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Londonderry receives seven planning commission resignations

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB

The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The July 1 selectboard meeting opened with an announcement from town administrator Shane O’Keefe, stating they had received \$487,087 in reimbursements from FEMA, adding, “I think we’re well ahead of most other towns.”

Board chair Tom Cavanaugh moved on to announce the resignations from planning commission members. He said there were “so many” resignation letters, “I’m not going to read them out loud.” The letters can be found on the town’s website, www.londonderryvt.org/town/agendasminutes, in the July 1 meeting packet.

Elsie Smith had notified the planning commission in January of her resignation, which was effective June 1.

Richard Dale said, “I have been honored to have served for more than twelve years as an appointed planning commissioner,” seven of which as the elected secretary. He noted the time and dedication each member put in to their duties serving the community. “We each considered our work on behalf of the citizens valuable and important, both to the citizens and to the future of Londonderry, and were happy to devote our time and energy to do the job as well as possible.”

Mary Adams Lines submitted her letter resigning after serving seven years on the board. She stated, “Recently, I have developed a growing unease and disappointment about the culture and support at the highest levels of our town’s government. The environment has been tense, lacking a considered, deliberative process and attitude. It has driven me to focus on other opportunities that provide a level of conduct, appreciation, motivation, and inclusivity to which I’ve been accustomed in the past.” She added, “I would like to express my appreciation and pride for the opportunity.”

Sharon Crossman expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the planning commission for over 35 years. She wrote, “My parting wish is that, going forward, those in charge as volunteer town officials will consider and continue working together to restore a sense of trust and positive intentions overall for Londonderry.”

Heather Stephenson also submitted her resignation “with thoughtful consideration” after a “brief tenure,” expressing her gratitude for the planning commission. “I leave with the deepest appreciation for the volunteers who have given countless hours of service. I will miss their company, civility, kindness, and the invaluable experience they’ve contributed to our town.” She concluded,

“I look forward to participating as a resident or in volunteer efforts aligned with my values.”

Maryann Morris wrote, “As an appointee, I believed that we were working under the guidance, cooperation, and with full knowledge and support of the selectboard and other employees. Despite working on, holding open meetings, and reporting to the selectboard about our projects regularly throughout my tenure, and in the years prior, we found out that the many hours of our work and consultant costs were for naught. Prior insight and guidance from our town selectboard – our town’s leaders – could have avoided the deep divide within the town that has since developed.” She added, “I am proud of the progress we have made, and I remain hopeful that future efforts will be met with the support, cooperation, and clarity they deserve.”

Larry Gubb regretfully resigned after serving on the planning commission since 1991. In his six-page letter, he said it was “an honor and a pleasure to work with many wonderful and intelligent people volunteering with a strong dedication to the town.” He noted that only a handful of people attended their meetings. “A lack of interest while the process of reviewing and revising both the town plan and zoning bylaws following the town plan has...been a common occurrence.” He continued, “In addition, because the planning commission exists under the authority of the selectboard, the work of the all-volunteer planning commission was constantly reviewed by the selectboard during the processes of revisions and rewrites...the selectboard could comment on them as well as the public.”

Gubb reflected on the years, “While there were always differences of opinion and revisions, never were there feelings of enmity, animosity, or the intonation brought forth that the planning commission was doing anything but working for the town and in the town’s interest, and trying to do so with little or no overall participation of community members... There was always the idea that concerns could be worked through cooperatively, not poised as an us vs. them entity struggle.”

“In spite of open meetings, publicized versions of the bylaw revisions, meeting minutes...sparsely attended planning commission hearings,” Gubb said it was somewhere suggested that “the planning commission was trying to do something underhanded, and to ‘sneak’ a bylaw through.” Gubb continued, “Instead of defending [our] work... the planning commission was presented as ‘not listen-

ing’ to a community that didn’t appear to want to be heard, or even interested in the process until most of it was done.” He added, “There appeared to be no problem alerting some of the apparently uninterested ‘community’ to review what they had constantly already had access to,” at the last minute. “The top leadership several times appeared to suggest that not enough time was given to read and contemplate the most recent small set of changes, and indicated that there were many more changes in particular to be addressed.”

Gubb concluded, “I am saddened to have to end those many years [of service] under these circumstances. I am saddened to see a number of dedicated volunteers who are also residents and members of the community be accused as I have, of trying to do something underhanded and not inclusive of the community.”

In response, board member Martha Dale expressed at the meeting, “I would like us to sit back and process what most of those individuals are talking about...to understand why there was a mass resignation.” She said the key topic was the lack of support the planning commission received during the process, which took five years. Dale continued, stating that they needed to give the new members the support they need. “It’s our job as a board to take interest in support of people volunteering their time.”

Dale asked how they could thank the committee for their time, to celebrate all the work they achieved. “That’s a good question,” stated member Taylor Prouty. He said in most instances, they could do that individually, “but this is an entire board.”

Dale suggested a letter from the chair, which produced no comment from Cavanaugh. “A ‘thank you’ should suffice,” said board member Jim Flemming.

