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MAY 08, 2024 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 19

## Taylor Claflin 66th Apple Blossom Queen

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The 66th Apple Blossom took place at the Riverside Middle School in Springfield, Vt., on Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 4, and Taylor Claflin was announced as this year's queen. Her dancing partner was Matthew Winter. Members of her court were selected, and they are: Lorelei Bertone, partnered with Logan Roundy; and Molly Tennis, partnered with Armando Stettner.

The contestants selected Lily Farnsworth and Darius Saiful Ambar as Miss and Mr. Congeniality. The Director's Choice Awards went to Molly Tennis and

Matthew Winter. The director, Ashlee White, added a new award category this year. The Junior Apple Blossom MVPs awards went to Juliette Nelson, Adelaide Peck, Melia Willis, Dylan Chase, and Wyatt Paul.

Other contestants in this year's event included Hannah Zierfus and her partner Darius Saiful Ambar, and Lily Farnsworth and her partner Ethan Bertone. The Junior Apple Blossom couples included Jaelyn Briere-Smith with Thomas Jones, Arabella Chessman with Parker Olney, Sawyer Duford with Evan Keefe, Izabella Fraser with Dylan Chase, Olivia Kimball with



Apple Blossom Queen Taylor Claflin (center) and her court. PHOTO PROVIDED

Lincoln Strong, Juliette Nelson with Zurich Messina,

Brynley Patch with Reed Wilson, Adelaide Peck with Wyatt Paul, Ayla Rose with Keoni McDonough, Addalynn Waysville with Brody McCarthy, Ashlyn Wheeler with Michael Blanchard, and Melia Willis with Gavin Willis.

Ashlee White volunteered as the new director, with the assistance of volunteer choreographers Ainsley Bertone and Suzanne Stern. Numerous additional volunteers came forward this year to help with the production. The master of ceremonies, Thomas Field, provided the narrative for the evening. Marie Laplan- te volunteered, once again,

to be the official photographer. SAPA TV was on hand to videotape the performance, and will have the show for viewing on their website. And the John Sullivan Band provided live music for everyone's entertainment prior to the event and following the crowning of the queen.

Springfield Hospital and the Apple Blossom production team are very grateful to everyone that supported this fundraising event for Springfield Hospital. Proceeds from this year's event provide support for the Dr. E. Sherburne Lovell Health Career Award and the services of the hospital.

## Chester tackles nuisance goats

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Selectboard met on the first day of May, for their first of two bimonthly Wednesday meetings. The central topic under discussion was the creation of a nuisance ordinance dealing with unrestrained livestock in town, stemming primarily from a recurring issue in the area of the intersection of Andover Road and Potash Brook Road.

First, however, the board discussed approval of an Economic Development Loan for Meditrina Wine Bar, a planned wine bar and restaurant on the Chester Green. The establishment's owners, husband and wife Justin and Amy Anderson, were present. Justin Anderson spoke to the board, telling them that this had been a "lifelong dream" of theirs.

The Town of Chester relies on the Springfield Regional

Development Corporation (SRDC) to scrutinize individuals and organizations requesting Economic Development Loans, looking at aspects such as their financials, business plans, and credit ratings. SRDC executive director Bob Flint told the board that SRDC had already approved a separate loan for Meditrina from their own loan fund, and that he was "confident in their projections," and would "support consideration of [their request]." The board ultimately concurred with Flint, approving a loan of \$55,000.

The board then began their discussion of a possible nuisance ordinance, which town manager Julie Hance stated was in resonance to "an increased number of complaints...that primarily have to do with farm animals." Resident after resident of the area of Andover Road near Potash Brook Road stepped forward to describe

their frustration, over a period of years, with a roving herd of goats which belong to another local resident. Of primary concern for many was the potential for traffic accidents involving the goats, who frequently block or impede vehicles. Resident Bob Lurvey described his return home one afternoon, telling the board that he and his wife were approaching their home when, "As soon as we round the corner...there's 13 goats in the road."

Jennifer Gagliardi, a resident of Andover Road, told the board that the goats were frequent uninvited visitors to her yard, as well as the wider area. "The goats run rampant through the neighborhood," said Gagliardi, who lives in the house which was once her grandmother's. Many

See GOATS on Page 2

## Ludlow hears dam concerns

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Selectboard held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, May 6, addressing a wide range of issues.

While a discussion of the Jewell Brook Dam spillway repairs was on the agenda for later in the meeting, Ludlow resident James O'Malley rose to speak about it during the citizens' comments portion of the meeting, prompting the board to address the issue first. O'Malley has been keeping tabs on several of the dam sites, in particular site 5, which has what he called a "phase two defect" in its spillway.

"A static breach [failure] would result in 509 structures being inundated," by a 25-million-gallon discharge, with a resulting wave height of

48 feet, which would "roll down Route 100," O'Malley told the board, saying he had run the scenario through AI tools to determine the possible outcomes. O'Malley urged the board to address the problem immediately.

Town manager Brendan McNamara assured O'Malley that the town was working on addressing the issue, and had secured \$700,000 of funding via the USDA Emergency Watershed Program for dam site 3 and 5 spillway repairs. The project is currently out to bid, will commence as soon as a contractor is selected, and the spillways "will be repaired, I hope, by July," said McNamara. In the meantime, he explained, the Ludlow highway and emergency departments are monitoring the dam levels and forecasts, and releasing water when necessary to ensure the water levels remain below the spillways. McNamara said he had spoken with engi-

neers who believe that the risk of a major breach is low, but did acknowledge that, "If you have a 48-foot wall of water coming down [Route] 100, that's an MCI [mass casualty incident]."

However, McNamara also explained that a full-scale rehabilitation project for all five Jewell Brook Dam Sites would be a longer process, and cost significantly more money. This project is in the engineering phase, and will take two years per dam site, for a total of 10 years, at a cost of about \$40 million, for which Ludlow is responsible for 25%. "The reality here is, how are we going to come up with \$11 million?" McNamara said, telling O'Malley and the board that he had been in contact with officials at the state and federal level to express the urgency of the project and investigate funding options.

Moving on, McNamara

See DAM on Page 2

## Queen of the South brings Texas barbecue to Vermont

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – Ronica Humphrey has a compelling life story to tell, and if you're lucky, she might share some of it with you over a plate of her homemade brisket tacos, or a pulled pork sandwich with a side of fried okra from her mobile kitchen, Queen of the South Food Truck, located at 665 Vermont Route 10 in Chester.

Humphrey was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, and her story includes 35 years of handling the pressures of owning her own property management company, seeing both of her parents through illnesses, and surviving a massive heart attack commonly referred to as the "widow maker," at only 46 years of age. That was in 2017, and, after some complications and setbacks, Humphrey was ultimately given approval from her insurance company to receive lifesaving open heart surgery.

"They cracked me open like a walnut," remarked Humphrey, in her casually upbeat way. She knew the stress of her job was affecting her health, but she wasn't sure what else to do.

In the fall of 2022, Ronica went out with some friends and was introduced to Thomas Humphrey, another Fort Worth native. Once he asked for her phone number, their relationship progressed quickly. In December, they decided to book a trip to New York City, a special place for Ronica. "I've been going [there] since I was a kid, three or four times a year." Thomas had never been, so she wanted to show him the city.

On Christmas Day, three months after their initial meet up, Thomas proposed.

"When you know, you know," Thomas stated. Ronica nodded in agreement.

The couple got married in a small ceremony in Central Park on Jan. 19, 2023. Thomas wore a sharp suit



Queen of the South Food Truck.

PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

jacket, jeans, and cowboy boots, and Ronica sparkled in an elegant pantsuit.

Thomas and Ronica were already looking into leaving Fort Worth when, in June 2023, Ronica's father Bill was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. It didn't take much discussion before the three collectively agreed to sell off everything in Texas and start fresh in the northeast.

Ronica admitted she still regrets not having spent more time with her mother when she was sick. "I was

constantly working. I knew that I could not do that with Dad."

After looking at places around New England, they came across the Old Town Farm Inn that was for sale in Chester, Vt. Ronica researched its history; originally constructed in 1861, it was an early "poor farm," and its basement was used as a speakeasy during prohibition. A recent owner had done some upgrades to the old farm house, so the structure was in good shape, with much of

the original features and charm. They purchased the property sight unseen.

Initially, the idea was to reestablish the home as a bed and breakfast, but they've come up against some resistance regarding state fire and safety regulations, which they are currently trying to work out. At least for the time being, they are leaning into Plan B, the food truck, and Humphrey says she's been pleasantly surprised at its success, and delights in bringing some real Texas barbecue to Vermonters.

The couple is trying, hopefully with assistance from the Chester Historical Society, to get the inn listed on the state historic registry, so they can move forward with their plans, retaining the building's original features, making necessary updates, and complying with safety codes.

