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THE SHOPPER Newspaper

APRIL 10, 2024 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 15

Rockingham approves \$6.5 million budget at Town Meeting

BY PAULA BENSON
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The annual Rockingham Town Meeting was held Monday, April 1, at the Bellows Falls Opera House, in the town hall main theater. Moderator Paul Obuchowski led the school board meeting first, then started Town Meeting once the selectboard had taken their seats on the stage.

Among the 30 articles presented was the proposed town budget, with a bottom line of \$6,536,903, of which \$5,461,840 would be raised by taxes.

Selectboard Chair Peter Golec stated, “The town budget this year; the general fund, highway fund, and the cemetery parks fund are up 3%, or \$221,944. This does

not include the library [or] social services.”

Golec continued, “The leading cost factors are wages, health insurance, fuel, and utilities. Town hall employees, except union personnel, received a cost-of-living increase.”

Golec reviewed each spending increase, which included town hall operating expenses, recycling services, and public safety costs. Some departments saw a decrease in expenses, including listers and recreation. Details can be found on the Rockingham town website within the Annual Town Report for fiscal year 2023.

During the budget review, citizens in attendance had the opportunity to speak to the board, ask questions, and voice their concerns.

Bellows Falls resident Wendy Levy questioned the increase in the cost of services provided by Golden Cross Ambulance Service. They are often unavailable, requiring the engagement of Walpole Ambulance at an additional cost to the town. She asked the board if they were considering an alternative, and reminded them that they'd discussed contracting Rescue Inc. several years back. “Is that still on the table?” asked Levy.

Golec replied that Rescue Inc. had informed him that the population of Rockingham was too small for them to feasibly service the town at this time.

Noah Dawson of Bellows Falls also asked about Golden Cross' price hike. “I work for multiple agencies as an advanced life sup-

port provider,” Dawson said, “and I'm not quite sure why they're raising their prices when they are continuously unavailable to us.”

Town manager Scott Pickup stated that the EMS shortage across the state is beginning to be addressed. “It's a real challenge,” said Pickup. “We have 13 ambulance districts [in Vermont], and we've engaged the state to come up with better regional solutions. We're going to need higher levels of government to help with reimbursement rates, recruitment, and retention, in order to fix this problem.”

There was discussion about the deteriorating condition of the town cemeteries, and what is planned to address the issue. Selectboard vice chair Elijah Zimmer stated, “Several months

Springfield school budget revote

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A vote on the revised Springfield School District budget will be held on Tuesday, April 16, from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., at the Riverside Middle School gymnasium. Voting will be by Australian ballot. The proposed new budget is \$39,496,702.

ago we formed a cemetery committee which is in the process of figuring out what type of maintenance our cemeteries need.” Zimmer reported that they've had “a lot of trouble” finding qualified contractors who “will do a good job at an affordable price.”

Article 5, addressing the proposed annual budget, was voted on by paper ballot. After town justices of the peace counted the ballots, the results were announced by Obuchowski – 113 votes in the affirmative, and 21 opposed.

The town voted to amend Article 7, increasing the amount allocated to the

Bellows Falls Senior Center from \$21,384 to \$25,000.

Ultimately, all articles were passed, after some debate on Article 20, which appropriates \$26,024 to Visiting Nurse Alliance of VT & NH, and Article 26, which authorizes the selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$280,000 to purchase a new highway grader.

Additionally, Sue Hammond retired after serving 10 years on the selectboard.

The selectboard is scheduled to meet next on April 16, when they will set a date to hold a special meeting for citizens to vote on whether to move Town Meeting to a Saturday.

Springfield family raises awareness of bone marrow registry

BY PAULA BENSON
The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – In 1979, Dr. Robert and Sherry Graves were inspired to create a national bone marrow donor registry after their 10-year-old daughter Laura was the recipient of the first ever bone marrow transplant from a nonrelative, to treat leukemia.

Called the National Marrow Donor Program, or NMDP Registry, the organization signed up 10,000 donor volunteers within its first year. Now, NMDP is the leader in unrelated marrow transplantation, and continues to develop new technologies, therapies, and services to improve the transplant process.

Most people are not familiar with NMDP until they or someone they know is diagnosed with a form of life-threatening blood can-

cer. That was the case with West Parker and her family prior to 2016, when her son Levi was diagnosed with aplastic anemia, a rare blood disease that causes the body to stop making enough new blood cells, and whose only treatment is a bone marrow transplant. Two out of every million Americans are diagnosed with the disease each year.

Levi was 21 at the time, active in golf and softball leagues, and a volunteer firefighter.

“He started having headaches, bloody noses, and his thyroid was declining,” recalled West. “He was on the highest doses of thyroid medicines, and was really advocating for himself, but he didn't know what was going on.”

Levi's condition continued to worsen, and his mother remembers how yellow his skin and eyes appeared. He

felt fatigued all the time, and his heart raced. Ultimately, West insisted they go to the emergency room.

After receiving Levi's diagnosis, the family began researching doctors who had experience with bone marrow transplantation, and it was her sister Samantha who found Dr. Joseph Antin at Dana Farber in Boston. West called and left word with the doctor's office on a Friday afternoon, not expecting to hear back until the following week.

“I'm just a mom from small-town Vermont,” began her message, then she related what Levi had been going through.

“It was Friday, at 4:30,” West said. “My cell phone rang, and it was a Boston number calling me.” She was grateful and impressed that Dr. Antin had returned her call so quickly.

Dr. Antin told West he had

conducted more than 100 bone marrow transplants, and assured her, “I will save your son.”

Levi received his bone marrow transplant on Aug. 25, 2016. His donor is a young woman named Anastasia from Munich, Germany.

“I am truly blessed that a selfless young woman from Germany was a match and willing to donate her bone marrow to save my life,” expressed Levi.

By his own account, Levi is currently thriving. “Since the transplant, I have been doing very well. I am a HVAC-R technician, engaged, own my own home, and have two dogs.”

One downside of the transplant for Levi is GVHD, a condition where the donated marrow sees healthy tissues in the body as foreign and attacks them. In Levi's case, the organ being rejected is his skin, and the result could be

fatal if he were to spend too much time in the sun.

As his mom put it, “If Levi's in the sun too long, his organs could start to shut down.”

She worries about him working as an HVAC tech, but he assures her they take precautions when working outside. West admits Levi manages his disease well, and she's proud of him for that. “He's good with it,” she stated.

The Parkers want to raise awareness about the NMDP registry, and encourage and assist people who are considering joining.

A “registration and swab” event will be held on Saturday, April 20, at the Kindred Market (formerly Jake's Mar-



Levi Parker with his fiancée Kathryn Dilley.
 PHOTO PROVIDED BY WEST PARKER

ket) at 181 South Street in Springfield. Attendees may volunteer to have a cheek swab taken, put their name on the donor registry, and await contact should a match come up. Marrow donors must be between the ages of 18-40, and West explained that, even once registered, volunteers can opt out due to scheduling or other conflicts.

Kindred Market will be hosting raffles and serving appetizers at the event, which runs from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Apple Blossom Queens share memories

REGION – In 1966, Apple Blossom was still very new since its beginning in 1957; when asked why she participated, that year's queen Kelly Flynn says, “I never considered not participating. All the girls I hung out with were going to participate. And in addition, my father really wanted me to.”