Dale then recommended warning for the vacancies, saying she wanted it to “be open to everybody.” Cavanaugh stated that it is, and will be, open to everyone. The town would put posters at the post office and post the positions on the town’s website. Dale expressed the need to have an array of expertise on the planning commission, to have backgrounds that will work well together, and to be well-staffed with competencies in different areas.

The next Londonderry Selectboard meeting will be held Monday, July 15, at 6 p.m.

Chester’s Vermont Picker prepares for new owner

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – John Stark, proprietor of Vermont Picker, claims he is ready to retire. A 73-year-old native Vermonter, and graduate of Bellows Falls High School Class of 1971, Stark and his wife Carol purchased the business on Route 103 in Chester five years ago.

Carol grew up in Springfield and worked as a teacher at the high school for 45 years before retiring. She returned to the school this summer to teach special-needs education. John felt it was time for him to step away from the full-time job of running the antique and collectibles store.

John remarked, “People say, ‘but you only work from 10-4,’ and I tell them it isn’t just 10-4, there’s a lot of work that goes on outside 10-4.”

Currently, Stark is clearing out most of his inventory through the end of July, when he will hand the business over to the new owner. Once an employee of the Picker, Rosie McNamara will be taking the reins from her former boss. With a passion for vintage items, including clothing, Stark said McNamara plans to maintain a portion of the current inventory, while bringing her own fresh ideas and



Visit John Stark at Vermont Picker before he retires.

PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

style to the store.

“She wants to keep some of the old signs,” Stark said, referring to his collection of retro, metal signs that feature automotive, military, and advertising slogans, “and I’m working with her to help her get started.”

Stark explained that items like the vintage signs are expensive, and he has always paid outright or bartered for the things he sells in the store, as opposed to selling via commission. But he wants McNamara to succeed and is willing to assist however he can.

Stark plans to continue participating in some flea markets that he enjoys, like the Brimfield Flea Market in Brimfield, Mass., considered to be America’s oldest outdoor antiques and flea market. He mentioned that the markets in Quechee Gorge and Wilmington are also fun for him to attend.

In addition to continuing a scaled back version of “picking,” Stark plans to spend the time he hasn’t yet had to restore his 1812 home. “First project, the kitchen floor.”

Stark knows a lot about this area’s history, and he enjoys sharing stories about what life was like in Bellows Falls and the surrounding towns during his lifetime.

“I’m a storyteller,” John confessed.

Alice, the Stark’s gentle, 8-year-old Weimaraner spends her days in the shop with John and will bark to remind him when it is past 4 p.m., and he’s still deep in conversation with a customer who stopped by to “pick” something to add to their collection.

“Oh, Alice will let me know when it is time to go home,” John stated.

Stop by and visit John, Carol, and Alice before they retire on July 31.

Ludlow talks class 4 roads, FEMA frustrations

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Monday, July 1, the Ludlow Selectboard met for their regular monthly meeting, covering a range of ongoing issues.

Municipal manager Brendan McNamara began the meeting by noting that the previous day had been Ludlow Fire Chief Peter Kolenda’s last day on the job, and thanking him for his 25 years of service. New Ludlow Fire Chief Ben Whalen, Ludlow’s first full-time fire chief, was present at the meeting.

The board then began discussions of the class 4 segment of Preedom Hill Road. As discussed at the previous meeting, the road is currently being used by ATVs, which, according to nearby residents, is causing significant damage. By Vermont statute, ATVs are allowed on class 4 roads, though this particular stretch of road is only accessible via a class 3 road, which are off limits to ATVs in Ludlow.

McNamara presented

the board with two options for the class 4 segment: passing a class 4 road ordinance, or reclassifying the road as a trail. Each option, he explained, had pros and cons. A class 4 road ordinance would apply to all class 4 roads in Ludlow, which, McNamara told the board, was a relatively small amount of roads at “under five” miles. Board member George Tucker asked McNamara whether the ordinance would allow for different class 4 roads to have different rules, and McNamara confirmed that this was the case.

However, board member Scott Baitz noted that the issue is still one of enforcement. “We don’t enforce class 3 road [policy],” Baitz said, alluding to the fact that the ATV riders on the class 4 section of Preedom Hill are likely driving there illegally already on class 3 sections of the same road. McNamara concurred, saying that the ordinance is “not a magic fix.”

Board member Justin Hyjek preferred to “take these [situations] on a case-by-case basis, and not draft a policy for all five miles.” Hyjek asked McNamara

if reclassification as a trail would allow the town to place boulders or bollards in front of the trail to block vehicle traffic. McNamara believed that this would be allowed, though he needed to investigate the issue further, and cautioned that emergency services may also need to access the trail if someone is injured while walking it. He also explained that reclassification as a trail would mean that the town would no longer be responsible for maintaining the road.

The board ultimately tabled the issue, as Baitz believed that a map of all Ludlow class 4 roads should be seen by the board before coming to a decision. McNamara agreed to provide such a map, as well as to draft both an ordinance and a trail reclassification option for the board to consider at their next meeting. Any such decision would also be subject to public hearings prior to enactment.