The land, which includes a small pond and antique barn – the Humphreys had the collapsing carriage house removed – sits on 11

acres. The house itself has a large farmhouse kitchen, nine bedrooms, nine bathrooms, a gorgeous spiral staircase, and a cozy hallway library with the original wooden bookshelves.

Ronica said her father was manning the smoker in the old barn just a few weeks prior to his passing on April 15, at age 79, and she feels grateful for that, and for the fact that they were able to spend his last few months on this adventure together.

On a recent Monday at Old Town Farm Inn, where the food truck is parked unless out at an event, Ronica greeted a crew of VTel employees on lunch break who had pulled in to try some of the barbecue they said they'd been hearing so many good things about.

With an easy smile and friendly Texas lilt in her voice, Ronica took everyone's orders at the window, telling the men, "Feel free to take a seat at a picnic table, or in the gazebo," before turning to prepare one of her mouth-watering meals.

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# 66th Ludlow Penny Sale success

LUDLOW, Vt. – The 66th annual Penny Sale, sponsored by the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC), was a tremendous success, as over \$30,000 in prizes were awarded to over 350 winning ticket holders this past Saturday at the Ludlow High School Gym.

Prizes awarded ranged from skis, TVs, gas grills, and ski passes (including several seasonal passes), to cash awards. If winners were not happy with their prizes, they even had a “swap table” available to exchange prizes with other winners.

The event represented a major fundraising effort for the LRC. Much of this amount will be devoted to the annual scholarship awards the club gives to area graduating students, this year estimated to be \$9,000. The remainder goes into the



Winners of the Penny Sale raffle.

PHOTO PROVIDED

funds used to support area community projects.

Winners of this year's raffle ticket prizes were, Patty Rumrill, \$50; Alicia Hammond, \$275; Barb Duquette, \$175; and Gabby Donna, \$525. Astrid Hoyt, not pictured, \$100.

Kim Lampert, LRC treasurer, echoed the attitude of all attending Rotarians, noting, “A big thank you to all our patrons, businesses who donated these wonderful gifts, making this Penny Sale such a wonderful event.” She also expressed her gratitude

to Brewfest and the Ludlow Police Department for the special role they played in supporting the event.

Jim Rumrill, cochair of the Penny Sale, indicated that this fundraiser was very important to the LRC's continuing efforts to support its scholarship program, as well as other community activities sponsored by LRC, such as literacy, youth exchange programs, and many community projects.

# Noah Schmidt updates Ludlow Rotary Club

LUDLOW, Vt. – Noah Schmidt, a member of the Ludlow Selectboard, spoke to the recent meeting of the Ludlow Rotary Club about the status of recent actions and considerations by that legislative body.

He indicated that the town has about \$330,000, and the village around \$230,000, in America Rescue Act (ARPA) Funds, but that these funds came with “a lot of restrictions.” Schmidt added that one of the primary considerations of its use was for recreation in the town.

Responding to a LRC Rotarian's question, he noted that the bike path, long a matter before the selectboard, had already been established by Ludlow Area

Sports Trails (LAST). Current planning will continue the path behind the high school building and run through Fletcher Farm properties.

Calling it a “great way to increase the town's revenue,” Schmidt said that the local option sales tax was something that should be considered for the town. Local option taxes must be approved by the state legislature, unless previously allowed by charter, and involve a series of 1% increases over the state's sales tax. Such a tax requires an approval vote by local voters.

He added that the selectboard is still evaluating the future use of the Black River High School building, which is now owned by

the town. Schmidt likes the idea of it being used for educational purposes, but thought that the town needed a long term plan on its use.

As an aside, Schmidt indicated that he planned to take the 10-mile run up Mt. Washington, adding it was “only for the up-hill portion.”

In addition to his work as a member of the Ludlow Selectboard, he runs the Open Door Vacations Rental Company, which he founded. He is part of the team that initiated the “Unofficial Okemo” website.

The LRC meets every Tuesday for lunch in Ludlow. The LRC is small, and is always looking to welcome new members. If you would like to attend a meeting and learn how you may “serve humanity” while enjoying the fun and fellowship of others, please contact any Rotarian, or drop a note to Ludlow Rotary, P.O. Box 216, Ludlow, VT 05149.

# Reinbow Riding Center Volunteer Orientation

BELMONT, Vt. – As Reinbow Riding Center gears up for the new season, we begin by hosting our annual Volunteer Orientation Clinic on Saturday, May 11, at 10 a.m. This clinic will be held at our riding facility located at Stone Wall Farm, 892 Tarbellville Road in Belmont, Vt.

This clinic is the first community event we do each year, inviting anyone interested in volunteering to join us. We will introduce you to the wonderful world of therapeutic horsemanship. Our mission is to improve the wellbeing of individuals with unique physical,

emotional, and/or cognitive needs through a special therapeutic equine experience. To do this requires many helpful hands and wonderful horses. This program gives individuals with challenges a chance to experience the generosity of horses, allowing them to gain confidence, improve their physical abilities, and develop a sense of independence.

Volunteers are a very important part of this program. To volunteer, you do not need to have any experience with horses. You must be 14 years of age or older to work with the horses, but there are also many other volunteer opportunities available, from helping maintain the

grounds, to administration, special events, publicity, photography, videotaping, and more. High school students, college students, and others can also participate to get credit for community service requirements.

To learn more, visit [www.reinbowridingcenter.org/volunteer](http://www.reinbowridingcenter.org/volunteer), or contact [janetupton@reinbowridingcenter.org](mailto:janetupton@reinbowridingcenter.org). We can't wait to open for the season on May 28.

Please consider donating to this local 501(c)3 non-profit organization. To learn more, go to [www.reinbowridingcenter.org/support-us](http://www.reinbowridingcenter.org/support-us). You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

## GOATS

From Page 1

of the shrubs and bushes which her grandmother planted, and which still adorn the yard, have been destroyed or severely damaged by the goats, she claimed.

Several residents also described encounters with other animals, such as pigs and horses, as well as dogs. While the policed had been called to the area, residents said officers had expressed to them that there was little they could do, due to Chester's lack of an ordinance pertaining to farm animal nuisances. The board encouraged residents to call the police specifically about any problematic dog encounters, as Chester does have a dog ordinance.

The board ultimately

decided to draft an ordinance, using those of other towns such as Barre City as a starting point. Hance emphasized that an ordinance is not useful without proper enforcement, and so she and zoning administrator Preston Bristow would need to ensure that there were proper procedures in place for impoundment in the event that the animals needed to be physically removed from the premises. In the mean time, while the ordinance is being drafted, the board pledged to look into any relevant existing state or local laws which may be useful in the short term to alleviate the issue.

Finally, the board began a discussion on what to do with the town's ARPA funds, which must be allocated by the end of this year. Hance explained that the funds must be earmarked for specific purposes, and cannot be placed into town funding pools such as the general

fund. To that end, the board approved the use of \$50,000 to replace the Chester Fire Department's breathable air compressor. According to Acting Chief Ben Whalen, the department's previous compressor has reached the end of its life, and the company that made it is no longer operational. Chester currently has its breathable air canisters filled in Springfield, however, Whalen told the board that, while this was a temporary solution, it could lead to a situation where the department is unable to respond to consecutive fires requiring breathable air, as they would be unable to fill the canisters in time. The board will continue its discussion of how to utilize the remaining ARPA funds at future meetings.

The Chester Selectboard will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.

## DAM

From Page 1

also proposed two open meetings be held to discuss long-running issues facing the town, namely the merger of the Town and Village of Ludlow, and the implementation of a local options tax. Much

like the ARPA funds and the STR regulations, McNamara felt that these issues would be best handled at open meetings separate from regular selectboard meetings, to allow interested parties to voice their concerns and have any potential implications explained to them. No dates were set for these meetings, but the board determined to hold the meetings in the near future.

After recommending Jennifer Michalke for a vacant position on the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District Board, and approving a FEMA buyout for 21 Meadow Street, the board discussed the relocation and reconstruction of the Ludlow Dog Park. The dog park had been located along the Black River, across from Fletcher Farm on Route 103, but was destroyed in the July flood. McNamara felt that the dog park could be relocated to the West Hill Recreation Area, which

would insulate it from further flood damage. He also saw it as an opportunity for utilizing the recreation area more fully, saying it “may help us in...revitalizing West Hill a little bit.”

McNamara then announced that Ludlow had hired Ben Whalen as Ludlow's full-time fire chief. Whalen is currently acting chief in Chester, as well as being employed by the state as a fire marshal. He also announced that Ludlow Police Chief Jeffrey Billings intended to retire in the near future, and thus a search for a new police chief would need to begin soon.

Finally, McNamara told the board that the Code Red opt-in emergency alert system was now live, and residents are able to sign up via the town's website, [www.ludlow.vt.us](http://www.ludlow.vt.us).

The Ludlow Selectboard's next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, June 3, at 6 p.m.

