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Chester Selectboard hears from BRACC —

BY NICK GIBERTI
The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – At their regularly-scheduled Feb. 7 meeting, the Chester Selectboard heard from representatives of the Black River Area Community Coalition (BRACC), as well as hearing and discussing updates on several ongoing situations, namely the Julian Quarry and the class 4 road discontinuance of Bailey Hill Road.

Regarding the Julian Quarry, town manager Julie Hance told the board that a notice of violation had been issued, and the town was expecting an appeal from the quarry's owners. Hance also said that municipal attorney Jim Caroll would be present at the board's next meeting to discuss "strategies and positions of the town" in relation to the violation and appeal. At the time of the meeting, the appeal had not yet been filed, and there were no further updates.

Moving on, the board heard from Lauren Ingersoll, director of BRACC, which she described as a "collaboration of individuals and organizations supporting substance-free youth" in Chester and the surrounding region. Ingersoll told the board that she had spent the last year building a "coalition advisory team" consisting of 20 individuals, who had

been gathering monthly in Chester to "share ideas and discuss prevention strategies." Based on data gathered by the state and conversations with the Chester community, there seemed to be a need for what she called "youth third spaces," defined as spaces for young people to gather which are neither their home nor school. Ingersoll said BRACC's current mission was to establish such a space in Chester, referring to a previous third space that had existed in the town known as "the Underground." Several board members remembered the Underground, and felt that their own children had benefitted positively from access to such a space during their youth, showing support for BRACC's efforts to establish a similar space. Ingersoll explained that BRACC was attempting now to assemble a small youth focus group, to determine what kind of space the youth of Chester would be interested in.

The board then moved on to sign the certificate of highway mileage for the town. Prior to doing so, however, Board Chair Arne Jonynas read aloud an addendum to the certificate, explaining that there was an ongoing dispute over the status of Bailey Hill Road, which abutting property owner Paul Bidgood has claimed was erroneously

added to the town highway map in 2010, and should therefore be removed and reverted to private property.

Bidgood was present at the meeting and took issue with the addendum, telling the board that it was "a mockery," and "not even worth...the price of the paper it's written on." Bidgood hoped the board would not certify the highway mileage at the meeting, saying that he felt the board was not resolving his concerns in a reasonable amount of time given what he saw as the clear-cut nature of the dispute.

Expressing the board's position, board member Lee Gustafson commented that, while Bidgood had been working on this issue for "decades," the board had not had what he saw as adequate time to review the matter, and that, "Upon the recommendation of our attorney, we're going to proceed as we normally would, with the opportunity to make corrections." The board then moved to sign the certificate of highway mileage, with the addendum.

The Chester Selectboard's next meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 6 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.

Londonderry STR fees, town hall restoration —

BY LORIE STRANGE
The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – At their Feb. 5 meeting, the Londonderry Selectboard accepted ARPA terms for the wastewater project funding, approved the use of up to \$10,000 to clean the town hall basement before Town Meeting Day, and discussed potential fee structures for a short-term rental (STR) registry. They also authorized Mountain Towns Recreation (MTR) director Liam Elio to sign contracts with a third-party company that will host MTR's website, and to use a town credit card to purchase necessities such as team jerseys without requiring additional approval from the town of Londonderry.

In previous meetings, the Selectboard agreed to establish a registry to keep track of STR units in the town. Board member

Melissa Brown said that, according to the census, there are 1,483 housing units in Londonderry, and estimates put the number of STRs at around 140, not including the Stratton properties. Brown said that STRs comprising 9% of Londonderry's housing stock seems "relatively high when Woodstock is proposing a 5% gap... Now, once we have the registry and everything kind of susses itself out, it may not look this bleak. But I think we should prepare ourselves for possibly capping short-term rentals, but fairly, and legally, and equitably."

The housing commission is still developing an official recommendation for how the town should approach application fees, but unofficially, they have proposed a three-tier system with different fees for homeowners, second-home owners, and investors. According to this fee structure, homeowners, who live on site full-time and rent out spaces on

their property such as attics, would be charged the least for application forms, and investors would be charged the most. Ideally, this would support long-term housing initiatives and discourage investors from buying up housing stock that would not be used by full-time residents.

Selectboard Chair Tom Cavanagh said his concern with this structure is that the town currently does not know how many of each type of STR is in Londonderry, which could complicate deciding what fee to assign each category. He proposed using a flat fee of \$500 initially, and then adjusting it later once the registry had been established and they had more data.

Brown objected, saying this would unfairly penalize homeowners for whom an STR "might be their income that's allowing them to live here." She was also

See **STR** on Page 2

Outer Limits celebrates third opening in five years

BY PAULA BENSON
The Vermont Journal

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Taylor Shaw and Wesley Tice brought their vision of an outer space-themed brewery and taproom to life when they purchased and built out a historic woolen mill in Proctorsville and opened Outer Limits Brewery on July 5, 2019.

The space is open and bright, with an oversized, inviting bar, and a focused menu that features wood-fired pizza and wings and local beers on tap. The brewery has been a popular après ski destination since Tice, Shaw, and their team brewed their first batch of craft beer.

On July 5, 2024, they happily celebrated the brewery's four-year anniversary, and less than a week later, the state experienced what is now being called The Great Vermont Flood of 10-11 July 2023. The Proctorsville-Cavendish area saw major flooding and damage. The Village Green, Depot Street, and Main Street were all under water, and few of the businesses in the downtown area were spared.

For Outer Limits, this meant the total loss of their processing equipment, fermenters, and all stored product. The floodwaters also completely destroyed the electrical system, and the building was without power for almost four months.

During that time, Tice said, "Many, many, many people showed up. Neighbors, customers, friends, everyone wanted to help."

He mentioned Ludlow restaurant and bar Gamebird helped by directing some donations to support Outer Limits staff. Singleton's General Store came through with meals during the early weeks of recovery.

Tice said the experience "has been like a rollercoaster. I went from making beer to being a general contractor, managing 30 people through construction projects."

