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# THE **Vermont** Journal

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## Londonderry approves theater rehearsal space

BY LORIE STRANGE  
*The Vermont Journal*

**LONDONDERRY, Vt.** – The Londonderry Selectboard’s April 1 meeting started with an executive session, after which they announced that they were offering the position of short-term rental (STR) administrator to Andy Dahlstrom. After returning from another executive session and moving on to a different item, they ratified their decisions to establish an STR working committee, and the South Derry Master Planning Task Force.

Londonderry’s neighbor Weston is home to the Weston Theater Company, and was among the towns hit the hardest by last summer’s flooding. All of the Theater Company’s performance spaces sustained some flood damage, so while they will be able to perform there this summer, they need rehearsal space in the meantime.

Susanna Gellert, executive artistic director of the Weston Theater Company, requested to use the Londonderry Town Hall as a rehearsal space for “Jersey Boys,” from May 19 – June 7, Tuesday through Sunday. The Theater Company will

not need exclusive access to the space, but they do want to be able to leave instruments there overnight and be able to “trust that they’d be there the next day.” The selectboard were all in favor of the idea, and even approved use of the space for another show’s rehearsals from June 30 – July 19, “provided that [the initial dates] are without incident.” Speaking from the audience, Bob Wells of the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society expressed excitement at the idea, saying that, “This sounds like a great opportunity for our town to help another organization that really is struggling because of the flood.”

Wells also had a request for the selectboard. Wells reminded selectboard members of the successful event surrounding the installation of a historic marker commemorating Londonderry as the birthplace of Burton Snowboards, one of the early pioneers of the snowboarding industry. Burton Snowboards will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2027. To honor this, and to inspire pride in Londonderry residents, Wells would like to install a statue at Aiken’s Corner with a similar publicity event. Since the actual event

date is still three years out, Wells just needed to ask if the selectboard would allow him to continue planning. “My mission is to do something that will make all of us in Londonderry proud,” he told the selectboard.

Wells said that he and Mimi Wright have contacted a sculptor who is known to Burton owner Donna Carpenter, and learned that they could purchase a bronze sculpture for \$90,000-\$100,000. This 10-foot-tall sculpture, a duplicate of one installed in Breckenridge, Colo., would require a 4-foot-tall base, and would fit well within current plans for Aiken’s Corner.

Selectboard Chair Tom Cavanagh warned Wells that deed issues had squashed a previous attempt to install a statue at Aiken’s Corner, but the selectboard gave Wells permission to continue planning, and to come back to them with any issues in the process.

The Londonderry Selectboard meets on the first and third Mondays of each month, at 6 p.m., at the town office (Twitcheil Building).

## Chester discusses wastewater plan

BY NICK GIBERTI  
*The Vermont Journal*

**CHESTER, Vt.** – The Chester Selectboard met for their first of two monthly meetings on Wednesday, April 3, covering a range of topics, with particular focus on the town’s ongoing Wastewater Asset Management Plan.

First, however, town manager Julie Hance gave updates to the board on several ongoing situations in Chester. Hance informed the board that five properties in Chester, which are situated in flood plains, were seeking FEMA buyouts due to repeated flood damage. Two of the properties are on Route 11, one is on Potash Brook Road, and two more are on Fenton Road. The buyout program provides federal money to the town to purchase these properties, which then become town property in perpetuity. The properties are removed from the grand list, and any structures on the properties must be removed. New structures can never be built on them, under the conditions of the buyout. However, the properties may be used as open, public parks.

Hance also brought the board up to date on efforts to establish a town-wide alert system. This

would be an opt-in system whereby Chester residents or property owners could sign up to receive notifications via text or phone call from the town. While its primary use would be for emergency situations such as July’s floods, Hance did suggest that it could also be used for more general notifications of which residents may want to be aware, such as hydrant flushing. Chester has secured a contract for \$3,600 per year with a company called Catalyst to provide the service, and will soon allow interested parties to sign up for alerts through the town website.

