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Keepsake in next week's paper



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BFUHS 2024 Alumni Queen candidates

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The following are this year's nominees for the 2024 Bellows Falls Alumni Queen.

Riley Haskell

My name is Riley Haskell. I am the proud daughter of Tyler and Melissa Haskell. I have lived in Bellows Falls for the entirety of my life.

As a freshman, coming into high school with Covid taking control of everything was very difficult for me. From where I am today, I am very proud of my hard work and dedication that I have presented to BFUHS and this community. I have achieved great academic success throughout all four years of high school, and I hope to continue that as I pursue my education at River Valley Community College. I will be studying physical therapy, with a strong interest in sports medicine.

I have always been an athlete, and loved to watch all different sports. I have been a starting player for the varsity softball team for all four years. I had to take over a very important role on the team after we lost a beloved member in a tragic accident during my freshman year. As a junior, I was named captain of the team and led my team to the semifinal game for the first time in over 40 years. This was one of my biggest accomplishments throughout my high school career.

I am a current employee of Lisai's Market, and PinSeeker Pub at the Bellows Falls Country Club. The Country Club is where I have spent my last two summers, and I have loved every minute of it. I have been attending the alumni parades since I was a very young child, and always loved to help my mom build her floats as her class does them. It was always the highlight of the end of each



Delaney Lockerby.
PHOTO PROVIDED

school year, because I would have something to look forward to. I am extremely honored to have been given this opportunity, and very excited that I will always have this memory to look back on.

Moriah Howarth

My name is Moriah Howarth. I live with my parents Lisa and Andy Howarth in Bellows Falls. I have enjoyed learning, taking challenges, and improving my skills through the work I have done at BFUHS. I have especially enjoyed my participation in the Health Services Program at River Valley Technical Center in Springfield, where I am working to earn my LNA. During my time in high school, I have been on the honor roll many times. I was proud to be named Elks Student of the Month in February 2023. It is an accomplishment I am so grateful for. I was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society through the River Valley Technical Center in 2023. I feel very lucky to be a member of this program.

Presently, I do private care with a local elderly lady. I get her ready for daytime activities and for bed. I enjoy this job because of its importance in my life. I have always loved taking care of others; that's why I want to be a nurse. This past winter, I was em-



Eryn Ross.
PHOTO PROVIDED

ployed by the Town of Rockingham to help shovel and salt sidewalks and make sure the community was safe.

I am honored to be one of the nominees for the 2024 Alumni Queen.

I plan to attend River Valley Community College for nursing this fall. I will also be working part time at the hospital as a LNA.

Delaney Lockerby

My name is Delaney Lockerby. My parents are Jessica and Bill Lockerby, and I live in Westminster, Vt., with my mother and brother. While at BFUHS, I have been a member of the student council for four years, and have accumulated about 200 hours of community service. I was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society my junior year, after becoming a licensed nursing assistant through the Windham Regional Career Center.

I have been a part of multiple sports teams, including field hockey, basketball, and track. I have played field hockey for four years, two of which were spent on varsity. I was selected for the SVL first team my senior year. I also played basketball all four years, spending three of them on varsity. I was selected for the SVL All-State team junior year, and was voted Brattleboro Athlete of the Week in January 2023. I



Moriah Howarth.
PHOTO PROVIDED

also had the honor of being chosen as a finalist for the Jersey Mike's Naismith High School Basketball Courage Award in March 2023, and I was selected for the senior all-star team this past season.

I have been employed at Allen Brothers Farm Market for three years, working in the ice cream stand and deli. After high school, I will be attending Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., to study health sciences and later enter the field of health-care. I am so thrilled to be a part of the Bellows Falls community, and I'm honored to have been chosen as a nominee for the 2024 Alumni Queen.

Eryn Ross

My name is Eryn Smidutz Ross. I was born and raised in Westminster, Vt., with my two moms Diane Ross and Sandra Smidutz, and my older brother Mackinnon. During my time at BFUHS, it's safe to say that I kept myself busy. I've been a member of the student council for four years, as well as serving as class vice president for four years. I've been a part of four varsity sports, including field hockey, basketball, and indoor and outdoor track. I was honored to be named captain of the field hockey team my senior year, alongside the basketball and track teams my junior year. I was



Riley Haskell.
PHOTO PROVIDED

also fortunate enough to be a part of the 2020 undefeated field hockey state champs. I earned SVL All League recognition for field hockey in my junior and senior years, and participated in the senior all-star basketball game representing the south.

Alongside athletics, I have also been involved in the math team for four years, finishing fourth in the league in my sophomore year. I also participated in Earth Beat, a club dedicated to preserving the environment, during my junior year. After years of unsuccessfully trying to fit the spring musical into my busy schedule, I was able to this spring, playing the role of "The Little Red Haired Girl" in our production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!"

If I'm not participating in one of my many activities, you can find me working in downtown Bellows Falls at Rockingham Roasters making a maple lattes, or working as a camp counselor at American Diabetes Association camps in the summer.

In the future, I will study psychology and social work and play field hockey at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Conn.

I am beyond honored to be nominated by my classmates to represent the class of 2024.

Sadie Scott



Sadie Scott.
PHOTO PROVIDED

My name is Sadie Scott. I live with my parents Stanton and Andrea Scott in Bellows Falls.

I played varsity field hockey for three years. My freshman year we won the Division I State Championship. I was top scorer my sophomore and junior year, and was named Athlete of the Week numerous times in the Brattleboro Reformer. During my three years playing field hockey, I also volunteered my time to help coach youth field hockey. My senior year I played varsity soccer, and ended the season being top scorer.

In my free time I enjoy hunting, horseback riding, and boating on the lake. I have been riding horses since I was 8 years old, and have competed in many horse shows and events. Throughout my high school years, I have had many jobs, including working at High View Farm, Silhouette Hill Farm, the car wash, self storage, and the Walpole Veterinary Hospital. I will be attending Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina, where I will be pursuing a degree in biology, with the plan to go on to veterinary school.

I am honored to be selected as a part of the Alumni Court this year, and want to say thank you for this opportunity.

Cheshire Bridge Project delayed and revised

BY PAULA BENSON

The Shopper



Springfield Rotary Club donates 95 books for 95th anniversary

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – In honor of its 95th anniversary, the Springfield Rotary Club donated 95 books to Elm Hill School, Union Street School, Springfield Area Parent Child Center, Springfield Family Center, and Springfield Housing Authority.

Karen Longo, immediate past president of the Springfield Rotary Club, spearheaded the distribution of 95 books to area organizations to honor the 95th anniversary of the club.

PHOTO PROVIDED

at the June 3 Springfield Select-board meeting, the board approved a proposal from Jessica Martin, director of Springfield on the Move, (SOM) for the second annual Springfield Street Festival, scheduled for July 13, from 3:30-8 p.m., at Comtu Cascade Park.

Martin said she was excited for the return of the Donut Dash, a big hit last year, and hoped to have 20-30 vendors participating, more than double last year's amount.

"Battle of the Badges – Springfield Fire vs. Springfield Police" is a new event this year, a three-point basketball shooting contest between the departments.

Police Chief Burnham reported that the department is in the middle of another hiring process, and said they had four candidates expected to attend the Vermont Police Academy in August.

Burnham told the board that "one of the candidates we are looking to send to the

police academy is female," and that he'd "stepped up [his] efforts" to add a women's locker room to the police department facility. All Seasons construction company drew up a design and presented it to Burnham, along with an estimate for the work. "A formal presentation and request will be forthcoming," stated Burnham.

The chief's update on body cameras, which have been utilized by officers for several months, was that the "video quality is excellent," and "officers are accepting [the body cameras] as part of their responses more and more. We're working on that, and it's getting better."

Springfield Regional Development Corporation (SRDC) Executive Director Bob Flynn presented to the board "a range of local businesses and situations" the SRDC assists with.

"Money, obviously, is a big thing," Flynn commented. "So, we have our own revolving loan fund."

Flynn spoke a bit about flood recovery, and said it was important to support businesses, help them pre-

pare for other, future disasters, as well as expand, and encourage sustainability.

"We just did two loans recently, one for Medtrina in Chester's expansion to a wine bar and cafe, and another to Blake Hills in Windsor, which will be doing significant expansion."

Vice Chair Michael Martin asked what kind of businesses the SRDC was interested in working with, and how they set their criteria. Flynn hesitated, but admitted that they were not interested in "high-end retail, for example," or businesses who were not paying employees a living wage.

The board approved a request from the Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) to hold their annual duck race fundraiser on July 6, from 4-7 p.m. The event will feature food, music, raffles, a bounce house, and a water slide, with all proceeds benefiting SAPCC.

Mobus and the board discussed the sidewalk improvements underway along the portion of Wall Street from Summer Hill to Reed Street. Mobus relayed that,

after looking at options and infrastructure improvements needed in this area, it was determined that this section of Wall Street is a good candidate to be designated as one-way.

Mobus explained, "If the board does wish to start the work to turn this section of Wall Street into a one-way, the board would need to refer this to the ordinance committee."

Morris asked when the residents on Wall Street, and all those affected by this change, would be afforded the opportunity to voice their opinions.

Mobus commented, "I will tell you right now, the people who live there think it's great."

The board agreed to pass the proposed ordinance along to the ordinance committee for consideration, which would then be presented in a public hearing.

Mobus asked the board to sign the latest local hazard mitigation report, which they had reviewed several months ago. An updated

See **BRIDGE** on Page 2

INDEX

Opinion..... 4
Obituaries 4-5
Calendar 6
Classifieds/Business Directory 7
Legal Notices 6-8
Arts & Entertainment 8-9
Health & Wellness 10

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Celebrating community revitalization in Bellow Falls

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – About 300 people attended the 2024 Vermont Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference on June 5, and 200 went to the 2024 Creative Sector Convening on June 6. Both events were made possible by a partnership between the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, Preservation Trust of Vermont, and Vermont Arts Council.

