

# THE SHOPPER Newspaper

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## Rockingham to vote at special town meeting

BY PAULA BENSON  
*The Shopper*

**ROCKINGHAM, Vt.** – On Tuesday, June 11, at 6 p.m., the Rockingham Selectboard met in the lower theater for their regular monthly meeting.

One of the first orders of business was presented by board member Elijah Zimmer, who proposed the town honor John Moisis, the founder of the Andrews Inn, one of the first LGBTQ establishments dedicated to the community in Vermont, by proclaiming June as John Moisis LGBTQ Pride Month in Rockingham. The motion, seconded by selectboard member John Dunbar, carried.

The Windham County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) was awarded a contract by the town for law enforcement services, at a cost of \$6,000.

The board granted re-

duced fee requests from the Bellows Falls Union High School Alumni Association, and Friends for Change: Youth Center of Bellows Falls for use of the Waypoint Center. Friends for Change will hold a three-day event at the center on Aug. 21, 22, and 23.

Bellows Falls artist Charlie Hunter has entered into an agreement with the town to loan out his original artwork, to be displayed at the downtown conferences, with all works for sale.

Town manager Scott Pickup gave the board an update on the new procedure at the town recycling center regarding separating glass from recyclables. The transfer station has added a dumpster and signage indicating where glass should now be deposited. The town also published a press release in The Shopper Newspaper to alert residents.

Selectboard member Peter Golec reported that the town currently pays \$4,000-\$5,000 annually to remove food scraps. He mentioned that other

towns have started charging for food scraps. Golec also told the board that payroll at the recycling center was an annual cost of \$100,000, when the staff

used to be volunteer.

Cowan reminded everyone of the special town meeting on June 22, with "one item on the agenda," which is a vote on when

the annual Town Meeting should take place.

The Rockingham Selectboard will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, July 23.

## BF Alumni Parade



The BFUHS Alumni Queen and her court. Left to right: Sadie Scott, Riley Haskell, Queen Eryn Ross, Moriah Howarth, and Delaney Lockerby.



The Class of 1982 grand prize winning "Peter Pan" float.

PHOTOS BY DOUG MACPHEE

## Parks Place elects two new board members

BY JOE MILLIKEN  
*The Shopper*

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Located at 44 School Street Extension in Bellows Falls, the Parks Place Community Resource Center recently welcomed two new members to its board of directors, after a recent meeting held at the Parks Place facility.

Parks Place is a community resource facility dedicated to helping local residents connect with the people, information, and resources they need in order to improve their lives. These resources include helping people to find employment, housing, food, help with parenting skills, and therapy options in the Bellows Falls area.

Aaron Eames and Tara Chase were both recently chosen to join the Parks Place Board of Directors, with both bringing well-rounded skills and experiences that broaden the base for future decisions made by the board.

Eames comes to Parks Place with a strong background in construction and joins the facilities committee, which focuses on keeping the three-story house in good condition and a safe atmosphere for incoming families in the local service area. Parks Place is a beginning for Eames, who was seeking a board position in order to give back to Rockingham.

"Aaron is a committed resident of Bellows Falls," Jennifer Jung Heidbrink said in a recent interview. Heidbrink is the executive director at Parks Place. "He and his wife have three young children, and I am eager for him to share his experiences, as well as what he feels families need from Parks Place based on his experiences."

Chase understands Parks Place firsthand. She is the child of a single mother, and grew up understanding what social services were available in the Springfield area, where she lived. Chase works from a Parks

Place office regularly, as an employee of Springfield Supportive Housing, and has a wonderful perspective of the agency that serves their clients from the same building. As with Eames, Chase has a family and deep connections to the people in this area.

"Tara has an extensive background in social services and understands the need for more localized support in the area," Heidbrink said. "She is passionate about the work she does, and the individuals she serves. I look forward to learning from her. I am very excited to have both Aaron and Tara on the Board. I believe they will help bring new and exciting ideas to Parks Place moving forward."

To learn more or to schedule a visit, please call 802-463-9927, Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., or visit [www.parksplacevermont.com](http://www.parksplacevermont.com).

## BFUHS June Elks Student of the Month

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – It is a pleasure to announce that Maya Rentas has been named the June Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS). Maya, a junior, is the daughter of Mickey Rentas Sr. of North Walpole, N.H., and Shelley Rentas of Westminster.

