in the other clubs in which she participates (Student Council & AWARE).

March Tech Time Tuesdays at Rockingham Library —

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 March. Join us in the Youth Programming Room for one of our upcoming tech sessions for your tech help and digital library needs. Sessions are first come, first served. Providing your own personal devices is highly encouraged, however, library laptops will be available for

class use.

March 5 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.

On March 12, the session will be “Ancestry.com Library Edition Drop-In.” March is Irish American Heritage Month. Are you one of the 31.5 million people – about twice the population of New York – in the

U.S. who have Irish ancestry, and want to get started on your family tree? Come to the library and start your search using this library resource.

March 19 will be another Drop-In Tech Help session.

The session on March 26 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. You may print blank forms at the library. All forms are free.

Bellows Falls Elks Student of the Month —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – It is a pleasure to announce that Elizabeth Anderson has been named the January Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS). A senior, Elizabeth is the daughter of Robert Anderson and Amber Malloy, and she resides in Westminster.

Elizabeth sets high standards for herself. She cares about learning for the benefit of learning, rather than concentrating on “just the number grade.” She has signed up for enrichment programs in the past to pursue her special interests, which speaks volumes for her academic growth. Dedicated to doing well, she sets goals and then lines up her academic sched-



Elizabeth Anderson.
PHOTO PROVIDED

ule to meet post-high school requirements for her career interests.

Always positive, Elizabeth is a pleasure to work with. She brings positive energy and enthusiasm to class assignments, discussions, and various activities. Desirous of developing her skills, she seeks constructive criticism and truly values any sug-

gestions for improvement. Every day is a smile and a “thank you” with Elizabeth, and her attitude and drive are appreciated.

An active student who attends school every day, not only does Elizabeth eagerly attend her classes, but she asks for additional time with a teacher if there is something more that she wants to work on.

Adding to her busy academic life, community service matters to her. She is a valued member the BFUHS Environmental Club, and enthusiastically and maturely led a group of younger students through special activities for Earth Day last year.

Clearly deserving of recognition, BFUHS and the Elks are proud to have Elizabeth represent us as a Student of the Month.

Rockingham awarded Save America’s Treasures Grant —

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Town of Rockingham has been awarded a \$360,000 Save America’s Treasures (SAT) grant from the National Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Together with a matching sum from the town, the grant will partly fund phase I of the Rockingham Meeting House Preservation Project.

The purpose of the project is to make sure the meeting house stands



The Rockingham Meeting House.
PHOTO PROVIDED

proudly for future generations. Built in 1787 and declared a National Historic Landmark in 2000, it is recognized as the largest intact 18th century public building remaining in Vermont still in its original material form and in active use. The last major preservation of the building was done in 1906 and 1907.


The project has been divided into three phases. The first focuses on drainage, stabilizing the foundation, window restoration, and roof repair. Current estimated cost of this stage is \$980,000. In addition to the SAT grant and town match, phase I construction is made possible with funding from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and a generous donation from BF Trades.

Building condition assessment and pre-construction planning has been under-

way since 2022. Preliminary construction work is slated to begin in late summer and fall 2024 and continue through 2025.

Phase II will focus on plaster and exterior woodwork conservation. Phase III will focus on restoration of the box pews, a fundamental defining characteristic of an 18th century meeting house, as well as life safety and ADA compliance. Current estimates for this work is \$1.1 million, yet to be raised.

Questions and comments about the Save America’s Treasures grant, the preservation project, and continued fundraising may be directed to the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission, Rockingham Town Hall, P.O. Box 370, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, or by email at clg@rockbf.org. Updates can be found at the municipal projects webpage at www.rockinghamvt.org.



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Westward migration

BY RON PATCH
802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

From the Marjorie Boynton Cross estate is another letter. It amazes me how many people from the Bondville-Londonderry area went west in the 1870s and 80s. You are reading a very personal letter.

"Eldora, Colorado Aug 4, 1878

"Dear Alice

"Don't think because I do not write oftener that I have forgotten you or do not think of you – as such is not the case. I have not written a letter to anyone for the past two months or more until to-day. I have written two postals and this is the 3rd letter.

"I have heard from you of course occasionally through mother – so I have heard of your marriage and that you are in a nice comfortable home and it is my earnest prayer that your married life may always be a happy one.

"Oh Alice my heart goes out to you with rejoicing as I think of what your life has been – the loss of a real home and your mother when small, and then of course know that you have seen many unpleasant days and even years – and to hear that you now have a real home of your own and take such delight in it. And I hope you may be prospered in everything you do –

"I would be delighted to see you there but probably never shall, and may never see you again in this world – I cannot realize that you are anything but the little girl you were 10 years ago.

"We have had such extremely hot weather since July 1st that it has been all anyone could do to live. For about one week of the time it was hot night and day with not a breeze – and it still keeps hot though not as excessive. I have had quite a nice lot of fruit – Have put up 50 qts of Cher-

ries – 6 qts of Raspberries, 3 qts Gooseberries – Made about 30 glasses Currant Jelly & about 20 glasses of spiced currants and shall have quite a lot of Crab Apples. I intended to can a lot of currants, but it was so hot that they ripened and dried up and fell to the ground before we knew it. I have been real well and mother is well for her, but I never heard her complain with the heat as much before. I have no [one] girl this summer and she helps me some – washes dishes, helps iron and mends considerable –

"Dana has been quite lame for the past 3 weeks – he hurt one foot – dislocated one toe and bruised the foot inwardly – so it has been swollen badly and been very painful.

"He works very hard in caring for his hogs of which he has over 100 of all kinds to tend and it takes him all day and till about 10 o'clock nearly every night to get through and he has no day

of rest – as of course they have to be tended just the same Sunday as any other day –

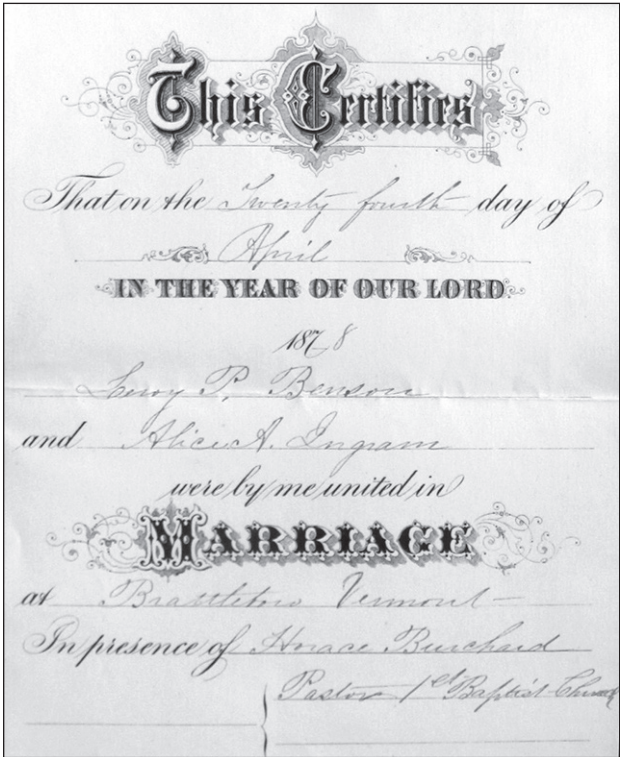
"Porter is still at [illegible] Rock but is not doing much is waiting for several things to know what to – Carrie weighs about 200 – They are both well –

"Write to me please and tell me all about your home your work – what you have new and everything – It will all interest me. How far is Andover from Brattleboro?