The biannual Vermont Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference kicked off at the Bellows Falls Opera House with remarks from members of the

Abenaki Tribe, Preservation Trust of Vermont Executive Director Ben Doyle, and State Treasurer Mike Pieciak. Rep. Balint shared some thoughts via a video.

Following was a keynote panel moderated by Susan Evans McClure, executive director of the Vermont Arts Council. The five panelists were all from the Bellows Falls area and talked about how, as Evans McClure put it, “the revitalization of Bellows Falls was a 20 year overnight success story.”

Back in the 1980s, downtown Bellows Falls had a 70% vacancy rate. Today it is booming. The panelists

credit preserving the village’s beautiful buildings with new uses in mind for the revival. They also highlighted the importance of collaboration, community involvement, volunteerism, and working with the state to take advantage of existing programs and grants.

Guests spent the rest of the day attending more than 20 sessions. Topics varied from the history of Bellows Falls, brownfield redevelopment, missing middle housing solutions, and the resilience of the creative community.

The conference concluded with a ribbon cutting at the Robertson Paper Mill, and

a reception at the Waypoint Visitor Center.

The Creative Sector Convening on June 6 also started at the Bellows Falls Opera House. The event focused on creative entrepreneurship, community resilience, and casemaking, and welcomed arts and culture organizations, community organizations, businesses, and others working in Vermont’s vibrant creative sector.

Plenary attendees were welcomed to Bellows Falls by the Abenaki and discussed the artwork of the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association, now on display at the Bellows Falls Garage building. The Vermont

Arts Council, New England Foundation for the Arts, and staff from Sen. Peter Welch’s office shared updates on state, regional, and national efforts to support the creative sector. The Opera House audience was on their feet during a performance by Shidaa Projects, a Vermont West African dance and drum troupe. Circus artist Rob Crites helped attendees experience the creative sector in action, tying together the day with performances and interactive experiences.

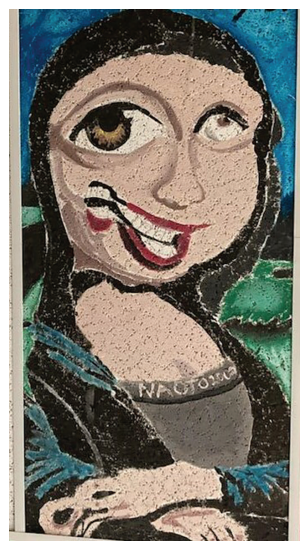
From there, attendees had eight sessions to choose from on several topics, including marketing, accessi-

bility, creative placemaking for community resilience, and building inclusive creative communities.

The Vermont Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference and the Creative Sector Convening would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors Windham & Windsor Housing Trust, Guilford Sound, Farnum Insulators, James Plumbing & Heating, Whitaker Properties Inc., The Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP), Vermont Creative Network, The National Park Service, Evernorth, VHFA, and The Vermont Community Foundation.

Kurn Hattin exhibits artwork in Keene ArtWalk

KEENE, N.H. – At 34 years and counting, the Keene ArtWalk is the city’s longest-running community event. The annual exhibition, which features submissions from area artists and students, offers an opportunity for experienced and burgeoning creatives to share their artwork with a public audience. For the second consecutive year, artwork from Kurn Hattin Homes for Children is part of the 11-day event.



“Smiling Mona Lisa.” PHOTO PROVIDED

size spectrum, the window also includes two ceiling-tiles-turned-portraits from the homes’ art classroom, and two grand-scale, computer-aided custom vinyl wall-covering designs that students created during a recent Career Awareness Program visit to Len-Tex Corporation in Walpole, N.H.

Small and large, each artistic endeavor emphasizes to Kurn Hattin Homes students that art can be found everywhere, every day. Students are continually encouraged to think outside the easel to recognize, appreciate, and incorporate art into their own personal environments.

The 2024 Keene ArtWalk exhibits will be on display in downtown merchants’ windows through June 9.

Located in the Concord Med Spa window on Central Square, Kurn Hattin Homes’ display features nontraditional artwork. For example, there are a number of small 3D objects d’art atop a school desk. These figures were created in the SmartLab by using a 3D pen that heats a plastic filament internally, then extrudes the melted material through the nozzle. As the

plastic cools, it hardens to maintain the shape of the 3D object. Because the industry has not adopted an official term for this medium, SmartLab facilitator Ben Weiner, has dubbed it “plasticraft.”

At the opposite end of the

Springfield Rotary welcomes new member

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Michelle Chamberlain recently joined the Springfield Rotary Club, and was inducted at a ceremony during the weekly club meeting held on Tuesday, June 3, at Maebelline’s Restaurant.

Michelle is a retail branch assistant at Community Bank in Springfield. She was sponsored by Rotary Club President-elect Deb Cox.

Rotary International is an international service organization with over 1 mil-

lion members in over 200 countries. The Springfield Rotary Club is in its 95th year of service to the community, and meets on Tuesdays, at 12 p.m., at Maebelline’s Restaurant. For more information, visit www.springfieldvtrotary.org.

Vermont Reads at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Town Library is participating in the Vermont Reads program, sponsored by Vermont Humanities, by hosting several events to encourage reading of the 2023-2024 book “Last Night at the Telegraph Club” by Malinda Lo. Copies of the book are available for free at the library and all related events.

by her curiosity about the Telegraph Club, located in a neighboring part of the city her parents have asked her to avoid. Lily and her new friend Kathleen begin to sneak out at night to the club, which hosts performances by Tommy Andrews, a woman who dresses and performs in a traditionally masculine style. Kath and Lily’s interest in each other continues to grow, despite the very real danger faced by two girls falling in love in 1954. At the same time, McCarthy-era fears about Communism, coupled with ongoing anti-Asian hate, shake the stability of the Chinese community, and threaten to engulf Lily’s own father.

On Monday, July 15, from

6-7 p.m., the Monday Evening Book Club will meet at the library to discuss the book. Contact Sue at springfieldlibrary@hotmail.com if you are a new participant and/or need the Zoom link to participate from home.

On Tuesday, July 16, from 12-1:30 p.m., On the Same Page Book Club will host a discussion about the book at the Black River Coffee Bar, 3 Main Street. Contact Tracey at stlvprograms@gmail.com if you need a Zoom link to join in from home.

All events are free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities. For more information, contact the library at 802-885-3108 or springfieldlibrary@hotmail.com.

Rockingham glass recycling

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The Rockingham Recycling Center has started a glass recycling program at our

facility on Route 5 South in Westminister. We request that people separate the following items from the recycling compactor:

empty clear, green, brown, and blue glass bottles and jars, clean and with lids removed. We also accept drinking glasses. No window or mirror glass please. No pyrex, light bulbs, headlights, or windshield glass.

The glass dumpster is located behind the rubbish compactor, with appropriate signage. There is no charge to dispose of the glass items. We appreciate your patience as we institute this program. We remind users of the facility that new access stickers are available at the cashier’s office. The stickers should be visible by July 1.

BRIDGE

From Page 1

version of the 2018 plan, the report includes the Great Vermont Flood of July 2023, the Canadian wildfires that affected Vermont’s air quality, and the Covid pandemic. “These events emphasize the importance of hazard

mitigation planning,” states the certificate of local adoption. A copy of the report can be found on the Springfield town website, www.springfieldvt.gov.

Mobus updated the meeting on the Cheshire Bridge Project, announcing that, after hearing feedback from residents and business owners about the negative impact a 34-week bridge closure would have on them, the New Hampshire Department of Transporta-

tion (NHDOT) delayed the project and designed an alternative. The new plan, which may not begin until 2027, would require a 34-week period of alternating one-way traffic, and an eight-week closure of the bridge.

The selectboard will meet next on Monday June 17, following a 6 p.m. public hearing for the purpose of discussing the 2025 Springfield water and wastewater budget.

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“When my father didn't have my hand, he had my back”

Happy Father’s Day!

GREEN MOUNTAIN THERAPEUTICS

We've got the gas

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Betwixt and between

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

As sometimes happens, I got distracted over the weekend. I write Sunday mornings. I could think of nothing to write, so I write what I call, "Betwixt and between."

Chester Alumni Parade

Saturday, June 8, I walked in the Chester Alumni Parade dressed in my Civil War uniform. That uniform shrank over the winter. It was a great parade.

Jon Clark has been at the helm for years. He is stepping down this year. There were a number of floats, with older Chester alumni riding in cars.

I walked behind the class of '64. Their wagon was drawn by two huge Suffolk Punch horses. Peter Hudkins trained and drove the horses. He says each horse weighs a ton or more. This parade is a wonderful small-town event.

Some license plate history

Paul, my postcard man, dropped off several hundred real photo postcards (RPPC), for Danny and I to consider. I bought the postcard you see with this article. Printed at bottom in white letters: "ICE JAM. HARTFORD VT. FEB. '08."

You'll notice a swath has been cut through the ice jam down to the road.

In those days, cars were put up for the winter. So this card caught my eye. When I saw the Vermont porcelain license plate "02," I thought it was the second car registered that year. Not so. In those days, Vermont issued dealer plates. Dealer plates begin with the "0" prefix.

It makes sense to me now. This car was taken out to show how great it was. This was a great publicity stunt.

The steering wheel is on the opposite side of what we have today. Many are standing with heavy fur coats. In the background I see a horse and sleigh. Some readers will know the make of this car.

Bellows Falls Gazette

I have an August 22, 1840, Bellows Falls Gazette newspaper. The front page is national news. The inside pages and rear page have items of local interest. Some excerpts are quoted below.