Outer Limits' main brewer, a tall, soft-spoken man named Orion, nodded his head as Tice described the work that was put in by the staff and all the helpers; cleaning, sanding, painting, drywalling. Tice said he was lucky he had a contractor/family member who came to Vermont, stayed with them, and worked alongside the assembled crew for four to five hours every day until the work was completed.

The tap room finally opened its doors again on Friday, Jan. 13. The Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce welcomed the business back with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

"This was our third opening," Tice remarked. First was the grand opening in 2019, then they were shut down in 2020 during the pandemic, and now, back again after another disaster. Whether or not the third time's a charm, Tice and



Outer Limits reopens their doors. PHOTO PROVIDED

Orion are in agreement that there will not be a fourth.

"I'm trying to take this experience as a positive one," Tice commented. "We're not returning to any of the old brews, since we lost everything in the flood. We'll be introducing all new recipes, and we're really excited about that."

The woodfire oven survived, the kitchen is back to serving the full menu, and the taps are flowing with many local Vermont and New England beers. The brewery features live music every Saturday, from 4-7 p.m.

Tice plans to continue to communicate with town officials and other area business owners regarding ideas to prevent this type of extreme weather event from repeating itself. In the meantime, Tice looks to the future, and remains grateful for community support.

"In the end, that's what I think I'll remember most," Tice commented, "how everyone came together."

Ludlow's Silver Spoon —

BY DANIELLE GOODWIN
The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – What do you do when you have inherited your grandmother's silverware, and feel guilty because you aren't sure what to do with it? Steven Manning has the solution.

Manning came to Ludlow in 1995 and opened the Silver Spoon and Depot Street Gallery with an idea that he had in college. Steven takes silverware and turns it into functional art, whether it is a ring, a bracelet, or a clever connection between a knife and fork that he turns into a bud vase. Do you care for something more interactive? Steven has mastered the balancing and spinning silverware, sure to be a crowd pleaser.

Steven opened the eclectic shop that is also home to over 150 artists that he proudly displays. In one corner you might be brows-

ing greeting cards, in another corner a piece of original artwork, or a well thought out piece of Vermont handmade craftsmanship in the form of soaps, candles, and wooden signs. When asked what Steven does in the summer, he takes his silverware on the road to art shows throughout New England.

What is next? Steven pointed to his store, content with the homey feel, and the personal connections that he makes with each customer. It is clear after 30 years he is one Ludlow business that is here to stay,



Depot Street Gallery owner Steven Manning. PHOTO BY DANIELLE GOODWIN

with the right attitude, and a must-see environment that is both fun and artistic. You can stop by and meet Steven Manning and his team seven days a week at 44 Depot Street in Ludlow.

Plymouth ties up loose ends

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB
The Vermont Journal

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Plymouth Selectboard met on Monday, Feb. 5, and approved a company to digitize the town's land records, turned down an offer on a town-owned property, and voted to close three excess bank accounts.

After some discussion on digitizing land records, the board decided the company they liked out of New Hampshire wasn't a good fit, since they would take all of the documents off site. The board then approved COTT Systems out of Texas to digitize the records, which would take one whole day to scan documents, and four to five

months to complete the digitizing process.

The board received a letter from Golden Land with an offer of \$5,990 for a one-acre parcel the town currently owns, and has \$15,000 in delinquent taxes. Board member Keith Cappellini noted that the

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Caleb Roby named to Dean's List

CAVENDISH, Vt. – The University of New England recently named Cavendish resident Caleb Roby to their Fall 2023 Dean's List. The Dean's List recognizes full-time matriculating students who have attained a semester grade point average of 3.30 or better, who are in good academic standing.



Caleb Roby. PHOTO PROVIDED

CTES Sock Drive successful

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Did you know that the most requested item at homeless shelters are socks? During the entire month of January, the Respect Club, run through the after-school program at Cavendish Town Elementary School (CTES), collected socks for our local emergency shelter in Caven-

dish, and for Black River Good Neighbor Services. Big and small, yellow and black, wool and cotton, dress and casual, striped and plain, there were 200 pairs collected during the month. The community service club members want to thank the many people who generously donated socks.

Free Cavendish disaster information magnets

CAVENDISH, Vt. – To help people who live, work and/or visit Cavendish (including Proctorsville) in the event of a disaster like this summer's floods, Cavendish Connects has purchased "Cavendish Disaster Information" magnets. These provide the following information: location of town shelter; where to go for current info; town office contact; a reminder to call 911 in an emergency; and how to

register for VT Alert. These can be placed on refrigerator doors or other magnetic surfaces. This is particularly important if you have rentals (short or long term), employees, children that could be home alone, and/or have visitors. The free magnets can be obtained at one of the following locations:

- Cavendish Post Office, 7:30-9:30 a.m. and 3-5 p.m.
- Cavendish Fire Dept, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- Cavendish Town Office, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 (closed from 12-1 p.m.).
- Cavendish Library (Proctorsville), Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Proctorsville Fire Dept., Tuesday evenings, 6-8 p.m.

If you are unable to pick up magnets and need to make other arrangements, email cavendishconnects@gmail.com, or call 802-226-7807.

A Cavendish information magnet.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Thank you to Stacia Spaulding for her assistance, and to the supporters of Cavendish Connects for making this possible.

STR

From Page 1

concerned that because the fee amounts will not be included in the town's STR ordinance, so that fees could be changed without going through the ordinance amendment process, it could create ambiguities that could be the basis of a lawsuit against the town. Town administrator Shane O'Keefe said that attorney's fees would likely cost more than a settlement from such a suit would provide. The Selectboard agreed to

pause discussion of STR fees until the next meeting, when they would have the official recommendations from the housing commission. In updates on restoration work on the town hall after this summer's flooding, O'Keefe said the structural work done in the town attic is "impressive," though they still need a stabilizing structure for the balcony, and the balcony seats will have to be moved backstage prior to Town Meeting. O'Keefe said there are a few other structural issues (such as windows set directly into beams instead of hanging on their

own frames) that project engineer Chris Cole, other engineers, and several town hall renovation committee members will be discussing shortly. O'Keefe said that, in the long term, the town basement will need an air-handling unit to reduce humidity. Cole would do more research on this if the selectboard approved, which they did. In the meantime, the town hall basement has to be cleaned by a professional service. O'Keefe requested they hire ServePro, as he knows the owner, but Brown suggested they offer the job to a local company

first – namely Carl Grey of Home Maintenance Associates, who did work on a local church after the floods this summer. No matter which company they hire, the basement must be cleaned before Town Meeting Day. Up to \$1,000 of basement cleaning could be covered by insurance, and the selectboard authorized up to \$10,000 to repair the town hall basement, and for O'Keefe to sign contracts for cleaning services on behalf of the town. The Londonderry Selectboard meets on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 6 p.m.