The board then allocated more of the town’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds; \$20,000 to Okemo Valley TV, to allow the community station to set up a

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Divided Sky Fun(d) Run a success

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Divided Sky Residential Recovery Program would like to thank all the supporters of the annual Divided Sky Fun(d) Run. The third annual Divided Sky Fun(d) Run, held in May, was a morning filled with fitness and community spirit. Proceeds from the event support the Divided Sky Foundation, and the Turning Point centers of Springfield and Rutland, Vt.

The Divided Sky Residential Recovery Program is an abstinence-based, 12-step program incorporating mindfulness and solution-based programming to encourage guests to learn coping strategies, life skills, and communication skills taught in workshops and daily lessons. Our mission is to provide educational

and introspective programming to foster a sober and productive foundation for individuals affected by addiction. By offering a diverse collection of strategies and approaches to recovery anchored in the 12 steps, emotional sobriety, and mindfulness, we support individuals to construct and utilize the tools necessary to thrive in long term recovery.

For more information on the Divided Sky program, please visit www.divided-skyfoundation.com or call 802-735-7890.

Melanie Gulde and Ross



Melanie Gulde and Ross Brillhart of Divided Sky Recovery Program present checks to Tracie Hauck and Astrid Bradish-Hoyt.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Brillhart of Divided Sky Recovery Program present checks to Tracie Hauck of Turning Point Recovery Center, Rutland, and Astrid Bradish-Hoyt of Turning Point Recovery Center, Springfield.

Artistic quilt exhibit

LUDLOW, Vt. – Susan Damone Balch's unique quilting is on display in the new Meadowview Gallery at Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts. Come visit the open reception on Thursday, July 11, from 6-7 p.m. The current exhibit shows work with a log cabin theme. Starting with a square, strips are added

to form patterns in a free-form style.

Susan volunteered her teaching artist skills to facilitate a quilting workshop for adults from July 8-12. When you stop by, you will have the opportunity to see other artists' work.

Susan's work will be displayed at the new Meadowview Gallery throughout

July. Susan's love of the needle arts began when she was five years old, playing at her mother's sewing machine. As a young adult, she discovered the arts of quilting and fly fishing.

Geometric designs that use many different fabrics have intrigued her since she started quilting in 1978. A desire to capture the beauty and intrigue of fly fishing and nature in fabric led her to create stylized pieced pictorials using smooth curved lines. Her favorite part of the process is collecting and choosing fabrics. Sometimes, she lets the fabrics tell her what to do, and creates the work intuitively.

Susan's work has been shown on Chronicle WCVB 5 television, and her quilt is on display at the current Vermont Quilt Show at Billings Farm and Museum.

Friends of the Fletcher Memorial Library book sale

LUDLOW, Vt. – Fletcher Memorial Library is pleased to announce the Friends 2.0 Book Sale 2024. The book sale dates will be Aug. 16 and 17, with exact times to be determined.

The friends have secured the tables (thanks Vail), tents (thanks Celebration Rentals),

dumpster (thanks A.B.L.E. Waste Management), and the take-away of sale remainders for a new home (thanks J's Books & More). The annual sale would not be possible without all of the donations.

Books will be accepted during regular library hours, beginning July 15 through Aug. 15. It takes

many hands to make this a success. If you are interested in assisting the friends with their sale, please call the library at 802-228-8921.

Items not accepted include encyclopedias, text books, Reader's Digest, magazines, and moldy or ripped books. If it is trash to you – it is trash and not for the book sale.

Windsor County Candidate Forum

CHESTER, Vt. – Interested in hearing what the five democratic candidates for three Windsor County state senate seats have to say? If so, join us at the Windsor Senate Candidate Forum at the Chester Town Hall on Tuesday, July 16, from 5:30-7 p.m. The forum is organized by the Chester Democratic Committee.

With the retirement of long-term Windsor County Democratic Sen. Dick McCormack, the two incumbents – Alison Clarkson and Becca

White – will run for three seats, with newcomers Joe Major, Marc Nemeth, and Justin Tuthill.

The forum will be introduced by Windsor-Windham House Rep. Heather Chase and moderated by Bill Dakin, who also serves as Chester town moderator.

Candidates will respond to a series of questions from among those developed by CDC officers and sent to the candidates. Each candidate – after brief introductions – will be given the opportunity to explain their thoughts on issues facing Vermont, such

as housing, taxes, and health care, among others. There will be time allotted for questions from the audience.

The candidates for Windsor County senator come from around the county. Incumbent Clarkson is from Woodstock; Major is currently Hartford town manager; Nemeth is an attorney based in South Royalton; Tuthill, of Pomfret, recently worked in administrative positions in hospitals; incumbent White is from Hartford.

For more information, contact Bill Dakin at 802-345-0436.

LUDLOW

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low power FM radio station in the region, and \$10,000 for the Black River Academy Museum. McNamara also told the board that alternative, non-ARPA funding had been secured for the relocation of the dog park to West Hill, returning \$45,000 to the ARPA funding pool.

The town had intended to set its fiscal year 2025 tax rate, however, McNamara told the board that this would not be possible, as the town had not yet received the education tax rate from the state. A special meeting will be called to decide on the municipal tax rate once

the education tax rate is received.