Maya demonstrates extraordinary academic effort in her classes. Interested in being challenged, she not only fills her schedule with high-level courses, but she works hard to improve her skills. Maya is a member of the Jesse A. Judd/Marilee Hunt-oon Chapter of the National Honor Society at BFUHS, and a positive role model for her peers.

Always encouraging, even when facing challenges, Maya finds her inner strength and focuses on "moving forward." She demonstrates



Maya Rentas.

PHOTO PROVIDED

perseverance and integrity in everything she does, and she is a great addition to any class or activity in which she participates. Often the first student to reach out, Maya will recognize someone struggling in class and offer assistance without being asked. She is respectful and courteous, and works very well with others. An encouraging role model who leads by example,

perseverance and integrity in everything she does, and she is a great addition to any class or activity in which she participates. Often the first student to reach out, Maya will recognize someone struggling in class and offer assistance without being asked. She is respectful and courteous, and works very well with others. An encouraging role model who leads by example,

and works to get everyone involved. Not only dedicated to her academics, Maya has been involved in a number of activities during her time at BFUHS. As a member of the softball team, band, drama club, school newspaper, student council, Students of Color United, and prom committee, she has worked to not only lead and organize activities, but to get others involved.

Her community service activities are extensive as well. Her list of volunteer work already includes helping at the Grafton Nature Museum's Fairy Festival, Parks Place bake sales, BFUHS Earth Day activities, various opportunities during BFUHS basketball games, helping for holiday activities at the American Legion, and working with the youth softball program.

Clearly deserving of recognition, BFUHS and the Elks are proud to have Maya represent us as a student of the month.

## Ashuelot concerts brings classical music to Kurn Hattin

**WESTMINSTER, Vt.** – Before the 2023-2024 Kurn Hattin Homes academic year came to a close in June, students and staff were treated to a stellar performance by Ashuelot Concerts, a nonprofit organization that offers schools the unique opportunity to bring music education and live classical music from some of the world's most talented musicians to their students.

Before a single note was played, Nick Burns, concert pianist and the organization's artistic and executive director, asked the Kurn Hattin Homes audience to close their eyes during

the performance and feel the music. He said, "Music moves us, quite literally."

"Once the music started, the students were mesmerized," said Lisa Bianconi, the homes' music director. "The stillness of the auditorium was evidence that their excellent musicianship created a powerful experience for all listeners in the audience."

"It was amazing what the trio could do musically. I was able to close my eyes and actually feel the music. It is not what you see, it is about what you feel in your heart," said 12-year-old Isaac.

Joining Nick on stage for

the music education program were concert violinist and Ashuelot Concerts' program and artistic director Louisa Stonehill, and concert cellist Francisco Vila from Ecuador, who plays a cello built in 1790. Nick explained that the trio had only rehearsed together for two days before performing at Kurn Hattin Homes, and described the experience of playing chamber music together as "a real act of friendship."

Between musical selections, Nick spoke to the children about the phenomenon of talent, encouraging them to continue practicing whatever

it is that interests them so that eventually their brains could recognize and repeat the activity with more ease each time. He also talked about the musical compositions, so that the audience could listen with more understanding of the composers' intent. He explained to the children that in our world today, there are many ways to listen to music, but the only way to hear music when these pieces were written was for someone to play it live. That's one of the reasons their program is designed to be completely offline and real, no electronic enhancements or

microphones, no synthetic ingredients at all, just physical vibrations that have the power to move the human spirit.

Ashuelot Concerts School Program uses live music to inspire children to explore the limitless potential of their brains. This program brings internationally renowned musicians into local classrooms, performing for around 5,000 children each year. At the end of each presentation there is a chance for the children to ask questions and interact with the musicians. "This is a magical opportunity to witness the children's sophisticated response to

the music. For every child, the music has a unique impact on them. Some are inspired by the passionate playing of the musicians, others take away an important message about how to apply themselves in class. Our message to them is that something that feels difficult or impossible in class can quickly become achievable and enjoyable with the right attitude, work, determination, and learning techniques. Turning something impossible into something you love is at the heart of what it means to be a professional chamber musician," Louis said.

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EMAIL YOUR PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES, AND PHOTOS  
[editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com)

# Kurn Hattin graduation

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Kurn Hattin Homes for Children marked the end of the 2023-2024 academic year with a beautiful graduation event for six outstanding eighth grade graduates.

Kurn Hattin Homes' Board President Mark Bodin opened the program by welcoming the audience and praising the graduates for their accomplishments and perseverance.