BANK

From Page 1

town cannot sell the property for more than the taxes owed on it. Delinquent tax collector Elaine Pauley confirmed if they did receive more than was owed, the excess funds would need to be paid back to the original property owner. The board made a motion to reject the

offer, and to list the properties on the town website. Pauley explained the recent reappraisal of town funds, and said the intent is to close the town's three excess checking accounts. Board Chair Jay Kullman agreed, saying "it's just more liability" to keep all of the accounts balanced and secure. This will leave a single general fund account open

for the town's incoming and outgoing expenses. They are waiting for month's end to be sure any expenses from old checking account cards go through, and will then close the unnecessary accounts. Kullman also expressed that only the treasurer should be writing checks. Pauley explained she writes the checks and the town clerk, Angela Kissell, signs them. "That's part of the auditing suggestion this year," Pauley said. "That's about as transparent

as we can be." Cynthia Stoddard from the New England Municipal Resource Center is the third party on the accounts, and was previously established as support for the town with functions pertaining to accounts payable, accounting, and balancing of accounts. Member Rick Kaminski agreed they had a good system. Town Meeting is Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m., and the next selectboard meeting will be Monday, March 18.

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Building a sod house

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

Last week I wrote about a Bank of True Love valentine from Marjorie Boynton Cross. Below are the sod house and Bondville blizzard letters I mentioned.

Sod house

“Sargent, Custer County,
Neb. May 3, 1885

“You wonder how a house can be built of sod. The ground here in places is covered very thickly with a coarse grass and the soil which is a black clay is filled with roots which make it very tough – there is no gravel or stones in it. They break it about 4 inches thick and 14 or 16 inches wide then cut with a spade about 2 feet or more in length.

“The door and window frames are made and set up the same as for a brick house and then the sods laid up around them as they lay up brick – breaking joints and filling in all the spaces with

dry dirt. The walls are usually anywhere from 26 to 30 inches in thickness then the roof is made in a different way. Ours is covered with boards then tarred paper and a thin layer of sod over that which makes it warm in the winter and keeps from freezing and on account of the thickness of the walls and the sod on the roof it keeps cool in the summer.

“Then the inside they plaster over with a white clay taken out of the hills here and when done you could not tell inside the house that it was built of sod. Ours is not plastered yet but we have the inside lined with newspapers so you cannot see the sod. Some plaster their house over the outside and then white wash it so one could not tell there was any sod about it.

“They are by no means handsome and I guess would look funny to you, the dirt is so black that they all look nearly black and

everybody's house is the same color and also their stables, graineries and hen houses. In town at Sargent the houses are all frame houses and some quite respectable ones – nice little cottages. We are so far from the RR that lumber is very high and it is quite an advantage that the sod is suitable for building as otherwise people could not afford to settle here and build at all.

"Now I will tell you about our fuel. At present we are burning corn stalks principally. The corn is husked in the field and then the cattle run in and eat off the leaves and husks which leave the stalks nearly all bare. They are so dry that they burn well but it keeps one busy to keep stuffing them in. A stove full will not last more than 5 minutes so it takes a good deal of time to tend the fire. We shall burn cobs usually but have to get along the best we can this year. In the winter we burnt a good

deal of corn and if we have a good season we hope to raise plenty of our own to burn next winter and not have to buy. It is as cheap to burn corn as to buy coal."

Bondville bl
zard

“Bondville March
28, 1888

“My Dear Sister
“Do you think I am never
going to write again, well
we have been snowed in but
the mails run again now.
Oh dear what a winter we
have had.

"I never saw so much snow before, I mean in one winter but it does seem as though it must be warmer soon but it will take a long



Sod schoolhouse in Norton County Kansas, circa 1880s.
PHOTO BY RON PATCH

time for all of this snow to
go off.

"I mean to come over and see you next summer if I have to come alone, so you may look for me if the snow ever does go off. Harriet has not been down here for ever so long, she and Cephas and Maude and her little girl got snowed

down here and had to stay a few days. Before the big storm of March 12 & 13 we were not quite covered but now some of our windows are all covered and we cannot see over the drift at the front door."

*This week's old saying:
"Temptation calling."*

SEVCA's VITA income tax return preparation _____

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) is once again offering free tax assistance via the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). This year, in-person services will be provided at eight locations in Windsor and Windham counties. New and revived VITA locations include sites at the Old Firehouse in Wilmington, the Winston Prouty campus in Brattleboro, the Springfield Town Library, the Ludlow Community Center, Townshend Town Hall, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in White River Junction. Appointments and drop-off services can also be found at SEVCA's main office in Westminster, the Spring-

field Library, and the Windsor Resource Center.

SEVCA's efforts are led by Emily Strasser, VITA program coordinator, who was a VITA volunteer last year when all the returns were prepared remotely. "I am glad we are able to return to meeting with people in person, and that we can do it in new locations that make it easy for people to find us. It is important to me that everyone understands their taxes and then can make informed decisions about things like how much is being withheld from each paycheck. For some people, this is an easy way to save up a large amount of money – but for others they could be taking home more money on payday."

In-person services are preferred by people using VITA, and are preferred by volunteer preparers. Strasser reports, "Most people are interested in learning about their taxes, and for the volunteers this educational process is so rewarding. It is a lot easier to do this when working together on a return." VITA services are available to people who generally make \$64,000 or less; persons with disabilities; and limited English-speaking taxpayers.