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# Carpenter's Store News

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119  
ronpatch27@gmail.com

L.A. Carpenter published a monthly newspaper offering free ads. Carp wrote stories under a number of pseudonyms, often with humor. Today, Carpenter's Store is Meditrina. I suggest you slow down and read this twice.

"Sumwheresin Vt.  
"January 1st, 1929.  
"Dere Al:  
"Haint you never going to git out a nother one of your Store News? Whats the matter? Allyure reporters had there tonsils and addnoids out so they cant think of no yarns or is Chester just natterly gorn and give up the Gost? I thort perhaps some of the folks mite of got mad at was rote about em, but

I don't see why ennybody should mad at the trooth. If you cant have a spellen be or a bergalry fore excitement why don't sum buddy get up a nother ole folks concert or sumthin?

"Say Al, I perty neer forgot to tell you that me and Mandy went to the Bonvil fare and you no when we got to Rasonvil it took me so long to get to Bonvil count o there bein so meny cars in the rode that we got onto the fare grounds just as they was a playin Home sweet home waltz and i never see nuthin of the hors rasin er nuthin. Seems to me es how it wood be a good idee not to alogh on ottermobils on the rode fare days.

"Al, im sory yure nam sake got beet out for Pre-sedent, not that I think hees the man as shud have

it but just caus I hate to se a nam sake get in trubbel. my wife sais Hoover is the man es ort to hav it, she sais she bot one of them Hoover aperns down to yure store and it cant be beet and her dauter what she had bye her first man and lives down in Boston has got one of them Hoover kitchen cabnets and a man as is smart enuf to git up such useful things has got branes to no what else the people need. Enyhow i don't think it makes so much differense who he is es how folks take hold thereselves. Now fer instance take my nearest naybor hees just so fer ahead or behind al the time. He gets his wood for brekfast just in time fur dinner, plants his corn when he shud be hayin, and gets in his hay and pertaters at the same

time caus he has to get his taters before the ground freeses. Now it seems to me that a man es wood do that it woodent make much odds who was presedent as he is to far gorn to be help't by ennybody.

"Well es Wil Rogers sais, "al i now is what i see by the papers" and ime going to keep on sawin wood and when Paul gets me i hope ill have enuff in the old teapot to put me in a quiet place.

"Well Al, cours it aint none of my bisnes bout yure paper but folks up here do set a store by it and i do hope you haint give up putting it out eny more specially as i want to put in a ad to sell my old white drivin hoss as Mandy sais she aint



Carpenter's Store car promoting Ball-Band Rubbers at Hugging Bear. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

going to Bonvil fare next year unless she can have a lizzy so she can get there the same day. Well Al, Mandy sais if i don't come to bed shell blow out the candle so here goes. Good nite Al.  
"Yure frend B.V.D.

"P.S. Next mornin. Oh, Al! Here's thet ad I spok of las nite in case you go to press agin afore the old white hoss kicks the buckit.  
"FOR SAIL. White Drivin Hoss, wate 9-10 hundred,

eats and sleeps wel, perfectly safe for wimmin and children to driv, no grate speed, stands without hitchin and aint afrade o the cars. Price rite - wood trade for a lizze in good runnin order. Aint pertickler bout paint, windshield nor none o them new-fangled dew-dads.  
B.V.D., Sumwheresin, Vt."

*This week's old saying: "About all you can do on a shoestring today is trip."*

## Athens Meetinghouse Plant Sale

ATHENS, Vt. - The Athens Brick Meetinghouse Committee, in conjunction with the Athens Historic Preservation Society, will hold our seventh annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., at the 1817 Brick Meetinghouse in Athens, Vt.

After a long winter, we relish the idea of this annual outdoor spring event. Visitors will find a variety of perennials, annuals, and vegetable seedlings on the lovely meetinghouse lawn, as well as delightful garden-related raffle prizes. Experienced gardeners will be there to answer questions and offer gardening advice.

The Athens Brick Meetinghouse is historically significant to the Windham County region of Vermont, and particularly the 12 surrounding towns which comprised the "Old Athens Circuit" - Grafton, Rockingham, Townshend, Londonderry, Weston, Chester, Acton, Springfield, Landgrove, Windham, Putney, and Mount Holly. Circuit preachers from Athens traveled out to these towns to perform religious services. Quarterly camp meetings with the Methodist congregants from these towns often lasted two days at the Athens Meetinghouse, which was known as the "Mother



The Athens Brick Meetinghouse. PHOTO PROVIDED

Church."

This national historic landmark, located at 2 Meetinghouse Road just off Route 35, will be open for viewing the meeting-

house sanctuary and vestibule during this event. All proceeds go to support ongoing efforts to preserve this unique historic gem. Donations made to the Athens Historic Preservation Society are fully tax deductible, and will support the preservation of the meetinghouse.

The meetinghouse will be open for visitors during the Plant Sale. For more information, or to make plant or other donations, contact Sherry Maher at 802-275-2835, or follow Athens Meetinghouse on Facebook.

## St. Mark's garden plots available

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33 Fairgrounds Road in Springfield, announces that their garden plots are ready for "adoption." The garden is located behind the

church. These plots are entirely free. Those "adopting" a plot are responsible for their total care/seeding. Water is available on site. For further info, call Boris at 802-885-4163. Leave a message if necessary.

## "400 Miles Down the Connecticut River"

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - On Tuesday, May 28, at 6 p.m., the Springfield Town Library welcomes New York Times bestselling author Michael Tougias for his presentation "400 Miles Down the Connecticut River."

Join us for an exciting adventure as we embark on a thrilling journey down the beautiful Connecticut River. This in-person event promises to be an unforgettable experience.

New England's longest river, the Connecticut, is rich in history. Tougias offers a narrated slide presentation that takes the viewer down

the entire 410 miles of the river, discussing history from the days of loggers, Indian wars, steamships, and canals. Suggestions for day trips and weekend outings are included.

Tougias is a frequent guest on The Weather Channel, ABC's 20/20, NPR, and other national TV and radio programs.

This is a Vermont Humanities Council event, hosted by Springfield Town Library. Visit the library's calendar of events to sign up at [www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar](http://www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar).

## SoVerA May monthly meeting

REGION - Join the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group (SoVerA) for our monthly Zoom meeting on Tuesday, May 14, at 7 p.m.

This month we will discuss the April 8 solar eclipse, and share our varied experiences of that phenomenon. There will be a brief discussion of the new solar telescope, which SoVerA now owns with two other local or-

ganizations. For those of you who took photographs of the event, please bring your images to share.

Monthly second-Tuesday meetings are a regular feature of SoVerA. You can find the link to our Zoom meetings at the SoVerA website, [www.sovera.org](http://www.sovera.org).

We look forward to hearing your experience of the eclipse.

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# arts & entertainment

## The Dance Factory 40th annual Spring Recital —



Dance Factory students during a previous Spring Recital.

PHOTO PROVIDED

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** — The Dance Factory will present their 40th annual Spring Recital on Saturday, May 11, at Springfield High School in Springfield, Vt.

Students aged preschool through adult will showcase original works of ballet, pointe, modern, jazz, hip-hop, and tap dance in two separate shows, at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Teen and adult dancers will appear in both performances.

“The dancers have been preparing for months, during class time and in extra rehearsals on Sunday,” said Dance Factory owner Kate Frizzell-DeRosia. “You can just feel their excitement. They can’t wait to show their family and friends how much they have accomplished this year.”

Advance tickets are available at Tina’s Hallmark and Woodbury Florist in Springfield, Sage Jewelry

and Gifts in Chester, and online through Eventbrite at [df2024recital.eventbrite.com](https://df2024recital.eventbrite.com). Two-show tickets are discounted. Day-of tickets will be available at the door.

For more information on The Dance Factory’s Spring Recital, please visit [www.dancefactoryvt.com](https://www.dancefactoryvt.com), or email [DanceFactoryVT@gmail.com](mailto:DanceFactoryVT@gmail.com).

## VAULT Open Wall call for submissions

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

The next show’s theme is “Sunsational.” You can bring in two works if they are 18 inches by 20 inches

or smaller, or one if it is larger. Sculpture, pottery, etc., are appreciated just as much as wall art. The work needs to be suitable for viewing by all ages. Wire on the back of wall art is needed for our hanging system. The time to bring in your creation is Wednesday, May 15, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Thursday, May 16, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Friday, May 17, from 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.; or Saturday, May 18, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, Vt. We are open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Fridays, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email [gallervault@vermontel.net](mailto:gallervault@vermontel.net), or visit [www.gallervault.org](https://www.gallervault.org) or the gallery’s Facebook page. The gallery is ADA accessible.

## Bandwagon Series opens with Mehrnam Rastegari

**PUTNEY, Vt.** — The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series opens its season with Persian musician Mehrnam Rastegari and Mediterranean surf trio Habbina Habbina on Saturday, May 18, at 6 p.m., at The Putney Inn, 57 Putney Landing Road in Putney.