Following the invocation, flag salute, and a musical selection from the Homes' jazz band, the class salutatorian, Soma Lever, addressed the audience and shared a valuable lesson that she learned outside of the classroom. She said, "For all the younger kids here, I want you all to know to never take Kurn Hattin for granted. As someone who is leaving here, it's scary, and it comes faster than you think. It may seem like this place is never



The Kurn Hattin Class of 2024.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ending, overly strict, but the truth is that this place shelters us, keeps us safe, and builds our confidence, until we are ready to be released into the real world, like a butterfly."

Being released into the world can be scary, but it's also an opportunity to grow and thrive. In his message to the graduates, Kurn Hattin Homes' executive director Steve Harrison said, "Your life is just beginning to open up to a new chapter. High school can be a wonderful adventure if you make it so. Striving for a good education is perhaps the most important investment you can make in your own success – embrace it fully. Use the core values you have learned here – compassion, perseverance, hope, nurturance, and sense of worth – to make your life as full as possible."

In his speech, Kurn Hat-

tin Homes' valedictorian Dreyson Warren quoted Apple cofounder Steve Jobs, who once said, "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice."

Dreyson explained to the audience that the Jobs quote means a lot to him. He said, "Too many people rely on others to tell them what to do instead of making their own decisions. If you want to be successful, don't follow others around and do what they do, figure out what you want to do, and strive to do it."

After receiving their diplomas, the graduates moved their mortarboard tassels to the left, symbolizing their new status as Kurn Hattin Homes alumni.

# Rainbowpalooza in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – What do you get when you combine everything Pride and the principles of veganism, Rainbowpalooza creates a unique space for education, celebration, and connection," says Michelle Carrera, project manager for VINE.

The lineup of speakers includes four dynamic voices in the vegan and LGBTQ spaces: Seba Johnson, a vegan since birth who made history at 14 as the youngest alpine ski racer in Olympic history and the first Black female to ski in the Olympics; Eloisa Trinidad, founder of Vegan Activist Alliance and executive director of Chilis on Wheels, who focuses on animal and human rights; Roger Barab, winner of the International Gay Games in Mexico and a local Vermonter who helps mentor athletes from Windsor High School; and Tillie Walden, author

of five graphic novels and a webcomic, who is serving as Vermont's Cartoonist Laureate through 2026.

VINE is running this event with generous help from the Springfield Town Library and LGBTQ National Help Center, along with numerous sponsors. Find more information about it at [www.rainbowpalooza.org](http://www.rainbowpalooza.org).

VINE, which stands for "Veganism Is the Next Evolution" and "Veganism Is Not Enough," is an LGBTQ-led farmed animal sanctuary that works for social and environmental justice and animal liberation. The solar-powered sanctuary, the first to rehabilitate roosters used in cockfighting, is currently home to over 600 residents. For more information, visit [www.vinesanctuary.org](http://www.vinesanctuary.org), or follow VINE on Instagram at [@vinesanctuary](https://www.instagram.com/vinesanctuary).

on Friday evening, June 21, from 6:30-8 p.m., at the Charlestown Senior Center, 223 Old Springfield Road

# Walt Sayre Orchestra at Charlestown Senior Center

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Walt Sayre Orchestra will be performing a free concert

in Charlestown. Refreshments will be on sale, including burgers, hot dogs, chips, popcorn, hot or cold beverages, and a sweet something. We will also be selling 50-50 raffle tickets. Be sure to bring your lawn chair, and please join us for a fun evening of entertainment – maybe even a little dancing if the spirit moves you.

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# Springfield Elks Lodge celebrates Flag Day —

Nick Burlew and Wyatt James of Troop 252 perform a flag retirement ceremony.

PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Flag day is celebrated each June 14, to honor the 1777 date when the Second Continental Congress adopted America's familiar stars and stripes as the national flag.

On Sunday, June 9, Springfield Elks Lodge 1560 held its annual Flag Day service. Exalted Ruler (PER) Ed Knoras, five lodge officers, and Past Exalted Ruler Vicki Siliski led the history of the flag ceremony, while scouts from Springfield Troop 252 and honor guards from Union Street School presented the many flags honored during the service. This year's ceremony was well attended by approximately 75 scouts, students, family, friends, and members.

At the conclusion of the service, the Elks lodge performed a flag retirement ritual, with Troop 252 presenting the colors for retirement. A barbecue luncheon was served by the lodge's house committee.

Springfield Elks Lodge celebrates Flag Day.