And so, it began. Kelly's selection of her escort was Jim Gould, her best friend and boyfriend at the time. Interestingly, they broke up shortly after he agreed to be her escort, but he remained her escort. “He was fun and took the practices seriously,” says Kelly. “I think he believed that being the queen was important to me, and how he behaved would reflect on me. I believe I would not have been the queen without him,” continues Kelly.

Kelly was a member of the debate team and drama club, so she had lots of experience in front of an audience. For many, Apple Blossom has been an opportunity for young people to strengthen self-confidence. Kelly thought it would be fun, and it was, according to her. She did not know all the participants and escorts, so it was a chance to meet new people, and “help to solidify my relationships with them as friends,” says Kelly.

In 1966, all the girls that wanted to be a part of Apple Blossom had an interview prior to being selected. Ultimately, 20 girls were chosen. Everyone wore white dresses, and they used their scarves as props. The escorts had top hats and canes, and, according to Kelly, “The escorts did a dance on their own. I

remember they kept losing their top hats, which gave the audience a good laugh. They were somewhat of comic relief.” Mrs. deNeergaard was the choreographer, and during those early years, a live orchestra performed. Allan Kendall and Orchestra played from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Prior to the performance, there was a second interview, and the girls were all in their dresses ready for the show. Kelly remembers being in the boy's locker room in her dress, looking to sit in the chair in front of the panel of judges. One of the judges said, “I think your bow will get in the way.” She replied, “Falling off the chair in my interview would probably ruin my chances as queen. I think it is better for me to remain standing.” Apparently,

standing was the right thing to do.

The most cherished moment for Kelly can only be stated in her words. “The performance was on a Saturday night. The dress rehearsal was the previous Sunday afternoon. After the dress rehearsal, my father wanted to see Jimmy and me all dressed up. He said, ‘I know you're going to win. I know he wanted to be at that performance, but he died that night in his sleep. My mother and little sister came to the performance. I brought my mother out to the floor after the announcement. She stood with me and Dr. Lovell. It was a representation of the relationship among my mother, father, and me,’” says Kelly.

Kelly will be at the event this year as a past queen, and a member of this year's Apple

Blossom Committee. She encourages everyone to come out to see a great performance by local young people and, of course, to support Springfield Hospital.

Chloe Jerman-Brown, 2021 Apple Blossom Queen, sat down for a quick interview this past week to talk about her Apple Blossom experience. Chloe's first memory of Apple Blossom was when she went to a performance and the senior girls were dancing to “Girls Just Want to Have Fun.” Chloe did not participate as a young girl, but these senior girls inspired her, and she did not forget that show. She wanted to dance and sing just like them.

Years later, she lived out her dream in the 2021 Apple Blossom. Under extremely strict Covid guidelines, the show was held at the Spring-

field Community Players' Theater, with a limited audience, and all the participants had to wear facemasks. An unusual look for Apple Blossom, but the ten participants and escorts danced and performed to the theme, “Feeling Good.” Chloe recalls that she was excited to be with her girlfriends. “It was really fun for me. And I love to dance.” She continues to spend time with these girlfriends, and the other day, they were trying to remember the steps to some of the dances. “We did our best, but we struggled. No matter, we laughed it off as good friends do,” says Chloe.

Her escort for Apple Blossom was Harry Valentin, a good friend, with whom she is still in touch. The first day

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THE Vermont Journal

THE SHOPPER NEWSPAPER

DEADLINES

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

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 ads@vermontjournal.com

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 editor@vermontjournal.com

Springfield Elks award Beacon/Spotlight Grant –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Tuesday, March 26, Springfield Elks Lodge 1560 presented the 2023-2024 Elks National Beacon/Spotlight Grant to the VA Medical Center in White River Junction, Vt., and the Vermont Veterans' Home in Bennington, Vt. This was a total Beacon/Spotlight Grant for \$6,000, which was split

between the two facilities, each receiving \$3,000 in goods and monetary form. The Springfield Elks Lodge 1560 works closely with the directors at each location to compile a list of most-needed items for the patrons.

Springfield Elks Lodge 1560 presented the VA Hospital in White River Junction in person with their

wish list items – sweat suits and underwear, and a check to be used for ongoing personal and social needs of the veterans.

The Lodge was happy to also present the Vermont Veterans' Home with Norelco waterproof razors, and their check portion, so they can continue to meet the needs of their patrons.

Congratulations to both the Vermont Veterans' Home and the White River Junction VA Medical Center facilities, recipients of this year's Beacon/Spotlight Grant. Springfield Elks Lodge 1560 is happy to participate in these ENF Grant programs to help support our local veteran communities with their ongoing needs.



Springfield Elks members present a check to the Vermont Veterans' Home in Bennington.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Grace Cottage wins Best Place to Work Award —

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – For the second year in a row, Grace Cottage Family Health and Hospital has been named one of Vermont's Best Places to Work by the Vermont Business Magazine.

The award, given each year by Vermont Business Magazine and the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Society for Human Resource Management, the Vermont State Council, the Vermont Department of Commerce and Community Development, and Workforce Research Group, is designed to identify, recognize, and honor the best places of employment in Vermont, benefiting the state's economy, workforce, and businesses.

Grace Cottage was ranked fourth out of 14 award recipients in the medium-size company category, and once again was the only hospital to win an award this year, out of a total of 65 awardees. The awards ceremony was held on March 26, in Burlington.

Companies from across the state entered the contest's two-part process to determine the best places to work in Vermont. First, each company was evaluated for its workplace policies, practices, and demographics. This part of the process was worth approximately 20% of the total evaluation. The second part consisted of an anonymous employee survey to measure the employee experience, with this score worth approximately 80% of the total evaluation.

The Best Places to Work contest includes three categories: small businesses of 15-99 employees, medium businesses of 100-249 employees, and large businesses of more than 250 employees.

Located in Townshend, Grace Cottage Family Health and Hospital employs approximately 200 employees, and includes a 19-bed critical access hospital with 24/7 emergency care, inpatient acute care, skilled rehabilitation, lab, and diagnostic imaging; an outpatient rehabilitation department for physical and occupational therapy; a rural health clinic providing primary care and mental health services; a retail pharmacy; and a community wellness center. For more information, visit www.gracecottage.org.

SOM Spring Fling Auction

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield on the Move (SOM) will hold their Spring Fling Auction fund-

raiser on Saturday, April 27, at 4 p.m., at Crown Point Country Club. Auctioneer Julia Ricklis of Augusta

Auction Company will auction off all manner of valuable and artistic items. There will also be a themed gift basket raffle, with each basket being worth a minimum of \$100. A preview and cash bar will be held prior to the auction, at 3 p.m. Proceeds will be used for the beautification of the area in front of the Springfield Town Hall. For more information, call 802-885-1527, or visit www.springfieldonthemove.net.

Springfield Farmers Market

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Celebrate the kickoff of our 15th season on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the United Methodist Church in downtown Springfield, Vt.

As always, the Springfield Farmers Market brings back old favorites, while introducing new vendors and products. You will find natural meats, artisan breads, beeswax candles, free-

range eggs, unique hand-crafted gifts, jewelry, and original art, authentic batik clothing and accessories, pies, baked goods, and interesting new food offerings. Browse the textile arts, natural honey products, jams, jellies, pickles, and relishes, along with a full range of local maple products.