"I'm thrilled that we're able to offer in-person services again, and that we're expanding the number of VITA locations. We want to make this program as easy for people to access as possible," reported newly appointed SEVCA executive director Joshua Davis. "Emily has done a tremendous job getting us ready to support as many people as possible, maximizing their tax return through the VITA program."


VITA volunteers come from all backgrounds and undergo a comprehensive training program. Tax preparers must pass annual certifying exams to prove their understanding of relevant tax laws and proficiency of e-filing and tax preparation methods using IRS-approved software.

If you are interested in having your taxes prepared by a VITA volunteer, more information about VITA locations and how to make an appointment can be found at www.sevca.org, or call our direct line to the VITA program at 802-428-3032.

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 <p>2016 Kia Sedona Minivan Leather Fully Loaded</p>	 <p>2017 Infiniti QX-60 AWD Fully Loaded Leather</p>

opinion

CHURCH SERVICES

Dear Editor,

Over this first weekend in February, I came across an article in the Rutland Herald written by Mr. Ben Koenig of Plainfield, Vt., concerning Dorothy Canfield Fisher, and how the Vermont Department of Libraries had removed Ms. Fisher's name from a long-standing award presented for years in her name. The Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award was a mainstay in recognizing authors and their contribution to children's literature for over 60 years.

Mr. Koenig appropriately points out in his article that someone like Fisher, who contributed so much in the literary field, should not be stripped of her recognition. True, Ms. Fisher may have some peripheral association with the Vermont Eugenics Movement, and her writings may have used some language that was acceptable in her day, but it does not mean that a lifelong contribution to the literary world should be torn down. Too often, people want to go back and rewrite history, but history is history; we cannot change it. However, we can learn from history and how people talked, acted, and carried on in their lives in those times. We can ensure that things done in the past do not happen again. That being said, if you go online, you can read Mr. Koenig's article that I found in the Rutland Herald and the Barre Times Argus. I think you will find

it most interesting. Mr. Koenig's article supports this worthy author. Anyone with a little curiosity can Google Dorothy Canfield Fisher and find several articles concerning her life, and the Vermont Department of Libraries' belief that her name is no longer relevant to young people. If we did not see George Washington on the \$1 bill, or hear about Ethan Allan, would their names no longer be relevant? Now it is time for the Vermont Department of Libraries to do the right thing: restore Fisher's name to the award, recognize the modern authors who contribute significantly to children's literature, and get out of the "Golden Dome" of politics.

Sincerely,
C. William Mattoon
Springfield, Vt.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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CAVENDISH

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.
Sunday services are 10 a.m. online or in person. Online services are on Facebook at 10 a.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Cavendish-Baptist-Church-25881489 4244302. More at www.CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131.

CHARLESTOWN

North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Rd.
Worship is Sundays at 9 a.m. Holy communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month. Go to www.facebook.com/UMCOofNorthCharlestown for more information.

Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St.
Sunday service starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 603-826-3335.

LUDLOW

United Church of Ludlow (UCC and Methodist), 48 Pleasant St.
Sunday services are held in person and streamed online at 10 a.m. Email unitedchurch@tds.net for more information. Visit www.unitedchurch.us to receive updates on services and meetings.

Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green, 99 Main St.
Weekly worship services are in-person. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for all ages, and Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday's prayer meeting is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.LudlowBaptist.org.

SPRINGFIELD

Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley St.
Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Springfield United Methodist Church welcomes everyone! The church can be reached at

802-885-3456.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33 Fairground Rd.
Sunday Services 8:30 a.m. – Holy Days as announced. Services alternate between Clergy Officiated, Traditional Rite I and Contemporary Rite II, Holy Eucharist, and Licensed Lay Led Rites I and II Morning Prayer. All are invited regardless of religious affiliation. Call David at 802-885-2972 with questions.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, 10 Pleasant St.
Sunday mass is at 9 a.m., followed by coffee hour as well as weekday services. To watch the live streams, go to www.youtube.com and search Holy Family Parish Springfield Vermont. Streaming is available five minutes before the service starts. For more information, go to www.stmaryjoseph.com.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.
Sunday Services are at 10 a.m., in person and on Zoom. For more information, go to www.uuspringfieldvt.org.

WALPOLE

St. John's Episcopal Church, corner of Westminster and Elm St.
Sunday services are 10 a.m. in person or via Zoom. For more information, go to www.stjohnswalpole.org, email pastor@stjohnswalpole.org, or leave a message at 603-756-4533.

First Congregational Church of Walpole UCC, 15 Washington Sq.
Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, or via Zoom. For Zoom links, please call 603-756-4075. For more information, go to www.walpolenhucc.org or www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH.


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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Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Legislative Update with State Rep. Tessa Buss
- Local Weather Forecast
- New Story Times from local librarians
- Mocktails with Abby
- Local church services

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)
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(08/07/24 - 26)

obituaries

Patricia E. Barrows, 1937-2024

N. WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Patricia E. Barrows, 86, passed away on Feb. 4, 2024, surrounded by her family, after a brief illness. Pat was born Nov. 2, 1937, in Orwell, Vt., the daughter of Thomas and Evelyn (Prunier) Burke. She attended schools in Alstead, N.H., and was a 1956 graduate of Vilas High School. Following graduation, she married Richard Barrows on Sept. 15, 1956, at St. Joseph Church in Walpole, N.H. Pat worked as the director at the Bellows Falls Senior Center for several years, and later until retirement at the Savings Bank of Walpole.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years Richard Barrows; her son Richard Barrows and his wife Karen of Ossipee, N.H.; two daughters Cynthia Lisai and her husband Brent of Bellows Falls, and Catherine Moore and her husband Glen of Alstead; two brothers Michael Burke of St. Albans, and Peter Burke of Langdon. She is survived by three sisters Bernadette Nay of Jefferson N.H., Elsie Spoerl of Charlestown, and Nancy Godbehere of Marlboro, N.J.; and four grandchildren Jesse Moore, Nicole Gorman, Kirstina Barrows-Smith, and Kyle Barrows. She is survived by one great-granddaughter Madison Haskell.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by a brother Thomas Burke Jr., and one sister Lillian Either.