"I suppose Clara (Stratton) Brown will come West soon if she has not already – She will be the first one of the Asa Stratton family that ever ventured away from home. They used to call him Miss Brown out here Now he will be Mrs. Brown I suppose.

"Charlie Brooks is doing quite well now in a Meat Market – He has a real good wife – I think there will soon be more of the Brooks family before long too.

"Henry works for him. He is a miserable fellow,



The wedding certificate of Alice Ingram and Leroy Benson. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

of very little account – We have hoped he would go back to Vt. but I guess there's no such good luck. Phinnie Morse is at work at a nice place just opposite us and likes first rate – He is a good steady boy – Now do write soon as you get this –

Love to you and your husband – Would like to see him.

"Your aunt Villa"

This week's old saying is from my mother. "It's not how much you make, but how much you save."

Make a quilt square in honor and remembrance



An Underground Railroad quilt. PHOTO PROVIDED

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – In honor of Black History Month, and in remembrance of Gloria Leven, the Cavendish Historical Society (CHS) and the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library are offering an opportunity to make a quilt square on Wednesday, Feb. 28, from 4-6 p.m., at the library in Proctorsville.

Quilting has played a significant role in the lives of African Americans. They not only told stories through their quilts, but kept themselves and their families warm, while providing a source of income. It was also a time where they could socialize without "supervision."

Lizzie Hobbs Keckley was born a slave, but obtained her freedom by selling intricate quilts. She became seamstress and quilter for the first lady Mary Todd Lincoln and the Congressional wives. She created the famous "Liberty" Medallion Quilt from strips of Lincoln's dresses. Keckley went on to become the director

of domestic arts at Wilberforce University.

While many know the story of Harriet Tubman and her vital role with the Underground Railroad, they may be less aware of her quilting, and how she used it to provide clues to guide slaves to freedom.

Quilters used their skills to provide funds for the Underground Railroad, anti-slavery newspapers, and made 250,000 quilts and comforters for the Union soldiers during the Civil War. Ultimately, quilting played an important role in helping to abolish slavery.

The quilting tradition continues today through groups like the quilters in Gee's Bend, Ala., who are the descendants of Pettway Plantation slaves. They are known for their use of colors, abstract design, and storytelling.

Gloria Leven, who died Jan. 1, at the age of 100, was an ardent quilter. She always had a project in her living room and on her nightstand. Like the many

quilters before her, Gloria helped to raise money for both the library and CHS with her needle and thread.

The workshop is free and open to the public. Participants will learn more about the history of quilting, as well as have a chance to use some of Gloria's fabrics to create their own quilt. No sewing involved. The workshop is being run from 4-6 p.m. to accommodate those who wish to drop in after work. For more information, call 802-226-7807 or e-mail margocaulfield@icloud.com.

A special thank you to Casey Junker Bailey whose workshop at the South Londonderry Library helped to inspire this one. This workshop is made possible in part from a grant from the Cavendish Community Fund.

Queen Elizabeth II at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Friday, March 8, at 1 p.m., join Sheryl Faye at the Springfield Town Library as she performs Queen Elizabeth II.

Queen Elizabeth II was an iconic figure, inspiring people worldwide through her strength, courage, resilience, and dedication to a life of service.

For 70 years, she remained a constant presence as sovereign, shepherding the people of the U.K. through both joyful times and darker periods of challenge and uncertainty. An enduring admiration for Queen

Elizabeth II united people across the Commonwealth. She was queen of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms from Feb. 6, 1952, until her death on Sept. 8, 2022. The queen supported over 600 charities throughout her reign. She will be remembered for her calm and dignity, and as someone everyone in the world could look up to, who could be a unifying figure.

This event is free and open to the public. If you have any questions, contact the library at 802-885-3108. Visit our calendar of events to sign up www.springfield-townlibrary.org/calendar.

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opinion

COMMUNITY

Dear Editor,

I'm Tim Roper, and I'm running for a one-year seat on the Chester Select-board. I hope you'll vote for me on March 5.

I've been involved in the community for the 30 years I've been in Chester, from coaching and refereeing youth sports, to serving on the planning commission for the past seven years, as well as learning about the needs of the schools from my wife, who has served on the school board.

Working as an owner and employee of various small and startup businesses, I have experienced the challenges facing small businesses in Vermont. This understanding shaped some of my activities on the planning commission, where I helped remove barriers to local businesses.

My decisions were also shaped by my life as a

hunter, birder, gardener, and amateur naturalist; I know that we cannot take Vermont's beauty and bounty for granted.

I believe that housing is currently Chester's most pressing issue. A community cannot thrive without affordable housing, including both home prices and rents. With today's record high housing prices, we must use every tool available to ensure that people can afford to live, work, and raise their families here. We've started to address this issue, but more must be done.

It is important that we all remember that the primary role of government is providing services to, and protections for, the people. That holds true at the national level, and all the way down to our town government, all of which should be based on a vision of

providing for the greater good of the people of our nation, of our state, and of our beautiful town.

Raised by a single mom who understood both the importance of self-reliance to deal with life's obstacles, and also of the value of help from friends and family when the going gets tough, I learned that when we listen to each other and work together – even when we don't agree – we can find ways to solve whatever problems we face.

I look forward to continuing to represent the citizens of Chester as we work together to make our town a little better place each year. I hope I can count on your vote on March 5.

Paid for by Tim Roper
Chester, Vt.

Maintaining your financial records

LUDLOW, Vt. – An important part of managing your personal finances is keeping your financial records organized. Whether it's a utility bill to show proof of residency, or a Social Security card for wage reporting purposes, there may be times when you need to locate a financial record or document – and you'll need to locate it relatively quickly.

By taking the time to clear out and organize your financial records, you'll be able to find what you need exactly when you need it.

If you tend to keep stuff because you "might need it some day," your desk or home office is probably overflowing with nonessential documents. One of the first steps in determining what records to keep is to ask yourself, "Why do I need to keep this?"

Documents you should keep are likely to be those that are difficult to obtain, such as tax returns, legal contracts, insurance claims, and proof of identity.

On the other hand, if you have documents and records that are easily duplicated elsewhere, such as online banking and credit card statements, you probably do not need to keep paper copies of the same information.

Generally, a good rule of thumb is to keep financial records and documents only as long as necessary. For example, you may want to keep ATM and credit card receipts only temporarily, until you've reconciled them with your bank and/or credit card statement. On the other hand, if a document is legal in nature and/or difficult to replace, you'll want to keep it for a longer period or even indefinitely.