During this discussion, McNamara expressed frustration with the FEMA reimbursement process in response to a question from Baitz, describing it as "a struggle."

"To date, zero dollars from FEMA – nothing. And it's not for lack of trying," McNamara said. "The damage that dealing with FEMA has done to this community, in terms of funding, is horrific." He explained that the town was now on its sixth FEMA project manager, each change of which necessitated bringing a new person up to speed and resubmitting the same information that had already been accepted by previous project managers, saying, "I'm sorry, it's absurd." As a result, McNamara said, "We can't even help our people out if we want to by offsetting the tax rate, because we're out two and a half million dollars, because we can't get that money...a year after the fact. It's upsetting." McNamara noted that Sen. Peter Welch would be

in Ludlow the following day, and he intended to speak with him about his frustrations.

Moving on, McNamara also updated the board on the Jewell Brook Dam projects. In terms of the overall rehabilitation of all five dam sites, he informed the board that he had held a "productive" meeting with the USDA recently, and that they were exploring funding options. This is a large, expensive project, estimated to cost around \$40 million and to take 10 years.

For the more immediate concerns of the dam site 3 and 5 spillways, McNamara also had good news. He said he had recently held a meeting with an engineer who was "very positive regarding the current condition of the dams," and that the repair project was completely funded. The project is now in motion, and being handled by the USDA Emergency Watershed Program.

The Ludlow Selectboard will hold their next meeting on Monday, Aug. 5, at 6 p.m., at Ludlow Town Hall.

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Local garden awards

REGION – The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont's 16 garden clubs held their annual meeting recently in Manchester, Vt. This meeting was an opportunity to honor and recognize the time, effort, and resources expended by each club's work and projects while promoting the love of gardening, civic, and environmental responsibility fulfilled by the mission of the club.

The Green Mountain Garden Club received the following state awards: Club Yearbook, 46-69 members, Merit Award; Best Ongoing Project That Has Merit, First Place; Civic Beautification Merit Award for outstanding civic project completed which resulted in a permanent improvement for public benefit; Education, First Place and Merit Award, educational work in the field of horticulture; Individual Within the Club who Maintains Fabulous Gardens, Merit Award; Pamela C. Herbert Historic Preservation, Merit Award; Golden Trowel Award, Sally Ogden, for making extraor-

dinary contributions of time and talent to furthering the aims of a garden club; and Landscape of Business, First Place, Vermont Country Store, for a business which strives to use plants to improve the appearance of its premises.

The Green Mountain Garden Club is a community nonprofit which fosters horticulture, beautification, and conservation of all natural resources. The club is under the leadership of President Linda Saarnijoki. The club supports educational and civic projects for both members and the community.

The Springfield Garden Club received the following state awards: Club Yearbook, 46-69 members, First Place; Newsletter, 3-12 pages, First Place; Social Media, 3-12 pages, First Place; Civic Beautification, First Place, for an outstanding civic project completed which resulted in a permanent improvement for public benefit; Education, Merit Award, for educational work in the field of horticulture; Individual Within the Club who Maintains Fabulous Gar-

dens, Merit Award; Window Boxes and Containers, First Place; Golden Trowel Awards to Buddy Dexter, Alicia Jenks, and Lindsey Rounsefell, who make extraordinary contributions of time and talent to furthering the aims of their garden club; and Garden therapy, First Place, most effective garden therapy program.

The Springfield Garden Club's purpose is to provide a social framework for education and community service in the areas of gardening, beautification, and conservation, and to coordinate the activities of the club with those of The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont in order to advance our mutual aims. The President of the Springfield Garden Club is Therese Burton. The club supports educational and civic projects for both members and the community.

Congratulations to the Green Mountain Garden Club and the Springfield Garden Club.

18th Century healers talk

CAVENDISH, Vt. – As towns like Cavendish started to be settled in the 18th century, physicians were generally not among the first inhabitants. In Cavendish, it was approximately 26 years after the town was chartered before a doctor arrived. Who then was responsible for the health care needs of the newly-forming communities, and how did they practice?

While women served as doctor, nurse, midwife, pharmacist, and therapist, ministers were crossed trained and referred to as "minister/physician." The medicinal and kitchen gardens were one and the same, that women maintained and

used in the care of their families, following recipes handed down within families and among friends.

The Cavendish Historical Society (CHS) will be hosting a talk, "18th Century Rural Vermont Healers" on Sunday, July 21, at 2 p.m., at the CHS Museum, off Route 131 in the Cavendish Village. The talk will include the history of 18th century healers, treatments, as well as how plants and herbs were used then and now. A brief medicinal plant walk around the museum will conclude the program. This event is free and open to the public.

One of the speakers will be Dr. Charis Boke, a member of the Dartmouth College

faculty in anthropology. She is currently writing "Poison, Power, and Possibility: Building Relations with Medicinal," which will explore the poetics, politics, and practices of contemporary herbalists in North America, leaning on ethnographic research, botanical histories, and lived experience to examine what it takes to remedy what ails us. Dr. Boke was involved in helping with the Benjamin Rush Medicinal Garden at the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia.

For more information, please call 802-226-7807 or email margocaulfield@icloud.com.