The Springfield Farmers Market is a 501(c) action charity, operated entirely by volunteers. At the end of the season, accrued market

fees are redistributed to the community as charitable contributions. Throughout the summer and fall, you will find us at our Clinton Street location, rain or shine, thanks to the generosity of Bob Flint and the Springfield Regional Development Corporation. We are always looking for new vendors and participants. If you are interested, and want to give back to the community, reach out to us at sfog@vermontel.net.

CORRECTION:

The headline of the article "Poetry open mic at Rockingham Library" in the April 4 edition of The Shopper Newspaper incorrectly noted the location of the open mic. The open mic will be held on April 13, from 2-3 p.m., at the Flat Iron Co-op.



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The BF Community Bike Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit – bfbike.org

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QUEENS

From Page 1

of rehearsals, Harry's mom passed away. How

he and Chloe were able to keep their thoughts on the show is remarkable. When it came time to select the color of Chloe's dress, that was easy – light blue, Harry's mom's favorite color. It was one way to honor her and Chloe's parents.

Since 2021, Chloe has been attending Southern New Hampshire University, studying psychology. She is living locally with her boyfriend of four years and their cat Jules, while taking classes online and working at the Fullerton Inn and Southern Pie Café. She will graduate in 2025, and has not totally decided on her next step. She will look for work in her field of study, and then consider graduate school later.

When asked why people should come out to see Apple Blossom, Chloe says, "There are three good reasons. One, we need to support this gen-

eration of youth. I was proud to be a part of Apple Blossom, and thankful for the opportunity. I suspect they hope the community will come out to see the show, and I suspect that they are thankful, too. Second, raising money for our Springfield Hospital is a good thing. You cannot go wrong with that. And third, we are a small community, committed to each other, and we rely on each other. We need to keep this sense of community alive. Apple Blossom and our other community events is where we show our pride and support for each other."

Springfield Hospital is pleased to introduce our new director Ashlee White, and choreographers Ainsley Bertone, and Suzanne Stern. The John Sullivan Band will be playing for a community dance after the Saturday night performance. Opening night is Friday, May 3, and the Grand Performance is Saturday, May 4. Shows start at 7 p.m. each night. Tickets are on sale now at Tina's Hallmark and Bocaccio's Salon in Springfield, Vt. Tickets and sponsorship can also be purchased online at www.springfieldhospital.org/apple-blossom-sponsorship.

For more information, contact Sandy Peplau, marketing and development at 802-885-7686 or speplau@springfieldhospital.org.

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A Celebration of Earth

PUTNEY, Vt. – Join Next Stage for an evening of discussion and music inspired by the climate crisis and environmental activism. New York Times bestselling author and historian Douglas Brinkley and environmentalist and author Bill McKibben will talk about their writings on climate action and environmental history, in a discussion moderated by Vanessa Vadim. The evening will open with music from traveling composer-performer Ben Cosgrove, whose music explores themes of landscape, place, and environment. The event will take

place on Saturday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. Douglas Brinkley is the Katherine Tsanoff Brown chair in humanities and professor of history at Rice University, presidential historian for the New York Historical Society, trustee of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, and a contributing editor at Vanity Fair. Bill McKibben is founder of Third Act, which organizes people over the age of 60 for action on climate and justice. He helped found www.350.org, the first global grassroots climate campaign,

which has organized protests for climate action. Ben Cosgrove is a traveling composer-performer. He has collaborated with groups ranging from rock bands to research scientists, contributed music to several radio and film projects, and held residencies and fellowships with institutions including NASA, the National Park Service, and the National Forest Service. Advance tickets for the event are available at www.nextstagearts.org. For information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website.

Canal Street Gallery shows

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Atlantic Gallery presents “Open” by Canal Street Art Gallery, on view from April 16-May 4, at 548 West 28th Street, Suite 540, New York, N.Y. Join the artists at Atlantic Gallery on April 18, from 6-8 p.m., for the opening reception. Canal Street Art Gallery presents Third Friday Gallery Night, April 19, from 5-7 p.m., at 23 Canal Street, Bellows Falls, Vt., to celebrate the openings of “Judy Hawkins, An Artist’s Exploration” solo show, Judi Forman in the Working Artist Program, and the new community art

studio. The “Judy Hawkins, An Artist’s Exploration” solo show is on view at Canal Street Art Gallery from April 19 – June 15, exhibiting new oil paintings by the Westminster West, Vt., artist. Hawkins begins work on a canvas from the top down, moving quickly and allowing paint drips and accidental color combinations to guide the painting. Judi Forman returns to the Working Artist Program at Canal Street Art Gallery in Bellows Falls, open on Third Friday Gallery Night, April 19. This program is an artist’s studio and exhibition

space within the gallery, and is open during the gallery’s regular hours. “My jewelry work is all about color and texture,” says Forman. The community art studio, following a successful fundraiser to keep the program, is now permanently open. Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. For more information, go to www.canalstreetart-gallery.com, call Mike at 802-289-0104, or email artinfo@canalstreetart-gallery.com.

Convergence Quartet to perform

CHESTER, Vt. – Upstairs at Town Hall presents the Convergence Quartet on April 18, at 7 p.m., in the town hall theater, 556 Elm Street, Chester Vt. Admission is by donation. Band leader Eugene Uman, pianist and director of the Vermont Jazz Center, collaborates with a group

of world-class musicians to present his original compositions, many of which were inspired by his years living in Colombia, South America. This performance will include vocalist Wanda Houston, as well as David Picchi on electric bass, and Jon Fisher on drums. When

Houston joins the group, the vibe and repertoire embraces her penchant for singing soul and gospel music, as well as classic jazz standards. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and seating is limited. For more information, email upstairsattownhall@gmail.com.

Hands-stitching flowers

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is happy to offer “Hand Stitching Flowers in Texture and Color,” a fiber workshop with Julie Crabtree on April 27, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Gallery at the VAULT. Create your own piece of freestyle stitchery, art-rich in color and texture. No prior knowledge is required; there will be step-by-step instructions on a ready-to-stitch background. Three simple stitches are used, as well as applique flowers. All ma-

terials are provided. Bring scissors and large-eye type needles. Julie has been teaching workshops in creative mixed media stitchery, free motion sewing, hand stitchery including experimental work, and creating design through art exploration. Her teaching background is extensive, having taught beginners to advanced levels in England and the U.S. The cost of the workshop is discounted for gallery members. There is also a materi-

als fee. Please register by Wednesday, April 17. Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit our webpage at www.galleryvault.org. The gallery is ADA accessible.

Watercolor with O’Brien

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Saxtons River Art Guild (SRAG) announces a one-day workshop given by Vermont watercolorist Robert J. O’Brien on Saturday, April 20, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., at the United Church of Bellows Falls, 8 School Street. Workshop fees are discounted for SRAG members. SRAG will have coffee and tea, please bring a lunch. The theme of the workshop is “Spring Landscapes.” Composition and painting light and shadow will be explored in this workshop. Bring your watercolors, paper, and a reference photo, preferably of a spring scene. Robert will work on a landscape while explaining each step of the painting process. You will be working on your own artwork as Robert demonstrates. A critique and class discussion will be held at the end of the session.

For workshop registration or more information, contact Carolyn Berglund at poohbear@ne.rr.com.