PHOTO PROVIDED

# A follow up

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119  
ronpatch27@gmail.com

My article last week was titled, "Betwixt and between." Fred Gonet of G&G Restorations in Proctorsville called to tell me about the photo with that article. You may recall it was a photo of an early car driving through an ice jam in Hartford, Vt., in 1908.

Fred has made a career restoring these early cars. He identified the car as a 1908 Buick Model F with a two-cylinder motor. Fred inquired of a friend if he had any information on the "02" dealer license plate. Could he find who the dealer was? Yes. The dealer was the Excelsior Carriage Company in White River.

Fred invited me to his shop in Proctorsville. I went up this past Saturday. Fred's shop is interesting. He has a turret lathe and a milling machine. He also has a jeweler's lathe for making tiny

parts. I was there over an hour picking Fred's brain. While I have no interest in collecting cars, I really enjoyed listening to Fred.

When I left, Fred was readying two cars for a drive to the Gill Home in Ludlow. This was a program at the Gill Home to entertain elderly folks staying there.

Fred drove his 1914 Model T. His wife B.J. drove her 1931 Chrysler, both completely restored.

**Fair to middlin'**  
Another subject in last week's article was excerpts from an 1840 Bellows Falls Gazette. I repeat one post here, and call your attention to "middling."

**"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. Whosoever will return said Horse, or give information where he can be found, shall be handsomely rewarded, and all charges paid.

**"ISAAC DECAMP Londonderry, July 20, 1840."**

I have to admit "middling" got by me. I have since looked up the definition: "Middling refers to something that is medium, average, or neither very good, nor very bad." Why the switch of the tail was worth mentioning I do not know. Keeping flies away?

A common reply used to be, when you asked someone how they were doing, "Fair to middlin." I never knew "middling" was a real word, but knew it to mean "not bad."

**More Bellows Falls Gazette posts**

Here are more posts from the same newspaper.

**"WOOL & WAGGONS"**

"Cash and a fair market price will be paid for clean

fleece wool delivered at our store. Proctor and Robinson.

"They are manufacturing and have constantly on hand, a general assortment of one and two horse WAGGONS, and other CARRIAGES, made of good materials and well finished which will be sold on very reasonable terms.

"Proctorsville, June 17th, 1840."

**No title**

"Came into my enclosure about the 4th of August, a Sorrel Mare about common size, and about 9 years old, with small white spots made by the pad of the harness or saddle, and a little stripe around the breast of white, made by the collar. The owner is requested to call and pay charges and take her away.

**"RICHARDSON ROBERTSON South Charlestown, Aug. 12, 1840."**

**No title or author**



Fred Gonet with his 1914 Model T he drove to the Gill Home. PHOTO BY RON PATCH

"We are happy to notice the completion of the Bridge at Bellows Falls. The noble pier in the center, and the abutment on the West side of the river, are structures which do credit to Messrs. Silsby and Sargents of the workman like manner in which they have laid the stone, and will we doubt not long remain a monument of their skill. On the New Hampshire side of the river, Nature had formed an abutment. The wood work which stretches itself from abutment to abutment across the pier, has a most striking effect; the beauty of its structure, its columns, side walks, and the entrances at

each end, gives the whole a most splendid finish. Capt. Isaac Damon may well call it a master piece of workmanship; we are confident it has no parallel on Connecticut River, and we doubt if such a structure can be found crossing any stream in the Union of such strength and beauty. Its extreme length is 260 feet; width of the floor 25 feet; the oak plank laid lengthwise the Bridge; the height [sic] from the floor to the horizontal braces and beams 14 feet, and is 60 feet high from the water."

*This week's old saying. "He was born in the shallow end of the gene pool."*

## Robertson Paper Mill marker dedication held

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – A historic marker honoring the former site of Robertson Paper Mill was recently dedicated in Bellows Falls, in conjunction with the Vermont Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference. Over 50 people were in attendance, including conferencegoers and local families whose relatives and neighbors, or who themselves worked at the 120-year-old mill prior to its closure in the 1980s and demolition in 2019.

Robin Sweetapple, president of the Bellows Falls Area Development Corporation (BFADC) said the intent behind the BFADC purchase of the building in 2013 was to preserve the building and redevelop the site. "But we quickly realized that we didn't have that option," said Sweetapple.

Decades of industrial activity had contaminated the soil, and years of neglect left the buildings unsafe and beyond rehabilitation. The difficult decision was then made to demolish the structures, mitigate hazardous waste, and ready the site for redevelop through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program. Nine federal, state, and local partners funded the project.