Some financial records may have more specific timetables. For example, the IRS generally recommends that taxpayers keep federal tax returns and supporting documents for a minimum of three years up to seven years after the date of filing.

Certain circumstances may even warrant keeping your tax records indefinitely.

Listed below are some recommendations on how long to keep specific documents.

Records to keep for one year or less include bank or credit union statements, credit card statements, utility bills, and auto and homeowners insurance policies.

Records to keep for more than a year include tax returns and supporting documentation, mortgage contracts, property appraisals, annual retirement and investment statements, and receipts for major purchases and home improvements.

Records to keep indefinitely include birth, death, and marriage certificates; adoption records; citizenship and military discharge papers; and Social Security cards.

Keep in mind that the above recommendations are general guidelines, and your personal circumstances may warrant keeping these documents for shorter or longer periods of time.

An easy way to prevent paperwork from piling up is to remember the phrase "out with the old, in with the new." For example, when you receive this year's auto insurance policy, discard the one from last year. When you receive your annual investment statement, discard the monthly or quarterly statements you've been keeping. In addition, review your files at least once a year to keep your filing system on the right track.

Finally, when you are ready to get rid of certain records and documents, don't just throw them in the garbage. To protect sensitive information, you should invest in a good quality shredder to destroy your documents, especially if they contain Social Security numbers, account numbers, or other personal information.

Where should you keep your records? You could go the traditional route and use

a simple set of labeled folders in a file drawer. More important documents should be kept in a fire-resistant file cabinet, safe, or safe-deposit box.

If space is tight and you need to reduce clutter, you might consider electronic storage for some of your financial records. You can save copies of online documents, or scan documents and convert them to electronic form. You'll want to keep backup copies on a portable storage device or hard drive, and make sure that your computer files are secure.

You could also use a cloud storage service that encrypts your uploaded information and stores it remotely. If you use cloud storage, make sure to use a reliable company that has a good reputation and offers automatic backup and technical support.

Once you've found a place to keep your records, it may be helpful to organize and store them according to specific categories (e.g., banking, insurance, proof of identity), which will make it even easier to access what you might need.

Another option for organizing your financial records is to create a personal document locator, which is simply a detailed list of where you have stored your financial records. This list can be helpful whenever you are trying to locate a specific document, and can also assist your loved ones in locating your financial records in the event of an emergency.

Typically, a personal document locator will include the following information: personal information, personal contacts (e.g., attorney, tax preparer, financial advisor), online accounts with username and passwords, and a list of specific locations of important documents (e.g., home, office, safe).

Written by Huntley Financial Services, 802-228-5774.

Train your dog, change your life

REGION – People call me for help with their dogs for a variety of reasons. Sometimes they have a new puppy that is jumping and biting. Or maybe they have recently adopted a dog from a rescue and the dog is showing some worrisome behavioral issues. Sometimes their dog may be overpowering them by pulling them around on the leash like a waterskiier behind a ski boat.

Dog behavior is functional. There is a purpose or reason behind all behavior. Behavior is a reaction to something happening in the immediate environment. Example: puppy grabs a sock. Human runs after the puppy trying to get the sock away from the puppy. The sock just gained in value to the puppy because now the human wants it. The puppy

tries harder to keep possession of it. This is in reaction to the human trying to take it away. Behavior always has a purpose.

Dogs go through developmental changes as they mature. What was okay with a puppy at 1 1/2 years old may not be okay when that puppy reaches social maturity at 2 years old. Rescue dogs have unknown histories, which may include learned negative associations with strangers, other dogs, noises, and a whole host of other stimuli that may have frightened them in the past. When dog issues arise, dog owners can become frustrated and their anxiety also rises.

What is training? Traditional or correction based dog training focuses on what dogs are doing wrong and uses harsh collar corrections and nasty stuff to stop or suppress behavior. Dogs learned to respond in order to avoid something unpleasant. This was a system that came out of the military and was used exclusively prior to the mid-1990s. If you touch a hot stove, you are not likely to touch it again. It is one way that we all learn. Around 1995, there was a seismic shift. Science caught up with dog training and positive reinforcement training began to replace traditional training.

Positive reinforcement training had been used in the marine mammal training world and the zoological world long before it was brought into training domestic animals. Instead of focusing on what dogs are doing wrong, now trainers focus on what they want the learner to do instead.

Instead of jumping on me, do this and I will reward you for it. If a behavior is rewarded, it will be repeated over and over again. This is true across species. Reward the behaviors you want. All educated trainers use this method of training today because it is so effective.

Positive reinforcement training builds motor patterns in the dog's brain. With repetition and reward, those motor patterns become very strong, almost automatic. Those behaviors become the dog's default behaviors over the ones that we don't want. The dog "wants" to do them.

Modern positive reinforcement training is a language between human and dog. The dog learns what to do, how to be successful, how to earn rewards. Suddenly things change in a big way. Instead of butting heads and opposing one another, human and dog are in a cooperative relationship, both parties benefit. You get a calm and obedient dog, and the dog gets treats, lots of attention, walks, and a calm human.

As a trainer and behavior consultant, my job is to teach you, the human, about dogs, about your dog, and how to build this cooperative language between the two of you. Once everyone is on the same page, things begin to improve rapidly. Communication is a beautiful thing. Train your dog. It will change your life for the better.

Written by Noel Hoffmann Dog Training and Behavioral Consulting, www.noelhoffmann.com.

Dear Editor,

The Mill Street Bridge in Ludlow is to be replaced. The old bridge is a pony

truss with riveted ironwork, giving it a unique appearance. Built after the Great

Flood of 1927, it connects us to Vermont's industrial heritage.

The new Mill Street Bridge will be one of the welded chord truss footbridges, which are commonplace across the nation. You can order one up and have it shipped to you. Chord truss footbridges come unpainted with a rust coat. They are inexpensive and unremarkable.

Vermont is a haven for saving our nation's steel civil engineering heritage, especially appreciated after New Hampshire destroyed the famed Belows Falls Arch Bridge.

If we cannot keep a reworked Mill Street Bridge in place, please consider saving the two trusses and sending them to a Vermont Agency of Transportation bridge storage depot for others to reuse. Vermont's history matters.

Author's note: The writer is a "pontist," one who appreciates historic bridges, and donated one 44-foot pony truss bridge for reuse on the The Jaquith Rail Trail in Hancock, N.H.

Respectfully,
Steve Lindsey
Keene, N.H.

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.

POLITICAL LETTERS

Due to the volume of political letters we receive during elections, and the increased cost of adding pages to the paper to print them all, as of March 2023 we are charging a fee for political letters at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. Political letters include electioneering for a specific candidate, party, or article that may impact one's vote.