The selectboard then approved coin drop applications from two veterans’ organizations. The first was from American Legion Post 67 in Chester, scheduled for May 24, with a rain date of May 25. The second was from Ruck Up, a veterans’ group based in New Hampshire that provides services to local veterans in Chester as well as throughout New England, and has done coin drops in Chester for several years running. This coin drop will be on Aug. 17 with a rain date of Aug. 18. The board discussed the possibility of increasing the maximum number of coin drops allowed, currently set at two per year, though the issue would need to be properly warned and taken up in a future meeting.

Moving on, the board heard from Naomi Johnson,

an engineer with Dufresne Group, who is developing the town’s Wastewater Asset Management Plan. The purpose of the plan, Johnson said, is to inventory all wastewater assets – manholes, pump stations, piping, etc. – and to “identify which are the highest risk, or the highest priority for doing improvements.”

Johnson said that the surveying of assets was complete, and a second draft of the plan had now been submitted to the state with requested revisions. The highest priority assets were identified as the First Avenue pump station, as well as the force main leading from that station toward Depot Street. Johnson also said that many pipes have what she called “infiltration,” meaning that, “extra water that’s not wastewater is conveyed to the wastewater treatment facility, which then stresses out the facility as far as the capacity...to treat normal wastewater.” This could be groundwater, or storm runoff during larger weather events, Johnson said.

Some of the identified pipes are composed of asbestos concrete. While these pipes are not a concern during normal use, they will require special handling and disposal if and when they are removed from the ground, to keep asbestos particles out of the air.

Johnson also spoke to the

See **CHESTER** on Page 2

## Plymouth talks Bethany Birches’ educational tax exemption

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB  
*The Vermont Journal*

**PLYMOUTH, Vt.** – At the April 1 Plymouth Selectboard meeting, Mike Coleman was appointed as chair of the planning commission, and Jay Kullman and Keith Cappellini were appointed as planning commission board members.

The meeting moved to Brendan Donegan on Zoom, who discussed his interest in purchasing a town-owned property on Crimson Hawk Road, which has just over \$8,000 in delinquent taxes owed to the town. The selectboard agreed they needed to get the owed taxes for the property, and delinquent tax collector Elaine Pauley noted that an additional \$1,000 may be necessary to list a property, so the town needed an offer of approximately \$9,000 “to come out flush,” board member Rick Kaminski stated. Donegan agreed to discuss numbers with the trustees of the Berman Trust, the current owners, and continue negotiations.

The board then discussed a notice of petition that was submitted to the town, which requested that the Town of Plymouth “conduct a vote by paper ballot

to challenge the decision made by hand vote during the Plymouth Town Meeting held on Monday, March 4, 2024, that approved Article 6, allowing Bethany Birches to be exempt from paying the education portion of real estate taxes commencing in 2024 and be effective for a period of five years. The vote was close, and a decision should be made by the full roster of registered voters.”

The petition was sent to the town’s attorney, who said that the board could correct an error or consider a revote. A revote would have to be conducted in the same manner as the original vote.

The audience discussed the lack of voters – with 400 registered residents, only about 200 votes were placed at the Town Meeting. There was further discussion of the possibility that a hand vote be double checked, to be sure all voters are registered with the town, as well as how an in-person vote on the floor allows for more conversation and amendments to an article, while a paper ballot only provides a simple yes or no vote.

The board cautioned that there could be a smaller turnout at the special meeting than there was at Town

Meeting. The board moved to warn a special town meeting on behalf of the petition, and to allow a revote on whether Bethany Birches Camp Inc. should be exempt from educational property taxes for five years.

Margo Marrone then voiced her concerns that the Plymouth Press no longer had a volunteer to post news items to their website. The job was previously done by Lauren Skaskiw of the community center, who is no longer in the role of director. Marrone wants to keep the news source as a community-involved process, and also make sure the service of providing news to the residents of Plymouth is done in a timely manner, which could be two to three posts a week. Cappellini agreed to facilitate a training session with a volunteer, and also coordinate with former administrator Jen Flaster.

The board plans to schedule an additional special meeting to discuss amendments to the zoning ordinance bylaws.

The Plymouth Selectboard will meet again Monday, April 15, at 6 p.m.

## Jump on the train



Ralph Farnsworth (third from right) with his crew.