“When we kick off the Bandwagon Series, we are looking for an artist that delivers on our Bandwagon promise of diversity, virtuosity, and creativity,” says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. “Mehrnam is a rising star in the New York City world music scene. The pairing of Mehrnam and Habbina Habbina brings joy, dancing, and a unique sonic experience. People should come prepared to dance!”

Mehrnam Rastegari is a prominent Persian musician, film score composer, singer, violinist, and master Kamancheh player. She has been featured in some of the most prestigious

music festivals worldwide, including GlobalFest, Secret Planet, and Ragas Live Festival in New York City; Fajr International Music Festival in Tehran, Iran; the World Music Expo in Tampere, Finland; the International Competition named after Tlep Aspantaily in Astana, Kazakhstan; and numerous concerts across the United States, Germany, Switzerland, France, Iran, and more.

The Brooklyn-based Mediterranean trio Habbina Habbina connects Brooklyn indie to Middle Eastern psychedelia and guitar twang mastery. Habbina Habbina plays what could be described as Mediterranean surf, with a surfing style that owes much to the Middle Eastern side of Dick Dale, or the Western side of Omar Khorshid. Habbina Habbina, named after a beloved song by Syrian singer Farid El-Atrache, takes its inspiration from Egyptian pop, Greek tunes, as well as all sorts of retro Mediterranean hits, James Bond Soundtracks, Umm Kulthum, Aris San, and many more.

The Bandwagon Summer Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series running from early May through mid-October. More than 20 performances, ranging from a diverse group of musical styles, circus arts, dance, and theater, will take place at ballfields, farms, and parks throughout Windham County. Kids under 12 always get in for free, and a dedicated play area will be available at all shows. Refreshments are sold on site, including the return of the hugely popular Barr Hill cocktails. Bring a picnic and a blanket or fold-up chair to enjoy our concerts.

The Putney Inn is located at 57 Putney Landing Road in Putney. Tickets are discounted in advance at [www.nextstagearts.org](https://www.nextstagearts.org). For more information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website above.

Support for the Bandwagon Summer Series is provided by M&T Bank, Oak Meadow, The Porch Cafe & Catering, Brattleboro Reformer, and Barr Hill.

## Hanneke Cassel Band at Next Stage

**PUTNEY, Vt.** — Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present Hanneke Cassel Band, featuring Keith Murphy and Jenna Moynihan, plus Yann Falquet, at Next Stage on Thursday, May 16, at 7 p.m.

Effervescent and engaging, Boston-based fiddler Hanneke Cassel’s fiddle music fuses influences from the Isle of Skye and Cape Breton with Americana grooves and musical innovations. She has performed and traveled across North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia. Hanneke’s music is a blend of the contemporary and traditional, described by the Boston Globe as “exuberant and rhythmic, somehow wild and innocent, delivered with captivating melodic clarity and an irresistible playfulness.”

The Hanneke Cassel Band features Jenna Moynihan on five-string fiddle/vocals, and Keith Murphy on guitar/vocals. Jenna Moynihan is regarded as one of the best in the new generation of fiddle players. Versatile and inventive, her fiddling style draws strongly from the Scottish tradition, but is in no way bound by it. A graduate of Berklee College of Music, Jenna performs as part of a duo with cutting edge harpist Mairi Chaimbeul and is the regular fiddler for the Seamus Egan Project. Newfoundland-born guitarist Keith Murphy began absorbing his native musical languages – folk songs, ballads, and dance music – from an early age. A proficient multi-instrumentalist, he has long applied considerable energy to the rhythmic side of music, becoming a valued band member and highly sought-after side-

man on guitar, mandolin, and foot percussion.

Together, the Hanneke Cassel Band creates a cutting-edge acoustic sound that retains the integrity and spirit of the Scottish tradition.

Yann Falquet is a very active and creative acoustic guitar player on the Quebecois music scene. He has explored many styles of music, and completed a bachelor’s degree in jazz. Since then, he has developed a personal guitar style for Quebec folk music, inspired by the playing of the accompanists of different cultures (Brittany, Scandinavia, Ireland, North America).

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance at [www.nextstagearts.org](https://www.nextstagearts.org). There is also a livestream option. For information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website above.

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**Joe McCaffrey**, [sales@vermontjournal.com](mailto:sales@vermontjournal.com)

**Nick Giberti**, [editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com)

**Paula Benson**, [billing@vermontjournal.com](mailto:billing@vermontjournal.com)

**The Take a Break will be back next week due to lack of space**

**We apologize for the inconvenience, and thank you for your understanding**

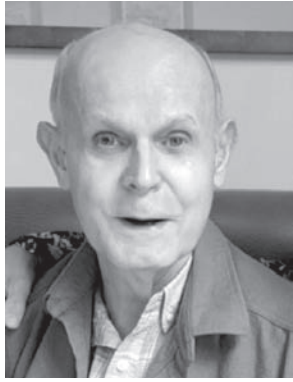
# CHURCH SERVICES

# obituaries

## Ernest L. Brochu, 1948-2024

LACONIA, N.H. – Ernest L. Brochu of Laconia, N.H., passed away at Concord Hospital – Laconia after a brief illness, with family at his side. Ernie was born on May 17, 1948, to Phillip and Marilyn (Pat) Smith in Hardwick, Vt.

Ernie grew up with his brother Donald “Doni” in Springfield, Vt. As a kid, he was always busy with his paper route and shoveling driveways during the winter, enlisting Doni’s help on all these endeavors. Money was spent on candy and comic books, saving up to buy his first car, a 1956 Chevy Bel Air, and later a ’64 convertible. He was known to wash his cars three times weekly, to keep them shining. After graduating from Springfield High School, Ernie joined the Navy. He was a machinist on the USS Gilmore, a submarine tender; and the USS Barney, a destroyer. He travelled throughout the Mediterranean Sea, and enjoyed sightseeing at the many ports of call. Ernie was very proud to serve his country during the Vietnam War years. After his discharge, he spent more than 35 years as a machinist for Sturm, Ruger & Co. It was here that he met his wife Carrie. After retirement, they moved to Leesburg, Fla., to enjoy the warmer climate, getting away from the New England winters. Following Carrie’s death, Ernie



Ernest Brochu, 1948-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

returned to New Hampshire and lived with his daughter Lori, who helped care for him as his health began to fail.

Ernie was predeceased by his wife Carrie (Templeton) Brochu, and his parents Phillip and Pat Brochu. He is survived by his daughter Lori (and Brian) Hurst of Laconia, N.H.; son Paul Brochu of Leesburg, Fla.; his brother Donald (and Kathleen) Brochu of Weathersfield, Vt.; his stepdaughter Terri Templeton (and Leland) of Windsor, Vt.; and three grandchildren Logan, Sydney, and Ethan.

A graveside service with military honors was held on May 6, 2024, at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery.

For those who wish, the family suggests memorial donations be made to the Tilton VA Clinic, 630 West Main Street, Tilton, N.H.

To view an online memorial, go to [www.wilkinson-bane.com](http://www.wilkinson-bane.com).

## David E. Robarge, 1949-2024

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – David E. Robarge of Saxtons River, Vt., passed away peacefully with his family by his side on April 28, 2024, after complications from pulmonary disease. David was born Oct. 24, 1949, in Bellows Falls, Vt. He was the oldest of six children of Richard and Rita (DeMag) Robarge. He graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1967. After high school, he started working with his father as an apprentice plumber, and eventually took over the family business. In December of 1967, he met the love of his life Maureen Robarge (Waryas), and they married three years later on Dec. 31, 1970, at St. Charles Church in Bellows Falls, Vt. Together they had four children: Becky Bryant (David Jr.) of Springfield, Vt., Joel Robarge (Shana) of Drexel Hill, Pa., Melissa Benson (Adam) of Bellows Falls, Vt., and Joshua Robarge (Nicole) of Alstead, N.H. He enjoyed spending time with his eight grandchildren, teaching them how to “fix” whatever was broken, and passing on “words of wisdom,” whether or not it was elicited. He could be counted on for his wit, and keeping you on your toes. He enjoyed watching birds, feeding his fish, and tinkering.

He is predeceased by his



David Robarge, 1949-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

parents; brothers Richard “Ricky,” Thomas, Lawrence, and Jaime; and a brother-in-law James Waryas.

He is survived by his wife; children; grandchildren David and Branden Bryant, Levi and Eden Robarge, Logan and Elizabeth Benson, and Bryce and Addisyn Robarge; and a brother Clifford Robarge of Windham, Vt.

There will be no calling hours. A Memorial Mass was celebrated on Monday, May 6, 2024, at St. Charles Church, at 11 a.m. At a later date, a private interment will be held at the family cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to The American Lung Association, 372 Hurricane Lane, Williston, VT 05495.