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CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

Marilyn M. Ledoux, 1938-2024

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Marilyn Margaret (Bemis) Ledoux, born Marilyn Margaret Miller on Nov. 26, 1938, in Malden, Mass., peacefully passed away at home on the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, at the age of 85, in Charlestown, N.H. She is survived by her son Harold Kurth Bemis of Charlestown, N.H.; her daughter Heather Louise Wood of Deming, N.M.; her brother N. Lawrence Miller of Amherst, Mass.; and her beloved dog Zeke. Marilyn was preceded in death by her loving husband Harold Harvey Bemis, her mother Ruth Marim Miller, her father Nelson W. Miller, and her beloved pet Jersey cow April.

Marilyn's career path began as a secretary with the Navy in Boston, Mass., before meeting her husband of 27 years and relocating to the Charlestown area in the mid 60s. Once in Charlestown, she discovered her passion for literature and became a librarian. Eventually, she found her voice as a writer and journalist, contributing to various newspapers and publications, including The Eagle Times and The Vermont Journal.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Marilyn had a flair for creativity. She enjoyed crocheting, knitting, and various crafts, as well as creative writing and poetry. Her love for animals ex-



Marilyn Ledoux, 1938-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

tended to operating her own hobby farm, and providing hospice care for abused and neglected ferrets.

Visiting hours to celebrate Marilyn's life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Charlestown Memorial Chapel, 34 Main Street in Charlestown, N.H., with a service with Father John Loughnane, pastor of St. Catherine Church, beginning at 12 p.m. Burial will be held in the spring at Hope Hill Cemetery in North Charlestown. In honor of Marilyn's love for animals, the family asks that any donations be made to your local humane society in her name.

Arrangements are with Stringer Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 146 Broad Street, Claremont, NH 03743. To view an on-line memorial or send a private message of condolence, visit www.stringerfh.com.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.

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

CAVENDISH, VT.

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.

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

CHESTER, VT.

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

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

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.

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

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Church of Christ, Rt. 11, 972 Chester Rd.

Sunday Bible Study for all ages at 10 a.m.; Worship Service at 11 a.m. includes a group meeting for children. Live or past services can be viewed on Facebook at SpringfieldVTChurchofChrist. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., adult class on different topics meets in the Fellowship Hall, accessed by parking in the back of the church. For more information, call Jamie Kurpiel, Evangelist, at 870-615-0452 or email jckurpiel@yahoo.com. If no answer, call 802-886-2670.

WALPOLE, N.H.

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.

Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. Services are also available via Zoom. For links and updates, go to www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org.

WESTON, VT.

The Old Parish Church, 644 Main St.

A diverse, informal, and welcoming congregation. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. For more information, contact Jon Bliss, minister, at 802-824-4452 or email easthillfarm@vermontel.net.

Joshua Mosher, 1978-2024

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Joshua Mosher, 45, of Bellows Falls, passed away suddenly at his home on Feb. 10, 2024. Josh was born on Dec. 29, 1978, in Bellows Falls, to Gary and Kelly (Young) Mosher. Josh graduated from BFUHS in 1997, having worked at Green Mountain Herbs and Fletcher's during and immediately after graduation. He had just celebrated his 22nd anniversary at Sonnax Industries in January 2024, where he worked across many divisions and greatly enjoyed his team and time there. Outside of Sonnax, Josh worked at the Bellows Falls Opera House for many years, where he interacted with the community frequently and often promoted the cinema and the arts in general, his true passion. Josh was an avid musician, both playing and writing, and was known for his generosity in this space, playing many benefits for individuals and organizations with his bands Kaos, Curst, and Spectris. Moreover, Josh was a gifted artist, specifically in pen and ink, and digital arts. Josh was never shy with his opinion about movies, music, books (he was a voracious reader), and other items, which often landed him in the infamous Facebook Jail – something he was always quite proud of! Lastly, Josh could often be recognized due to his love of hats, specifically scally caps, as well as all forms of Star Wars and music attire, especially Prince.

Josh is survived by his parents Gary and Kelly Mosher, grandmother Joanne Barry, and bothers Karl and Jordan Mosher. He is also survived by uncles Steven (Kathy)



Joshua Mosher, 1978-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

Young, Scott Young, and K. Scott (Mary) Mosher; aunts Christina Martin, Jill Dorse, and Gail Bailey; as well as many cousins, especially Edward (Monica) Wylie. Josh is also survived by a countless number of friends with whom he shared deep bonds and will miss his energetic and positive presence dearly.

Josh was predeceased by his grandparents Virginia and Kenneth Mosher, and Kevin Barry, as well as aunt Karen Nashshad.

A Celebration of Life will take place on Friday, Feb. 23, at 11 a.m., at the Fenton and Hennessy Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls. Burial will follow in the Saxtons River Cemetery.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations should be made to Rockingham Entertainment Development (RED). Checks can be made out to RED and sent to P.O. Box 653, Bellows Falls, VT 05101. Online donations can be made at www.tinyurl.com/JoshMosherFund.

K. Ulrich Waldmann, 1932-2024

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Ulrich Waldmann, 91, of Charlotte, N.C., passed away on Jan. 28, 2024, and is now with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was born on Sept. 16, 1932, in Esslingen, Germany, and spent most of his years residing in Springfield, Vt., with his wife and family.

Ulrich was preceded in death by his loving wife Ann and son Ethan, and is survived by his children David, Shawn, Phoebe, and Mark; brother Horst (CH); as well as four grandchildren and a foster daughter.

Ulrich dedicated himself to the art of tailoring, a craft he learned as a young boy in Germany. With a keen eye for detail and a passion for creating perfectly fitted garments, his craftsmanship and dedication to his craft brought joy to many.

A memorial service re-



K. Ulrich Waldmann, 1932-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

served for family and close friends will be held in late spring/early summer in Chester, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that contributions be made to Carmel Hills, 2801 Carmel Road, Charlotte, NC 28226, where he resided for the past 12 years.

John W. Snarski, 1944-2024



SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – John William Snarski Jr. passed away Feb. 16, 2024, at Cottage Hospital in Woodsville, N.H., due to complications from Covid and Alzheimer's disease. He was 79 years old.

The eldest of four sons, John was born on June 10, 1944, to John Snarski Sr. and Sophie (Antoniewicz) Snarski in Springfield, Vt. He was raised in Caven-dish, Vt., around the corner from his grandparents' home. He often spoke of his great-grandmother, his first caregiver who taught him to speak his first language, Polish. John was a proud graduate of the Duttons-ville School and Black River High School. He graduated from the University of Vermont, where he joined the football team. With the Vietnam War underway, he enlisted in the United States Army and enrolled in Officers Candidate School at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md. He was honorably discharged from Fort Knox, Ky., at the rank of first lieutenant. He went on to earn a second bachelor's degree from Nathaniel Hawthorne College.