"For sale

"200 EWE SHEEP of superior quality, and 150 lambs. The lambs are from two full blood merino Bucks, procured from the celebrated Shaker flock in Canterbury, N.H. last fall. The sheep and lambs are in the north part of Athens. Enquire of Benjamin Smith Jr., Cambridgeport, or the subscriber in Putney.

"John Smith Putney, Aug. 19, 1840."

"STRAYED OR STOLEN

"From my Pasture in Londonderry, VT., on the fourth day of July, inst. a light grey six year old Horse; mixed with some red hairs; light mane and tail, middling long switch to his tail, a small bunch on the top of his right shoulder blade. Who-soever will return said Horse, or give information where he can be found, shall be handsomely rewarded, and all charges paid.

"ISAAC DE-CAMP Londonderry, July 20, 1840."

"To Wool Growers

"The Perkinsville Manufacturing Company are ready to receive Wool to manufacture into Broadcloths, either by yard or on shares, in a manner that shall satisfy those who may patronize them. For further particulars, apply to JONATHAN LAWRENCE, Esq. or S. Prentiss Perkinsville, June 10, 1840."

"Save your Rags!

"Wanted, ALL WOOL FLANNEL RAGS, such as old Gowns, Coverlets, Sheets, Shirts, Drawers, & c. including Merino, Circassian, Plaid, and every kind and color of all Wool wove goods, not fulled or felted, for which four cents per



1908 ice jam showing early car and license plate.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

pound CASH, will be paid on delivery at our factory, in Quechee Village, VT.

"E.K. Nichols, & Co Quechee Village, April 15, 1840."

[Author's note: I add an explanation of why rags were in demand. In those days, paper was made of rags, "rag paper" as I know it. This 1840 newspaper is made of rag paper. It is very durable.]

"FLOUR!

"200 BARRELS Superfine Flour, for sale by F.E. Fullerton. Chester, July 28, 1840."

"Notice

"Whereas, BETSEY my wife has left my bed and board without just cause, this is to forbid all persons trusting or harboring her on my account, as I shall pay no charges or expenses of her contracting or occasioned by her after this date. HOSEA RHOADS. Grafton, July 28, 1840."

[Author's note: I remember when women were posted this way.]

This week's old saying is from Ben Franklin: "We are all born ignorant, but one must work hard to remain stupid."

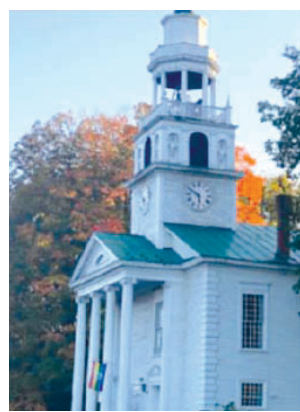
Old South Church on National Register of Historic Places

WINDSOR, Vt. - On March 29, Old South Church was listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places at the National Level of Significance by the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

The church will host an open house on Monday, June 17, beginning at 6 p.m. This event will include a presentation on the story behind the nomination, at 7 p.m., by architectural historian Lyssa Papazian. Lyssa will be joined by timber framer Jan Lewandoski, who will share some insights on the frame of Old South Church, as designed and erected by master builder Asher Benjamin (1773-1845).

The nomination, prepared by Lyssa Papazian, states, "As the first in Vermont and the fourth in New England, as well as the only Asher Benjamin designed and built example of this frame Type III church, the Old South Church is an exceptionally important prototype of the church type that would soon be used throughout New England. The Old South Church is also exceptionally valuable for the study of Asher Benjamin and his influence on the architectural development of New England and beyond through both his books and his architecture. It is significant as the work of a master of national significance."

The Old South Church congregation is planning for the care and repair of the church, as well as its mission to serve the greater Windsor, Vt., area for the next 100 years. This effort builds on a significant tradition of building this large church to serve a growing population in 1798. There were substantial changes in the church in 1844, indicative of changing worship practices and greater social interaction in faith communities. The church underwent a Colonial Revival restoration effort in 1922 as well, placing it solidly in the values of the early 20th century to honor American building traditions. The



The Old South Church. PHOTO PROVIDED



nations to the restoration fund for the church building are welcome. The first floor of the church is wheelchair accessible, and the program will take place in the parish hall. The sanctuary is accessible via stairs and a stair glide. To stream the meeting, scan the QR Code or visit us-02web.zoom.us/j/89693959620?pwd=WnBlQjF2WTZoZFdqU0drQXpULlI3dz09.

For more information, contact Tom McGraw at AsherBenjaminOld-SouthChurchVT@gmail.com or 802-909-2741.

program will be an opportunity to learn about the National Register nomination process and the current planning effort.

After the program, from 8-8:30 p.m., refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome. This event will be free of charge, and do-

Calling all children ages 4-12 to join us June 24-28 for



4:30-7:30 each evening - dinner provided register: ludlowbaptist.org/vbs 802.228.7600

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Cavendish Village Ghost Tour with CHS

CAVENDISH, Vt. - The Cavendish Historical Society (CHS) will once again host the Cavendish Village Ghost Tour on Saturday, June 22. Meet at the former Cavendish Historical Society Museum, at 8 p.m. Wear comfortable shoes, and bring a flashlight.

Among the sites to be visited include the Cavendish High Street Cemetery, Cavendish Stone Church, private homes, as well as the site of the "Dutton House." The latter was believed by locals to be haunted long before it was moved to Shelburne Museum, where the ghosts seemed to continue to haunt the build-

ing, staff, and visitors alike.

The former Duttonville School is thought to be haunted by children in what was once a classroom. The owner would hear laughing and sounds that a party was going on. However, when he opened the door, no one was there. Other strange occurrences have happened in the building, including a spirit teenager who sat at the end of a visitor's bed.

No tour would be complete without a stop at the old Hickernell house, where

for many decades it was believed that Mr. Hickernell had been murdered and buried in the basement.

The Ghost Walk is free and open to the public. Donations are always welcomed. For more information, call 802-226-7807 or email margocaulfield@icloud.com.



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obituaries

OPINION

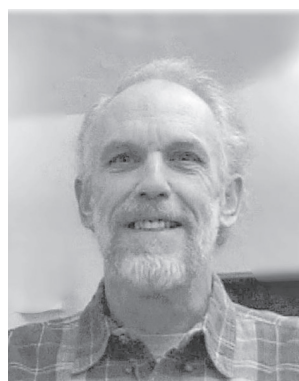
Dick Brown Celebration of Life

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – A Celebration of Life for Dick Brown will be held on Flag Day, Friday, June 14, at 2 p.m., at the Masonic Temple on Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. Feel free to bring a photo, share a story or verse, and enjoy time together with the family and many friends.

Thomas K. Hitchcock, 1944-2024



SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Thomas Klock Hitchcock, 79, passed away May 24, 2024. He was born Dec. 16, 1944, in East Hartford, Conn., the son of Brainard and Elizabeth (Milne) Hitchcock.



Thomas Hitchcock, 1944-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a radar operator in Germany during the Vietnam era. Upon returning from his service, he married Linda Schilpp on Jan. 27, 1968.

Tom was a woodworker, singer, and guitarist, who performed in coffee houses, pubs, and private gatherings in Connecticut, Vermont, and Maine. He and his wife Linda ran The Atlantic Coffee House in New Britain, Conn., in the late 60s and 70s. They moved to Vermont in the 1970s, where Tom worked as a builder for many years.

Later, he worked in the mental health field. He worked with clients, and went on to be the facility manager. He worked in Springfield, Vt.; Lebanon, N.H.; and Saco, Maine. His last job was for VABIR in the JOBS Program, where he helped disabled clients find and train for jobs in the Springfield, Vt., area.

He loved to be outdoors, enjoying nature, camping, and hiking. As an Eagle Scout, Tom became the

scoutmaster for a troop in Chester, Vt.

Tom is survived by his wife of 56 years Linda (Schilpp); son Keith Hitchcock; grandchildren Nathan, Matthew, Emily (Matt), and Isabelle; great-grandchildren Avery, Reagan, and Theodore; sister Jane (Richard) Platt; nephews Richard and James Platt, Peter Schilpp, and Jeremy Barrett; nieces Samantha Mather and Brandy Barrett; and sister-in-law Jo-Ann Barrett.

He is predeceased by his brother John Keith Hitchcock; brother-in-law Peter Joseph Schilpp; father-in-law Joseph P. Schilpp; and mother-in-law Ada (Shove) Schilpp.

A memorial service will be held at the Davis Memorial Chapel on June 21, at 2 p.m. The Rev. Thomas Charlton will officiate.

Dear Editor,

The recent postal carrier's food drive on behalf of Black River Good Neighbor Services Food Shelf deserves a huge thank you to our local postal workers. An amazing amount of food was donated in just one day, and for that we are extremely grateful.

Postal carriers went above and beyond as

they collected bags of food together with their regular mail deliveries. In the postal world, this day is the "National Day of Giving," and we are extremely proud of this supportive effort on behalf of those in need in our community.

For Black River Good Neighbor Services, this collection really does help in

keeping our shelves stocked with essentials. For folks who access the food shelf, it really does help to create an atmosphere of "needing to use the food shelf is not the end of the world." We find that when the shelves are stocked, people don't feel quite as desperate as they might coming in. And we work hard to share compas-

sion together with food assistance.

To the postal carriers and everyone in our community who donated food, thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Krey Kellington
Executive Director
Black River Good Neighbor Services

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Black River Good Neighbor Services, an amazing whirlwind Memorial Day weekend provided the backdrop for the 2024 Gigantic Spring Rummage Sale at Fletcher Farm, which was a remarkable success.

Starting weeks in advance, countless volunteers worked tirelessly setting up this event. Their dedication and

commitment to our community truly supports the organization's core values. Simply put, the sale, a huge undertaking, could not happen without devoted volunteer efforts. And we certainly do have that. Thank you very much, each and every one of you.