Patricia Barrows, 1937-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

Pat was involved in 4H, sharing knowledge of agricultural and life skills with local youth. Camping, traveling, and snowmobiling were hobbies she enjoyed. Her greatest passion was horses and horsemanship. Her mentoring and coaching produced numerous state and regional championship riders.

Calling hours will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 5-7 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at St. Charles Parish on Cherry Hill in Bellows Falls, on Feb. 22, at 10 a.m.

Burial will follow at the Lower Langdon Cemetery in Langdon, N.H., with a reception following at the American Legion Post 37 in Bellows Falls, Vt.

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

Charles M. Goodwin IV, 1946-2024

WESTON, Vt. – Charles Marshall Goodwin IV, affectionately known as “Charlie” to those he worked with during his career, but to most as “Tim,” of Weston, Vt., passed away in the early morning hours of Jan. 24, at Rutland Regional Medical Center, from an unexpected heart attack.

The first of four children, Charles was born at Springfield Hospital to Charles Marshall and Dorothy Marion Goodwin of Weston on Oct. 2, 1946.

“Tim” began his education at the Little School in Weston, Vt., later attending Burr and Burton Seminary in Manchester. He went on to earn his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Vermont.

Tim enlisted in the Army in 1968, and served in Vietnam as a second lieutenant from 1970-1971. While on military leave, he married Sandra Lane on Dec. 27, 1969, in the midst of what remains one of Vermont’s top five snowstorms. Tim and Sandra were married for more than 54 wonderful years.

A talented accountant, Tim earned his CPA during his 35-year career with the U.S. Treasury Department. Once retired, he continued to further his education, earning countless certifications. He enjoyed helping local organizations and individuals with their finances and tax returns.

Tim was a conscientious contributor to his community, serving in many capacities for the Town of Weston, including, but not limited to, the planning commission, the selectboard, and the board of listers. He also served as treasurer for the Weston Fire Department, the Weston Historical Society, and the Old Parish Church. He was a longtime member and contributor to the Windham Regional Planning Commission. Tim was elected to the Vermont State House of Representatives, and served from 2013-2014.

Tim was an energetic man with an unrelenting work ethic who loved the outdoors. When he wasn’t engaged with community activities or working around the property he was raised on, he enjoyed hunting, cross-country skiing, and downhill skiing. He



Charles Goodwin, 1946-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

was a talented downhill skier, always holding a season’s pass, skiing nine times in March 2023. Tim liked auto racing. He put together several trips, corralling his friends to join him for Formula One races at Watkins Glen and Montreal, Canada. A highlight of recent years for Tim was joining his friends and sons at Virginia International Raceway, where he enjoyed rides around the racetrack. One of the things Tim cherished most was being at the hunting camp, whether it was joining friends and family for deer hunting season, visiting the summer “boys” event, or making one of his frequent visits there for a moment of solitude. An avid reader, Tim would most often close the day out with a good book.

Tim is survived by his beloved wife Sandra; son Christopher Goodwin and wife Sondra, and son Patrick Goodwin and wife Ariel; granddaughters Ariana Goodwin and Chloe Goodwin of Scottsdale, Ariz.; step-granddaughter Amy Dupuis and family, and step-granddaughter Emily Otis; brother Kirk Goodwin and wife Cathy, brother Dean Goodwin and wife Janet; and sister Martha Etchison and husband Dean. He also leaves behind his brother-in-law Dennis Lane and wife Marjorie, and his sister-in-law Rosemary Hebert and husband Maurice; several nieces, nephews, and many special friends.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, May 4, at 11 a.m., at the Old Parish Church on Main Street in Weston. The family invites all to a reception at the Walker Farm immediately following the service.

Donations may be made in Tim’s memory to either the Old Parish Church, P.O. Box 125, Weston, Vt., or the Weston Community Association Inc. P.O. Box 126, Weston, Vt.

David M. Bibens, 1945-2024

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – David M. Bibens, 78, died at his home on Sunday evening, Jan. 28, 2024, surrounded by his family. He was born Oct. 13, 1945, in Springfield, Vt., the son of Miller and Barbara (Trefry) Bibens. He attended Springfield schools, graduating from Springfield High School Class of 1963.

On March 4, 1967, he married Sandra Guillemette.

He was employed at the Fellows Gear Shaper, Jones & Lamson Machine Tool Co., and Lovejoy Tool Co. in Springfield. In the early 1970s, he established Bibens & Warren Concrete, providing concrete services to Springfield and the surrounding area for many years, until his retirement in 2000.

Dave was an avid snowmobiler and a member of the Hawks Mountain Ridge Riders, and held the position of club president for many years. He raced at Claremont Speedway from 1977-1990, starting in the Spectators races, then moved up to Late Model, then to Pro Stocks, Car #31 Sunkist Kid. In 1988 he joined the ACT tour.

He enjoyed watching the Patriots, Celtics, Red Sox, and NASCAR. He was an avid camper, was always a prankster and a jokester, with many



David Bibens, 1945-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

close friends.

He is survived by his wife Sandra; daughter Christy L. Thomas of Baltimore, Vt.; three granddaughters Rohanna Reynolds (Brian) of Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Krystale Barraby of Manchester, N.H., and Elisabeth Griswold of New Albany, Ohio; two great-grandchildren Nicholas and Ariama Reynolds; siblings William “Bill” Bibens (Marty), Becky Warren (Lee), Kilburn “Kibby” Bibens (Betty), and Rosalie Pettiford.

He was predeceased by his parents Miller and Barbara, brother Rodney Bibens, and sister Dorothy B. Bibens.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting the family with arrangements.

Kenneth P. Wilkins, 1949-2024

LUDLOW, Vt. – Kenneth Paul Wilkins of Ludlow, Vt., and Dade City, Fla., died Jan. 9, in Florida.

Born Jan. 11, 1949, to the late Charles (Fred) and Mildred (Holcomb) Wilkins, he was the fifth of nine children.