Rockingham Library hosts Foraging Safely class

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Free Public Library will host a Foraging Safely class with Gaal Shepherd Crowl on Monday, July 22, at 5 p.m.

Artist and author Gaal Shepherd Crowl will share her years of foraging knowledge to help guide those in their own practice. Since taking her first class on mushrooms at VINS in 1988, Crowl has gained confidence in her ability to identify fungi, and by training the eyes to see subtle differences, to have safely eaten 52 varieties. "Mushroom hunting is a lot like

treasure hunting. Very interesting and sometimes exciting when you happen upon a big find! But it is for the seriously careful," shared Crowl.

The class is free, but space is limited to 15 participants. Preregistration is required. Call the library at 802-463-4270 or email reference@rockinghamlibrary.org to reserve your spot or be put on the waitlist. The library is located at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls. This program is made possible by a grant from the Association for Rural and Small Libraries, and is presented

as part of the "Seed to Spoon: Cultivating Community" project.



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Go fly a kite

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
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Last week I mentioned I collected patriotic antiques. The photo with this article is a patriotic kite, titled "American Beauty." It would probably date between 1958 and 1962. I remember being a boy and wanting one.

Ruth's Gifts

Ruth's Gifts came before the Charthouse. This is the circa 1900 place next to the library. It was run by Ruth Bruce. She carried all sorts of novelties kids like me wanted. Do you remember handshake buzzers, party poppers, and marbles? Ruth's Gifts carried these and other fun novelties. Exploding cigarette loads were a lot of fun, although my mother didn't think so. "Wait till I get my hands on you, you little bastard!" Time to run!

Some may know Steve, Patty, or Cindy Bruce. Ruth was their grandmother.

Ardis Clark

In my earliest memory, Ardis Clark ran a yarn and novelty shop just down School Street on the right. She later moved to the old freeze locker, now Newsbank Conference Center.

Ardis had a fun shop for kids like me. She too sold handshake buzzers, but she also bought and sold old coins. Coins were of interest to me.

I watched my change closely, looking for a coin I could sell for more than face value. I still do.

One summer day in the late 1950s, my mother sent me to Al's IGA for something she needed. I had all coin dates memorized for value. There was no better Mercury dime date than the 1916D – very rare. I received one in my change that day. It was really worn. You had to look close to make sure the date was 1916. To see the "D" on the reverse of the coin, you had to look even closer. But it was the 1916D. Ardis paid me \$3. Replace my mother's dime and I was up \$2.90! Today this is equivalent to \$31.72. Not bad for an 8 year old.

Bruce Clark

Bruce was an odd duck, and son of Ardis. Bruce and my brother Brian were friends. Brian nicknamed Bruce "Castro." Bruce was always dressed in olive drabs, with black leather boots laced up. He always wore an olive drab "Castro" style hat.

Flying a kite

Springtime was kite-

flying time. The problem was always having enough airspace. Treetops and utility lines caused many tangled crashes. Kites, such as you see with this article, had a three-foot-long tail. This helped stabilize flight. You had your line on a spool. Through the center of the spool, passed a round dowel. This dowel stuck out a couple inches on each side, just enough for your hands to hold to regulate how fast you let out the line.

I thought there had to be a better way. I got my spinning rod with 200 yards of line. It was real easy to let line out, and a cinch to reel it in.

Balsa airplanes

Do you remember the balsa airplanes that came in cellophane packages? I remember the basic glider was 10 cents. But the deluxe model cost 25 cents.

The glider you tossed into the air. You could slide the wings back for a loop-to-loop flight, or forward for distance. They were fun.

The deluxe had landing gear and a propeller. There was a rubber band under the fuselage that was wound by turning the propeller clockwise. It was only a matter of time before I modified this plane.

Remove the rubber band. Next, glue a bottle rocket on each wing next to the fuse-



The patriotic kite. Notice the orbits around the globe.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

lage. Light the bottle rockets and off the plane took. What fun, until the plane burst into flames, crashed, and set the dry grass on fire. Stomp, stomp, stomp!

Gypsy moths

Do you remember in the mid-1950s when we had a Gypsy Moth infestation? I remember men walking along Main Street, beside a truck with a tank, spraying an insecticide fog everywhere. The sidewalk was covered with caterpillars. There were millions of them. You couldn't take a step without stepping on them. I don't always trust my early memory, but I seem to remember a bi-plane flying over Main Street spraying insecticide. Does anyone remember?

This week's old saying I heard growing up. I used it one time. I was told I was out of line at a better antiques estate sale in Ludlow. This was about 45 years ago. "Go suck an egg," was my reply.

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health & wellness COMMUNITY

Ian Odigie appointed to the Vermont Medical Board –



Ian Odigie, DPM. PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Ian Odigie, DPM, has been appointed by Gov. Phil Scott to the Vermont Board of Medical Practice. The Board of Medical Practice oversees licensing and the practice of medicine in Vermont. Ultimately, the board's primary responsibility is protection of the public, and instilling confidence in the system by having a neutral and independent body to receive, investigate, and, if appropriate, act on complaints and reports of possible unprofessional conduct. The board includes 17 part-time members, of whom there are nine MDs, one physician assistant, one podiatrist, and six public members with no ties to the practice of medicine. Dr. Odigie will attend meetings twice monthly for the board/committee

work, and participate in the investigative committee - south, serving a five-year term. Congratulations Dr. Odigie.