Funding for the Robertson Paper Mill historic marker, dedicated at the event, was a requirement of the brownfields program, as a measure

to preserve the historical significance of the site. The marker was crafted from bricks, granite window lintels, iron I-beams, and rosette stabilizers salvaged for the kiosk during mill demolition, with an aim to provide visitors a tactile connection to the area's industrial past. "We recognize the importance of preserving the past and the streetscape," said Sweetapple. "It's a snapshot into the development of the area at that time. What was going on here and when, what economic drivers were influencing the needs – these are the same things that drive us now."

Betsy Thurston, director of the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance (BFDDA), noted the critical location of the property for new downtown development through updated zoning, which will allow mixed use, transit-oriented development, including industrial, commercial, retail, and housing. "We cherish the memory of the last remaining paper mill, while embracing the future of the Bellows Falls Designated Downtown," she said.

"The Area Wide Plan in-



The dedication of the Robertson Paper Mill historical marker. PHOTO PROVIDED

dicates what we all desire to see on the island. The kiosk is the first step in making it all happen."

During the ceremony, Gary Fox, Town of Rockingham economic development director, noted that the site has been chosen as a finalist for a desirable, community-oriented redevelopment project, partly due to positive discussion and community

placemaking efforts related to the historic marker project.

Other speakers included Bellows Falls native, historian, and SUNY professor David Deacon, and Creative Catalyst Communications principal and project manager Maia Segura. More information about the project and history is available at [www.rockinghamvt.org/papermill](http://www.rockinghamvt.org/papermill).



**Grandfather clock**

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Pictured above, left to right, are Rick Matthews; Nancy McAuliffe, Bellows Falls Woman's Club president; and Eileen Charbonneau-Gullo, club member, in front of the Rockingham Free Public Library's grandfather clock. The clock was presented to the library in 1909. Rick recently refurbished the antique clock to working order, and it was rededicated to the library as it struck noon on June 1. The woman's club has been supportive of the library and the upkeep of the clock over its life.

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<b>2015 Ford Fusion SE</b>	<b>2017 Nissan Rogue SV</b>

# health & wellness

## My Community Nurse Project thanks Mountain Towns

**REGION** - My Community Nurse Project (MCNP), a nonprofit agency working with the residents of Londonderry, South Londonderry, Landgrove, Peru, Weston, and Andover, is celebrating five years of service in the Mountain Towns. MCNP provides nursing care, support, and exceptional health care advocacy to the residents of these towns. Without the expense of office space, and with just one full-time and one part-time advanced practice nurse, MCNP has managed over 900 home visits this year, as well as patient transports to local clinics and to medical centers including RPMC, DHMC, SVMC, and Springfield Hospital. In the first six months of 2024, we have called Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad



Mark, celebrating 97 healthful years, has been a client of MCNP since its inception. PHOTO PROVIDED

13 times for emergency assistance. There is never a charge to the family for care or services. MCNP is fully funded by donation from individual community members and local churches, as well as from the towns of Londonderry, Weston, Andover, and Peru.

We want to express our

sincere thanks and deep appreciation for your ongoing support and commitment to our mission. Regina Downer, RN, MS, and Kathy Shuster, RN, MS, travel these roads daily, taking care of and assisting our friends and neighbors. We couldn't do this without you.

From our hearts to yours, we are grateful and hope to continue serving the residents of our communities for many years to come. Donations are welcome, of course, but never expected, and can be mailed to MCNP, P.O. Box 57, Weston, VT 05161. Our phone number for referrals is 802-772-5607.

## Grace Cottage earns top score in Healthcare Equality Index

**TOWNSHEND, Vt.** - In conjunction with Pride Month, Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital is pleased to announce that, once again, it has earned the highest score in Vermont in the 2024 Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) Healthcare Equality Index (HEI).

Grace Cottage, along with UVM Medical Center in Burlington and the VA Medical Center in White River Junction, tied for the top score among Vermont hospitals in the HEI Index. Nationwide, 462 healthcare facilities earned this "High Performer" designation.

The HRC Foundation's HEI is the nation's foremost benchmarking survey of healthcare facilities, scoring them based on policies and practices dedicated to the equitable treatment and inclusion

of their LGBTQ patients, visitors, and employees. The HEI evaluates and scores healthcare facilities on detailed criteria, including the use of preferred pronouns and other sexual orientation and gender identification (SOGI) data in medical records, medical and workforce benefits for same-sex and domestic partners, and teamwork to reduce disparities and support the LGBTQ community.