Among the many dedicated volunteers who worked at this event, we must include the board of directors, who went above

and beyond, also working behind the scenes to keep things looking good for shoppers. And, speaking of shoppers, we really want to thank everyone who attended and shopped at this sale. Please know that your dollars go directly to support our programs that include a food shelf, clothing, and financial and disaster assistance to those in need, serving the towns of Ludlow, Mount Holly, Belmont,

Cavendish, Proctorsville, and Plymouth.

For more information about Black River Good Neighbor Services, please visit our website at www.brgn.org, call us at 802-228-3663, or visit us at 37B Main Street, Ludlow.

Sincerely,
Krey Kellington
Executive Director
Black River Good Neighbor Services

Summer of Hope by Julia Ratiu

I tried painting the rubber floors in the old ski lodge in July with my tears, the cleaner's bucket filled with foul-smelling blue liquid, "hope" she says, "there's hope in this liquid." if only there was. not many come to the mountain in summertime where the black-eyed susans sway in the breeze that's tainted with the smell of dust,

or to the lake, clear 'til last year when the hillside caved in sent all the debris sliding into that perfect, crystal water. the beach caved, the water now a murky sinkhole for mistakes and pennies the tourist throws in for forgotten wishes that never get granted. those who washed up on the steps of the community center sandy and wet, yet could spare gratefulness even as they lost their homes. the water crashed into the fields, dug canyons into roads, dug graves in a roadside cemetery, dug despair and pain and suffering, but "hope" she says. "there's hope in this liquid." and perhaps, there is.

I wrote this poem for the one-year anniversary of the flood that occurred in July 2023, in my mother's hometown. We stay here every summer because my grandparents live in Ludlow, and have lived here their entire lives. When the clouds and rain moved in, I could tell it wasn't going to be a regular storm. Then, the news struck. Roads were washed out. Homes were flooded, and businesses were closed. It all seemed surreal until we walked through town and the sight of the railroad tracks caved in made my mother cry.

as a whole.

A few days before the flood, I was in the Okemo Lodge when the cleaner was cleaning the floors with a blue solution. It smelled foul, but she seemed unfazed by the smell. I asked her, curious what the cleaning solution was made of to smell so foul, and she smiled at me and said, "Hope. There's hope in this liquid." Then, she walked off, humming to herself.

I was so struck by her comment. How could hope smell so bad? I didn't get it at the time, until I witnessed how the flood brought people together, even though it was horrible. It united neighbors and strangers alike, and maybe, I thought, hope sometimes comes in different ways – whether in words, a blue cleaning solution, or a flood. Maybe, hope is all we need, because sometimes, hope is all we have. So when I looked at the water that lay stagnant in parking lots and fields after the flood, I knew what it contained. "Hope." I thought. "There's hope in this liquid."

The flood continued to impact people's lives even after it happened. The grocery store was flooded, businesses shut down, the lakes closed, and worst of all, people lost their homes and their belongings. I spent a good part of the summer volunteering at the community center, helping those in need of water, food, and items. It was in these moments when I realized the full impact this event had on the community of Ludlow

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

POLITICAL LETTERS

Due to the volume of political letters we receive during elections, and the increased cost of adding pages to the paper to print them all, political letters are charged at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. Political letters include endorsing, electioneering, or campaigning for a specific candidate or party.

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by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

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

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Tax pro

4 Gun the engine

7 Profound

11 Pet food brand

13 Enjoy Vail

14 Doctrines

15 Lotion ingredient

16 — Talks (online lecture series)

17 Iso-

18 Media titan

20 Brief moments

22 Barbecue seasoning

24 Texas city

28 July 4th destinations

32 Santa —

33 Foot part

34 Sailor

36 Avenue liners

37 Ceremonies

39 New Jersey capital

41 Wee

43 URL ending

44 Bleak

46 Crazy Horse, for one

50 Japanese volcano

53 Peace, to Caesar

55 Handle

56 Unsigned (Abbr.)

8 Atty.'s title

9 Outback bird

10 Omega precursor

12 Google, for one

19 "Say what?"

21 Public health agcy.

23 Entreat

25 Bagel seasoning

26 Wrestling style

27 Grp.

28 Homer's son

29 New York canal

30 Part of a French play

31 Drunkard

35 Buddy

38 Old map letters

40 Hosp. sections

42 "Holy smokes!"

45 Kate of "The Martian"

47 Brewer's kiln

48 Diamond arbiters

49 TV's "Warrior Princess"

50 "Terrific!"

51 Italian article

52 TV bandleader

54 Deleted

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obituaries

Kenneth A. Cook, 1956-2024

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Kenneth Alan Cook, 68, left us unexpectedly on May 28, 2024, at the veterans hospital in White River Junction, Vt. He was born March 31, 1956, in Rockingham, Vt., to Lester and Bernice Cook. Kenny lived in Westminster most of his life, and was a graduate of Bellows Falls Union High School, Class of 1975, where he thoroughly enjoyed playing football, and was selected for the Vermont Shrine team.

Kenny joined the Army after high school and was a member of the Vermont National Guard 131st Engineers. He served in the Gulf War. Kenny was very proud of his service to his country.

Kenny worked in a few different fields, starting at Santa's Land as a teenager, to farming, to truck driving. He worked for many years at Bazin Brothers, and was known to many as one of the best drivers around. Besides his children, his pride and joy was his granddaughter Paisley. Kenny enjoyed hunting, fishing, and trapping. He was very talented in many areas. Kenny particularly enjoyed "dubbing" in his garage, where he loved making birdhouses with Paisley. He was also a great mechanic who could fix most anything. Kenny was always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need. He will surely be missed by many



Kenneth Cook, 1956-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

people he touched.

He leaves his wife of 45 years Christine (Kiniry), his son Matthew Cook, his daughter Allison Lansberry, his precious granddaughter Paisley Lansberry, brothers Michael (Ginger) and Andrew, and many cousins and friends who became very important to Kenny these last few years, especially his HALO family.

Calling hours for Kenny will be held at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home on June 22, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., with a service starting at 12 p.m. Burial will follow the services at the Westminster Cemetery. The reception will be held at the American Legion in Bellows Falls, Vt. In lieu of flowers, consider making a donation to one of these organizations, both of which were special to Kenny: Ruck-Up, 43 Upper Knight Street, Keene, N.H. 03431; or The Veterans' Place, 220 Vine Street, Northfield, VT 05613.

Laurie J. Devoe, 2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Laurie Jane (MacDonald) Devoe of Springfield, Vt., passed away on Sunday, March 31, 2024. She was 76 years old.

Laurie is survived by her husband of 37 years William Devoe.

Laurie is also survived by her brother Scott MacDonald; her sons John Christian Benson, Tobias Devoe, and Robert Dorn-Devoe; and her daughters Stacie Merritt, Shannon Benson, Meredith Devoe, Maryjane Devoe-Kolenda, Altanai Winston, and Alysha Devoe. Laurie also leaves her 19 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and the many children that she cared for over 18 years of foster parenting.

Laurie cherished her family. She was a loving wife, sister, mother, foster mother, grandmother (Mimi), great-grandmother, and friend to all who came into her life.

Laurie graduated from Bellows Falls Union High School in 1967. She raised her children in Bellows Falls, Chester, and Springfield, Vt.

Laurie dedicated her life to working for the State of



Laurie Devoe, 2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Vermont. She started as a receptionist with the welfare office, before moving on to the office of child support as an intake worker, moving up to paralegal, and retiring as the regional supervisor for all of southern Vermont.

Laurie spent her retirement with her loving husband in Springfield, Vt. She had her family, and her close friends Jaci and Russell Farrar of Chester, Vt.

A service will be held on June 15, at 11 a.m., at Oak Hill Cemetery, Bellows Falls, Vt. The service will be followed by a Celebration of Life.

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

David J. Norton, 1952-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – David J. Norton passed away on June 2, 2024, after a long battle with cancer. He was born on March 13, 1952, to James and Helen (Anderson) Norton in Broad Brook, Conn. David graduated from East Windsor High School in 1970.

Growing up on the family farm in Broad Brook, David loved the outdoors, and often dreamed of living the life of a homesteader. He spent many years honing his skills gardening and raising farm animals. Once he won the 1986 Four Town Fair award for largest sunflower and his prize pig Lulu, he knew he was ready. He purchased a remote piece of land in Grafton, Vt., and snowshoed up the mountainside to build his dream off-grid cabin.

David had the calmest demeanor, but at gatherings he was always the one dancing and making the kids laugh. He never said an unkind word about anyone, and was always the one you would count on to do the right thing. Simply put, he was one of the most enjoyable people any of us have ever known, and his smile and kind voice will live on in all of us.

David had a lifelong career as an aeronautical



David Norton, 1952-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

engineer at several companies, ultimately retiring from GKN Aerospace.

David is survived by his wife and soulmate Lynn Norton; his children Eric Norton, Seth (Susanna) Norton, Jon Boyle (fiancee Danielle Eastman) and Dan (Jenn) Boyle; his grandchildren Ben Norton, Olivia Norton, Sophia Eastman, Brinley Boyle, Daxton Boyle, Kayla Boyle, and Eliot Boyle; nieces Erin Haight and Caitlin Norton; and siblings Tom (Evie) Norton and Karen (Rob) Haight.

Per David's request, there will be no formal services held. Family and friends will be notified of a Celebration of Life gathering to be held later this summer.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

Diane K. Moulton, 1947-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Diane K. Moulton, 76, passed away Tuesday, June 4, 2024, after complications from diabetes.

Diane was born Dec. 15, 1947, to Robert F. and Catherine (Cook) Metcalf. She attended school in Baltimore, Vt., later graduating from Chester High School 1965.