John worked for several companies, including Jones and Lamson in Springfield, Vt., before becoming an agent with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in St. Albans, Vt. He found this to be a rewarding career, and it was noted upon retirement he achieved the highest ethical standards. He resided in Bakersfield, Vt., for many years, in a home he designed. John was a talented woodworker, painter, and an eloquent writer. He had a sharp mind, quick wit, and strong opinions. He enjoyed reloading ammunition and collecting guns, hobbies he shared with his brother Art. He loved to cook with cast iron dutch ovens, and in his outdoor "cook shack" he built. John was a cat enthusiast and always had feline companions, the most special being his big orange tiger Skippy. John took fitness seriously, continuing to walk late into his life. Those who knew John may remember his "Bring Back UVM Football" campaign. When that didn't come to fruition, he became a supporter of the



John Snarski, 1944-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

Castleton football program. Later in life, John moved to the Margaret Pratt Community in Bradford, Vt. His family sincerely thanks the staff at Margaret Pratt for the care they gave John.

He was predeceased by his parents John and Sophie Snarski, and his brother Arthur Snarski. He is survived by his brother Robert Snarski and wife Sally of Cuttingsville, Vt., and his brother James Snarski and wife Bonnie of Bartonsville, Vt. Uncle John (or self-proclaimed "UJ") is also survived by Art's daughters and their husbands Cara and Robert Stickney of Putney, Vt., Erin and Ethan Nelson of Ryegate, Vt., and Anna and Jason Morrison, also of Ryegate, Vt. John is survived by seven great-nieces and great-nephews Warren and Everett Stickney, Susanna, Bryn, and Ewan Nelson, and Maev and Nora Morrison. Additionally, his aunt Theresa Hammond, many cousins, friends, and special neighbor Gary Foote survive him.

John was an avid reader and historian. Donations in his memory may be made to your local library or historical society in lieu of flowers.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Feb. 23, at the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., from 5-7 p.m.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 11 a.m., at the Church of Annunciation in Ludlow, Vt.

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

MyVoterPage platform for Town Meeting

REGION – With the presidential primary and Town Meeting Day (March 5) nearing, Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas reminds Vermonters about the resources available to them through her office’s MyVoterPage online platform, mvp.vermont.gov. This online platform is a comprehensive resource for election information, and allows voters to perform a variety of functions related to voting. “As we approach the presidential primary, the MyVoterPage is a valuable resource for Vermonters,” said Secretary Copeland

Hanzas. “It’s a one-stop-shop, from registering to vote to tracking an absentee ballot, and I strongly encourage voters to check it out if they haven’t yet.”

At this online platform, Vermonters can check their voter registration status, register to vote, request an absentee ballot by mail, track their ballot status, challenge/fix errors in their mail-in ballot, find their polling place, update their registration information on file with their city/town office, and view sample ballots for upcoming elections.

Voters access their page by logging in with their name, date of birth, registered town, and either their Vermont driver’s license/permit/ID, or the last four digits of their Social Security number. “Vermont is one of the most engaged electorates in the country, and my office’s primary mission is to make sure our elections are secure and accessible,” said Secretary Copeland Hanzas. “By putting Vermonters in the driver’s seat of their voting experience, the MyVoterPage platform is a crucial part of that effort.”

Winona Smith Scholarship opportunities now open

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The League of Women Voters of Vermont Education Fund is now accepting applications for its Winona Smith Scholarship program. Created in 1998 to honor the legacy of league leader Winona Smith, the scholarship is awarded annually to local high school seniors who embody the characteristics and qualities Smith displayed of civic participation and community service.

Three \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to students who demonstrate financial need, scholastic achievement, and come highly recommended by their teacher.

Applications, due on May 1, can be completed online at www.bit.ly/LWVScholarshipDetails. Students need to submit two 500-word essays, one on issues concerning voting rights, and the other on the impact of a recent civic, national, or world event. A letter of recommendation from a teacher is also required at www.bit.ly/LWVTeacherRec.

The scholarship can be applied towards continuation of education in an accredited vocational-technical or trade school and two- or four-year college or university. Scholarship recipients will be announced on June 1.

Last year, LWV scholarships were awarded to students from Thetford Academy, Windsor, Otter Valley Union, and Middlebury Union High Schools.

Questions can be directed to Becky Miller at lwvofvt.edfund@gmail.com.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels. Follow us on Facebook.

Part Time School Bus Driver

Mount Holly Elementary School has a position open for a Part Time Bus Driver starting immediately. Driving will be approximately 4 hours a day split between the morning and afternoon. This is a School Year Position.

Requirements: CDL Class B with school bus and passenger endorsement, as well as current DOT Medical Card. Background Checks and a pre-employment drug test are required as well as being in a pool for random drug testing.

Job Type: Part-time Pay: \$22.37 - \$26.37/hr

Send Resumes to: Craig Hutt Vater at craig.huttvater@trsu.org.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

King Crossword

Answers														
Solution time: 22 mins.														
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BUYING/SELLING

BUYING/SELLING Coins/Paper money, sports postcards, cards, comics. Saturday, March 2, from 9-3, at the Charlestown, N.H. Senior Center. Tables available. 802-379-2353.

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

MEDIATION

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WANTED

SPRINGFIELD AREA – Hardwood logs wanted. If you need trees removed give me a call. If you want hardwood trees cleaned up and removed, log length or cut, I’m your guy. 603-443-7009.

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LUDLOW MOUNT HOLLY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 5, 2024
WARNING

The legal voters of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District, consisting of the Town of Ludlow and the Town of Mount Holly, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the following location:

Ludlow Polling Place	Mount Holly Polling Place
Ludlow Town Hall 37 S Depot Street Ludlow, VT 05149	Mount Holly Office 50 School Street Mount Holly VT 05149

on **TUESDAY, March 5, 2024**, between the hours of ten o’clock (10:00) in the forenoon (a.m.) at which time the polls will open, and seven o’clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Article of business:

ARTICLE I

Shall general obligation bonds or notes of Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District in an amount not to exceed Nine Million Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Forty-Five Dollars (\$9,268,045), subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of making certain public school building improvements, namely the (1) Ludlow Elementary School building upgrades (\$5,056,181), and (2) Mount Holly School building upgrades (\$4,211,864), the aggregate cost of such improvements estimated to be Nine Million Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Forty-Five Dollars (\$9,268,045).

State funds may not be available at the time this project is otherwise eligible to receive state school construction aid. The District is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing done in anticipation of the receipt of school construction aid.

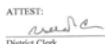
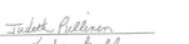
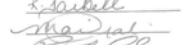
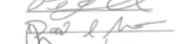
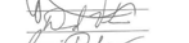

The legal voters of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said special meeting identified in Article I shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Upon the closing of the polls, ballots shall be counted by the Boards of Civil Authorities under the supervision of the town clerks of Mount Holly at 50 School Street and Ludlow at 37 South Depot Street. The results will be certified by the respective town clerks and submitted to the District Clerk of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District.

The legal voters of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District are further notified that an informational meeting will be held at the following location, date, and time for the purpose of explaining the subject proposed school building improvements.

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
February 27, 2024	Ludlow Elementary School	6:00 p.m.

Adopted and approved at a regular meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District duly called, noticed and held on January 17, 2024. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District on January 18, 2024.