"We are dedicated to providing compassionate, high-quality care that is free from discrimination and affirming of gender identity and sexual orientation," said Doug DiVello, president and CEO of Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital. "We are very honored to have received 'High Performer' designation, which affirms that our employees are committed to providing inclusive care for all staff and for the patients that we serve."

"As anti-LGBTQ extremists look to strip away healthcare access at every turn, LGBTQ people and their loved ones are looking for healthcare providers to offer and champion

fully inclusive services," said Kelley Robinson, president of the HRC. "The Healthcare Equality Index is helping people find facilities where welcoming policies and practices are the standard. We know that LGBTQ people - especially our trans families - continue to face discrimination in the doctor's office. No one should have to put their health on the backburner for fear of mistreatment in a healthcare facility or by their doctor."

2024 marks the 16th anniversary of the HEI campaign. This year's HEI comes as LGBTQ adults are twice as likely as non-LGBTQ adults to be "treated unfairly or with disrespect by a doctor or healthcare provider" in the last three years, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. The impact of anti-LGBTQ legislation combined with a history of discrimination in healthcare settings has the potential to cause even more LGBTQ+ people to delay or avoid seeking healthcare, which makes the HEI even more important for those seeking care.



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## "Legalized Cannabis for Beginners" at Springfield Library

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** - Join Shannon on Tuesday, July 9,

at 6 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library, for her presentation "Just Say Yes - Legalized Cannabis for Beginners."

Are you curious about the world of legalized cannabis, but don't know where to start? Join Shannon Morrill from Something Wicked Cannabis for an informative session tailored for beginners.

With legalization progressing to the point that we now have recreational dispensaries open for those 21 and older in Vermont, lots of folks have questions. People who have never used pot are wondering if it might be fun or useful for them. Those who used it in youth may be wondering what options are available on the legal market. And users who have been growing or using medicinally for years might wonder what the recreational market has for them. Shannon will discuss what is currently available in the world of flowers, prerolls, vapes, edibles, tinctures, capsules, and topicals. What is THC, what is CBD, and why does it matter? How do inhalants work differently than ingestibles? This isn't your little brother's stash - find out how pot has grown up.

Shannon has a Master of Science in genetic counseling, and worked with cancer patients for nearly 20 years. After the chaos of Covid and becoming a single mom, she decided to call on her science background and find work that was profitable, flexible, whimsical, and fun. With some money left from the sale of her house, she started Something Wicked Cannabis Company, hired some amazing new friends, and created a place where adults can feel like kids in a candy store.

This event is free and open to the public. Call the library at 802-885-3108 with any inquiries, or visit our calendar of events to sign up at [www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar](http://www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar).

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# arts & entertainment

## Springfield Community Players present “Waiting for a Eulogy”

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The current production of the Springfield Community Players is a staged reading of the play “Waiting for a Eulogy” by local author Larry Kraft.

Kraft’s play is subtitled “Another tragicomedy in two acts,” because it is inspired by Samuel Beckett’s classic play “Waiting for Godot.” Like the original, the theme is friendship and the meaning of life.

In “Waiting for a Eulogy,” two travelers on the road of life once again banter and bicker about the things they may or may not have done – only this time they are in a bar, and one of them is dead.

They share memories and find meaning in their past interactions as they take

turns struggling to honor each other’s death. As they engage in a variety of humorous and insightful discussions and encounters, their friendship reveals itself to be stronger in death than it ever was in life.

Patty Greene-Pawelczyk, director of the performance, says, “This will be the play’s debut, and we are very excited to host this special show.”

In addition to its production in Springfield, the play has been published at the literary website Open: Journal of Arts and Letters. Kraft has also written two short plays, a long one-act play, and has had one of his short stories published.

Kraft, who has lived in Springfield for almost 25 years, was director of development at Springfield

Hospital, where he was emcee for 20 annual performances of its Apple Blossom Cotillion. He also coproduced and hosted a video celebration of that event’s history on SAPA TV, and wrote many feature articles for the Springfield Reporter newspaper.

Performances of “Waiting for a Eulogy” are Friday and Saturday, June 21 and 22, at 7:30 p.m., at the Springfield Community Players Theater, 165 South Street, Springfield.

The theater will host “Meet the Playwright” following the reading. Reservations and tickets are not required. A suggested donation is requested at the door. The theater opens at 7 p.m.