Nonprofit boards: new challenges and responsibilities

REGION – The days are long gone when nonprofit boards were made up of large donors who expected that little more would be asked of them beyond socializing at the occasional fundraiser. Being a board member can be as demanding and rewarding as any full-time work.

Nonprofit board members are being required to do strategic planning for both long- and short-term goals. They must produce demonstrable results that are measured against specific benchmarks. And they are finding that they must stretch already tight budgets further than ever. In turn, stakeholders within and outside nonprofit organizations increasingly are holding board members to a higher standard of accountability for making sure the organization not only delivers on its mission, but does so in the most effective way.

Of all the challenges facing nonprofits, financial issues can be especially complex. In the last decade, many nonprofits have experienced funding cutbacks. Even those whose funding has remained stable are finding that money has to go further to meet increased client loads and demands on programs and services.

In some cases, the issues can be so complex that boards are going outside the organization's ranks to hire consultants with specific expertise in certain areas. People who stay on top of the latest developments in such fields as tax law, charitable giving regulations, and best practices in accounting can be particularly effective in helping an organization fulfill its purpose without having to add staff.

Understanding your role and responsibilities as a board member, as well as the challenges facing nonprofits today, can not

only improve your board's decision-making process, but can help you have maximum impact. A nonprofit board member has a dual role: support of the organization's purpose, and governance over how it attempts to further that mission. You and your fellow board members doubtless want to use your collective time efficiently. When thinking about how to focus your efforts, consider whether your organization needs help with any of the following issues.

Ensuring accountability
Limited budgets and greater demand mean that hard choices will need to be made. In many cases, it's the board's responsibility to make them. To make wise decisions, it's important to understand the organization's financial assets, liabilities, and cash-flow situation. If you've had corporate experience, you may be able to help your fellow board members review the balance sheet; if not, it's worth your time to become familiar with it yourself. For example, knowing whether your organization qualifies for state sales and/or use tax exemption could have a meaningful impact on finances. Little may be more disturbing to potential donors than the feeling that their money may not be used effectively.

Also, the IRS is beginning to require more detailed information about nonprofit finances and governance practices, such as involvement in a joint venture or other partnership. Program funders also have increased reporting requirements. When deciding which grants to make, foundations are asking for more information, greater documentation, and increased evaluation of results. Gathering and analyzing accurate, timely, comprehensive data, and being able to document a program's effectiveness and impact are increasingly important. Understanding the organization's finances doesn't just improve the board's oversight capabilities; it also can make you a more effective fundraiser.

Higher standards of accountability mean that boards also should ensure that liability insurance is in place for both directors and officers. This is especially true if the organization provides services to the public, such as medical care. **Adopting enhanced governance standards**
The Sarbanes-Oxley Act, passed in the wake of corporate governance scandals and nicknamed SOX, also affects nonprofits. Though the law applies almost exclusively to publicly traded companies, some nonprofits are using SOX provisions as a model for developing formal policies on financial reporting, potential conflicts

of interest, and internal controls.

Two provisions of SOX also apply to nonprofits. First, organizations must have a written policy on retention of important documents, particularly those involved in any litigation. Second, they need a process for handling internal complaints while also protecting whistleblowers. Individual states have expressed interest in extending other SOX requirements to the nonprofit world, particularly larger organizations. Many nonprofit organizations hope that voluntary compliance efforts will eliminate calls for increased official regulation of such issues as board member compensation and conflicts of interest.

Ensuring effective fundraising and money management

Nonprofits have not been spared the increases in for-profit health care costs and workers' compensation insurance that have hit corporations and small businesses. Yet, fundraising for such mundane areas as day-to-day operations, staff salaries, and building and equipment maintenance has traditionally been one of the biggest challenges for nonprofits.

The twin effects of inflation and increased client loads have underscored the importance of having an adequate operating reserve. Also, corporate sponsorships can be vulnerable to the mergers and acquisitions that occur frequently in the corporate world. It makes sense to ensure a diversity of donors rather than relying on a few traditional sources.

Bringing in money is only half the battle; the day-to-day issues are equally important. Board members may be unfamiliar with operational challenges that businesses don't generally face, such as fundraising, or recruiting and managing volunteers. However, in some cases you might be able to suggest ways to adapt businesslike methods for nonprofit use.

For example, appropriately investing short-term working capital can help preserve financial flexibility while maximizing resources. If your group has an infusion of cash that won't be spent immediately, such as a contribution for a capital spending project, consider alternatives for putting at least some of it to work rather than letting it sit idle.

Planning strategically
Having a strategic plan can lead to better evaluation of funding needs and targeted fundraising efforts; it also can help ensure that board members and staff are on the same page. Make sure your plan provides guidance yet allows staff members to do their jobs without constant board supervision. A board of directors also must help ensure that the organization can attract and retain leadership. Many nonprofits today are led by executives who came of age during the 1960s. As those baby boomers march toward retirement, some experts worry that attracting and retaining executive directors and staff will become increasingly challenging, especially when budgets are shrinking. A succession plan for key personnel might be wise.