ATTEST:

District Clerk





Board of School Directors
Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District

5437207.1

yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

Art Crafts Gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT

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

Student Art Show Month of February

Workshops <http://galleryvault.org/workshops>

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
Draw Cartoons w/ E.B. Sciales (especially for Middle School) 3/22 1-3 p.m.
Draw Cartoons w/ E.B. Sciales (Teens & Adults) 3/22 4-6 p.m.
Wire-wrapped Pendant w/ Thomas Alyxander 4/6/24
Flowers in Texture & Color w/ Julie Crabtree 4/27/24 (04/24/24 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

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(06/05/24 - 52)

Campground

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Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites!
(05/08/24 - 13)

Chiropractor

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

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(01/29/25 - 52)

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(02/21/24 - 13)

Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Okemo Valley Outdoors Event, Celebrating Catamount Trail
- Yoh Theatre- Behind the Scenes of "Little Women"
- School Buildings Upgrades in Ludlow, Mt. Holly, Woodstock
- Local Weather Forecast
- Harris Hill Ski Jumping

Okemo Valley TV now has its own app on all of the main streaming platforms! Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Google Play, and mobile (iOS & Android)
(04/03/24 - TFN - 13)

Organic Lawn & Land Care

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Serving Chester and surrounding towns

Now Accepting New Customers- Our commitment to fully organic lawn and garden care practices gives you peace of mind for all the kids, pets, nature, and friends using your yard. Our Commercial Electric equipment is clean and quiet, so you can relax while we make your property beautiful for you.

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We are **fully insured, reliable, and priced right**. Like us on Facebook and Reach Out Today to secure your spot! Call, text, or email: 802-289-1968, greenbeelawns@gmail.com.
(08/07/24 - 26)

outdoor/a&e

LEGAL NOTICES

Straw bale gardening with GMG

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Green Mountain Gardeners are hosting a program by Peter Isakson on straw bale gardening on Monday, March 4, at 11 a.m., at the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad. This meeting is open to the public and all are invited to attend, with light snacks to follow the presentation. Local gardener Isakson has been experimenting with straw bales since 2018, has had great success, and will present the pros and cons of this unique gardening endeavor. For those lacking space or equipment for gardening, or with an empty corner of the

driveway, straw bales may prove to be the answer. Please RSVP to Peggy Mole at pbmole@gmail.com.

The Green Mountain Gardeners foster horticulture, beautification, and conservation in the mountain towns of Landgrove,

Londonderry, Peru, and Weston. In addition, the group also serves their communities through beautification and service projects. Visit their website, www.greenmountaingardeners.net, to learn more or to join the organization.



A straw bale garden.

PHOTO PROVIDED

“It’s Time To Start Seeds!”

SPRINGFEILD, Vt. – On Saturday, March 16, at 11 a.m., join us at the Springfield Town Library for the presentation “It’s Time to Start Seeds!” New and experienced gardeners alike will enjoy this talk with Christine Terramane from Eureka Organic Farm, as

we discuss where to get seeds and soil, which containers to use, and how to figure out starting dates. Participants will learn how to keep their seedlings healthy, indoors and out, and which varieties will work for their growing space and experience.

Bring your seed packets, garden notes, and seed catalogs for a more personalized discussion of planning and viability. Let’s kick off the seed-starting season learning together.

Terramane is a co-owner and farmer at Eureka Organic Farm in Springfield, Vt. Terramane has been growing vegetables, herbs, and flowers for more than 10 years. Terramane and her family relocated to Springfield in 2022, where they started Eureka Organic Farm, an organic vegetable farm growing fresh, beautiful produce for foodies who love eating local. Terramane also teaches an online course called Eat Like a Farmer, teaching gardeners and farm members how to cook the incredible amounts of vegetables coming their way every summer. Learn more at www.eurekaorganicfarm.com.

This event is free and open to the public. Contact the library at 802-885-3108 with any inquiries, or visit our calendar of events to sign up at www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar.

Discover the Springfield Art Gym

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Art Gym is a nonprofit organization that believes in the power of creativity to unite and inspire people. Our mission is to share the gifts of creating with you. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and generous donations, we’re able to open our doors to everyone who wishes to explore their creativity. Whether you’re a seasoned artist or a beginner, we encourage you to come in and play

with our supplies, let your imagination run free, and try new things. Our volunteers are always on hand to help you, if needed.

We rely on the generosity of donors and volunteers to keep the gym open. By contributing financially or with supplies, you’ll be supporting our efforts to bring the joy of creating to the community. Whether you’re interested in becoming a volunteer, donor, or patron, we welcome you to join us in our mission.

We want to help you

find something that sparks joy and makes your heart sing. In a world that can be stressful and overwhelming, we believe that art can be a powerful tool for healing, relaxation, inspiration, and self-expression. Come and see what we have to offer at the Springfield Art Gym.

Currently we are open Wednesday, 5-8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Please message us through our Facebook page, or text 603-558-1817.

Gallery at the VAULT Open Wall Show

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – You are invited to show your work at Gallery at the VAULT in our new Open Wall Show. This is a chance to display your work in a non-juried show. There is no fee. It is great for artists who would like to get their work out there for the first time, as well as for seasoned artists.

The next show’s theme is “Thoughts of Spring,” which will be on display

from March 13 – May 15. You can bring in two works if they are 18 inches by 20 inches or smaller, or one if it is larger. Sculpture, pottery, etc., are appreciated just as much as wall art. The work needs to be suitable for viewing by all ages. Wire on the back of wall art is needed for our hanging system. The time to bring in your creation is Wednesday, March 6, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Thursday, March 7, from 11 a.m. –

5 p.m.; Friday, March 8, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., or Saturday, March 9, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The gallery is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Fridays, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email gallervault@vermontel.net, or visit www.gallervault.org. The gallery is ADA accessible.

Rockingham Library March book discussion

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Pick up a copy of the short story “Beauty Contest” by Yoko Ogawa, and join the discussion of it on Monday, March 4, at 3 p.m. It’s

surprising how many personal connections can be made reading this compact form of literature. Large print copies are available, too. The Rockingham Library will meet on the first

Monday of each month to discuss a different short story. For more information, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, or call the library 802-463-4270.

Blue Jay Way Band, Mark Huntley to perform at Ludlow Town Hall

UDLOW, Vt. – The Blue Jay Way Band of Rutland will bring 50 years of rock ‘n’ roll music to Ludlow on March 16, in the Heald Auditorium at Ludlow Town Hall.

The band, formed in

1974 at Castleton State College, has been providing audiences with rocking music and packing the dance floors since then. Two of the original members of the band, Tim Brown on guitar and Terry Jarrosak on drums, are active members of the Blue Jay Way. Periodically, Dave Sabatino on bass, another founding member, appears. Brad Morgan, keyboardist, and Harry Drum, saxophonist, are also in the band.

The band has agreed to

appear in Ludlow on Saturday, March 16, at 7 p.m., in the Heald Auditorium. At that time, Mark Huntley will join the Blue Jay Way as a special guest performer. The event is sponsored by Friends of Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA).