## Celebrate Pride at Disco Inferno with Bellows Falls Pride

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – From 1973-1984, the Andrews Inn provided safe haven, lodging, and the best parties for the LGBTQ community in rural New England. Visitors would board Amtrak trains from as far south as Washington, D.C., to make their way to the unlikely destination of Bellows Falls, Vt. Close out the month of June Pride events and revisit those iconic days on Saturday, June 29, from 9 p.m. – 1 a.m., with a disco dance party at Ciao Popolo, former home of the Inn, which is located at 36 The Square in downtown Bellows Falls. DJ Chele will be there

spinning nothing but disco favorites.

The first person to correctly guess the identity of the person in the Andrews Inn photo will receive two free tickets.

The photo, as well as ticket information, can be found at [www.ramp-vt.org/events/disco-inferno](http://www.ramp-vt.org/events/disco-inferno). This event is for those 18 and older. Cash bar and appetizers will be available for purchase. To learn more



Two free tickets will be given to those who can guess the identity of the person in this photo. PHOTO PROVIDED

about the history of the Andrews Inn, visit [www.thesecretlifeofdeath.com/tslod-episodes](http://www.thesecretlifeofdeath.com/tslod-episodes). For event information, visit [www.bellowsfallspride.com](http://www.bellowsfallspride.com), contact [bellowsfallspride@gmail.com](mailto:bellowsfallspride@gmail.com), or find us on Facebook.

## Ludlow Summer Sunday Evening schedule

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Town of Ludlow is proud to announce the schedule for the Summer Sunday Evenings at the Ludlow Bandstand at Veterans Memorial Park for the summer of 2024. All shows are free and open to the public.

Concerts start at 6:30 p.m., and go until 8 p.m. Our rain venue has been moved to the renovated Ludlow Town Hall. The Town of Ludlow has been presenting these shows for over 40 years, and we hope you will come out and

join us. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged.

The schedule is as follows: June 30, Gypsy Reel; July 7, Springfield Community Band; July 14, Sammy Blanchette and Friends; July 21, Better Days Band; July 28, Larry Eber; Aug. 4, Gerry Grimo and the East Bay Jazz Ensemble; Aug. 11, Rick Redington and the Luv.

The July 4 celebration will be held on July 5 (with a July 6 rain date), featuring Rustie Bus.

## “Bigs and Littles” art exhibition

WALPOLE, N.H. – “Bigs and Littles,” a one-day exhibition of abstract art, will enliven the Howell Studio on Old Keene Road in Walpole, N.H., on June 29. In a novel pricing scheme, the works will be sold by the square inch.

The works, by Walpole artists David Howell and Bill Reed, are lively abstractions, Reed’s mostly in miniature, and Howell’s as big as 30 inches by 40 inches. The prices are figured at 65 cents per square inch, or, in the case of many of Reed’s, per cubic inch.

Both Howell and Reed have been making art for most of their lives. Howell was also a research geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, and a professor at Stanford.

In retirement, he has been a leader of the Windham World Affairs Council and the Walpole International Affairs Discussion Group, a trustee of the Brattleboro Museum, and an active member of the Walpole Artisans Cooperative. A wine

aficionado, Howell consults with vintners in California, and regularly leads tours of wine-producing areas in this country and abroad.

Reed has been a teacher of art, writing, and especially French language in Vermont schools and

colleges. He and his wife Lynne owned Misty Valley Books in Chester, Vt., for many years, before retiring to Walpole eight years ago.

The exhibition at the Howell Studio off Old Keene Road, a mile south of downtown Walpole, will be open on June 29, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Bigs by David Howell. PHOTO PROVIDED



Littles by Bill Reed. PHOTO PROVIDED

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## Library short story discussion, “Notions of the Sacred”

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Pick up a copy of the short story “Notions of the Sacred” by Aysegül Savas, and join the discussion on Monday, July 1, at 3 p.m.

Two women rekindle an old friendship. Though they are both pregnant and their circumstances are different, they bond quickly over their pregnancies. Then, something unexpected happens.

It’s surprising how many personal connections can be made reading this compact form of literature. Large-print copies are available too. The Rockingham Library meets on the first Monday of each month to discuss a different short story. For more information, email [programming@rockinghamlibrary.org](mailto:programming@rockinghamlibrary.org), or call the library at 802-463-4270.