“Kenny,” as he was known, moved to Florida as a young married man and raised three of his children there. Employed by Pasco Beverage Manufacturing Company in Dade City, Fla., he worked his way up to a managerial position, where he stayed until retirement. Kenny returned to his roots in Vermont after retirement, where he was the self-proclaimed overseer of his elder sisters.

Over the years, he honed his skills as an all around handyman, carpenter, plumber, even land maintenance. Many turned to him when things needed fixing.

A man of few words, you wouldn’t find him sitting around with the hens in the kitchen chattering away; instead, you would find him in his workshop in his sister’s garage. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and being outside in nature.

In June 2022, Kenny moved back to Florida to be near his children and grandchildren. He resided there until his death.

Kenny is survived by his



Kenneth Wilkins, 1949-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

children Misty Dawn Waters and Kenneth P. “Skip” Wilkins Jr. of Florida, Bruce Buck of New Hampshire, and Cheryl Malson of New Jersey; sisters Nancy Brown of Proctorsville, and Sue Bates of Cavendish; sister-in-law Joyce Wilkins of Ludlow; 17 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Along with his parents, he was predeceased by his son Mark John Wilkins; and siblings Donald and Albert Wilkins, Dolores and Doris Wilkins, and Katherine Starks.

Per Kenny’s request, no formal services will be held. Instead, a celebration of life will take place in the spring, at which time his ashes will be interred according to his final wishes.

Gail J. Farrar, 1927-2024

ASCUTNEY, Vt. – Gail J. Farrar, 96, died Feb. 6, 2024, at his home.

Gail was born April 25, 1927, in Gassetts, Vt., a son of James and Hazel (Johnson) Farrar. He attended Chester High School; right out of school he served in the U.S. Army in Germany during World War II. He returned to Vermont and was married to Virginia Cole on Feb. 28, 1948, in Leister, Vt. They made their home in Cavendish. He worked for a time as a lineman and a logger before going to work for Fellows Gear Shaper in Springfield, retiring in 1985.

Gail was a member of the American Legion Post 67 Chester, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 771 Springfield, Mount Holly Snow Drifters, and a former member of the Black River Rod and Gun Club. Gail enjoyed being outdoors hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling in his younger years. His greatest joy came from spending time with his grandchildren.

Gail is preceded in death by his wife Virginia Farrar; a son Roy Farrar; a daughter Sandy McCarthy; two brothers Franklin and Earl Farrar; four sisters Laura Gates, Frieda Rumrill, Gwen Johnson, and Eileen Stone; and a stepson Russell Moulton.



Gail Farrar, 1927-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

He is survived by three sons James Farrar and partner Charlene Waugh of Ascutney, David Farrar and wife Darlene of Proctorsville, and Keith Farrar and partner Crystal Ripley of Cavendish; stepdaughter Carolyn Moulton of Falmouth, Mass.; stepson Doug Moulton of Springfield; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held in the Cavendish Village Cemetery, to be announced at a later date. Knight Funeral Home in Windsor, Vt., has been entrusted with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to Gail’s family in an online guestbook at www.knightfuneralhomes.com. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Bayada Foundation, P.O. Box 1590, Norwich, VT 05055.

Maureen T. Norton, 1938-2024

LUDLOW, Vt. – Maureen T. Norton, 85, passed away Jan. 31, 2024, peacefully at home with her devoted husband John at her side.

She was born May 7, 1938, in Ludlow, the daughter of Harvey and Hattie Gray.

She married John Norton on Dec. 10, 1955, in Tyson, Vt. They celebrated 68 memorable, loving, and devoted years together.

Her greatest passion was family, along with a fondness for animals, especially her cat, Smudge. Lilac season showcased her favorite flower and color. The rugged Maine coast was her prime destination to visit.

She was predeceased by her parents Harvey and Hattie Gray, and a brother Randall Gray.

In addition to her husband John, she is survived by her sister Marcia Manner (Kendall) of Ludlow, Vt.; a daughter Deborah Hyjek (Eugene) of Browns Summit, N.C.; two sons David Norton (Debra) of Proctorsville, Vt., and Darrin Norton (Hector) of Springfield, Vt.; grandchildren Jeremy Hyjek (Monica), Christopher Norton (Kimberly), and Jonathan Norton (Michelle); great-grandchildren Lena Hyjek, Kaylee Norton,



Maureen Norton, 1938-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

Lyndsee Norton, and Isabella Norton; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service for family members will be held in the spring. Per Maureen’s request, no other services are planned.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting the family with the arrangements.

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OBITUARIES: A basic 200-word obituary is \$75, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. A black and white photo is an additional \$10. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m.

CHURCH SERVICES: We run Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at www.VermontJournal.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

FEB. 16 – CLAREMONT, N.H. – Sound Investment will be performing classic rock and modern country music on Feb. 16, from 7-10 p.m., at American Legion Post 29, 118 Broad Street. This event is for members and bona-fide guests. For more information, call 603-542-9222.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – The GFWC Okemo Valley Women’s Club will hold a fundraising Bake and Appetizer Sale on Friday, Feb. 16, from 3-5 p.m., at Singleton’s Store.

FEB. 17-18 – CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Experience winter as an early colonial settler on Feb. 17 and 18, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Fort at No. 4, 267 Springfield Road. The event will feature Elnu tribe living history, a militia presentation, a doctor’s display, a storekeeper, and more. Admission is discounted for seniors, military members, and students. Kids under 5 enter for free.

FEB. 17 – CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – A Valentine Dance will be hosted at the Charlestown Senior Center, 223 Old Springfield Road in Charlestown, N.H., on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 3-5 p.m. There will be light refreshments, and lots of singing and dancing. Even if you don’t dance, come in and enjoy the music and singing from our very own “SILVERTONES” with Carol Clark. Come on in and take a chance on letting us entertain you and have a great time. There is a small fee for admission. There will be door prizes, so keep your ticket.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Players will hold auditions for Agatha Christie’s “The Unexpected Guest” on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 1-2:30 p.m., at the Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main Street. Lost in the fog, a stranger seeks refuge in a nearby house, only to find a man shot dead and his wife standing over him with a smoking gun. Cast includes three to four female and five to six male roles. Please contact the director, Miles Ledoux, if you can’t make these audition dates.