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

## Barbara A. Stoodley, 1951-2024

LOMPOC, Calif. – With sadness we report the passing, after a long illness, of Barbara Ann (Fenderson) Stoodley (May 31, 1951 – April 20, 2024), in Lompoc, Calif. She was the daughter of Ernest and Marjorie (Drew) Fenderson of Charlestown, N.H. She was predeceased by her husband of 45 years Dr. Roland Stoodley, and her older sister Virginia (Fenderson) Poisson Pere. She leaves behind an older sister Joanne (Fenderson) Reed and her husband Loren Reed of Charlestown, N.H., and an older brother G.K. Fenderson and his partner Shelton Ramey of Acworth, N.H. She is also survived by her nieces Heather (Poisson) Blackwelder and Betsy (Knight) Mellish, her nephews Fred Poisson Jr. and Aaron Knight, and their spouses and children; as well as Roland’s children Keith, Karen, Dawna, Darcy, and Holley. She was predeceased by her niece Martha (Thomas) Faxon.

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful care that Keith and Karen gave to Barbara. They were so caring. She was rightly proud of her academic achievements, which included advanced nursing degrees and bach-



Barbara Stoodley, 1951-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

elor’s degree from Keene State College. She was devoted to her two golden retrievers, and her cat Wendy. She took her golden retriever service dogs to different facilities, so that people in nursing homes and hospitals could pet them.

On Sunday, May 26, an informal remembrance gathering will be held at the home of her brother G.K. Fenderson, 384 Grout Hill Road, Acworth, N.H., at 1 p.m., followed by a brief garden tour. Please bring memories and stories only; food and drinks will be provided. For information, call 603-835-6439, or email [Hyddude@myfairpoint.net](mailto:Hyddude@myfairpoint.net). All who knew and loved Barbie are welcome. A private burial service will be held later.

## Andrew Dufresne service announcement

REGION – The family of Andrew (Andy) V. Dufresne, who passed away Saturday, March 9, 2024, would like to announce his funeral services.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 12-2 p.m., at the American Legion Post #29 in Claremont, N.H. Lunch will be provided.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, June 29, at 10 a.m., at St. Norbert’s Catholic Church in Hardwick, Vt., followed by a reception at St. Norbert’s Julian Room.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests a memorial gift be made in his memory to the Disabled American Veterans, 215 North Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001.

## Erma Heidtmann graveside service

CHESTER, Vt. – A graveside service for Erma Heidtmann, who passed away Jan. 12, 2024, will be held on Saturday, May 11, at 2 p.m., at the Pleasant View Cemetery in Chester, Vt. Reverend James Shea will officiate.

## William E. Nelson memorial service

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A memorial service for The Rev. William E. Nelson, who passed away Nov. 15, 2023, will be held on May 19, at 1:30 p.m., at the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt.

## John Snarski Jr. graveside service

CAVENDISH, Vt. – A graveside service for John Snarski Jr., who passed away Feb. 16, 2024, will be held on May 25, at 11 a.m., at the Cavendish Village Cemetery in Cavendish, Vt. A reception will follow at the Bartonville Grange Hall.

## Susan Stebbins, 1958-2024

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Susan Stebbins, 66, of Saxtons River, passed away on April 27, 2024, at the Springfield Hospital. She was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on March 30, 1958, to her adoptive parents Grant and Katherine Frazer.

Susan worked many years waitressing at Rita’s Coffee Stop in Bellows Falls, and drove truck for St. Pierre Trucking. Susan loved nature, flower gardening, and all animals. Susan was a history enthusiast, especially local and Vermont-related development. She loved collecting and dealing with antiques, if only for the story behind the items. Her rebellious wit and humor was legendary to all she encountered, and she easily struck up a conversation wherever

she went. Susan loved architecture and construction design and, as such, building was her passion.

Susan is survived by her children Dr. Rachel Stebbins-Navy, Amy Vandergriff, and Caleb Stebbins. She is also survived by her five grandchildren Jasmine Auclair, Noah Auclair, Hope Navy, Amon Bingham, and Lucas Perrigo. She also leaves many friends.

Susan was predeceased by her parents and son-in-law.

Calling hours were held on Wednesday, May 8, from 4-6 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home.

### CAVENDISH, VT.

**St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.**  
Please join us Sundays at 8:45 a.m. with Pastor John Hawkins. All are welcome. For more information, call 802-674-3443 or go to [www.facebook.com/sjamesumproctorsville](http://www.facebook.com/sjamesumproctorsville).

### CHESTER, VT.

**First Universalist Parish of Chester, Route 103 North**  
Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. in person. Sunday services run from September to early June. Contact [chestertvuu@gmail.com](mailto:chestertvuu@gmail.com) for a Zoom link for the service.

### GRAFTON, VT.

**Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St.**  
Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to [www.graftoncommunitychurch.org](http://www.graftoncommunitychurch.org) or call 802-843-2346.

### MOUNT HOLLY, VT.

**Village Baptist Church, 32 Church St.**  
We welcome all to come and worship with us Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-259-2440.

### PERKINSVILLE, VT.

**Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5, Weathersfield Bow**  
Sunday services are 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study and prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-546-4902.

### WESTMINSTER, VT.

**First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Route 5**  
Please join us for church on May 12, at 10 a.m. Communion will be served, and we will have a special service for our mothers. All moms will be given a gift at church, and mothers that are deceased will be remembered. There will also be a children’s message. Rev. Richard O’Donnell welcomes you, and we will have coffee hour after in the Fellowship Hall.

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**CHURCH SERVICES:**  
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# calendar

## LEGAL NOTICES

**MAY 9 –**  
LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Memory Cafe will be held on Thursday, May 9, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the United Church of Ludlow. A memory cafe is a wonderfully welcoming place for caregivers and their loved ones who are challenged with forms of dementia or other cognitive disorders and debilitating conditions. It is a safe and comfortable space where caregivers and their loved ones can socialize, listen to music, play games, enjoy nutritious snacks, and connect. All memory cafes are free and open to all. People with early stage Alzheimer's are welcome and encouraged to join.

**MAY 10 –**  
W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – On Friday, May 10, from 5-7 p.m., Bob Ray &

Friends will be playing at the West Townshend Country Store's pizza night. The store is located at 6573 Route 30 in West Townshend. For more information, email [info@westtownshend.org](mailto:info@westtownshend.org) or call 802-874-4800.

**MAY 11 –**  
N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The North Springfield Baptist Church will be holding an indoor yard, rummage, and bake sale on Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Lots of good, clean items to choose from. The church is located at 581 Giddings Street, North Springfield, Vt., and is handicap accessible.

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The North School Preservation Society will hold a yard sale fundraiser on Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. – 2

p.m., at 5 School Street. This will be the nonprofit's first sale of the season, with many great new items available.

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Plymouth Historical Society will hold its May meeting on Saturday, May 11, at the former Plymouth Elementary School, due to Mothers' Day occurring on Sunday, May 12. The meeting will start at 2 p.m., and all are welcome.

RUTLAND, Vt. – Join The Boot Pro for our second annual free Bike Demo Day at Pine Hill Park in Rutland, Vt., on Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Bring the family and explore the trails at Pine Hill Park on our bikes. We'll set you up on a full suspension e-bike or traditional mountain bike and show you our favorite trails. Come out to ride with The Boot Pros, and learn more about the bikes available for purchase or rental at our shop in Ludlow. Group-guided rides will leave our tent in 30-45 minute intervals. Registration is on site. First come, first served.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield United Methodist Church will hold a bake sale during the farmers market on Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the church, 10 Valley Street. Everyone is welcome.

**MAY 13 –**  
LUDLOW, Vt. – The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive on Monday, May 13, from 12-5:30 p.m., at the Ludlow American Legion. Call 800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will serve lunch on Monday, May 13, at 12 p.m. The menu will consist of baked chicken breast, gravy, mashed potatoes, and tossed salad, with Hawaiian cake with cream cheese frosting for dessert. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. Free cash bingo will follow lunch. All are welcome.

**MAY 14 –**  
W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – On Tuesday, May 14, from 5-7 p.m., The Buzzards will be playing at the West Townshend Country Store's burger night. The store is located at 6573 Route 30 in West Townshend. For more information, email [info@westtownshend.org](mailto:info@westtownshend.org) or call 802-874-4800.

**MAY 15 –**  
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The First Congregational Church of Springfield will hold their May free community lunch on Wednesday, May 15, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The menu will be barbecued chicken legs and thighs, rolls, pasta, and green salad, with pineapple cake for dessert.

**MAY 17 –**  
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, is hosting a free Pop-Up Oral Health Clinic for people 50 and older on Friday, May 17, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Identification and insurance are not required. Please call 802-289-0588 to reserve an appointment time, or for more information.

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – On Friday, May 17, from 5-7 p.m., Tam Lin will be performing Celtic fiddle tunes at the West Townshend Country Store's pizza night. The store is located at 6573 Route 30 in West Townshend. For more information, email [info@westtownshend.org](mailto:info@westtownshend.org) or call 802-874-4800.