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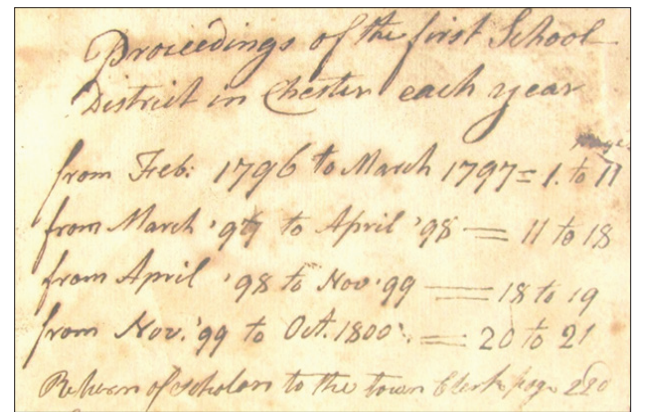
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School District Number 1

BY RON PATCH
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Title page of District #1 ledger. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

I have an early ledger of interest. It begins in 1796, and ends in 1852. The cover is covered with dark blue wallpaper, with a white scroll pattern and black polka dots. Wallpaper at this time was an expensive wall treatment. This is why walls at the time were stenciled.

I found a few interesting entries. This ledger documents the first schoolhouse for District Number 1. This schoolhouse was located near Mitch’s Maples on the turnpike. Today, if you drive past Mitch’s, not far on the right is a stone residence. This is the second schoolhouse at School District Number 1.

Feb. 29, 1796
“At a meeting of the inhabitants of the first School District in the Township of Chester legally warned and opened by Mr. Amos Sargeant Selectman of Chester this 29th day of Feb, 1796.

“1st made choice of Timothy Olcott Esquire as moderator.
“2d made choice off Ezekiel Colburn for a clerk.
“3d Voted to request the Town at their next march meeting to divide the first School District by the river.

“5th Voted that in case the Town shall see fit to divide the said district by the River, this Committee should request the Town at their said meeting to allow the East side of said River to retain the name of the first School District of Chester.
“To Ezekiel Colburn Clerk of the first School District in Chester, Sir, we request you immediately to set up a notification warning the inhabitants of said district to meet at the dwelling house of Caleb Winn Innholder in said district to act on the following articles...

“4th to see if the District, when met, will agree on a spot to set a Schoolhouse on.
“5th to see if the District will raise a Sum or Sums of money to build a Schoolhouse.
“6th to see if the District will determine on a way in which said School house shall be built and transact the business necessary thereon.
“7th to agree when said Schoolhouse shall be raised, boarded and shingled fit for a summer school, and when it shall be finished.
“Chester March 14th 1796 Wm Gilkey, Thos Chandler, Nathan Gile.”
March 28, 1796
“March 28 1796...
“4th Agreed that the Schoolhouse for and in said District shall be built on the rise of ground South of the little brook and East of the road on Capt Lovell land near to the place where Ejeck Earle once lived.
“5th Vote to raise 40 pounds on the Grand List for the year 1796 to build said house...
My thoughts
I think Caleb Winn, the innkeeper, would be what we know as the Henry Farm today. I also think it would be possible to find the exact location of this first school with the details recorded here. This ledger continues on for years.
The name H.H. Henry or

Hugh Henry does not appear until the early 1840s. I found this entry:
“April the 25th 1842...
“2d to see whether the District will vote to settle the suit now pending between the aforesaid District and Hugh Henry of Woodstock...
Nov. 20, 1852
“Chester Nov the 20th 1852
“To the Clerk of the 1st School District we the undersigned do hereby request you to call a meeting of the said district as soon may be for the purpose of whether the voters of this district will vote to have a school the year ensuing or any part thereof and also to see whether the district will vote to sell the old school house and also to see if the district will raise money for the support of school, the coming year.
“Samuel Weston, Charles Lee, Joshua Prouty.”

I’m sure if I took my time I could find details in this ledger regarding building the stone schoolhouse we have today. It’s hard on my eyes so I just skimmed it. Who knew about the first schoolhouse?
This week’s old saying is from Dudley Do-Right: “It must be true. I read it in the paper.”

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10:30am - 12pm

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obituaries

Donald J. Bartsch, 1940-2024

WESTON, Vt. – On the morning of April 2, Donald J. Bartsch passed away in his sleep. Don was born Jan. 7, 1940, in the Bronx, N.Y., and grew up in Pelham, Westchester County, N.Y. After graduating from high school, Don went to work on the New York Stock Exchange, where he became a full member in 1965. Donald was an accomplished trader, and became a partner of his own firm, Fernandez, Bartsch, & Mirra.

Community was always an important part of Don's life. He lived in Pleasantville, N.Y., from the 1970s until the early 1990s, where he was one of the driving forces in bringing the American Youth Soccer Organization to southern New York State.

Don retired to Weston, Vt., in the 1990s, where he was on the Weston Planning Commission and chaired the Weston Planning Board for many years. He also served on the Windham Regional Planning Commission, and volunteered on the National Ski Patrol at Magic Mountain.

Don will always be remembered as a strong but fair leader. He was a fierce and loyal friend, who challenged



Donald Bartsch, 1940-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

himself to become a better person throughout his life. Don is survived by his wife Martha H. Bartsch; his four sons Greg, Michael, Jeffrey, his wife Laura and sons Spenser and Griffin, and Brian, his wife Kate and their children Max and Anna. Although preceded in death by his brother Robert, Don is survived by his brother Thomas Bartsch, his sister Marylou D'Onofrio, and all of their extended family.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to either Rutland Regional Medical Center, or Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. To send the family personal condolences, please visit www.sheafuneralhomes.com.

John A. Nunnikhoven, 1937-2024

CHESTER, Vt. – John A. Nunnikhoven, 87, died at his home in Chester on Monday, April 1, 2024. Born March 11, 1937, in Burlington, Iowa, he was the eldest child of Antonie A. and Margaret L. (Spence) Nunnikhoven. He attended Iowa State University and Monmouth College, graduating in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics, and a minor chemistry.

On April 18, 1958, John married his childhood sweetheart Betty L. Miller in New Sharon, Iowa. After graduation, John began his career in the field of computer science as a system analyst with U.S. Steel. He and Betty settled their growing family in the suburbs of Chicago as John's career took him to other major corporations, including Amico International Oil, Standard Oil, and International Minerals & Chemicals. During a family vacation to New England in 1967, John and Betty fell in love with the village of Weston. After searching for a job in New England, John was hired by American Can Corporation, and the family moved to Connecticut.

After nearly 20 years with corporations, in May 1979, John and Betty purchased the Colonial House Inn & Motel in Weston, Vt. They operated the inn for over 23 years, expanding the breakfast, adding evening meals, and hosting thousands of houseguests. During their time at the inn, each of their children and two of their in-law children worked in the business, a point of pride for John. In 2002, John and Betty sold the Colonial House to their daughter and son-in-law Kim and Jeff Seymour.

Raised as a Christian, John's spirituality reignited when he experienced the Weston Priority. Many of their houseguests would come to visit the priority, and became personal friends and mentors to John and Betty. With his curious mind, he was always reading and studying theological writers. He saw an ad in Christianity Today for a year-long, extensive course in Christian worldview and apologetics with Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship. In 2005, John and Betty began a new journey in prison ministry as



John Nunnikhoven, 1937-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

John's last career started.

For more than 19 years, they ministered in the local prisons, offering spiritual guidance and support. They occasionally provided interim housing and reentry support for former inmates, as well as hosted "Church at Home" for their "guys." He became an ordained minister in 2013 through The Church at Prison, and was a founding member of the Fellowship of Ailbe. Throughout the years, John volunteered at the Gill Home in Ludlow, Vt., singing his favorite hymns to the residents there and sharing childhood stories intertwined with the gospel. For the last six years, John was an active member of the Ludlow Baptist Church. He enjoyed reading, fishing, hiking, camping, and cross-country skiing, but most of all enjoyed spending time with his family.