FEB. 18 – PLYMOUTH, Vt. – Plymouth Emergency Services will be hosting another a free community spaghetti dinner on Sunday, Feb. 18, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Plymouth Town Hall. Come celebrate midwinter and reunite with your friends and neighbors while enjoying a great home cooked meal. With the winter half over, it will be great just to laugh, share good times, and enjoy the community spirit. The meal will consist of spaghetti, a choice of meat or meatless sauce, rolls, butter, salad and dessert. Donations accepted but not expected. We hope to see you there. If you have questions, call

Sue at 802-236-2683.

FEB. 24 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The 20th annual Comedy Night at Okemo Mountain Resort will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), featuring comedian Raanan Hershberg. Hershberg has been featured on The Tonight Show, The Late Show, and Comedy Central. This event is for those over 18 years old, hosted by William Raveis. Proceeds will benefit OMARA, a nonprofit that provides access to winter sports participation to children at Okemo. To purchase tickets, visit fs10. formsite.com/RN1bGh/azulrmb9/index.

FEB. 25 – LONDONDERRY, Vt. – On Sunday, Feb. 25, Green Mountain School of Crafts will hold two needle felting sessions. The first will be making needle felted mushrooms, from 2-5 p.m. The second will be making needle felted owls, from 5-8 p.m.

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

MONDAYS – WESTON, Vt. – Bingo is Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Weston Rod & Gun Club, 982 Route 100, 1.5 miles north of Weston Village. All are welcome.

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

LUDLOW, Vt. – The GFWC Okemo Valley Women’s Club meets on the second Monday of every month, from September through April, at 6:30 p.m., at the United Church of Ludlow on Elm Street.

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

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

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

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

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The First Congregational Church of Westminster’s Souper Wednesdays are held every Wednesday until May 1, from 12-2 p.m., in the Church Fellowship Hall, with several delicious soups to try. All are welcome.

THURSDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Thursday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

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

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.

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.

**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**
Ludlow Town Hall
37 S Depot Street
Ludlow, VT 05149
- Mount Holly Polling Place**
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.

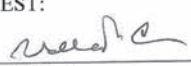
Upon the closing of the polls, ballots shall be counted by the Boards of Civil Authorities under the supervision of the town clerks of Mount Holly at 50 School Street and Ludlow at 37 South Depot Street. The results will be certified by the respective town clerks and submitted to the District Clerk of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

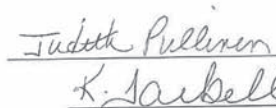
The legal voters of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District are further notified that an informational meeting will be held at the following location, date, and time for the purpose of explaining the subject proposed school building improvements.


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

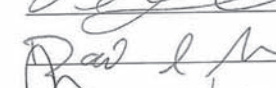
Adopted and approved at a regular meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District duly called, noticed and held on January 17, 2024. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District on January 18,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

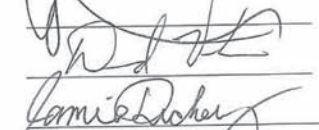
ATTEST:


District Clerk


K. Saibell


Maria


Paul


Board of School Directors
Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District

**TOWN OF CHESTER
WARNING
NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING**

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Chester Town Hall, Second Floor in said Town of Chester on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:00 pm., to act on the following Articles. Voting on Article 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be by Australian ballot on March 5, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall Second Floor.

ARTICLE 1: To elect Town Officials for the ensuing year as provided by the Public Laws of Vermont.

ARTICLE 2: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$380,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of providing grant match to complete construction on culvert replacement on Green Mountain Turnpike and paving the Andover Road? Said projects and paving to be financed for a term of 7 years.

ARTICLE 3: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$215,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing a dump truck for highway in the amount of \$160,000 and a chipper for the highway department in the amount of \$55,000 to be financed for a term of 5 years? This equipment is replacing existing equipment at the end of useful life and are not additions to the town inventory.

ARTICLE 4: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing an ambulance to be financed for a term of 10 years? This equipment is replacing existing equipment at the end of useful life and is not an addition to the town inventory.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$3,975,784 to be paid to the Chester Town Treasurer on September 16, 2024, to pay current expenses and any part of the Town’s indebtedness.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS (\$13,807) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients’ homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND FORTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$3,044) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND FORTY DOLLARS (\$3,040) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Chester in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900) to the Women’s Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,200.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,250 (two thousand two hundred fifty dollars) for the support of the MOOver Rockingham to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Chester, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$800 (eight hundred dollars) to support Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Chester through volunteer service, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,800.00) toward the support of the Community Cares Network of Chester and Andover, Inc. a non-profit organization which provides services to senior citizens, helping them to stay in their homes longer safely, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?


ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town of Chester will appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) to assist in the services of the Chester-Andover Family Center for individuals and families in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

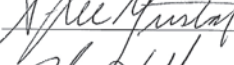
ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$4,000 (four thousand dollars) to Meals on Wheels of Greater Springfield, Inc. for continued support and services to the citizens of the Town of Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

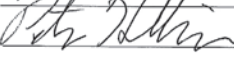
ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500) to Neighborhood Connections, Inc. to cover the cost of providing services in Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?


ARTICLE 18: Shall the voters of Chester authorize an annual community appropriation of \$4,070.00 to endorse the Mountain Town Connector, a service providing free transportation to residents of Chester?


Dated at Chester, Vermont on this 19th day of January 2024.


/s/ Arne Jonynas, Chairman


/s/ Lee Gustafson


/s/ Heather Chase


/s/ Peter Hudkins


/s/ Arianna Knapp

arts & entertainment

Classic Movie Night at Rockingham Library

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Friends of the Rockingham Free Library invite all to their sponsored viewing of the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers’ 1934 musical “The Gay Divorcee,” Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m., at the Bellows Falls Opera House.