PHOTO BY DANIELLE GOODWIN

BY DANIELLE GOODWIN  
*The Vermont Journal*

**WINDSOR, Vt.** – Before we get on the train, we need to tell you who the conductor will be on the train: Farnsworth. Ok, I know what you are you thinking, with a name like that, why is he the conductor? This train I am metaphorically referring to is DePot Shop in Windsor, Vt. Ralph Farnsworth leads the enthusiastic group that has been a pioneer in the local cannabis scene since 2022.

Some might wonder why DePot Shop does so well, when it is obvious that it is not fueled by tourists. There is an easy answer. When I arrived for the interview, I was quickly offered a seat in a very big truck with Farn-

sworth, and he and I set off on a tour. We stopped at his childhood home, drove past his schools, family farmland, but lastly a stop at a run-down warehouse. When we looked at the warehouse, Farnsworth mentioned that he now owns the building that he once threw rocks at when he was a precocious teenager. The irony is that now he has had to pay to replace those windows all these years later.

It is clear to see that Farnsworth’s journey has been filled with life lessons, because never have I met someone that was instantly so welcoming. After the tour, we settled in for lunch at a local pizza spot, where his crew joined us for lunch. It was clear that this was not for show just because I was there, but rather this was a regular event because he re-

ally does like the people that work for him.

Back to the dispensary, the customer is greeted by a greeter, and then welcomed by a staff that is quick to remember what you like, and showcase an ever-changing whiteboard that is filled with cannabis from growers that are both small and large from around the state. Farnsworth tries hard to focus on the whole customer, with everything from merch to events that he hosts regularly, so that he can get his customers together. It is obvious that Farnsworth, his wife, and the team are in it not just for success, but are more interested in the success of their community. DePot Shop is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Check out [www.depotshopvt.com](http://www.depotshopvt.com).

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

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# Reimagining South Londonderry meeting rescheduled

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Residents and interested citizens are invited to a community meeting, rescheduled for Wednesday, April 24, at 6 p.m., at the Londonderry Town Offices, to “reimagine South Londonderry.” The Londonderry Planning Commission has engaged consultants Stevens and Associates to develop a master plan for Lon-

donderry’s South Village. Stevens and Associates will review the scope of the project area, its goals and objectives, and seek community input and wishes for the South Village. “This project will complement the North Village Master Plan developed in 2022, and help us plan for future improvements in our town,” said Heather Stephenson, chair

of the Londonderry Planning Commission. This meeting may be attended remotely through Zoom. The Zoom link is posted on the town website, [www.londonderryvt.org](http://www.londonderryvt.org). “Reimagining South Londonderry” is paid for through a grant from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

# Recycle arts for Earth Day

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The South Londonderry Free Library invites children to celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 20, with a lively program of recycle arts led by art teacher Casey Junker Bailey. The fun begins at 10:30 a.m. Bring your old envelopes, toilet paper tubes, bottle caps, and empty cereal or snack boxes, and be surprised by the wonderful things you can make out of them. You’ll be part of a Vermont tradition.

Way back in 1977, Casey Junker got together with kids from the one room



Make recycle arts for Earth Day. PHOTO PROVIDED

school in Westminster West to write “The Childcycle Ideabook.” The book, illustrated by the kids and printed on brown paper by Casey, was distributed to every elementary school in the State of Vermont. It was filled with ideas for using castoff materials in new ways. Casey has been recycling found

objects and throwaway materials into art projects ever since.

This Recycle Arts program is free of charge, and appropriate for all ages. Thanks to a generous grant from The Stratton Foundation, each family will receive their own copy of “Scrap Metal Swan” to keep. For more information, contact the library at 802-824-3371.

# Ludlow Rotary prepares for 66th annual Penny Sale

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Rotary Club is at it again. The final stages are in place for the 66th annual Penny Sale. This annual event will be held on Saturday, April 27, at the Black River High School auditorium in Ludlow. The Penny Sale starts at 6 p.m., and admission is free.

The Penny Sale is currently one of the largest fundraisers undertaken by the Ludlow Rotary Club. The proceeds are used for college scholarships for area high school students living in Cavendish, Ludlow, Plymouth, and Mount Holly. In addition to the scholarships, the proceeds are used for local school events and community projects such as the Cavendish/Proctorsville Greven Field, LPC-TV, Black River Valley Senior Center, Apple Blossom, Mountainside House, Black River Academy Museum, Black River Good Neighbor Services, the Rotary International Youth Exchange program, as well as other worthy causes.