He lives on through his beloved wife Betty; their three children Antonie J. (Heidi) Nunnikhoven, David J. Nunnikhoven, and Kimberly A. Seymour (Jeffrey); and their six grandchildren Sandy, Marieka, Alexis, Libby, Sam (Tess), and Jack (Lauren). He is also survived by four siblings Joe, Marcia, Thomas, and Steven; his sister-in-law Thelma (Miller) Mosander; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. John was predeceased by his parents, brothers-in-law Paul and Delbert, and sister Nelda.

A memorial service will be celebrated on Saturday, April 13, at 2:30 p.m., at the Ludlow Baptist Church in Ludlow, Vt., followed by food and fellowship. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Ludlow Baptist Church, Church at Prison in Jericho, Vt., or the Fellowship of Ailbe (www.ailbe.org).

Peggylou Curtis, 1945-2024

GREENFIELD, N.H. – Peggylou Curtis of Greenfield, N.H., passed away on the afternoon of April 1, 2024, after a long illness. She was 78 years old. Peggylou was born Sept. 8, 1945, in Springfield, Vt., the daughter of Margaret (Lockwood) Barrett and Forrest Barrett, both deceased. She grew up in North Springfield, Vt., and attended schools in North Springfield and Springfield, Vt.

She worked at Osmar Sylvania in Hillsboro, N.H., retiring in 2009 due to ill health.

Peggylou loved animals, especially her kitty Jasper and her Yorkie terrier Kieran. She enjoyed crocheting, and was excellent with the pineapple pattern, as well as an excellent cook and pastry maker, passing the secrets to her longtime companion John Hyman. She also enjoyed outside festivals at Hampton Beach, N.H., playing card games, and was an Elvis Presley fan.

Norman Gagnon Jr., 1946-2024

LUDLOW, Vt. – Norman Gagnon Jr., 77, of Ludlow, Vt., passed away at Woodlawn Care Center in Newport, N.H., with family by his side, on March 29, 2024. He was born July 12, 1946, in Eagle Lake, Maine, son of Norman Gagnon Sr. and Laurina (Bouchard) Gagnon. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1963, and proudly served this country for four years. He married the love of his life Susan Eileen Morrill on Dec. 9, 1967, in Ludlow, Vt.

For the first five years of their marriage, they traveled to California, and then to Colorado. They returned to Vermont in 1974, where they planted their roots to raise their family. He proudly built the family home in Ludlow in 1982. He worked as a carpenter and general contractor for many years, until he became a licensed property adjuster. After getting his start with Crawford and Company, he opened his own successful firm, Century Adjustment Services. He and Susan ran that company until they retired.

Norman was a devoted and loving husband and father. His unwavering love for Susan was his foundation, and was something to be admired. He had immense pride in his sons and their families, something that he would share with anyone who would listen. Norman was a friend to many, had a heart of gold, and had a passion for helping people; he had a great impact on many lives. He was always one to say "hi" to everyone, and would take the time to talk and listen. He was a man of honesty and integrity. He was admirably called the "King of Bear Hill" by his close neighbors.

Sylvia M. Williams, 1939-2024

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Celebration of Life for Sylvia Marie Williams will be held on the morning of May 11, at 9:30 a.m., at the United Church of Ludlow, located at 48 Pleasant Street. We will be gathering at 9:30 a.m., with the service to be held at 10 a.m., with Pastor Michelle Fountain officiating. Burial will follow at Pleasant View Cemetery, located at 37 North Depot Street in Ludlow, Vt. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Meadows Sunshine Fund at 240 Gables Place, Rutland, VT 05701; or at the Rutland County Humane Society Inc., 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT

05763. Please contact Yvonne MacLauren at 802-236-8595 with any questions or concerns.

Peggylou is survived by her longtime companion John Hyman of Greenfield, N.H.; and four sisters Shiela Rinaldi of Agawam, Mass., Monty Bidder of Franklin, Mass., Brenda Richardson of North Springfield, Vt., and Sally Stevens of Springfield, Vt.; along with nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to all her healthcare providers, and love and endless thanks to John Hyman, who gave her the needed care 24 hours a day, and provided her with the best life possible. We are so ever grateful.

A graveside service will be held at a later date, at Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt.

Donations may be made to Monadnock Humane Society, 101 West Swanzey Road, Swanzey, NH 03446.

Arrangements have been made through Jellison Funeral Home, Peterborough, N.H.



Norman Gagnon Jr., 1946-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

Norman loved music, fishing, and spending quality time with his family and friends. He will be greatly missed, and will always be remembered.

He is survived by his two sons Norman Gagnon III and fiancé Vickie Hart of Ludlow, Vt., and Sean Edward Gagnon and wife Bonnie of Cibolo, Texas; as well as his 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters/brothers Trudy Hennessey, Darlene Miligan, Ronald Gagnon, Keith Gagnon Sr., Susan Saucier, Simone Anderson, and Karen Web, as well as numerous sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins, and their families.

He is predeceased by his wife Susan E. Gagnon in 2021, his brother Kenneth Gagnon, his sister Jane Chand, his father Norman Gagnon Sr., and his mother Laurina (Bouchard) Gagnon.

Norman has now joined his beloved Susan, together in life, together in eternity. A private Celebration of Life will be held in the summer.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., assisted the family with the arrangements.

Richard H. Dansingburg, 1935-2024

CHESTER, Vt. – Richard (Dick) Hayes Dansingburg passed away peacefully at his home in Chester, Vt., on the afternoon of March 28, 2024, after a lengthy illness. He was 88 years old. Dick was born on May 10, 1935, in Rochester, Minn., to Gertrude (Boothby) and Hayes Dansingburg. He grew up in Rochester with his older sister Janet.

Dick graduated from Rochester High School in 1953 as an Eagle Scout, a three-sport athlete (football, swimming, and tennis), and senior class president. Following high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he completed his service as an aerographer's mate second class (weather forecaster) onboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Hornet, for a tour of duty to Japan and the Far East. Among his fondest memories of the tour was teaching the game of baseball to Japanese school children who lived near their ship's base.

In 1957, following his honorable discharge from the Navy, Dick enrolled at the University of Minnesota, where he was active in the university's Outing Club. He transferred to Springfield College in Springfield, Mass., in 1959, to major in recreation and youth leadership. While at Springfield College, he met the love of his life Brenda (Beyer) Dansingburg. They were married in June of 1960, in Brenda's family home in Auburn, N.Y.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Springfield College, in 1961 Dick began a 12-year career as a district executive with the Boy Scouts of America. He initially worked for the Scouts in Minneapolis, Minn., then went to district offices in Ann Arbor, Mich., and White Plains, N.Y. While at the Washington-Irving Boy Scout Council, he was the director of the newly-developed Explorers Program, which enabled boys and girls of high school age from Westchester and Putnam counties to develop their career interests.

Dick left the Boy Scouts in 1973, and continued his work with youth and young adults with a variety of secondary and postsecondary education programs doing work-study, vocational, and career education, first in Westchester and Putnam Counties, and then in Chenango and Delaware Counties, when Dick and Brenda moved their family of three daughters to Brenda's hometown, Norwich, N.Y., in 1974. A lifetime passion for assisting youth and young adults in developing their career interests concluded with a position as the job placement coordinator for SUNY Morrisville's Norwich campus.