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

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

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

**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](mailto: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.

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

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.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard will be at the Rockingham Library on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. Both beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome.

GRAFTON, Vt. – A free playgroup for children from newborns to age 5 will be held at Grafton Elementary School on Thursday mornings, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Activities will include songs, games, and arts and crafts. Contact Heather with any questions at 802-843-4792.

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

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

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

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Proctorsville Fire Department has identified the need to upgrade our departments licensure from the license level of Vermont Emergency First Responder to the Basic EMT License Level to operate in Cavendish Fire District #1 (Proctorsville) and is applying for this upgraded licensure by the Vermont Department of Health. This service proposes to begin operation on June 6, 2024 within the geographical boundaries of Cavendish Fire District #1. In accordance with 24 V.S.A. Emergency Medical Services Statute, public comments are invited to be received by the department by May 16, 2024.

Address comments to:  
Vermont Department of Health  
Office of Public Health Preparedness and EMS  
P.O.Box 70  
Burlington VT 05402-0070

### TOWN OF WESTON ROAD CREW

The Town of Weston seeks to add full-time, year-round member to our Road Crew. We take pride in maintaining the Town's equipment, roads, and facilities and creating improvements where we can, the successful applicant will be team players willing to do their best and learn along the way.

Candidates are required to hold a VT Driver's License, have a High School diploma or equivalent and a valid CDL Class B Driver's License, successfully pass a background check, and participate in drug testing.

This position has benefits, including health care, and a retirement package. The position is eligible for overtime.

Mail or return your resume to: Town of Weston PO Box 98 Weston VT 05161 or drop off at the Town Office. You can also email the application to [selectboard@westonvt.org](mailto:selectboard@westonvt.org). Applications will be reviewed as received with the position open until filled. The Town of Weston is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Town Of Weston  
PO Box 98  
Weston, VT 05161

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR TWO-BAY ADDITION TO TOWN GARAGE

The Town of Weston is requesting proposals for a two-bay addition. Building will be steel and attach to the existing building.

Proposals shall include details for the addition and line-item pricing for each of the following Scope of Service Components:

- Design plans
- Excavation and site preparation
- Concrete foundation and floor
- Steel building with standing seam roof
- Build a firewall with door in between new and old building
- Provide and install Heating system
- Provide and install all Electrical for addition
- Please visit the Town of Weston website for more information on the Scope of Work [www.westonvt.org](http://www.westonvt.org)

Proposals may be sent to Shawna Batogowski, Selectboard Administrative Assistant at [selectboard@westonvt.org](mailto:selectboard@westonvt.org) and must be received by May 10th, 2024. Email proposals will be printed and placed in sealed envelopes. Proposals may also be mailed with a postmark date no later than May 10th, 2024 addressed to: Town of Weston Selectboard PO Box 98, Weston VT 05161 Attn: Town Garage RFP

All proposals will be opened at the Selectboard meeting scheduled on May 14th, 2024

The selected firm(s) shall report to and be responsible to the Town of Weston Selectboard. The Town of Weston reserves the right to withdraw this Request for Proposals, to accept or reject any or all proposals in part or in their entirety, to advertise for new proposals if it's in the best interest of the Town to do so, and to award a contract as deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Weston.

During the evaluation process, the Town of Weston reserves the right where it may serve the Town's best interest, to request additional information or clarifications from proposing firms. The Town of Weston reserves the right to retain all proposals submitted and to use any ideas in a proposal, regardless of whether that proposal is selected.

Compliance with the Law- The selected contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations in the performance of service. The selected contractor must be registered with the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of Vermont and be certified to conduct business legally in the in the State of Vermont.

The Town of Weston is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of property in the Town of Andover, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the 2023-2024 tax year remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Alpen Woodworks LLC by Warranty Deed of Chad Prouty dated June 2, 2022 and recorded on June 6, 2022 in Book 71 at Page 31 of the Andover Land Records. (E-911 address: Howard Hill Rd. [land only], Parcel #011000087.000)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Andover Office, a public place located at 953 Weston-Andover Road, in Andover, Vermont, on the 6th day of June, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Andover, Vermont this 2nd day of May, 2024

Jeanette Haight, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

### NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of property in the Town of Andover, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to William B. Sepe by Warranty Deed of Arthur J. Connolly and Virginia P. Connolly, dated February 5, 2001 and recorded February 7, 2001 in Book 38 at Page 210 of the Andover Land Records. (E-911 address: Hill Top Rd., Parcel #008200066.000)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Andover Office, a public place located at 953 Weston-Andover Road, in Andover, Vermont, on the 6th day of June, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Andover, Vermont this 2nd day of May, 2024

Jeanette Haight, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

### NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of property in the Town of Andover, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the 2023-2024 tax year remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Amy Altobelli by Warranty Deed of John M. Houlihan, Joyce M. Houlihan, and Robert E. Houlihan dated December 12, 2003 and recorded on December 29, 2003 in Book 45 at Page 163 of the Andover Land Records. (E-911 address: 627 Little Pond Rd., Parcel #011000046.100)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Andover Office, a public place located at 953 Weston-Andover Road, in Andover, Vermont, on the 6th day of June, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Andover, Vermont this 2nd day of May, 2024

Jeanette Haight, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

### NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of property in the Town of Andover, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the 2023-2024 tax year remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

It being that portion of those lands and premises situated in Andover, Vermont conveyed to Tater Hill Properties LLC by Limited Warranty Deed of Okemo Limited Liability Company, dated June 30, 2021 and recorded on September 15, 2021 in Book 69 at Page 453 of the Andover Land Records. (E-911 address: Howard Hill Rd., Parcel #011000086.000)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Andover Office, a public place located at 953 Weston-Andover Road, in Andover, Vermont, on the 6th day of June, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Andover, Vermont this 2nd day of May, 2024

Jeanette Haight, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

# LEGAL NOTICES

# classifieds

## FOR RENT

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – Newly remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home, open kitchen dining room and living room with cathedral ceilings, primary bedroom on main floor. Monthly or yearly, \$2,600/month. Call 802-770-0569.

## FOR SALE

CHESTER, Vt. – Sea Eagle SE 9 inflatable boat with sun canopy, motor bracket, pump, and oars. New, never used, \$650. Electric motor and battery box, \$200, also new. Call 802-384-0347.

# Rockingham Library offers museum and park passes

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Looking for something fun, educational, and free to do with family? Have guests coming into town and want to show off Vermont's cultural highlights? The Rockingham Free Public Library offers cardholders passes to museums, parks, and institutions throughout the state and in nearby communities. Passes can be reserved up to a month in advance, and provide free or greatly-reduced admission. Each pass can be checked out by library card holders age 18 and older for three days at a time.

Cheshire Children's Museum in Keene, N.H.

This spring and summer, the Rockingham Public Library invites you to discover Vermont's treasures with trips to museums, parks, and historical sites. This exciting service is provided by the financial support of the Friends of the Rockingham Library, the Vermont Department of Libraries, and individual institutions. For more information, call the library at 802-463-4270, email [programming@rockinghamlibrary.org](mailto:programming@rockinghamlibrary.org), or go online to [www.rockinghamlibrary.org](http://www.rockinghamlibrary.org).

Park and Museum passes available at the library include Echo Lake Aquarium and Science Center in Burlington, Vt.; The Nature Museum in Grafton, Vt.; Vermont's History Museum in Barre, Vt.; Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown, N.H.; Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee, Vt.; Billings Farm and Museum in Woodstock, Vt.; Vermont State Parks; Vermont Historic Sites; and the

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**facebook**  
@VermontJournal

**The Take a Break will be back next week due to lack of space**

**We apologize for the inconvenience, and thank you for your understanding**

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Andover Select Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 10, 2024 for the purpose of receiving comment on the discontinuance of the remaining .07 miles of Christmas Tree Road (TH #38) which is currently a Class 3 Town Road. The site visit will begin at 5:30 p.m. The hearing will convene immediately following the site visit at the Andover Town Office.

Dated at Andover, Vermont this 1th day of May, 2024.

Jeanette Haight, Town Clerk

## Town of Londonderry, VT JOB OPENINGS

### Road Crew Member/Equipment Operator

Work includes plowing, grading, ditching, road repair, roadside mowing, culvert work, chainsaw operation, equipment maintenance, and other duties. A clean driving record, a CDL license, and the ability to pass drug/alcohol tests are required. Highway/road maintenance experience preferred. This is a full-time position with excellent benefits.

### Parks Maintenance Employee

Part-time, seasonal Parks Maintenance position to help maintain grounds and recreation infrastructure in all of Londonderry's Town-owned parks.

### Transfer Station Attendant

Part-time (5 hours per week) Transfer Station Attendant to work on weekends. Backhoe experience preferred.