On Oct. 23, 1965, she married Doug Moulton, and they began a love story lasting 58 years.

Diane and Doug made their home in Springfield, Vt., raising three sons.

Diane was a lifelong member of the North Springfield Baptist Church.

For many years Diane attended local craft fairs with her mom, selling handmade items she enjoyed making. Years later, it would be her and Doug making and selling their products. The last few years they were very active with the Springfield Farmers Market. They had built a reputation for the best homemade pies and doughnuts.

Throughout the years, Diane had touched the lives of many. She was a joy to talk with, and had a heart of gold. Diane loved spending time with her family, and especially her grandchildren.



Diane Moulton, 1947-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Diane is survived by her husband Doug, son Chris (Shelley), and son Josh. She was predeceased by her son Justin in 2022.

She leaves behind three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Diane was also predeceased by her parents Robert and Catherine, and her brother Douglas Metcalf.

She is survived by six siblings: brothers Bud (Louanne), Scott (Kathleen), Barry (Heidi), Richard, and Sherman (Christine); and sister Sharon (JT); as well as many nieces and nephews, great- and great-great nieces and nephews, and cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 29, at 11 a.m., at Bud and Louanne's home, 238 Bemis Road, Baltimore Vt.

John K. O'Shaughnessy service announcement

WESTON, Vt. – John Kevin O'Shaughnessy (Sept. 2, 1938 – Nov. 23, 2023) will be remembered on Friday, June 28, at the Vermont Weston Priory, 58 Priory Hill Road, Weston, Vt., during the priory's 5:15 p.m. Vespers and Eucharist service.

On Saturday, June 29, at 10 a.m., there will be a burial service, followed by an opportunity to share memories and tell stories of Kevin over light refreshments. Those interested in attending the burial should meet at the priory at 9:45 a.m. for our walk to the cemetery.

Donations in Kevin's memory may be made to The Benedictine Monks of Weston Priory.

Gary Pike Celebration of Life

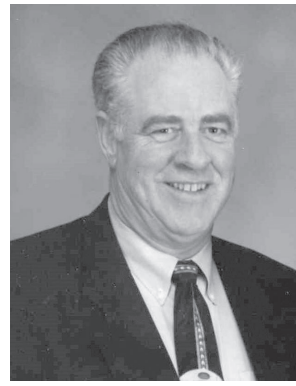
LUDLOW, Vt. – A Celebration of Life for Gary Pike will be held Saturday, June 22, from 1-3 p.m., at the American Legion in Ludlow.

Wayne E. Smith, 1941-2024

WEATHERSFIELD BOW, Vt. – Wayne E. "Wes" Smith, 83, of Weathersfield Bow, Vt., passed away on May 31, 2024, surrounded by loved ones, at the Jack Byrne Center at DHMC in Hanover, N.H. His beloved wife Joy was by his side throughout the last 63 years. He was born in Ferrisburgh, Vt., on March 17, 1941, to Allen and Ruth Smith.

Wes was a family man and entrepreneur. He met Joy while studying at the University of Vermont. Wes owned and operated four businesses during his lifetime; most recently, he owned New England Outdoor Furnaces. Notably, Wes was a cofounder and the first president of the Vermont Snowmobile Club that founded the VAST system.

He is survived by his wife Joy; daughter Brianne and her husband Scot; siblings Mary and Bob; grandchildren Amanda, Abby, Reid, Bret, Mason, and Hunter; and many other cherished



Wayne Smith, 1941-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

loved ones. He was preceded in death by his parents Allen and Ruth, and his son Clark.

Visitation hours followed by a service and burial will be held Saturday, July 13, at 11 a.m., at Bow Baptist Church in Weathersfield Bow, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Shriner's Hospital in Boston in the name of Wes Smith.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.


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Tara L. Stone, 1987-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Tara Lee Stone, 36, died unexpectedly at her home on Wednesday afternoon, June 5, 2024. She was born Nov. 24, 1987, in Claremont, N.H., the daughter of Craig and Lucy (Tardiff) Stone. She attended Springfield Schools, graduating from Springfield High School, Class of 2006.

Tara was employed in and explored several different professions, including one with Kirby, proudly earning top salesperson and a trip to Cancun.

Over the years she has enjoyed learning about nature, camping, jeeping, four-wheeling, barbecues, boating, and has enjoyed being around water. Later years she enjoyed things like gardening and fiddleheading. She was very mechanical, and enjoyed tinkering with things and various projects.

Her children and her dogs were her pride, joy, and true love of her life.

She is survived by her mother Lucy Stone, sister Ashley Stone, daughter Hailie Rose Stone, son Rickey Warren Bemis III, grandmother Rose Scott, grandfather Raymond Tardiff, aunts, uncles, cousins, and by her dog Maggie.

She was predeceased by a son Nicholas, and by her father Craig.

Tara was a beautiful soul with a heart of gold, always offering to help those



Tara Stone, 1987-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

around her before helping herself. She was beautiful, kind, caring, supportive, empathetic, funny, witty, and had a silly and playful side. She was the type of person that would stand up for people if she felt they needed help standing up for themselves, a real advocate. Friends, family, and her significant other have expressed and are eternally grateful to have been a part of her journey, and miss her terribly.

Her sister Ashley shared that Tara was the best sister she could've asked for and then some.

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

Memorial donations may be made to the Springfield Humane Society, Turning Point Recovery Center, and the American Cancer Society.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

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

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

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

JUNE 14 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Join the free and fun Age Successfully Fair on Friday, June 14, at 11 a.m., at the Ludlow Community Center. Over 30 exhibitors will be in attendance, providing opportunities for our fellow older Vermonters to learn about all of the benefits and services available to them and their family members. This event is free and open to everyone. There will be food and a variety of activities to participate in. Sponsored by Senior Solutions and Black River Good Neighbor Services.

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – On Friday, June 14, from 5-7 p.m., Aura Shards will be performing mesmerizing music on hand pan and tabla 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 or call 802-874-4800.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – JJ’s Music will be performing a free concert live at the Charlestown Senior Center, 223 Old Springfield Road, on Friday, June 14, from 6:30-8 p.m. Refreshments will be on sale, including hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, popcorn, hot and cold beverages, and a sweet something. We will also have a 50-50 raffle. Be sure to bring a lawn chair, and please join us for a fun evening of entertainment. Maybe even a little dancing if you are willing.

JUNE 15 – MANCHESTER CENTER, Vt. – Weston author Patricia Connelly will be signing copies of her first book, “Sacredness Surrounds Us in Every Season,” a collection of haiku prayers and longform poems, on Saturday, June 15, from 2-4 p.m., at The Northshire Bookstore, 4869 Main Street in Manchester Center.

LUDLOW, Vt. – A Family Fair and Safety Day will

be held at the Ludlow Community Center complex on Saturday, June 15, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. This free event will include safety demonstrations from local organizations, car seat inspections from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., bounce houses, a touch-a-truck event, and live music by Manny Lazaro. There will also be a free barbecue of hamburgers, hot dogs, and chips; Aunt Dot’s Famous Funnel Cakes; Uncle Jay’s Corn Dogs; snow cones; and popcorn available.

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – The Mount Holly Energy Fair will be held on Saturday, June 15, from 1-5 p.m., at the town community center, 26 Maple Hill Road, Belmont, Vt. Learn about the opportunities, technologies, and services available for home energy efficiency, rebates, and cost savings. Technology exhibits and talks by experts. Free attendance and free raffle tickets.

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – The Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department will hold their roast beef supper on Saturday, June 15, at 5 p.m., at the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont. Takeout is available. The meal is free for children under 5, there is a small fee for all others. For more information, call 802-259-2460.

JUNE 17 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will be serving lunch on Monday, June 17, at 12 p.m. The menu is baked beans, ham, coleslaw, and strawberry shortcake. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. Free cash bingo will follow. All are welcome.

JUNE 18 – W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – On Tuesday, June 18, from 5-7 p.m., Jill Newton & Alan Partridge will be performing New England and French Canadian fiddle tunes 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 or call 802-874-4800.

JUNE 19 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The First Congregational Church of Springfield, 77 Main Street, will hold a free community lunch on Wednesday, June 19, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The menu will be hot dogs, baked beans, brown bread, assorted casseroles (with one being vegetarian), cole slaw, rolls, and watermelon and cookies for dessert.

JUNE 21 – W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – On Friday, June 21, from 5-7 p.m., Hot Noodles will be performing sizzling jazz 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 or call 802-874-4800.

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Knitting with Friends at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common, Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

THURSDAYS – LUDLOW, Vt. – Certified instructor Helena Wu will teach tai chi classes every Thursday, from 9-10 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street in Ludlow. Classes are free, and are limited to 10 participants. Registration is required. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 802-228-7421, or Helena Wu at 802-289-7369.