Using your time wisely
Nonprofit time membership can be both demanding and rewarding. Understanding your group's finances can increase your effectiveness in furthering your organization's goals.

Written by Huntley Financial Services, Ludlow, Vt., 802-228-5774, www.huntleyfs.com.

Healthcare community meeting

REGION – Join local community leaders, hospital leaders, legislators, state officials, and your neighbors in discussing the options your community has for supporting the future of healthcare in Vermont.

Local meetings will be held on Tuesday, July 16, from 4:30-6 p.m., at Springfield Hospital, 25 Ridgewood Road, Springfield; and on Thursday, July 18, from 6-7:30 p.m., at Leland and Gray Union High School, 2042 Route 30, Townshend, Vt.

Healthcare is unaffordable for too many Vermonters. Despite rising insurance costs, Vermont's hospitals and health systems face financial pressures, and our health system requires revitalization. Attend a healthcare community meeting to hear directly from a healthcare systems expert who has been doing a deep dive on the healthcare system across the state, and is ready to share recommendations for your local hospital.

Find more information at www.gmcboard.vermont.gov/Act-167-Community-Meetings.

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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ACROSS
1 Balm target
4 Baseball's Ty
8 Get wind of
12 Have bills
13 "Beetle"
14 Bailey" dog
15 Sax range
17 Texter's "As I see it"
18 Complete
19 Newt
21 Ozone, for one
22 Elevated
26 Weary sounds
29 Watch chain
30 Sardonic
31 Slightly
32 In medias —
33 Harvard rival
34 Baseball's Hodges
35 Singer
36 Avid
37 Proverbs
39 eBay offer
40 Haw precursor
41 Draw forth
45 Corporate symbol
48 Brisk tempos
50 Sacred bird of Egypt
51 Yarn
52 — loss
53 Shade

DOWN
1 Traditional tales
2 Victor's cry
3 Nuisance
4 Hooded snakes
5 Some Oklahoman natives
6 Texter's "Incidentally"
7 Waist-length jackets
8 Part of Hispaniola
9 Stately tree
10 Sports fig.
11 Aussie hopper
16 Octet count
20 "Terrific!"
23 Booty
24 Perry's creator
25 Color work
26 Long story
27 Footnote
28 Arizona river
29 Shriner's chapau
32 Optimistic
33 "Get what I'm sayin'?"
35 Garden buzzer
36 Actress Brennan
38 Specter
39 Ball VIP
42 Grouch
43 Speak
44 Russian ruler
45 Ignited
46 Kimono sash
47 Martini liquor
49 Young bloke

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CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Open Bible Baptist Church, 168 Cemetery Rd.
Sunday services are being held in the church. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m., Sunday morning service is 11 a.m., and the afternoon service is 1:30 p.m. Wednesday evening service is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at 802-674-2266 or visit www.obbcvt.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.
Services are held most Sundays at 10 a.m., in person. Please join us. All are welcome. For more information go to Facebook @ImmanuelEppiscopalChurch or to our website www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 99 Sullivan St., Claremont, N.H.
Worship is Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday and Saturday at 5 p.m. in person. For more information, go to www.hroc.org.

Charlestown Bible Church, 37 Hammond Rd.
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7 p.m. To hear a sermon or learn more go to www.charlestownbiblechurch.org. Call 603-826-5121 for more info or to request a personal Bible study.

Charlestown Seventh-day Adventist Church, 242 Main St.
Saturday Services include Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service at 11:15 a.m. and a healthy lunch for all after the service. All are welcome, call 603-276-2383 for more information.

CHESTER, VT.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main St.
Services are on Wednesdays at 5:30-6 p.m. and on Sundays at 10 a.m., both in person and by Zoom, followed by coffee hour. All are welcome. Handicapped accessible. For a link to the Zoom service or more information about services and events, please visit www.stlukeseiscopalvt.org.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, 2051 N. Main St.
Worship service is at 9:30 a.m. in person or online. Fill out a form at www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org to be sent a link to the live stream.

LUDLOW, VT.

United Church of Ludlow (UCC and Methodist), 48 Pleasant St.
Sunday services are held in person and streamed online at 10 a.m. Email unitedchurch@tds.net for more information. Visit www.unitedchurch.us to receive updates on services and meetings.

Tyson Community Church, Corner of Rt. 100 and Dublin Rd., opposite Echo Lake Inn.
Services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. No service last Sunday of the month. Email terry.bascom@pm.me or call 802-228-2480.

MOUNT HOLLY, VT.

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

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Church of Christ, Rt. 11, 972 Chester Rd.
Sunday Bible Study for all ages at 10 a.m.; Worship Service at 11 a.m. includes a group meeting for children. Live or past services can be viewed on Facebook at SpringfieldVTChurchofChrist. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., adult class on different topics meets in the Fellowship Hall, accessed by parking in the back of the church. For more information, call Jamie Kurpiel, Evangelist, at 870-615-0452 or email jckurpiel@yahoo.com. If no answer, call 802-886-2670.