Further information is available on the Town website: [www.londonderryvt.org](http://www.londonderryvt.org). Applicants must complete and submit a required Employment Application, which can be found in the Town Forms section of the Town web site. Submit via email to [townadmin@londonderryvt.org](mailto:townadmin@londonderryvt.org) or mail to: Town of Londonderry, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155. Other supporting information from applicants is welcome.

Positions opened until filled. The Town of Londonderry is an equal opportunity employer.

## 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:dgray@ssdvt.org))

Other instructions will be provided after making initial contact.

## NOTICE TO SPRINGFIELD VOTERS

Absentee Ballots for the Springfield Town School District Meeting being held Tuesday, May 21, 2024, are available at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, and you didn't already make a request for "all local elections" with your pre-Town Meeting absentee ballot request, please contact the Town Clerk's Office as soon as possible in person, in writing, by phone or by email. If you make your absentee request in person, you can choose to vote your ballot and return it before leaving the Town Clerk's Office. If returning your ballots by mail, allow extra time for postal delivery. An Absentee Request Form can be found on the town's website <https://springfieldvt.gov> or you may request your ballots online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. The deadline for requesting absentee ballots is Monday, May 20, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. You may register to vote on Election Day at the polls and then proceed to vote on that day. You may also register to vote any time at the Town Clerk's office or online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. Prior to May 21, 2024, absentee ballots may be returned in-person, through regular mail and after hours through mail slots located in town hall entrances. All voted absentee ballots must be received at the polls by the Town Clerk before the close of polls at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. The polls are located at Riverside Middle School in the gymnasium and will open on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk's Office will not be open on May 21, 2024. Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC - 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156 (802) 885-2104 [tosclerk@vermontel.net](mailto:tosclerk@vermontel.net)

## Chester Ambulance Full-time EMT/AEMT

Chester Ambulance is excited to announce a full-time EMT/AEMT position. The ideal candidate will be an AEMT or have the ability to achieve it within one year. Candidate will also have a strong passion for community-oriented health care. Chester Ambulance has a strong passion for the community. As a department we are building a community paramedicine program, interfacility transfers as well as advancing to the paramedic level. The ideal candidate would have strong leadership skills, as leadership opportunities could become available.

Candidate should possess the following knowledge and skills:

1. Possess a valid Vermont EMT/AEMT license.
2. Possess a Highschool diploma or GED.
3. Ability to pass a background check.
4. US Citizen.
5. 18 Years of age or older.
6. 2 years of healthcare experience.
7. Ability to lift 50 pounds.
8. Possess VT drivers license

We work closely with the Chester Police Department and Fire Department and encourage cross-training such as, Fire fighter, Rope Rescue, Swift Water, law Enforcement.

Inquire by sending your resume with a Town of Chester Application to:  
Town of Chester, VT  
PO Box 370, Chester, VT 05143  
Or emailed: [michael.randzio@chestervt.gov](mailto:michael.randzio@chestervt.gov)

## WARNING SPECIAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING HYBRID (PHYSICAL AND REMOTE)

The legal voters of the Town of Springfield School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at Riverside Middle School Gymnasium in said Town on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. (8:00 o'clock in the forenoon) until 7:00 p.m. to vote by Australian ballot for the following article:

ARTICLE 1: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the School Board to spend THIRTY-NINE MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-SIX THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED TWO and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$39,496,702.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

Two (2) public informational hearings will be held in-person, and will be accessible remotely by electronic means, at the Springfield High School on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. and on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the proposed school budget as presented in Article 1.

### IN-PERSON PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARINGS WILL BE ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS:

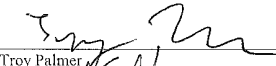
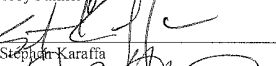

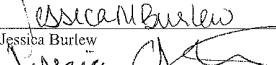
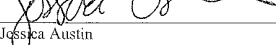
#### For May 13, 2024:

- GOOGLE MEET ID LINK: [meet.google.com/ngd-filhq-tbc](https://meet.google.com/ngd-filhq-tbc)
- By telephone: Dial +1 502-632-7392 and when prompted enter the PIN 901 476 534#.
- Meeting link can also be accessed on the home page of the School District Website: [ssdvt.org](http://ssdvt.org)
- Watch live on SAPA TV or stream it from [Sapatv.org](http://Sapatv.org)

#### For May 20, 2024:

- GOOGLE MEET ID LINK: [meet.google.com/oqn-dxum-zkg](https://meet.google.com/oqn-dxum-zkg)
- By telephone: Dial +1 240-317-4979 and when prompted enter the PIN 682 684 591#.
- Meeting link can also be accessed on the home page of the School District Website: [ssdvt.org](http://ssdvt.org)
- Watch live on SAPA TV or stream it from [Sapatv.org](http://Sapatv.org)

Dated this 2nd day of May, 2024 at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont.

  
Troy Palmer  
  
Stephen Karafis  
  
Denise Hunter  
  
Jessica Burlew  
  
Jessica Austin

Board of School Directors  
Springfield Town School District

Notice posted in four public places on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2024

M&T Bank Mall  
North Springfield Post Office  
Springfield Municipal Office  
Springfield Town Library  
Springfield School District Website: <http://www.ssdvt.org>

Attest:   
Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC

## Art Crafts Gifts

### GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops  
68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111  
**OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. til 7**  
Shop Pottery, Glass, Children's Items, Woodenware, Scarves, Jewelry, Cards, Fine Art, and More  
<http://galleryvault.org>

### Faces of Mass Incarceration

Portraits by Rein Colts, May 3 to May 24  
Reception: May 3, 5-6:30

### Silk Scarf Show & Sale by Teresa Flowers

Open Wall: *Thoughts of Spring*  
*Raku Pottery Workshop w/ Andrew Berends*  
5/4 & 5/11 <https://galleryvault.org/workshops/>  
(07/17/24 - TFN - 13)

## Builders/Contractors

### HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC

"Not just for bangin' nails."

We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 [edwin.mortensen@gmail.com](mailto:edwin.mortensen@gmail.com).

Follow us on Instagram @nedthehammer  
(11/20/24 - 52)

### PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville, 802-558-5267.  
(05/15/24 - 13)

## NEW ENGLAND HOME BUILDING AND REMODEL

802-779-3414 — Located in Weston, VT

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

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

## Campground

### CATON PLACE CAMPGROUND

2419 EAST ROAD, CAVENDISH VERMONT  
SEASONAL SITES AVAILABLE FOR 2024! REASONABLE RATES!  
802-226-7767, [Catonplacecamp@gmail.com](mailto:Catonplacecamp@gmail.com).

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

## Chiropractor

### FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

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

## Conflict Consulting

### THEFLATTABLE.COM, TOM SALMON CPA, MA

"We were stuck. Tom helped our family resolve insurmountable challenges. We are forever grateful." - Telos W., Springfield.

The Flat Table process works! No conflict too big or too small. Free consultation. 802-535-1555 or [TheFlatTable.com](http://TheFlatTable.com).  
(10/02/24 - 26)

## Electrician

### KJ ELECTRIC LLC

802-428-6224  
[kjelectric63@gmail.com](mailto:kjelectric63@gmail.com)  
Chester, VT  
Licensed and Insured  
Quality installation and service since 2005  
"Wiring is not a hobby! Call a professional!"  
(01/29/25 - 52)

## Masonry

### DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or [stoneart49@gmail.com](mailto:stoneart49@gmail.com) or visit [drcstonedesign.com](http://drcstonedesign.com).  
(05/22/24 - 13)

## Okemo Valley TV

### LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Ludlow Municipal Update
- State Rep. Logan Nicoll Visits ESRB
- Regional Youth Basketball Tournaments from Tech Gym
- Legislative Wrap-Up w/ Rep. Tasha Buss

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

### GREEN BEE LAWN & GARDEN

Serving Chester and surrounding towns

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

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](mailto:greenbeelawns@gmail.com).  
(08/07/24 - 26)

# health news

# LEGAL NOTICES

## Grace Cottage Spring into Health 5K

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital is hosting its 15th annual Spring into Health 5K on May 11, on the Townshend Common. The event begins with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. You can run, walk, roll, stroll, or push your baby carriage for this fun, family-friendly event. There is a registration fee for adults; children under the age of 18 are free with signed parent/guardian

permission. To register, go to [www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events). A virtual option is also available. Register at the same link. You can also register in person just before the event. For more information, contact Grace Cottage Foundation at [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org), or call 802-365-9109. All proceeds from this event will benefit healthcare services at Grace Cottage.

## Health care talk

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Is your health care unaffordable? Do you have barriers to getting the care you need? Have you been cut off of Medicaid, or are you at risk of losing it? Are you dealing with medical debt? Do you have ideas about health justice to share with others? Join Windham County members of the Vermont Workers' Center at a Health Justice Jam on May 13, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., in the Rockingham Free Public Library Meeting Room, for a discussion about how we can work together for a system in which everyone is

able to enjoy the human right to health care. Participants are encouraged to share experiences with the health care system. Local health resources and free blood pressure screenings will be available. Light refreshments will be served. Child care and interpretation by request by May 6 to [windham@workerscenter.org](mailto:windham@workerscenter.org) or 802-257-4436. RSVP at [www.workerscenter.org/2024springtour](http://www.workerscenter.org/2024springtour), to let the hosts know you're coming and to get updates. This program is free and open to the public.