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

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT WINDSOR UNIT

CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO. 24-CV-01868

IN RE: ABANDONED MOBILE HOME OF BRYAN COBB, SR. & TINA COBB

NOTICE OF HEARING

A hearing on The Housing Foundation, Inc.’s Verified Complaint to declare abandoned and uninhabitable the mobile home of Bryan Cobb, Sr. & Tina Cobb located at the Windy Hill Acres Mobile Home Park, Lot #66, 87 Dogwood Lane in Springfield, Vermont has been set for July 1, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Unit, Civil Division located at 12 The Green in Woodstock, Vermont. To participate in this hearing, the WEBEX Login Information is as follows:

App: Cisco Webex Meeting
Website: <https://vtcourts.webex.com>
Meeting Number: 2347 351 3269
Password: courtroom1

If you do not have a computer or sufficient bandwidth, you may call (802) 636-1108 to appear by phone. (This is not a tollfree number). When prompted enter the meeting ID number listed above, followed by the pound symbol (#). You will be prompted to enter your attendee number (which you do not have). Instead, press pound (#). If you have technical difficulties, call the Court at (802) 457-2121.
Date: May 16, 2024 Alison Kaufman, Judicial Assistant

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR ABANDONMENT
PURSUANT TO 10 V.S.A. § 6249(i) (Uninhabitable)**

NOW COMES The Housing Foundation, Inc. (“HFI”), by and through its counsel Nadine L. Scibek, and hereby complains pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6249(i) as follows:

- HFI, a Vermont non-profit corporation with a principal place of business in Montpelier, County of Washington, State of Vermont, is the record owner of a mobile home park known as the Windy Hill Acres Mobile Home Park (the “Park”), located in the Town of Springfield, Vermont. HFI purchased the Park from the Vermont State Housing Authority (“VSHA”) on December 31, 2023. VSHA manages the Park.
- Bryan Cobb, Sr. (“B. Cobb”) and Tina Cobb (“T. Cobb”) are the record owners of a certain mobile home described as 1987 Skyline Allison, 14’ x 70’, bearing Serial #01116-0226R (the “Mobile Home”) located on Lot #66 at the Windy Hill Acres Mobile Home Park, 87 Dogwood Lane in Springfield, Vermont according to the Town of Springfield Land Records. See attached Bill of Sale.
- B. Cobb leased Lot #66 in the Park from VSHA pursuant to a written lease. B. Cobb paid a security deposit in the amount of \$250.00 to VSHA. See attached Lease.
- B. Cobb’s last known mailing address is 895 VT Route 10, Chester, VT 05143.
- T. Cobb has not resided in the Mobile Home for over 15 years and her last known mailing address is 87 Dogwood Lane (f/k/a 242 Town Farm Road, Lot #66), Springfield, VT 05156.
- The mobile home has been abandoned and is empty. The last known resident of the mobile home was B. Cobb. B. Cobb is believed to have removed his personal belongings. Utility services have been terminated to the Mobile Home.
- B. Cobb was evicted from the Park for non-payment of lot rent on or about December 8, 2023. A Judgment Order for the outstanding lot rent and court costs was entered against the B. Cobb on October 26, 2023 in the amount of \$3,984.59. See Vermont State Housing Authority v. Cobb, Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Civil Unit, Case No. 23-CV-03967. See attached Judgment Order, Writ of Possession & Sheriff’s Return of Service.
- On November 29, 2023 Counsel for HFI spoke with B. Cobb who indicated that he was walking away from the Mobile H. Counsel for HFI has attempted to communicate in writing with B. Cobb on March 11, 2024 regarding his intentions with the mobile home. He has failed to respond. See attached.
- The following security interests, mortgages, liens and encumbrances appear of record with respect to the mobile home:
 - Property taxes to the City of Springfield are current according to the Town Clerk. See attached Tax Bill.
- Mobile home lot rent/storage fees continue to accrue at the rate of \$485.00 per month. Monies due to HFI as of May, 2024 total \$6,166.75. Attorney’s fees and court costs incurred by HFI currently exceed \$2,000.00. See attached Account History.
- HFI sent written notice by certified mail to the Town of Springfield on March 11, 2024 of Plaintiff’s intent to commence this action. See attached.
- The mobile home is uninhabitable. Property Manager Thomas Young, duly authorized agent for HFI, will testify under oath as to the poor and unlivable condition of this mobile home at the abandonment hearing.

WHEREFORE, HFI respectfully requests that the Honorable Court enter an order as follows:

- Declare that the mobile home has been abandoned;
- Transfer the mobile home that is unfit for human habitation to Park owner HFI without a public auction so that it may be removed and disposed of accordingly.
- Order pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6249(j) that the mobile home and any security deposit paid be conveyed to the Park Owner in “as is” condition, and free from all liens and other encumbrances of record.

DATED May 10, 2024.

THE HOUSING FOUNDATION, INC.

BY: Nadine L. Scibek
Attorney for HFI

I declare that the above statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that if the above statement is false, I will be subject to the penalty of perjury or other sanctions in the discretion of the Court.

May 10, 2024

BY: Thomas Young
Duly Authorized Agent for HFI

**2024 GRIEVANCE HEARINGS
TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM
BOARD OF LISTERS**

Grievance hearing appointments for the Town of Rockingham will be begin on Monday, June 10, 2024 starting at 9:00 a.m.

If you wish to discuss your 2024 Assessment, Homestead or Housesite value, please call the Listers office between 8:30 a.m. and noon Monday through Thursday 802-463-1229.

If you cannot make it in person you must submit your grievance in writing before Monday, June 21, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Please include property location, owner phone # or email, and a summary of your concern.

Drop off: 7 The Square Bellows Falls, VT
Mail: PO Box 370, Bellows Falls, VT 05101
Email: listers@rockbf.org

BOARD OF LISTERS
Paul Noble – Mike Stack – Tad Dedrick

≡ A SPECIAL ≡

TOWN MEETING

JUNE 22 | 2pm

At the Bellows Falls Middle School


15 School Street BF is ADA accessible. If you need a ride or would like to volunteer to give a ride, please call 802-275-4646 in advance.

When should Rockingham’s Annual Town Meeting take place?

Voters will discuss the pros and cons of holding our March meeting on a Saturday afternoon vs a Monday evening.

A binding vote will be taken to decide upon the day of future town meetings, the foundation of local democracy.

As per Vermont statute, the Official Warning is posted on the Town’s website www.rockingham.org and in Town Hall.



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, July 1, 2024** to consider the following:

Application # 24-40 Application # 24-40 Daniel Kissel Jr. & Mariah Hayes (Owner & Applicant) FINAL 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.

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.

arts & events

LEGAL NOTICES

MSA hosts tea picnic and more at GardenFest

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Enjoy delicious Alice in Wonderland-themed tea picnics, magnificent gardens, and enjoy the arts at Main Street Arts' (MSA) GardenFest 2024. The event will be held on Saturday, June 15, and Sunday, June 16, with activities planned from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., at MSA and four nearby gardens in Saxtons River.

Tickets are discounted in advance. Your ticket provides admission to all four gardens on both days. The

Alice Tea Picnic packages are an additional fee. Go to www.mainstreetarts.org to buy tickets and make tea reservations.

Included in the entrance ticket price is one raffle ticket, with a chance to win gift certificates generously donated by local nurseries. Additional raffle tickets will be available for purchase.

At GardenFest 2024, you'll begin your journey at MSA to pick up your tickets and a map. Tea picnics can be picked up from 11:30 a.m. – 2

p.m. each day. While at MSA, you can stop by the garden-related gallery exhibit by local artist Stephanie Sullivan, and experience a botanical printing demonstration.

From MSA, there will be four gardens to explore nearby, which are cultivated by Susan Still, Jeanne Korstange, Cass Morgan, and Christine Hume.

Still said, "I like to create garden rooms of different sizes, shapes, and styles so that each one has its own character.

Of her garden Korstange said, "My border garden history begins with the plants I inherited from Averill Larson, the previous homeowner – beautiful peonies, phlox, beebalm, balloon flower, roses, and a very special double pink baby's breath."

Morgan says, "My garden is my solace, my exercise, my creative outlet, and my joy...I love the give and take between the gardener and the land, the challenge and the discovery of what plants want to be where, what plants

thrive in a certain spot and fail in another," she said. "I love the exchange of energy: I put in so many hours of toil and sweat, and the garden gives back edible fruits and vegetables, and beautiful vistas both vast and intimate."

Hume said, "The Hume/Bourne garden has a unique setting within a gorgeous stone foundation rising 6-8 feet above a brick and stone patio. These tall stone walls were the foundation for a huge, multilevel barn built around the turn of the last

century."

MSA is grateful to our generous sponsors Allen Brothers Farms, Walker Farm, Gardener's Supply Company, Morning Star Perennials, and Harlow Farm. Proceeds from this special event will support MSA's efforts to make programs affordable, and to pay teachers as professionals.

For more information about the event or accessibility, please visit www.mainstreetarts.org, or email info@mainstreetarts.org.

**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.

Further information is available on the Town website: 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 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.

Vermont Comedy All Stars at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Gordon Clark and his Vermont Comedy All Stars return for a night of stand-up comedy on Friday, June 14, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage Arts. Featured performers will include several contest-winning and touring comedians most often seen in the Burlington area.

Donavin Andronaco is fairly new to the comedy scene. You can see Donavin at the Vermont Comedy Club in Burlington, where he's an open mic regular. When he's not doing comedy, Donavin studies psychological science at Castle-

ton State University, in the hopes of one day becoming a licensed child therapist. Although he has dreams of making the world a better place with his degree, in the meantime it turns out making fun of people is far more enjoyable than helping them.

Maddie Cross is a Burlington-based standup comedian. She hosts and produces the standup showcase "Mondays Are Scary!" at the Phoenix Gallery and Music Hall in Waterbury Village. When she's not doing comedy, she works in higher education, and on the weekends fulfills her childhood dream of

working at a bookstore. She's also, not surprisingly, a classically trained musician.

Vicki Ferentinos is a comedian, chef, writer, and storyteller. She took first in the Vermont Comedy Festival One Minute Comedy Battle. She's been on Comedy Central, Bravo TV, The Food Network, WOR, and performs throughout New England.

Mike Thomas is a veteran Vermont stand up. A multiple-time finalist in Vermont's Funniest Comedian contest, he won the coveted award as Vermont's Funniest Comedian in 2023.

Liam Welsh is currently a Brooklyn-based stand-up comic, but he was born and grew up in Vermont. Before moving to pursue comedy in New York City, he was a regularly featured performer at the Vermont Comedy Club in Burlington, where he was First Runner Up in the Vermont's Funniest Comedian Contest of 2019.