Upon his retirement, Dick continued to volunteer with



Richard Dansingburg, 1935-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

the Boy Scouts in New York State, and later in Chester, Vt., where he and Brenda moved in 2010, to be closer to their daughter Julie and her family. Dick was a longtime lover of the outdoors, especially Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area (B.W.C.A.), and New York's Adirondack Park, where he enjoyed many canoeing and camping trips with family and friends. He passed on his passion for outdoor activities and adventures to his three daughters and Minnesota nephews Scott and Kent Moe. Dick also enjoyed supporting the Minnesota Twins and Vikings, woodworking projects, and the community he and Brenda found at Broad Street United Methodist Church in Norwich and the United Church of Ludlow.

Dick is survived by his wife of 63 years Brenda (Beyer) Dansingburg of Chester; his daughter Jodi Dansingburg and son-in-law Kevin O'Brien of Rushford, Minn.; daughter Julie Dansingburg Kelley and son-in-law Frank Kelley of Chester; daughter Jami Dansingburg of Philadelphia, Pa.; sister Janet Moe of Lake City, Minn.; granddaughter Heather (Mark) Herrmann of Minnetrista, Minn.; grandson Kobi Dansingburg of Minneapolis, Minn.; sister-in-law Betsy Beyer of Waukesha, Wis.; and seven nieces and nephews Scott (Carrie) and Kent (Renee) Moe, Steve (Eleni) and Gary (Betsy) Beyer, Theodore Summers, Wendy Summers, and Kate Beutner.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his granddaughter Marina Kelley; brothers-in-law Ed Beutner, Barry Beyer, Clint Moe, and Ted Summers; and sisters-in-law Judy Beyer and Beverly Summers; as well as several beloved family dogs.

A Celebration of Life is being scheduled for June 22, in Chester, Vt. Memorials can be directed to the Green Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America, P.O. Box 557, Waterbury, VT 05676, www.scoutingvermont.org; or the United Church of Ludlow, 48 Pleasant Street, Ludlow, VT 05149, www.unitedchurch.us.

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

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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calendar

APRIL 11 – S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Green Mountain School of Crafts, 50 Hearthstone Lane, will hold a Spindle Spinning class on Thursday, April 11, from 5-8 p.m. In this beginners class, you will learn how to use a drop spindle to create your own hand-spun yarn. We will cover the basics of spinning, drafting, and plying. You will get to make your own sample length of hand-made yarn to take home. Materials are included in the price of the class. For more information, or to register for a class, go to www.greenmountain.schoolofcrafts.com.

APRIL 13 – CHESTER, Vt. – Don't miss out on a fantastic day of live music at the Town Hall Bluegrass and Old Time Country Open Mic, at 556 Elm Street in Chester, Vt., for an afternoon of bluegrass and old time country music. This is the last open mic event until fall. Doors open at 11 a.m., with performances continuing until 4 p.m. Musicians are welcome to sign up at the door to showcase their talent with acoustic instruments only. Indulge in homemade food and beverages available for purchase. Admission is free, and donations are appreciated. For more information, please call 802-380-4106.

WALPOLE, N.H. – The First Congregational Church in Walpole is holding a community potluck supper on April 13, at 5 p.m. Beverages are provided. Please bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share, or if unable to,

come anyway. A free-will offering is taken to benefit the World Central Kitchen. This will be the last potluck supper of the season.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Community Bike Project will hold a silent auction fundraiser on Saturday, April 13, from 6-9 p.m., at the Moose Family Center, 59 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls. There will be live music by local jazz ensemble Swing Low. The cost of admission includes a raffle ticket for a basket of your choice. The baskets will include gift certificates and other unique items. There will also be a 50-50 cash raffle, and delicious hors d'oeuvres and baked goods for purchase, as well as a cash bar. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of the Community Bike Project building.

APRIL 14 – S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Green Mountain School of Crafts, 50 Hearthstone Lane, will hold a Batik Art class on Monday, April 14, from 5-8 p.m. There will also be a Needle Felted Owls class from 3-6 p.m. Materials are included with the cost of these classes. For more information, or to register for a class, go to www.greenmountain.schoolofcrafts.com.

APRIL 15 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will be serving lunch on Monday, April 15, at 12 p.m. The menu will consist of American chop suey, tossed salad, and cupcakes. Free cash bingo will follow. Please make reservations

by calling 802-228-7421. All are welcome.

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Green Mountain School of Crafts, 50 Hearthstone Lane, will hold a Batik Art class on Monday, April 14, from 5-8 p.m. Batik is an Indonesian technique of wax-resist dyeing applied to the whole cloth. In this class we will be working with 20-inch by 20-inch squares of cotton. We will get our designs down, and draw with hot wax using tjanting tools. Then have fun mixing colors to create one-of-a-kind masterpieces. Materials are included with the cost of this class. For more information, or to register for a class, go to www.greenmountain.schoolofcrafts.com.

APRIL 16 – S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Green Mountain School of Crafts, 50 Hearthstone Lane, will hold a Stained Glass Earrings class on Tuesday, April 16, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Choose your shape and colors, and learn the process of stained glass. We will cut, grind, foil, and solder these beautiful, wearable works of art. Each person can make two pairs of earrings. Materials are included with the cost of this class. For more information, or to register for a class, go to www.greenmountain.schoolofcrafts.com.

APRIL 17 – CHESTER, Vt. – All are welcome to attend a Community Vegan Potluck and Film Viewing on Wednesday, April 17, at 6 p.m., at the First Universalist Parish of Chester, 211 North Street. No reservations are needed, just bring a vegan dish to share; no meat, dairy, eggs, honey, or gelatin. This potluck meal will be followed by a viewing of the 90-minute film "Common Ground." The film profiles a hopeful and uplifting movement of farmers who are using alternative "regenerative" agriculture that could help balance the climate, save

our health, and stabilize America's economy. For information, call Jon Hart at 802-875-8577.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The First Congregational Church of Springfield will hold a free community lunch on Wednesday, April 17, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The menu will be pancakes plain or with blueberries, sausage, Vermont maple syrup, oranges, and apple sauce.

APRIL 18 – CHESTER, Vt. – Upstairs @ Town Hall will host jazz musician Eugene Uman on Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m. Uman is the director of the Vermont Jazz Center, and an extraordinary musician, composer, arranger, and educator. He will perform with some of the best jazz musicians in New England. Admission is free.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – There will be a Bingo Evening and Basket Raffle on Thursday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m., at VFW Post 771, 115 River Street, to benefit the Edgar May Stingrays youth swim team. This event is for ages 16 and up. Doors open at 5 p.m. There will be many games, food and beverages for purchase, as well as a 50-50 raffle. All proceeds will be donated to the Stingrays youth swim team.

SUNDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Six Loose Ladies hosts Odd Bobbins Spinners the second Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. at their location on the Common in Chester.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness Airport in Springfield. The Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force tasked with the mission of supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space,

and cyber power. Cadets as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of volunteers.

MONDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Free Tobacco Quit class led by Sarah Doyle, Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls. Dinner included. Call or text Sarah at 802-289-0045 or email sdoyle@springfieldmed.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Overeaters Anonymous 12-Step Recovery Program is Mondays, from 7-8 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension in Bellows Falls. The program is free. For more information go to www.aa.org.