According to Scott Stearns, the band will feature both rock ‘n’ roll music, along with some dancing music.

For information on the this event, contact 802-228-3238.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Londonderry, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall, 139 Middletown Road, South Londonderry in Londonderry on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, between the hours of seven o’clock (7:00) in the forenoon (a.m.), at which time the polls will open, and seven o’clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Articles of business:

ARTICLE I - Shall general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$282,000), subject to reduction by the application of federal and state grants-in-aid, and reserve funds for the purpose of financing the cost of the Town’s local share obligations for a new community wastewater system in the north village area, the estimated cost of such improvements being Three Million Three Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$3,385,000)?

ARTICLE II - Shall general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$515,700), subject to reduction by the application of federal and state grants-in-aid, and reserve funds for the purpose of financing the cost of the Town’s local share obligations for a new community wastewater system in the south village area, the estimated cost of such improvements being Four Million Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$4,525,000)?

The legal voters of the Town of Londonderry are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

The legal voters of the Town of Londonderry are further notified that an informational meeting will be held on February 29, 2024, at six o’clock (6:00) in the evening at the Londonderry Town Office, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, for the purpose of discussing the propositions.

Adopted and approved at a regular meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Londonderry duly called, noticed and held on January 22, 2024.

TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM

The Town of Rockingham is seeking applications for the following committees: Connecticut River Joint Commission-2, Animal Control-1, Tree Warden-1, Town Service Officer, Conservation Commission-2, Energy Committee-4. If interested, please contact the Town Manager at Manager@rockbf.org, or call 802-463-3964 or 802-376-9780.

Town meeting is on April 1, 2024, in the opera house starting at 7 PM. There will be handouts available for articles up for voting. Please be sure to obtain one. Attendance by zoom is permitted, but, only persons in attendance at the meeting can vote, as per statute there is no voting by zoom.

Town reports are available 10 days before town meeting at these locations: Lisai’s Market, Library, Town Hall, Saxtons River Market.

TOWN OF OF CAVENDISH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION

A public hearing before the Planning Commission for the town of Cavendish will be held at the Cavendish Town Hall On March 6 2024 at 6:30 PM. to consider a conditional use application regarding the proposed improvements to an existing structure at 2568 Rt 103 Cavendish VT. A site visit to the property will be on March 6 at the above address at 5:00 PM.

Appellant: Grafton Village Cheese Co
400 Linden St
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Property Location: 2568 Rt 103
Proctorsville, VT

Reason For Hearing: Proposed improvements are within the Floodway as defined in the Cavendish Flood Hazard Regulations which require a Conditional Use Hearing with the Cavendish Planning Commission.

The above application is available for inspection at the Cavendish Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing to the Planning Commission. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Cavendish Planning Commission PO Box 126 Cavendish VT 05412 either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Tim Calabrese
Chair, Cavendish Planning Commission

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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9	4			6				7
		2	5				8	
8			1			9		
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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

ACROSS

- 1 Pep
4 "Get Here" singer Adams
9 Opposite of "post-"
12 Equal (Pref.)
13 Jeremy of "Entourage"
14 Corn serving
15 Prepaid convenience for cell users
17 Texter's "Enough!"
18 Common verb
19 Spiritualist
21 Oliver Twist, for one
24 Cabinet dept. head
25 "Norma —" Snake's warning
28 Mexican snacks
31 Actor Richard
33 UFO crew
35 Commanded
36 Enticed
38 Rep.'s rival
40 "Diamonds" singer
41 Goatee's spot
43 "O Pioneers!" author
45 Long recliner
47 Magic, on scoreboards
48 "A spider!"

DOWN

- 1 Red-carpet type
2 "Kinda" suffix
3 Cow's greeting
4 Verdi works
5 Permit
6 Hollywood's

- 7 Semesters
8 "Still ..."
9 Fund for minor expenses
10 Malek of "Bohemian Rhapsody"
11 Guitarist
16 "Unh-unh"
20 Wound cover
21 Pitcher
22 Pasta sauce brand
23 Fruity baked goods

- 27 Norm (Abbr.)
29 Garfield's pal
30 Blacken
32 Classic soda brand
34 Extra helpings
37 Put to rest
39 Grocery store
42 Audacity
44 Patient's need, briefly
45 Give up
46 Estate recipient
50 Bond rating
51 Canine cry
52 Zodiac feline
53 Arced tennis shot

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arts & entertainment

NXT Gallery paintings by Nancy Calicchio

PUTNEY, Vt. – NXT Gallery is excited to announce the opening reception of “Aldila,” an exhibition by painter Nancy Calicchio. The reception will take place on Sunday, Feb. 25, from 4-6 p.m.

Inspired by the Italian expression “Al di La,” meaning “the beyond” or “heaven,” Nancy Calicchio’s paintings seek to express the vast expansiveness of the sky above southern Vermont. The landscapes of rolling hills and meadows are uniquely captured, creating an intimate yet expansive connection between the earthly and the celestial. “Aldila” invites viewers to dream without losing their balance, offering a harmonious blend of real-

ity and imagination.

In her artist statement, Calicchio describes the delicate dance of brush and palette as she anchors the dynamic, elusive world of the sky to the solid earth below. The paintings showcase the excitement of portraying a large sky, suggesting the ephemeral, while maintaining a recognizable and balanced landscape. Clouds, in their various forms, play a pivotal role in conveying the concept of “beyond,” influencing moods and drawing attention to the vast realm above.

Nancy Calicchio, a graduate of Brown University and Dartmouth College, brings a rich background in education to her artistic

journey. Having moved to Vermont in 1963, she dedicated her retirement years to painting the landscapes she loves. Her work reflects a deep connection to the natural world, and combines it with the traditional and contemporary uses of the land, celebrating the beauty of Vermont from the Taconic Mountains to the Connecticut River.

The exhibition will continue through May 12. The Next Stage Gallery, located at 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, is open during events, and by appointment with the artist or by contacting Next Stage at info@nextstagearts.org or 802-451-0053.

Biribá Union at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents Biribá Union, a dynamic musical trio featuring Grammy Award-winning cellist Mike Block, progressive hip-hop artist Christylez Bacon, and electric bass player Patricia Ligia, at Next Stage Arts on Sunday, March 3, at 7 p.m., at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance through www.nextstagearts.org; there is also a livestream option.

“We love presenting projects that have a one-of-a-kind feel, and Mike Block has put together something people won’t forget easily,” says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. “Block is a member of Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble, and he has numerous

projects that are creative. For this, pairing it with a bass player from Peru and a beatboxer from the American South – it lends itself to something out of a musical fairytale.”

Mike Block (cello, vocals), Christylez Bacon (beatbox, guitar, rhymes), and Patricia Ligia (electric bass, pandeiro, vocals) form a dynamic trio, blending original music with global influences to form a fresh and accessible sound. Each member of the collective brings influences and repertoire from their diverse backgrounds, such as Brazilian, hip-hop, classical, jazz, bluegrass, funk, and pop styles, synthesizing them through original compositions and songs that highlight their impro-

visational spontaneity and high-energy stage presentation.