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# arts & events

# OUTDOOR

## HCRS annual golf tournament fundraiser

**BRATTLEBORO, Vt.** – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont’s nonprofit community mental health agency, is thrilled to announce their upcoming Golf Tournament & Silent Auction Fundraiser, set to take place on Friday, June 28, at the beautiful Brattleboro Country Club in Brattleboro, Vt. This highly anticipated event will bring together golf enthusiasts, local businesses, and many other supporters to raise essential funds for a housing contingency fund. This critical fund will provide needed support for clients who are unhoused or are at risk of becoming unhoused. In addition to a fantastic

day of golf, attendees will have the chance to win exciting prizes, participate in a 50-50 raffle, and enjoy a delicious catered lunch and an evening banquet. Participants can register individually or as teams of up to four, and sponsorship opportunities are available for local businesses and organizations looking to support a worthy cause while gaining visibility within the community. All proceeds from the tournament will directly benefit HCRS clients, helping to ensure no one is left out in the cold.

The tournament will be held on Friday, June 28, beginning at 12 p.m., at Brattleboro Country Club in Brattleboro, Vt. Activities

will include the golf tournament, prizes, raffle, catered lunch, evening banquet, balloon pop, silent auction, and much more.

To register for the tournament or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please visit [www.hcrs.org/support-hcrs.php](http://www.hcrs.org/support-hcrs.php), or contact Kelsie Fraser, PR coordinator, at [kfraser@hcrs.org](mailto:kfraser@hcrs.org).

George Karabakakis, HCRS CEO, invites the community to get involved in this fundraiser, saying, “Join HCRS for a day of golf and camaraderie while making a meaningful impact for a cause that is critical in our community. We look forward to your involvement.”

## Intro to fishing clinics

**REGION** – The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will be conducting “Introduction to Fishing Clinics” open to the public throughout the summer.

“Families across Vermont often turn to fishing during the summer months for a popular family outing,” said Fish and Wildlife education specialist Corey Hart.

“Our educational fishing programs provide new anglers with the information they need to be successful on the water, and additional programs will be added as the summer progresses.”

“Join us for a hands-on evening of fishing fun at one of these clinics, which will be perfect for those who have never been fishing before, or for those looking to refresh their

skills. Topics covered will include knot tying, fishing regulations, casting, ecology, and more.”

Three of the currently scheduled clinics focus on a general introduction to fishing. Our region will host one of them on Friday, June 28, from 6-8:30 p.m., at Hapgood Pond Recreation Area in Peru, Vt. Register at [www.register-ed.com/events/view/214606](http://www.register-ed.com/events/view/214606).

## Discover local wildlife

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – The Rockingham Free Public Library is excited to announce the summer reading kickoff event, “Whooo’s That? Identifying Backyard Wildlife,” presented by the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum on Tuesday, July 2, at 5 p.m.

Explore the diverse wildlife that inhabits our own backyards. This program is perfect for nature enthusiasts, families, and anyone interested in learning more about the creatures that share our environment and meeting some live animals.

The “Whooo’s That?” program will be presented by an educator from the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, who will share their knowledge and insights into the identification and habits of local wildlife. Participants will have the opportunity to learn how to identify various animals commonly found in Vermont, discover interesting facts about the behaviors and habitats of these creatures, participate in interactive discussions and activities to build your wildlife identification skills, and get an up-close look at the live animals.

This event is free and open to the public; financial support from this program has been provided by the Vermont Department of Libraries. Whether you are a seasoned naturalist or just beginning your journey into the world of wildlife observation, “Whooo’s That? Identifying Backyard Wildlife” promises to be an informative and enjoyable event for all ages. For more information, call 802-463-4270, email [youthservices@rockinghamlibrary.org](mailto:youthservices@rockinghamlibrary.org), visit [www.rockinghamlibrary.org](http://www.rockinghamlibrary.org), or stop by the library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.



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## Jenny Brook Bluegrass Festival

**TUNBRIDGE, Vt.** – The Jenny Brook Bluegrass Festival is back for its 23rd

year, bringing together bluegrass enthusiasts from across the country to cel-

ebate music, community, and the scenic beauty of Vermont. Scheduled from Wednesday, June 26 – Sunday, June 30, at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds, this year’s festival promises an unforgettable experience with top-notch performances, engaging workshops, and family-friendly activities.

Utility sites are available at the gate on a first-come first-served basis. Multi-day and single-day passes are available online and at the gate.

For more information, visit [www.jennybrookbluegrass.com](http://www.jennybrookbluegrass.com), or contact Candi Sawyer at [jennybrookbluegrass@gmail.com](mailto:jennybrookbluegrass@gmail.com).

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