WALPOLE, N.H. – Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Parish Hall, Walpole.

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

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

TUESDAYS – 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.

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

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

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

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

FRIDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Fridays from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., John Bohannon will teach tai chi and qi gong at the Rockingham Library in Bellows Falls, Vt. No special equipment or clothing is required.

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

SATURDAYS – PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Saturdays at 9 a.m., join Lori Wright for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TOWN OF CHESTER

Emergency Watershed Program – Engineering Services

The Town of Chester is requesting proposals to complete designs and provide bid and construction oversight for ten pre-approved watershed protection projects. This project is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service who administers the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Please contact the Chester Town Office to obtain a full copy of the Request for Proposal.

All bids are due no later than April 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m and should be sent via email to Julie.hance@chestervt.gov with subject line "Chester EWP Proposal".

Town of Westminster
P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158
Tel. 802-722- 4524 Fax 802-722-9816

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB) WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL Westminster, Vermont Legal Notice

The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:00 pm on Monday, May 6, 2024 to consider the following:

Application # 24-35 PRELIMINARY PLAT HEARING Jose Gualpa (Owner & Applicant) property located at US Route 5 & Metcalf. The Applicant is requesting a Major sub-division. Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 445 Historic Village District; Article IX Historic Preservation Overlay; Article X Agricultural Overlay District; Article VIII Sub-Division of Land (Major Sub-Division) of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Application # 24-36 Peter & Jeanne Bennett (Applicants) Kevin & Sarah Brennan (owners) property located at 160 Wright Way. The Applicant is requesting a Lot Line Adjustment. Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 448 Resource Conservation District; and 215 Zoning Permit Procedures of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Application # 24-37 Ron Rhodes, Connecticut River Conservancy (Applicant) Vermont Agency of Transportation & Island Corp (Owner) Property located at ROW adjacent to Granger Street and Paper Mill Road & 0 Granger Street. The Applicant is requesting the removal of the concrete dam and timber cribbing. Excavation and removal of upstream sediment. Installation of heavy stone to protect US 5 bridge piers and restoration of access paths. Application will be reviewed under Section 445 North Westminster Village District; and Article XI Flood Hazard Areas Overlay District

Participation in the proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeals.

The application is available for review in the Westminster Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5 Westminster, Vermont 05158, Monday – Friday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Baltimore Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §4384 on May, 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Baltimore Town Office in Baltimore, Vermont to receive comments regarding amendments to the Municipal Plan.

Additional copies of the proposed Municipal Plan can be obtained from the Town Clerk, whose office is located in the Town Office, during normal business hours.

A digital copy is also available online at <https://www.marcvt.org/town-of-baltimore--2024-town-plan-update.html>.

Loreen Billings, Chair

Municipal Fire Chief Employment Opportunity Ludlow Fire Department, Ludlow Vermont

Summary

The Town of Ludlow is actively seeking candidates for a Full Time Municipal Fire Chief. For a complete job description and application information please visit the Town of Ludlow Website at [Municipal_Fire_Chief_Position\(Ludlow_VT\).pdf](https://www.ludlowvt.gov/Website/Municipal_Fire_Chief_Position(Ludlow_VT).pdf) or contact the Ludlow Municipal Office at 802-228-2841.

The Town of Ludlow is an Equal Opportunity Employer

WATER FLUSHING NOTICE VILLAGE OF LUDLOW

On Monday, April 22, 2024 through Friday, April 26, 2024, the Village of Ludlow Water Department will be flushing the water system and testing the fire hydrant system. The flushing will take place each day from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

Please note: The entire water system will be affected. Residents may experience discolored water during this time. When the flushing is complete, please be sure to let your cold water run until your water runs clear. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we perform our annual distribution system maintenance.

If you have any questions, please call the Water Department at 228-8431 or the Municipal Office at 228-2842 or 228-3923.

Thank you.



Town of Londonderry, VT Job Opening – Parks Maintenance Employee

The Town of Londonderry, Vermont is accepting applications for a part-time, seasonal Parks Maintenance position. This position will help maintain grounds and recreation infrastructure in all of Londonderry's Town-owned parks.

A hiring package including the job announcement, job description, and employment application can be found on the Town website: www.londonderryvt.org. Position open until filled. EOE.

DESTRUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

SPRINGFIELD VERMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT
301 South Street
Springfield, Vermont 05156
(802) 885-5121

The Springfield School District (Vermont) will be conducting a "Destruction of Records." These are special educational records and personally identifiable information used within the Individuals With Disability Education Act but are no longer needed to provide educational services to students. The aforementioned records for students with a birth year of 1998 or earlier, will be available for pick up or will be destroyed if arrangements are not made for pick up before May 10th, 2024. Any person desiring their records must submit that request in writing or in an email to the Special Services Department.

Requests must include the student's name (including any possible name changes) and the student's date of birth.

Please send your request in before May 10th, 2024, to:

Director of Special Services
Springfield School District
301 South Street
Springfield, Vermont 05156
(802) 885-5121
(email requests to: dgray@ssdvt.org)

Other instructions will be provided after making initial contact.

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

Cavendish calendar seeks photos

CAVENDISH, Vt. – For more than 20 years, the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association (CCCA) has produced a community calendar featuring photographs taken by Cavendish/Proctorsville residents of Cavendish/Proctorsville scenes. Planning for the 2025 calendar is underway, and the planners are asking for local submissions.

The theme for next year is “Cavendish: Resilient and Strong.” What images come to mind when you think of the strength and beauty in our community? How do you see nature renew itself? Photos of landscapes, buildings, people, and animals

within Cavendish will be considered for publication.

All photographs will be displayed in the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, and the public will be able to vote on their favorites during the last week of May. The purpose of the calendar is to bring a greater appreciation and sense of pride about the town, which is the foundation of conservation and good stewardship.

Whether you are a full-time or a part-time resident, and even if you have never submitted pictures to the calendar before, this is your chance to capture a sight that you appreciate and share it with the community. The

usual submissions are from ordinary people who find beauty in ordinary places. The deadline for entries is May 21.

Application procedures and rules are available at the CCCA website, www.cavendishccca.org. Please contact CCCA at cavendishcommunityconservation@gmail.com, or call Robin at 802-259-2327 if you have questions.

GUNS WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW, Vt. – Seeking an Advertising Sales Representative. Candidate will work with local businesses via phone, email, and in person to expand their brand identity and support their future success using our print and

online marketing platforms. The ideal candidate is organized, team-oriented, works well on a deadline, and has exceptional customer service skills. Checking in to the office and seeing clients in person required. Base pay, commission, and gas allowance. Email publisher@vermontjournal.com for details and to apply.

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.

Wilson & Lawrence Inc.
Tennis Courts Contractors in Grafton, Vt. is now hiring for our summer crews
 Please call 802-732-8494 Mon-Fri

NOTICE OF WESTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD HEARING

Jeffrey and Kimberly A Seymour have submitted an application for a two lot subdivision of land owned by Byron C Hart at 341 Piper Hill Rd. The application will be reviewed under Section 590 of the Weston Zoning Regulations.

The Weston Development Review Board will hold a hearing on this application at the Weston Town Hall on May 1, 2024 starting at 5:00 PM. Those interested in seeing the application, submitting written comments, or attending the meeting online should contact the Zoning Administrator at: Town of Weston P.O Box 98, Weston Vt. 05161 or zoning@westonvt.org.