Funded in part by the New England States Touring program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the six New England state arts agencies.

This concert is sponsored in part by Brattleboro Area Realty.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For more information, call 802-387-0102 or visit www.nextstagearts.org.

Make a pine needle basket

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Irene Dizes is offering a fun, two-day Pine Needle Basket Workshop at Gallery at the VAULT on Friday and Saturday, March 8 and 9, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day, with a break for lunch.

You will be using a walnut slice as the center. Around it, you will learn to use two easy stitches, along with how to add beads. A sample is in the front window at VAULT. From creating this basket, you will have the skill to continue making

creative pine needle baskets.

Irene has always had a passion for creating simple, elegant clothing and unique wearable art along with pine needle basket-making and bead jewelry. Her love of color, design, and fiber has especially developed her interests. Irene is a joy to work with.

Please bring a pen and paper for notes, small sharp scissors, small pliers, and a plastic bag to put your work in. There is a discounted

registration for gallery members, and a materials fee.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Friday, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org, or the gallery’s Facebook page. The gallery is ADA accessible.

The VAULT welcomes Hone Williams

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is delighted to welcome new artist Hone Williams, bringing his fun, surrealistic art to the gallery.

Hone has been an artist all his life. After completing a coordinated program between the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia and the Graduate School of Art at the University of Pennsylvania, he became a commissioned oil painter.

Over time he became a sound artist, woodworker, computer programmer, website designer,

and commercial digital illustrator. He has absorbed a great amount of creative energy and focused on oil painting, gravitating to landscapes and still life.

But something was missing. For years he had been making odd drawings on the side, using a part of his brain that was pure imagination and very personal. Around 2016, he began applying this approach to his oil painting. He lets his imagination wander directly onto the panel. “Surrealism feeds the curious and infinite possibilities that lurk in my mind. It opens the door to unknown possibilities, stretching my imagination

in fantastic, odd, humorous, and even startling ways. This is where I am today, and I know it is where I’ll be for the duration,” said Williams.

Come in to see his work and let your imagination go to all kinds of wonderful places.

The gallery is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Fridays, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org. The gallery is ADA accessible.

Saxtons River Art Guild workshops

CHESTER, Vt. – As a closing event to the Saxtons River Art Guild exhibition at the Whiting Library, on Saturday, March 2, the guild will present a colored pencil demonstration in the morning, from 10-11:30 a.m., and then a “Painting with Primaries in Watercolor” workshop in the afternoon, from 12:30-2 p.m. There are no fees for either the colored pencil demonstration or the watercolor workshop.

From 10-11:30 a.m., Liz Winchester-Larson will do a colored pencil demonstration with a focus on still-life subjects. Liz will work from a small still-life setup to show how she applies many layers to achieve rich color and intricate detail. Liz exhibits her award-winning paintings in shows throughout the New England area. She is a member of the Colored Pencil Society of America, the Monadnock Area Artists Association, the Nashua Area Artists Association, and the Saxtons River Art Guild. This is an informal drop-in event, registration is not required.

From 12:30-2 p.m., Donna Lund will lead a workshop called “Paint-

ing with Primaries in Watercolor.” Limiting the palette can help with color decisions and create paintings with perfect color harmony. By creating a color wheel, we can explore the variety of colors available from a simple combination of yellow, red, and blue. All abilities are welcome, and all materials will be provided. Join us as we learn about and play with color.

Donna Bascom Lund enjoys many creative activities, but is most drawn to working with watercolors.


Favorite subjects are landscape, nature, and an occasional old barn rendered in watercolor or soft pastels. She is an active member of the Saxtons River Art Guild and the Walpole Artisans Co-op in Walpole, N.H. Examples of her work can be seen at www.facebook.com/donnabascomlund.

Registration for the watercolor workshop is required; there is space for six to eight participants, supplies will be provided. Please call the library at 802-875-2277 to register.



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community news

2024 Sammy Pierce Memorial Scholarships

REGION – The Sammy Pierce Memorial Scholarships are awarded annually to deserving students, in recognition of volunteered time and talent. These scholarships are open to students in communities served by the Crown Point Board of Realtors (Andover, Baltimore, Caven-dish, Chester, Clarendon, Grafton, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth, Reading, Rockingham, Shrewsbury, Springfield, Wallingford, Weathersfield, Weston, and West Windsor). The Crown Point Board of Realtors awards \$1,000 to two deserving students. The students may be 2024 high school graduates, home school students, returning college students, previous recipients returning to upper classes, or adult students continuing their

education in a two-year or four-year college program. While the course of study is not restricted in any way, applicants must have a strong history of volunteer community service. Applications and information for the Sammy Pierce Memorial Scholarships are available at your local high school, or by contacting Helen Wachtel at 802-275-3902. The deadline to submit applications for these scholarships is Monday, May 6, 2024. Selections will be announced in June. The Sammy Pierce Memorial Scholarships are given in honor of Sammy Pierce, who is remembered as one of the most generous, thoughtful realtors in Windsor County. His generous character and the impact he made on his community are honored by this

annual scholarship. Those wishing to make a contribution to the Sammy Pierce Education Funds are encouraged. Donations may be sent to the Sammy Pierce Education Fund, Crown Point Board of Realtors, c/o Sue Starr-Adams, treasurer, P.O. Box 199, Ludlow, VT 05149.

SEVCA Head Start to restructure

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Similar to many pre-school providers in post-pandemic Vermont, Lori Canfield, director of SEVCA Head Start, found herself in a difficult position. “The school year was starting in August, and we had no staff for our White River Junction program.



SEVCA Head Start students learn cooking. PHOTO PROVIDED

Featured pet: Angela

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – This beautiful tabby is 5-year-old Angela. She is a sweet but sassy girl. She does fine with other cats and she tolerates dogs, but will also put them



in their place. Angela is FIV-positive, so will have to be an indoor-only cat. She has been here since November, and we want her to find her happy ever after, so we are reducing her adoption fee to \$50. Come fall in love with her Wednesday-Saturday, from 12-4 p.m., or call 802-885-3997 for more information. Join us March 2, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., for our rabies, distemper, and microchip clinic. Call for more information.

Springfield Humane Society
401 Skitchewaug Trail,
Springfield, Vt.
802-885-3997
www.spfldhumane.org



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“It is a win-win for me to come to Adult Day. I am able to engage in activities while my family gets a well deserved respite. I could sit home and read books and do puzzles all day but, at some point, I need and want to be with people. While at Adult Day, I am able to hear friends’ stories, as well as share my own. Camaraderie is the word I would use to describe how I feel when I am here. Adult Day is a very special service in this community and other communities could benefit from offering a similar service. We have an aging population in our area, and this is a place that helps us stay connected with people, while being with caring and friendly staff.”

- Walter Jabs, Springfield, VT



Adult Day Service Staff

802-885-9881



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www.springfieldadulthood.org

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