## Your input wanted

**REGION** – Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, the Brattleboro Retreat, and Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital need your input to assess the health needs of our community. Every three years, these organizations conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), to learn more about the health concerns and needs of the communities they serve. Based on the information gathered, each healthcare facility will develop an implementation plan to address these needs.

A community survey is now ready for input at [www.tinyurl.com/WindhamCHNA](http://www.tinyurl.com/WindhamCHNA). The link is open until May 27. The survey is for Windham County residents, and those who receive healthcare in Windham County. It can also be accessed via a QR code on the organizations' websites and Facebook pages, and on posters at the three facilities and throughout the county. All answers are anonymous. These healthcare organizations are also seeking input from representatives of groups serving Windham County residents and via focus groups.

## Older Americans Month

**REGION** – In late February, case manager Pam Halme visited one of her clients, Marjorie (not her real name), who was turning 99 soon. Marjorie has polio, and is unable to move herself in any way, but has been able to stay in her own home now for many years. Pam provides care coordination services to Marjorie through Choices for Care, a longterm care program, and ensures that home health aides come seven days per week, twice per day, to assist her. Years ago, when Marjorie was in the hospital, her family was told that she could not live at home, but because of her fierce determination, the consistency of Pam's care coordination, and her home care services, Marjorie is still at home, closely connected to her family.

Established in 1963, Older Americans Month is celebrated every May as a time to recognize older Americans' contributions, and reaffirm commitments to serving the older adults in our communities. You may have a neighbor or a grandmother in circumstances like Marjorie's. This month, we are celebrating older Vermonters who have persevered and continue to thrive in their communities. In the 2023 Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community, the U.S. Surgeon General states, "Loneliness is far more than just a bad feeling – it harms both individual and societal health. It is associated with a greater risk of cardiovascular disease, dementia, stroke, depression, anxiety, and premature death." At Senior Solutions, the area agency on aging serving the southeastern Vermont region, we are charged under the Older Americans Act, established in 1965, to plan and develop a comprehensive and coordinated system of services and supports for older adults and family caregivers. The strategic and timely help we provide has been especially developed to enable older Vermonters such as Marjorie to thrive at home and in their communities.

The combination of our rural characteristics and our aging population, along with the recent pandemic, creates prime conditions for entrenching social isolation for older Vermonters. It is critical for their wellbeing and the wellbeing of our communities that we reach out to them with information about activities they can participate in and services that help them to stay connected. Services such as the Uber-like microtransit bus service in Windsor and Brattleboro have been a godsend in this regard. Senior centers and local Cares groups throughout the area provide weekly meals and activities for social enrichment. Meals on Wheels delivery drivers bring nourishment in the form of nutritious food, a warm smile, and perhaps some local news. In several towns throughout the region, community nurses are a vital source of health information and care coordination that strengthens their clients' connection to medical services and their communities. Our Memory Cafe events bring caregivers and their loved ones together for peer support and enriching activities for those living with dementia. For anyone who is or has been a caregiver, creating opportunities for social connectedness is paramount to their wellbeing.

At Senior Solutions, we continually seek out new opportunities with our community partners to create networks of services and events to bring folks together to share a meal, a story, or just a smile and a handshake. What can you do to connect with the older citizens in your community? Stop in and say hello. **Written by Mark Boutwell, executive director, Senior Solutions.**

**DAKIN & BENELLI, P.C.**  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW  
26 MAIN STREET  
P.O. BOX 499  
CHESTER, VERMONT 05143-0499

TELEPHONE  
(802)875-4000  
FACSIMILE  
(802)875-4200

NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE

William E. Dakin, Jr., Esq., and Patricia G. Benelli, Esq., announce that they are retiring from the practice of law and closing the law office of Dakin & Benelli, P.C., as of June 30, 2024.

If you would like information from your file, please contact [info@dakinbenelli.com](mailto:info@dakinbenelli.com).

We look forward to finishing the legal work that is in process.

William E. Dakin, Jr.,  
May 2, 2024

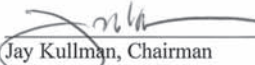
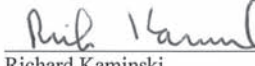

**Warning**

The legal voters of the of the Town of Plymouth, County of Windsor, State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned that a petition has been filed by at least 5% of the registered voters, of the Town of Plymouth, County of Windsor, State of Vermont, to reconsider Article 6 from the annual town meeting held on March 4, 2024 that was done by a show of hands vote at the meeting. As a result, the Town will hold a Special Meeting at the Plymouth Municipal Building at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at seven o'clock PM (7:00 PM) to re-vote Article 6. The meeting shall be conducted by the Moderator consistent with Robert's Rules of Order. The vote for reconsideration shall be controlled by a simple majority vote of the registered voters present at the meeting. Article 6 stated the following:

Article 6. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will vote to exempt the property owned by Bethany Birches Camp Inc. located at 2610 Lynds Hill Road (parcel id: 000167) from the educational portion of the property taxes for a period of five (5) years commencing with the 2024 tax year?

Dated at Plymouth, Vermont, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

**Town of Plymouth, Select Board**

 Jay Kullman, Chairman	4-15-24 Date
 Richard Kaminski	4-15-24 Date
 Keith Cappellini	4/15/24 Date

**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, June 3, 2024** to consider the following:

<b>Application # 24-35</b>	Application # 24-35 FINAL PLAT HEARING Jose Guallpa (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.
<b>Application # 24-39</b>	Application # 24-39 Carl Crook & Marni Rosner (Owner & Applicant) property located at 230 Three Dog Lane. The Applicant is requesting a Minor Sub-division. Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 446 Residential District and 447 Rural Residential; Article XIV Ridgeline Protection Overlay (Partial); & Article VIII Sub-Division of Land (Minor Sub-Division) of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.
<b>Application # 24-40</b>	Application # 24-40 Daniel Kissel Jr. & Mariah Hayes (Owner & Applicant) PRELIMINARY PLAT HEARING, property is located at Pine Banks Road. The Applicant is requesting a Major Sub-Division. Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 447 Rural Residential District; and Article VIII Sub-Division of Land (Major Sub-Division) of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.
<b>Application # 24-41</b>	Application # 24-41 Eli Reed (Owner & Applicant) property is located at 3320 US Route 5. The Applicant is requesting the removal of damaged siding and will paint the original brick in the Historic District. Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 445 Historic Village District; Article IX Historic Preservation Overlay of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

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.



**Assistant Water & Wastewater Operator**

The Town of Charlestown is accepting applications for a full-time position as an Assistant Water & Wastewater Operator.

Previous experience in municipal water and/or wastewater operations is highly desirable but the Town is willing to train the right applicant. Position requires a good general knowledge of skill and work practices, methods, tools, and equipment appropriate to water and wastewater systems operations and of public works construction and maintenance. Should have a good working knowledge of the occupational hazards and safety precautions necessary in the operation of utility equipment, power tools and working with potentially hazardous chemicals and substances. Must be able to comprehend and exercise work safety procedures as required by law. Applicants must have a good work ethic, positive attitude, be a hard worker and a team player.

Wages commensurate with qualifications and experience. Full Benefit package including paid vacations and holidays. Interested candidates may obtain an employment application in the Selectboard office at 233 Main Street, Charlestown, NH or on the Town Website. Applications and Resumes should be emailed to [Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov](mailto:Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov).

The Town of Charlestown is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



**Water/Waste Water Licensed Superintendent**  
**Level 2 Facility**

The Town of Charlestown is accepting applications for this full-time position.

The Water/Wastewater Licensed Superintendent is responsible for overseeing the operation, maintenance, and management of a Level 2 water/wastewater facility in accordance with state and federal regulations. This role requires a strong background in water and wastewater treatment, as well as leadership skills to manage a team of operators and ensure the facility operates efficiently and effectively.

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, Environmental Science, or related field.
- Valid Water/Wastewater Operator License (Level 2) issued by [State Licensing Board].
- Minimum of 3 years of experience in water/wastewater treatment operations, with at least 1 year in a supervisory role.
- Strong knowledge of water and wastewater treatment processes and equipment.
- Excellent leadership and management skills.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work effectively with regulatory agencies and other stakeholders.

Wages commensurate with qualifications and experience. Full Benefit package including paid vacations and holidays. Interested candidates may obtain an employment application in the Selectboard office at 233 Main Street, Charlestown, NH or on the Town Website. Applications and Resumes should be emailed to [Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov](mailto:Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov).

The Town of Charlestown is an Equal Opportunity Employer.