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

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 EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
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GROW SoVermont seeks local hosts

REGION – With Vermont as a top state for relocators three years in a row, our region has seen a significant amount of recent in-migration. GROW SoVermont is seeking local “hosts” to help welcome newcomers throughout Windham County. Learn more and sign up at www.sovermont.com/grow-partners.

The GROW SoVermont initiative, a program of Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC), connects new residents with their communities through newcomers mixers, and by matching them with local hosts.

Hosts help newcomers get oriented to their new community and discover ways they might like to get involved, meeting for a hike, coffee, or walking tour of their town. In small towns that are powered by volunteers and community engagement, and whose culture is built on interwoven networks, helping newcomers find their way into meaningful community involvement is essential.

BDCC is a regional partner in a statewide network helping to grow Vermont by welcoming new and return-

ing residents. The GROW network is a program of Think Vermont, and is funded in part by Vermont's Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

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| 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | |
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| 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | |
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| King Crossword | | | | | | | | | | | |
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CEMETERY GROUNDSKEEPER
 The Town of Charlestown NH is seeking to hire a part-time Cemetery Groundskeeper. This position will be for 30+ hours/week from April to October.
 High school diploma or equivalent is required as well as a valid NH Driver's License.
 Responsibilities to include mowing lawns, trimming hedges, maintaining gardens, weed trimming, spring and fall cleanup preparing outdoor areas for various weather conditions. Groundskeepers would also be operating and maintaining garden and landscaping equipment.
 Interested candidates should complete an application and submit to: Charlestown Town Office - Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 385, Charlestown NH 03603 or emailed to Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov. An application may be found at www.charlestown-nh.gov or at the Town Office 233 Main St. Charlestown, NH.

LMHUUSD School Board
 Has an Immediate Opening
 The Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District (LMHUUSD) seeks two Ludlow Town resident interested in serving as a member of our local school board. The term of this position will be until Town Meeting Election Day held on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025. The Board meets regularly, the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and others as necessary. Members may fulfill additional responsibilities such as serving on board committees.
 Please submit a letter of interest to:
 LMHUUSD Board
 c/o Lauren Fierman
 609 VT Route 103 South
 Ludlow, Vermont 05149

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 Workshops <http://galleryvault.org/workshops>
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Painting Flowers in Watercolor w/ Rob O'Brien 4/6
Flowers in Texture & Color w/ Julie Crabtree 4/27
 (04/24/24 - TFN - 13)

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 (06/05/24 - 52)

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 (08/14/24 - TFN - 52)

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 (05/22/24 - 13)

Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Pickleball at Ludlow Community Center
- Yoh Theatre vlog- scenes from "Little Women"
- Ludlow Rotary Club Guest Speaker series
- Legislative Update with Rep. Tasha Buss
- Average Daves TV & Movie Talk

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)
 (07/03/24 - TFN - 13)

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 (08/07/24 - 26)

Spring HOME & GARDEN

Get cash with a cash-out refinance

LUDLOW, Vt. – Life happens, and sometimes you need some extra cash. Ever consider looking to your home for the answers? If your home is worth more than what you have left to repay on your mortgage, you may be able to use a cash-out refinance to increase your cash flow.

What is a cash-out refinance?

A cash-out refinance is

a loan option for a homeowner whose home is worth more than what they owe on their mortgage. With a cash-out refinance, they can replace their old mortgage with a new one and get the difference – their equity – as cash to use however they want.

Why get a cash-out refinance?

Roofs get damaged, tuition comes due, unex-

pected medical conditions emerge. Maybe you want to build a deck, or complete an improvement project this spring. Whatever the reason is, having some extra cash flow would give you more financial flexibility and more room to breathe. With a cash-out refinance, you'll have the cash flow you need by tapping into your home's equity for a lump sum payment. That's money you can access quickly.

How can you use a cash-out refinance?

Optimizing your cash flow is unique to every situation. With a cash-out refinance, you can use the funds from a portion of your home's equity however you see fit. Common uses for a cash-out refinance include:

- Paying for education costs
- Financing unexpected

expenses

- Consolidating high-interest debt
- Funding home improvements/repairs

Unsure if a cash-out refinance is right for you? That's where I can help. If you're looking for ways to access more cash, let's take a look at refinancing your mortgage.

All loans are subject to credit approval and meeting eligibility and equity requirements. Restrictions may apply. By refinancing an existing loan, the payments and total finance charges may be higher over the life of the loan.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, production manager of Prime Lending, 802-975-0350, lo.primelending.com/vblodgett.

Gardening to absorb the storm

REGION – Seed catalogues in the mail and planting supplies at the store are welcoming signs of spring. Given the rains and flooding of 2023, now is a good time to think about creating gardens that can help protect your property as well as local rivers, streams, and lakes.

Rain gardens are a cost-effective stormwater management tool that can be incorporated in a variety of landscapes. A rain garden is a bowl-shaped garden designed to capture and absorb rainfall and snowmelt. When stormwater is captured, it helps to reduce the volume of runoff, thereby reducing flooding that can erode stream banks. It also helps to reduce excess nutrients, sediment, and pollutants from entering our water ways.

To learn how to create a rain garden, check out the Vermont Rain Garden Manual online at www.dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/erp/docs/sw_WNRCDrain_garden_manual.pdf, or pick up a copy at the Cavendish or Ludlow Libraries. This manual includes "The Vermont Rain Garden Plant List" for ferns, grasses, perennials, shrubs, and trees which are suitable for Vermont.

This is a handy list to take when going plant shopping this spring, as it provides information on what type of sun exposure a plant needs, salt tolerance, seasonal interest, what pollinators it attracts, and lots more useful information.

While rain gardens are not recommended in a naturally wet area of a lawn, there are other trees and shrubs to plant that will absorb the water in such locations. If you have a low-lying spot that collects rain, an easy solution is to use this space to grow plants that thrive in wet areas. The right plants will absorb the moisture and prevent runoff. Use the plant list in the manual to determine what might work best for your property.

If you are wanting to know more about planting to maintain riverbanks in and around the Black River watershed, contact Black River Action Team (BRAT) at blackrivercleanup@gmail.com or 802-738-0456

If you have gardening questions, take advantage of the free University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Master Gardener Hotline. Volunteers are available to take phone calls on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at 802-656-5421. Or you can submit your question online at www.uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener/helpline.

Chester Townscape extends deadline for trees and shrubs

CHESTER, Vt. – Snow reality might have held back plans for spring, but Chester Townscape has extended the deadline for orders for its 2024 Tree and Shrub Sale to Friday, April 12. This event offers good-size trees and shrubs at below regular nursery retail prices to help people beautify their properties. Choose from seven proven winners: red spruce

winterberry (female for berries), Jim Dandy winterberry (male pollinator), little quick fire hydrangea, autumn brilliance shadbush, dwarf buttonbush, firelight hydrangea, and PJM elite rhododendron.

All specimens are hardy and low maintenance, feature multiseason interest, and sport beautiful blossoms. Most are native. All appeal to pollinators and/or birds. Proceeds from the sale support Chester Townscape's charitable civic projects, such as the floral pots and bridge boxes that beautify the town for residents and visitors.

Buyers do not have to be Chester residents, but they do have to preorder and pay by April 12, and then pick up the shrubs in early May from Main Street in central Chester. For an informative order form that gives details about the shrubs, their botanical names, prices, and where to send the check and order form, please hurry and visit www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape.html, or contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.

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