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

Cavendish Streetscapes Presents

Birds & Blooms

Saturday, June 22
Proctorsville Green
10 am - 2 pm

Join us for a market gathering of bird houses, garden themed aprons, bags & other treasures.

with Mt Ascutney Audubon Society and BBQ by Proctorsville Volunteer Fire Dept

A BENEFIT TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF CAVENDISH STREETS CAPES

Bandwagon Summer Series

PUTNEY, Vt. – The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents "psychedelic chanson" ensemble Combo Daguerre, on Saturday, June 15, at 6 p.m., at the field behind the Putney Inn, 57 Putney Landing Road in Putney. Combo Daguerre, based in

Brooklyn, performs original psychedelic chanson with a mostly Latin crew and a hybrid style informed by boleros, cumbia, 60s rock, French chanson, and 1930s surrealism. It is music filled with joy and darkness, deep grooves and dirges, nostalgia and fu-

turism.

The ensemble features Olivier Conan (cuatro, vocals), Adele Fournet (keyboards), Felipe Wurst (guitar), Andres Fonseca (drums) Neil Ochoa (percussion) and Dan Martinez (bass).

The combo is named after Daguerre, usually credited as one of the inventors of photography, but Daguerre also refers to a street in the 14th arrondissement of Paris, steps away from where Conan grew up – a street lovingly documented by Nouvelle Vague filmmaker Agnès Varda.

**Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Notice of Adoption of Amended
Short-Term Rental Ordinance**

The Town of Londonderry Selectboard hereby gives notice pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1972(a)(1) that on June 3, 2024, the Board voted to adopt an amendment to the Ordinance to Regulate the Operations of Short-Term Rentals (also referred to as the "Short-Term Rental ordinance"). The amendment corrects subsection references within Article 4 regarding short-term rental registration requirements.

The complete text of the amendment to the Ordinance to Regulate the Operations of Short-Term Rentals can be examined on the Town's web site (www.londonderryvt.org) or at the Londonderry Town Clerk's office, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155. Questions or comments regarding this proposed ordinance amendment can be directed to Town Administrator Shane O'Keefe by phone at 802-824-3356, by email at townadmin@londonderryvt.org, or by US Mail at 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155.

Notice is hereby given of the right to petition for a permissive referendum vote on this ordinance amendment an annual or special meeting as provided for in 24 V.S.A 1973. Such petition for a permissive referendum must be signed by not less than five (5) percent of the qualified voters of the Town of Londonderry and shall be presented to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk within forty-four (44) days following the date of adoption. Absent such a petition, the Ordinance amendment shall take effect 60 days following the date of adoption.

Band members are all active on New York's rich indie Latin scene, and come from Peru, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Cajun country. All share a transplant's vision of the world and its culture, giving the French language compositions a deeply cosmopolitan flavor.

Advance tickets are discounted at www.nextstagearts.org; kids under 12 free. For more information, visit the website or call 802-387-0102.

Support for the Bandwagon Summer Series is provided by M&T Bank, Lawson's Finest Liquids, Oak Meadow, The Porch Cafe & Catering, Brattleboro Reformer, and Barr Hill.

WARNING FOR A LONDONDERRY SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Londonderry, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall, 139 Middletown Road, South Londonderry in Londonderry, on Saturday, July 13, 2024, at 9:30 A.M. for a Special Town Meeting to transact the following business from the floor:

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the following business will be transacted from the floor:

Article 1: To elect the following officer:

- Selectboard member for the remainder of a 2-year term which will expire on Town Meeting Day, March 4, 2025.

Selectboard of the Town of Londonderry

Thomas Cavanagh, Chair
Martha Dale, Vice Chair
Taylor Prouty
Jim Fleming

Received for the record this 3rd day of June 2024
Kelly M. Pajala, Town Clerk

Notice to Londonderry Voters

BEFORE MEETING DAY: CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by June 13, 2024. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to olvr.vermont.gov.

ON MEETING DAY: If your name was dropped from the checklist in error, or has not been added even though you submitted a timely application for addition to the checklist, you can fill out a new registration form. (! If the clerk or Board of Civil Authority does not add your name, you can appeal the decision to a superior court judge, who will settle the matter. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information!)

If you are a first time voter who submitted your application to the checklist individually by mail and did not submit the required document, you must provide a current and valid photo identification, or a bank statement, utility bill, or government document that contains your name/current address.

If you have any questions or need assistance in regards to this meeting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.

NO PERSON SHALL:

- Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.
- Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.
- Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.
- Offer bribe, threaten or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

FOR HELP OR INFORMATION: Call the Town Clerk at 802 824 3356 ext 101 or Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683). (Accessible by TDD)

**TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Executive Order: 11988 (Floodplain Management) and 11990: (Wetlands) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides final notice of its decision to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for an action located in a floodplain and affecting a wetland. Funding would be provided through Vermont Emergency Management to the Town of Springfield, VT for the Springfield Reservoir Dam Removal Project.

The proposed action is located at the Springfield Reservoir Dam in Weathersfield, VT. The project would remove the deteriorating dam impounding the reservoir, which has not served a functional purpose since the Town transitioned to public supply wellfields in the late 1970s. Approximately 67% of the concrete core wall and 87% of the earthen berm would be removed as well as approximately 9,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from the impoundment area to create a floodplain bench. The concrete overflow spillway, gatehouse, wellhouse, drainpipes, and remnants of a failed stone culvert would also be removed. A pilot channel would be created through the impoundment area that would evolve naturally over time to restore the stream channel. Approximately 3.9 acres within the former impoundment area would be planted with native vegetation, after which, revegetation would progress naturally.

The project is within a mapped special flood hazard area (100-year floodplain; Zone A), and the impoundment area behind the dam contains a freshwater pond and freshwater emergent wetlands. Removal of the dam would prevent the potential loss of life and property in the event of dam failure and would restore the floodplain, riverine habitat features, and fish passage.

Alternatives considered include full dam removal, several levels of sediment volume reduction, and the No Action alternative. The proposed action was selected because it is the most cost-effective alternative that would still meet the project objectives to improve public safety, restore the stream channel, eliminate maintenance needs of a non-functional dam, and improve aquatic organism passage. Map requests and comments about this project and potential floodplain and wetland impacts should be submitted within 15 days of the date of this publication to:

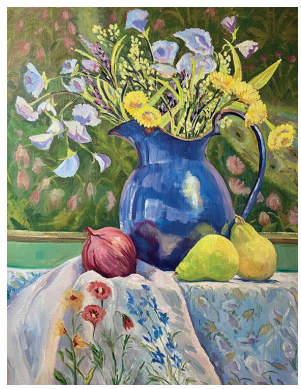
Christian Paske, Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Cambridge, MA
Christian.Paske@fema.dhs.gov; (202) 704-1027

AND

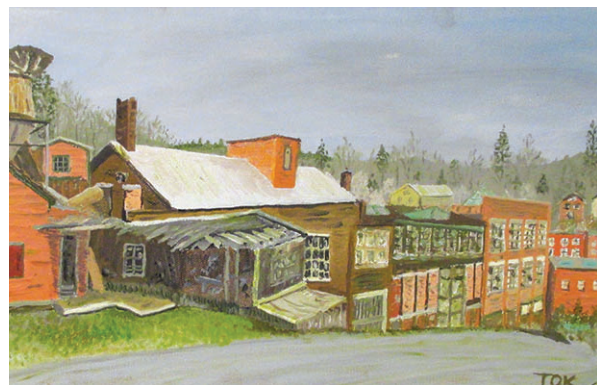
Brent Wacho, Environmental and Historic Preservation Supervisor
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Cambridge, MA
Brent.wacho@fema.dhs.gov; (202) 655-8825

arts & entertainment

VAULT garden eloquence, “Sunsational” Open Wall—



“Cobalt Blue Pitcher.” PHOTO PROVIDED



A piece in “Sunsational” Open Wall Show. PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is proud to present the beauty of spring and summer with a show of floral impressions by our exceptional artists, on view now through July 31. There will be a reception on Friday, June 14, from 5-6:30 p.m.

See the works of Jeanne Carbonetti, Robert Carsten, Richard Cofrancesco, Julie Crabtree, Richard Emery, Rick Hearn, Peter Hunt-oon, Bradley Jackson, Rob O’Brien, Dan O’Donnell,

Gene Parulis, and Lynn Van-Natta.

The VAULT also presents a new Open Wall show, “Sunsational.” This show includes beautiful paintings, photographs, mixed media, nature art, paper sculpture, pen and ink art, and jewelry. We are amazed at the talent of our neighbors and friends around Springfield. This is a wonderful show. Thank you to all the participants. The works will be on display until July 17.

Open Wall is a nonjuried

show for any artists living in a 30 mile radius of Springfield.

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

Jon Langford returns to Bellows Falls

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Jon Langford returns to Bellows Falls on Friday, June 14, with his band The Bright Shiners, for a show at the Ciao Popolo Ballroom. The Bright Shiners have just released a full album, “Where It Really Starts,” a collaboration with Tamineh Gueramy, Alice Spencer, and John Szymanski. Each song is a minimalistic jewel, yet the album is, in the words of The Guardian, “unsparing of aptly astonishing adornment – wonderful harmonies, horns, mellotron, bowed guitar, piano, looped percussion, and more. By our reckoning this is one of Jon’s finest works of art and his best outfit outside The Mekons themselves.”

Jon Langford’s career has spanned his early days with art-punk icons The Mekons, through Delta 5, Three Johns,

Waco Brothers, and even Sisters Of Mercy, to more one-off recordings and collaborations than one could ever hope to list in full.