The prize list is long. Over 400 prizes, totaling more than \$25,000 in value, will be given away during the evening. To name just a few of the donated prizes: bicycles, ski passes, local restaurant gift certificates, power tools, Red Sox tickets, home maintenance items, theater tickets, gas cards, fire safety items, propane grill cylinders, garden tools, maple products, and the



Last year’s Penny Sale. PHOTO PROVIDED

all-time favorite – cash. We will also have a swap table available for those of you who may want to swap your prize with another winner.

Our club is celebrating its 97th anniversary this year, and we will be giving away a free gift to the first 85 kids. Come help celebrate our 97 years of community and international service.

Our cash raffle of more than \$1,000 is always exciting. You do not need to be present to win the cash raffle, but an additional \$25 will be added to the winning ticket if present. Rotarians will be out and about selling raffle tickets at Shaw’s and elsewhere in Ludlow on weekend afternoons, from now until the evening of the Penny Sale.

The prizes for the Penny Sale have been donated by

area businesses, and the Ludlow Rotary Club is grateful for their generosity. Supporting businesses should supply their prizes to a club member, or deliver to Cota and Cota by Monday, April 15, for full publicity in the evening’s program.

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, April 28, at 6 p.m., at the Black River High School auditorium in Ludlow. Doors open at 5 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

For some, this mud season event is an annual tradition. So, if this is your first Penny Sale or your 66th, we hope to see you for this fun-filled evening. Again, a special thank you to all the businesses for your generous donations and participation.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Lampert at 802-228-4000, or through our webpage, [www.ludlowrotary.com](http://www.ludlowrotary.com). Remember, admission is free. Visit our webpage to see our club’s projects and events. The Ludlow Rotary club meets weekly at DJ’s Restaurant, and is celebrating our 97th year.

**Heather Chase constituent meeting cancelled**

CHESTER, Vt. – The constituent meeting with State Rep. Heather Chase scheduled for April 13, at 9:30 a.m., at the Whiting Library, has been cancelled. The constituent meeting will be rescheduled.

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# “The Vermont Sugar-Maker’s Song” book launch

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The South Londonderry Free Library presents the book launch of “The Vermont Sugar-Makers Song” by Kim Ray on Saturday, April 13, at 11 a.m. Come celebrate the season with a story and music, and learn about the tradition of the Vermont sugaring season with samples and sweet

maple treats. This event is perfect for families, and all ages are welcome. A limited amount of delightful homemade books by Kim Ray will be available for purchase. Generous thanks to Wendy Dutton from the Dutton Farm Stand and Sugar House, and The Londonderry Village Market, for sponsoring this event.

**CHESTER**  
From Page 1

town’s ongoing lead line inventory, which is required by the EPA for every municipality nationwide by October of 2024. Johnson said that no lead lines have been identified in Chester, though two lines require further research due to inability to assess them as yet. Seven galvanized lines have been identified, however, all of which are customer lines and not the property of the town. Galvanized lines are required to be replaced if it cannot be proven that they have never been downstream of a lead line, as Johnson said that studies indicate these lines can absorb lead and continue to leach it even after the lead lines are removed. The town is required to notify the customers with galvanized lines in the near future.

The Chester Selectboard meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.

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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 upstairsat-townhall@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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Sunday, April 14  
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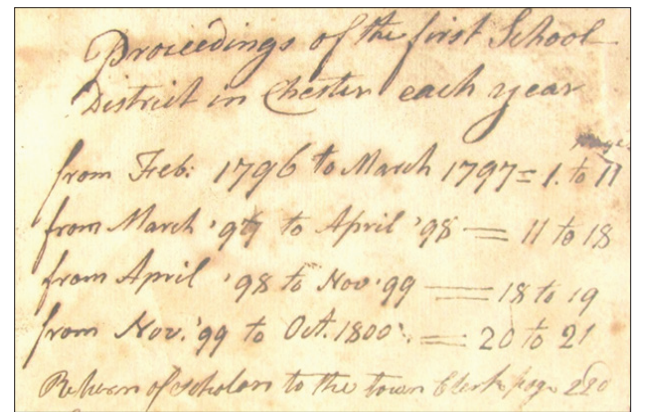
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# School District Number 1