Based on a Broadway play, this film pairs the famous dancing duo for the second time. Released during the Great Depression, it pro-

vided much needed relief for moviegoers, and started a dance craze based on “The Continental.” It also introduced Cole Porter’s beloved classic “Night and Day” in a stunning dance sequence.

The Friends of the Library hope you’ll join us on Feb. 21. Several of us will be available in the lobby before the movie to sign up new members. For the first 20 paid new memberships at any

level, an added incentive: the Hunter Art Studio has again generously donated a free Triple Up (soda, popcorn, and candy package).

Feeling up for a night of comedy, romance, and music? The Classic Wednesday offering of “The Gay Divorcee” on Feb. 21, at the Bellows Falls Opera House may have you dancing in the aisles.

Curator Series talks

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage announces the return of the NXT Curators Series, offering an opportunity for audiences to hear from curators in various arts and humanities fields.

On Sunday, Feb. 18, join Angelina Lippert, the chief curator of Poster House (the country’s first museum dedicated to the art and history of posters) for “Art Deco: Commercializing the Avant-Garde,” an evening discussing the fascinating history of Art Deco advertising. From the Paris Exhibition of 1925 to the 1939 New York World’s Fair, this talk covers everything from the Great Depression up through the Great Gatsby. Discover the true meaning behind the definition of “Deco” and how it became the first global art movement.

On Wednesday, March

20, join “Historical Grooves: Archiving the Sounds of the Jewish-Muslim Relationship,” an interactive musical conversation. Professor Christopher Silver will detail his efforts to amplify a set of twentieth century North African Jewish and Muslim voices, which for too long have remained silent in the historical record. Through selections from his first-of-its-kind archive of early 20th-century shellac records from Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, he will draw our attention to the sublime sounds of the artists whose music shaped and spoke to an era of profound change and remarkable resilience.

Finally, on Sunday, April 21, join Tim Medland for a vibrant discussion of his latest exhibition “We Tried to Warn You! Environmental Crisis Posters, 1970–2020.”

Recently receiving a full-page, incredible review in the New York Times, this show chronicles how graphic designers from around the world have attempted to tackle issues of environmental activism – and how they’ve both succeeded and failed at changing public consciousness. You will walk away with not only a deeper understanding of how we got to the level of climate crisis we are in today, but also with hope for the future regarding what can actually be done to counteract man-made environmental devastation.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. All talks are free, but donations are appreciated. Advance registration is available at www.nextstagearts.org. For more information, call 802-387-0102.

Queen of Hearts Drag Ball

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Join drag queens extraordinaire Anita Cocktail and Friends for the Queen of Hearts Drag Ball on Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. Dress to impress as your favorite Alice in Wonderland character. Prizes for best costumes, as well as the chance to win two tickets to the Bianca Del Rio: Dead Inside Tour at the Paramount Theatre on March 4.

Andrews Inn founder John Moisis originated the Queen of Hearts Ball at the Andrews Inn in the 70s. In a 2017 interview with Moisis, he recalled, “It was a three-day holi-

day weekend with Washington’s birthday. What are you going to say? It’s Washington’s birthday? Boring. So we made it the Queen of Hearts and it just took off like a rocket.”

The evening will celebrate several birthdays and surprise announcements, the ticket giveaway to the Bianca Del Rio: Dead Inside Tour at the Paramount Theatre, and recognize Bellows Falls resident Carl Anhalt and Windsor resident Roger Barraby for their medals in track and field and water polo at the Gay Games Guadalajara last November. Tickets can be purchased individually, or at a group rate for a table of six. Purchase online at www.ramp-vt.org by clicking on the

“Donate” button and noting “Drag Show” in the note line. If not sold out, tickets can be purchased at the door by cash or check made payable to “Bellows Falls Pride.” Reserved seating for tickets purchased in advance. Doors open at 8 p.m., show at 9 p.m. This show contains adult content, and is for those 18 or older. There is an ATM on site; cash only at the bar. The venue is wheelchair accessible. Bring your own picnic or order food delivery. The Rockingham Arts and Museum Project is fiscal sponsor for Bellows Falls Pride. For more information, email bellows-fallspride@gmail.com or visit www.bellowsfallspride.com.

Raku Pottery Workshop at Gallery at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is happy to offer a Raku Pottery Workshop with Andrew Berends on two consecutive Saturdays, March 2 and March 9, from 1-5 p.m. each day. Register by Saturday, Feb. 24.

Berends will be teaching the exciting Japanese firing technique known as raku. Raku is a 16th-century technique developed in Japan for making tea ceremony ware. It has been developed in this country to produce really


interesting pottery. The firings take about an hour, and you get a finished piece at the end. Raku is a really fun technique where pots are fired to 1,840 degrees and pulled out of the hot kiln and manipulated with sawdust and water to change the look of the glazes. The glazes can be metallic, and/or have a crackle effect, making each piece truly unique and one-of-a-kind. We will also fire pots with a new technique known as “horse hair” raku, which creates really interesting designs on the clay. The raku firings can be done indoors or outdoors, depending on the weather.

The class will include wheel throwing, slab making, as well as extruding instruction. The first day will include making all types of clay work, and the second day will be glazing and firing all the pots in the raku tradition. Emphasis will be on learning the basics of pottery, including making the work, glazing, as well as firing. The class is geared towards teens through adults, and limited to five students.

Berends has been a master potter for over 30 years, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the New York State College Of Ceramics at Alfred University, as well as an Master of Fine Arts from Montana State University. He worked with a Spanish folk potter for a year, and was also a guest artist-in-residence at Anderson Ranch in Snowmass, Colo. Upon moving to Vermont in 1988, he became a professional production/art potter, where he exhibited internationally as well as being represented by over 180 galleries nationally.

The class fee is discounted for VAULT members, and includes 25 pounds of clay, glazes, and firing costs. Wear old clothing and bring pottery tools if you have them. Directions to Berends’ studio in Springfield will be given at registration.

The VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email gallervault@vermontel.net, or visit www.gallervault.org. The gallery is ADA accessible.



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