Also an accomplished artist – a Langford work graces the cover of the new Dave Alvin/Jimmie Dale Gilmore album “TexiCali” – as well as musician, Langford brings a spirit of joy and rowdy good fun to every endeavor. “I had a fantastic time in Bellows Falls last year,” he says, “and I am looking forward to returning.”

Welsh punk icon Jon Langford never played Bellows Falls, Vt., before June 2023, but his debut was certainly memorable. In the midst of “Tom Jones Levitation,” his anthemic paean to Welsh independence and its best-known export, the power went out. Undaunted, Langford never stopped playing. Not missing a beat, he stepped down from the stage, climbed a chair in the

audience, and finished the song – in which a winged Tom Jones finds himself aloft over the Welsh countryside – vigorously, loudly, proudly, and unamplified.

“It was unforgettable,” says Ezra Veitch of Ray’s the Roof Productions, who found himself suddenly out of a job running sound for the show when the downtown lost power. “If people weren’t fans of Jon’s at the beginning of the show, they certainly were by the end of it.”

Ciao Popolo is located at 36 Village Square, Bellows Falls, Vt. To make dinner reservations separately before the show, email ciao-popolovt@gmail.com, or call 802-460-7676. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., showtime is 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com, and at the door. For more information about the show, contact RaystheRoofVT@gmail.com.

Weston Theater Young Company presents “Junie B. Jones”

WESTON, Vt. – Weston Theater Company’s (WTC) Young Company (YoCo) takes audiences young and old on a musical adventure with “Junie B. Jones: The Musical,” playing at Weston’s Walker Farm Field and touring southern Vermont from June 20 – July 7.

Celebrate the timeless spirit of childhood and the enduring power of friendship with “Junie B. Jones.” Based on the beloved children’s book series, this vibrant and hilarious musical adventure follows the unforgettable antics of that irrepressible first grader, Junie B., and her quirky, lovable friends through the ups and downs of elementary school. With catchy tunes, infectious energy,

and a heartwarming message, this production will leave young and old with smiles on their faces and an appreciation for the joys of growing up.

The production is directed by former artistic director of Constellation Stage & Screen, Kate Galvin, who says “I’m old enough to have missed out on the ‘Junie B. Jones’ series during my childhood, they didn’t come out until I was a teenager. But reading them as an adult has been so delightful. I immediately related to Junie, right down to the experience of getting glasses for the first time. Her impulses are strong and not always right, but she always grows from her experiences – and

that’s what we should all value in ourselves and our children.”

Weston welcomes back Young Company alum Maya L’Abbe as the irrepressible Junie B. Jones, and Aidan Curley returns as Herb. Recent Marymount Manhattan College graduate Nicky Redd joins the cast as Mr. Scary, and recent Pace University grad Mayumi Rhone joins the Young Company as May. Recent Boston Conservatory graduate Isa Sánchez makes her Weston debut as Lucille, as does recent CAP21 Molloy graduate Evan Gibley, as Sheldon.

Returning to Weston for his second year as the YoCo music director is WTC YoCo alum Tommy

Bergeron. Jeremy Yaddaw returns to coordinate music. Nathan Fister joins the creative team as choreographer. Maggie Jackson designed the sets. Summer Lee Jack designed the costumes for the production.

This is a free performance, but reservations must be made in advance online at www.westontheater.org, or by calling the Weston box office at 802-824-5288.

Following “Junie B. Jones: The Musical,” embark on a mystic quest in “Pippin,” escape to the Appalachian mountains in “The Porch on Windy Hill,” and question the fabric of reality in “The Woman in Black.”

“Murder by the Book” in Windsor

WINDSOR, Vt. – Windsor Public Library actors will perform “Murder by the Book,” a play by Laura Teasdale, sponsored by mystery writer Louise Penny, on Saturday, June 22, at 7 p.m., at Windsor High School’s Lois White Theater.

Popular Canadian mystery writer Penny noticed the struggles that many public libraries were having with fundraising, so she decided to help out. She commissioned Canadian playwright Laura Teasdale to craft this laugh-out-loud whodunit. Penny now pays the royal-

ties for each performance, so that if a library anywhere wishes to perform “Murder by the Book,” it may do so without charge.

Friends of Windsor Library President Ruth Doiron is the impetus behind this play production, and plays the role of Bill/Rocky. “When I found out about this play, I knew we had to do it,” said Doiron, who has been instrumental in recruiting actors, stoking excitement, finding and creating props, and assisting with rehearsals. “It’s such a fun play, and we’re really excited to perform it for you.”

Library director Barbara Ball is another actor, playing (perhaps stereotypically) Lucy the Librarian. “We have a great cast. A great director. You won’t want to miss it.”

Kris Garnjost is directing the play, and also plays the role of Steve/Walter. Other actors include Melissa Ayres (Shelagh/Mrs. P), Roger Barraby (Dann/Kirk), Karen Lipinczyk

(Sarah/Sally), Amy McMullen (Hillary/Wendy), and Sandi Soho (Dorie.)

As a fundraiser for the library, a donation of any amount will get you a seat in the audience. We hope to see you there. And if you can’t make it on June 22, we’d be delighted to see you on Friday, June 21, at 7 p.m., for our dress rehearsal, at the same location.

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11 RICK REDINGTON AND THE LUV

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(Rain venue will be the Ludlow Town Hall)

For more information, visit our website: ludlowtparksandrec.com

Acting class

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Classically trained professional actor and filmmaker Matt Munroe premiered his debut feature film, entitled “Dead English,” at Springfield Cinemas 3 last year. This year, he is launching a new acting class for both the novice and seasoned actor alike. The class, entitled “Training for the Actor,” will focus on scene study, character analysis, acting on camera and on stage, and the business of acting. A limited-time open house will be held on Saturday June 15, at 1 p.m. sharp, allowing interested individuals a free opportunity to learn how to earn acceptance into class at an extremely afford-

able six-month introductory rate. Classes begin officially in August. Interested parties are encouraged to email RSVP in advance to matt@mattmunroe.com, at which time the location of the open house will be shared.

Learn more about the class at www.mattmunroe.com/coaching.

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health & wellness

Grace Cottage welcomes new CEO

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – The Board of Trustees of Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of Olivia Sweetnam to the position of chief executive officer, effective July 1. Sweetnam is replacing Doug DiVello, who announced his plans last December to retire when a replacement was hired.

A graduate of Queen's University in Ontario, Canada, with a Bachelor of Science in nursing, Sweetnam received her Master of Nursing Science and Master of Public Health from Yale University in Connecticut. The chief nursing officer at Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital since February, Sweetnam was the vice president of hospice quality and clinical practice at Amedisys from 2021-2023, and held multiple leadership roles in quality, operations, and medical staff management at Ochsner Health in Louisiana from 2013-2021.

An extensive search was conducted with the help

of the national executive search firm WittKieffer, and Sweetnam was selected after an extensive review of many candidates and interviews with seven finalists. "Olivia brings so much knowledge and experience to this position, and will be able to continue the excellent work that Doug DiVello has done during his six years here," said Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital's Board President Martha Dale.

"Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital is a rare gem in the world of health-care," said Sweetnam. "It is a shining example of personal and compassionate care, and I am proud to lead this wonderful organization into the future."

Sweetnam lives with her family in Brattleboro, and is on the board of trustees for River Gallery School and is a member of the Brattleboro Town Arts Committee.



New Grace Cottage CEO Olivia Sweetnam.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital is located in Townshend, Vt., serving patients and visitors in and around Windham County. It includes a traditional primary care practice, a 19-bed hospital, and a 24/7 emergency department. The medical center also has an outpatient rehab department, a laboratory, diagnostic imaging, and a full-service retail pharmacy. In 2023 and 2024, Grace Cottage was recognized by Vermont Business Magazine as a Best Place to Work in Vermont.

Springfield Hospital employees donate to local food shelf

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – In celebration of National Hospital Week, Springfield Hospital employees participated in a food drive to benefit the Springfield Family Center's Food Shelf. The 322 pounds of nonperishable foods were delivered to the family center on May 21, after a week of collecting the food at various employee events. Springfield Hospital's motto for the week was "Food Shelf Heroes...I helped to fill the shelves."

"The generosity of the employees was outstanding. They took to heart the importance of help-



Springfield Hospital employees deliver donated goods to Keegan, food shelf coordinator, center.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ing to fill the shelves at the family center," says Robert Adcock, CEO of Springfield Hospital. "We are hopeful

that our contribution was beneficial to many members of our community," continued Adcock.

Parks Place elects new board members

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Board of Parks Place Community Resource Center in Bellows Falls has elected two new members, Aaron Eames and Tara Chase. Eames and Chase bring impressive skills and experiences that broaden the base for board decisions.

Aaron Eames comes to the organization with a strong background in construction. He joins the facilities committee,

which focuses on keeping the three-story house in good working condition, welcoming and safe for incoming families in the local service area. Parks Place is a beginning for Eames, who was seeking a board position to give back to Rockingham. He has served as a DJ, Fourth of July parade speaker, and involved parent to his family.

Tara Chase knows Parks Place from the inside out. Child of a single mother,

she grew up understanding the social services available in her neck of the woods, Springfield. Chase works out of a Parks Place office regularly as an employee of Springfield Supportive Housing. It's great for Parks Place to have the perspective of an agency that serves clients from the building. Like Eames, Chase has a family and deep connections to the area and the people who live here.

The mission of Parks Place is connecting people to the information and resources they need to improve their lives. The resource center turned 25 during Covid – so look for a 25-plus-five anniversary celebration in 2025. Parks Place staff, founders, volunteers, and board will celebrate the years of walk-in visitors who find access to job coaches, food, housing, parenting skills, and therapy in Bellows Falls.

If you would like more information regarding Parks Place Community Resource Center, please contact Jennifer Tolaro-Heidbrink, executive director, at 802-463-9927.

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