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



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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**Welcome to the Community! A Meet & Greet**

**Rockingham Free Public Library**  
Saturday, April 13  
10:30am - 12pm

Meet other newcomers and residents, learn about local resources, and enjoy coffee and donuts

Hosted by the Rockingham Incremental Development Working Group (RIDWG) and underwritten by Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP) and the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation’s GROW SoVermont program

The Rockingham Free Public Library is wheelchair accessible. Please call in advance with any questions 802-463-4270

**Please RSVP to:** RockinghamIDWG@gmail.com



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# opinion

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

All of us at the schools of the Two Rivers Supervisory Union (TRSU) – Cavendish Town Elementary School (CTES), Chester-Andover Elementary School (CAES), Green Mountain Union High School (GMUHS), Ludlow Elementary School (LES), and Mount Holly School (MHS) – want to thank all the amazing people who helped make the Okemo Winter Snow Sports program a huge success.

The students, volunteers, and staff from our schools had six wonderful weeks of learning, growing, and hav-

ing fun outside all over the perfectly groomed, snow-covered mountain.

Two weeks of lessons from Okemo instructors helped the new skiers and snowboarders get off to a safe start. The lift operators were always smiling and helpful. The rental staff fixed a variety of broken pieces of equipment, and food services helped with the hot cocoa every week. Last but not least, when ski patrol was needed, they were there quickly to help our injured athletes in a caring, professional manner. Thanks as well to the senior administration at Okemo, who have been longterm supporters of these programs.

In total, 409 students

and 142 instructors and volunteers were able to make memories at Okemo Mountain this winter.

Thank you, Okemo Mountain and Vail Resorts, for your commitment to local ski and ride programs.

Sincerely,  
Dale Mann, principal, CTES  
Joey Blane, principal, CAES  
Frank Kelley, instructor, CAES  
John Broadley, principal, GMUHS  
Deb Fishwick, principal, LES  
Craig Hutt Vater, principal, MHS  
Lauren Fierman, superintendent, TRSU

Dear Editor,

The Vermont Properties team is grateful to our clients, customers, and community for collaborating and contributing to our success as the top team at William Raveis Vermont Properties. In 2023, we achieved the highest sales volume and unit sales within William Raveis' affiliate franchise of-

fices. As an owner-broker, I am incredibly proud to be a part of this innovative team that focuses on providing our clients and customers with the most effective tools for marketing their homes to a successful close, allowing us to achieve this accolade. Earning the title of the number one brokerage with In-

man in 2023 is a true honor that highlights our company's continued commitment to excellence. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our success!

Sincerely,  
The Vermont Properties team  
Ludlow, Vt.

## Tri-Mountain Lions gives back

**LONDONDERRY, Vt.** – The Tri-Mountain Lions' latest donations have been: \$500 to the Weston Little School, \$1,000 to the Londonderry Neighbor's Food Pantry, \$100 to Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad, \$250 to Grace Cottage, and \$250 each to the Townshend and Winhall Food Shelves.

We just received a request

from the Mountain School for a donation to assist students to attend The Odyssey of the Mind competition. We sent \$250. Please go to [www.themountain-school.org](http://www.themountain-school.org) to find out about this competition.

Don't forget to get your tickets for our annual Lions Duck Race, held on July 6, after the Londonderry Parade.



Monica Yannes, director of the Little School, Weston, accepting \$500 donation from the Tri-Mountain Lions Club. PHOTO PROVIDED

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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

**POLITICAL LETTERS**

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

## "Mom's Day Off" raises \$12K for breast cancer services

**BENNINGTON, Vt.** – Bromley Mountain's 21st annual "Mom's Day Off" fundraiser set a new record on March 1, raising \$12,000 to benefit breast cancer care at the Dartmouth Cancer Center, at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center (SVMC).

"Mom's Day Off is an event close to our hearts at Bromley Mountain," said recently retired Bromley general manager Bill Cairns. "The community really shows up each year to make a difference. I'm thrilled that my final year at Bromley is breaking records and setting the bar a little higher for 2025."

Bromley donated more than \$7,600 in proceeds from lift ticket sales, which are sold at a discounted rate. The Wild Boar Tavern at Bromley also donated 50% of its food sales to the cause,



Recently retired Bromley general manager (GM) Bill Cairns, pictured center, and incoming GM Josh Witkin (left), presented a check to President and CEO of SVMC Thomas A. Dee, FACHE, on Thursday, March 28 at the Peru, Vt. ski resort. PHOTO PROVIDED

totaling \$2,257. Participants and community members made additional donations on Mom's Day Off, including a \$2,000 gift from the Women of Willard, which brought the grand total this year to \$11,988.

"Our cancer center has an exceptional team in place to

support our patients," said SVMC's Tom Dee. "These philanthropic dollars make it possible for that team to go further and provide support that goes beyond treatments. Thank you to Bromley, the Wild Boar Tavern, and everyone who came out to make this possible."

"It's been through the addition of MAPLE that we have been able to get the kids to talk."



To learn more about **Paws With A Cause** and to find out how you help, just download this app and watch the story come to life!

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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- Flair
- Enterprise letters
- Stuffing herb
- Taunt
- Aussie hopper
- Hockey legend Phil, to fans
- Home of the Packers
- Compared to Congeal
- Sturdy tree
- Spassky's game
- Manuel Miranda
- Huge
- Bottom
- Fear-stricken
- "E Pluribus -"
- Mosquito barrier
- Cupid's alias
- Thames town
- Multipurpose truck
- Sailor
- Soda container
- Norwegian inlet
- "It's c-c-cold!"
- Right angle
- Access
- Russo
- Chinese brew
- Diminutive suffix
- Job' actor
- Tennis champ
- Arthur
- Transcript stats
- Eternities
- Dark film genre
- Spy org.
- Color named for a fruit
- Journalist
- Nellie
- Gist
- Year in Spain
- "Gee, ya think?"
- Alias abbr.
- Yoga pad
- Jargon suffix
- Aachen article
- Bro or sis
- '60s chic
- Challenge
- El Greco's birthplace
- Gratis
- Joan of rock
- Aware of
- To be, in Toulon
- Some July babies
- Endure
- Wildebeest
- Up-to-date

**DOWN**

- Omelet needs
- Old Italian money
- Help a crook
- Born abroad?
- City-related
- Drench
- Sauce source
- The Italian
- Journalist
- Journalist
- Year in Spain
- "Gee, ya think?"
- Alias abbr.
- Yoga pad

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# 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. Handguns, 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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## 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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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
 Answer

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

**King Crossword**  
 Answers  
 Solution time: 23 mins.

E	L	A	N	J	S	S	S	A	G	E	
G	T	B	E	R	O	O	E	S	P	O	
G	R	E	E	N	B	A	V	T	H	A	N
S	E	T	O	A	K	C	H	E	S	S	
L	I	N	B	I	G						
N	A	D	I	R	A	L	A	R	M	E	D
U	N	U	M	S	K	Y	E	A	S	E	
B	O	H	E	M	I	A	D	E	T	E	R
G	O	B	C	A	N						
F	J	O	R	D	B	R	R	E	L	L	
R	E	N	E	G	R	E	N	T	E	A	
E	T	T	E	N	E	T	E	F	O	S	
E	T	O	N	U	T	E	W	E	S	T	

**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

*yellow page* **BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

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 Open Wall: *Thoughts of Spring*  
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*Raku Pottery w/ Andrew Berends 4/6 & 4/13*  
*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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 (11/20/24 - 52)

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 (05/15/24 - 13)

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 (06/05/24 - 52)

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 (05/08/24 - 13)

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 (08/14/24 - TFN - 52)

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 (10/02/24 - 26)

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 (01/29/25 - 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)

**Organic Lawn & Land Care**

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**We're Different-** Green Bee has earned an Organic Land Management Professional Accreditation and can tailor a plan for managing your property to meet your goals. Large or small, all properties will benefit from utilizing this approach.

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

# 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape.html), or contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or [lbwillisct@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillisct@comcast.net).

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