First Congregational Church, UCC, 77 Main St.
Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in person. Singing is encouraged! For more information, call 802-885-5728, email fccucc@vermontel.net, or go to www.firstchurchspringfield.org.

North Springfield Baptist Church, 581 Giddings Street, North Springfield.
All are welcome and invited to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. For more information, please email the church office at office@nsbcvt.org, or call 802-886-8107. We are handicap accessible.

Precision Valley Baptist Church, 69 Rt. 106
Join our worship service every Sunday at 10 a.m. Women's Study group meets on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and Mens Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. All are welcome! For more information, check out Facebook @PrecisionValleyBaptistChurch.

Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.
Sunday morning service is 10 a.m. Evening service is 6 p.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Springfield-Assembly-of-God-156583214402910 for links and more information.

Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley St.
Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Springfield United Methodist Church welcomes everyone! The church can be reached at 802-885-3456.

WALPOLE, N.H.

First Congregational Church of Walpole UCC, 15 Washington Sq.
Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, or via Zoom. For Zoom links, please call 603-756-4075. For

Christopher Lee Fletcher Amsden, 1981-2024

PUTNEY, Vt. – It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Christopher Lee Fletcher Amsden. He left us on the morning of June 23, 2024, at his apartment in Putney, Vt., after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born on July 21, 1981, in Vermont to Steven and Maria (Mejias) Fletcher of Springfield, Vt. He was adopted by Russell and Elaine (Spaulding) Amsden of Springfield, Vt. He attended Springfield schools, graduating in June, 2000.

Chris was predeceased by his father Russell Amsden, and his grandparents Roland and Phyllis (Call) Amsden, and Robert and Florence (Whitaker) Spaulding.

Left to cherish his memories are his son Izen Amsden; longtime friend and mother of his son Alycia Gragen; his biological brothers Anthony Gagnier and Bradley Dutton (wife Jessica); his mother Elaine Amsden (partner Butch



Christopher Fletcher Amsden, 1981-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Eddy); his sisters Kelly (husband Jon Pratt), Debbie Knight, Joey (husband Tyler Dressel); his other mother Jeane Hunter (Anthony's mother); along with many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, foster brothers and sisters, and many close friends.

He was lovingly cared for in his last couple of weeks by Alycia Gragen, Jeane Hunter, and the compassionate team from Bayada Hospice.

more information, go to www.walpolenhucc.org or www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH.

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.

Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. Services are also available via Zoom. For links and updates, go to www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org.

WESTMINSTER, VT.

First Congregational Church of Westminister, 3470 US Route 5

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in our historic church and on Zoom. We have a children's message each Sunday and following church is a time of fellowship in the Hall with coffee and snacks. For more information, call 802-518-0321, email us at westminstercongoline@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurch-of-Westminister-Inc-1506511432980057.

Lowell Lake Cemetery gets interpretive sign

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Londonderry Cemetery Commission is excited to announce that an interpretive sign has been created for Lowell Lake Cemetery. Thanks to commission members Gary Barton, Chris Blackey, Maureen Cronin, Andie Fusco, and Laurie Krooss Mullen, along with photographers Bob Maisey and Alex Vincent, graphic designer Heidi Humphrey, copywriter Me-

gan Farrell, and Vermont's Parks interpretive program manager Rebecca Roy. This sign has been installed by Duane Hart at the lake overflow dam and bridge, where the Lowell Lake Trail and the path to the cemetery meet in Lowell Lake State Park.

We invite all those that visit Lowell Lake to learn the history of Londonderry and its first cemetery, and experience this historic site.



Members of the Londonderry Cemetery Commission pose with the newly-installed Lowell Lake Cemetery sign.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Marybelle G. Riendeau, 1943-2024

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Marybelle G. Riendeau, 80, of Rockingham, passed away on June 28, 2024 at Springfield Health and Rehabilitation. She was born on July 24, 1943 in Windsor, Vt., the daughter of Francis Gaudette and Lucile Potwin. She graduated high school in Windsor, Vt. and worked many years for Whitney Blake as a coiler. On May 19, 1962 in St. Edmund Church in Saxtons River, she married Francis Riendeau Sr., who has predeceased her.

She is survived by her children Debbie (Mike) Houle of Athens, Vt., Annette (Lee) Beers of Walpo-

le, N.H., and Francis Riendeau Jr. (Corey) of Ford, Va. Marybelle is also survived by several grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

A graveside service will take place on July 21, at 2 p.m., at the New Westminster Cemetery in Westminster, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, please consider giving to the Chester-Andover Family Center or the Activities Department of the Springfield Health and Rehab.

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

Gladys Stevens, 1958-2024

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Gladys Stevens, 66, of Bellows Falls, passed away on Friday, June 21, 2024 at her home. Gladys was born on May 22, 1958 in Springfield, Vt., to Harry and Natalie R. (Foster) Beaugard.

For many years Gladys worked as an LNA at Springfield Nursing Home. Gladys loved watching wrestling, crocheting, picnics, long rides, and listening to music, and she loved her two cats Misty and Digger.

Gladys is survived by her son Michael of Charlestown, N.H. She is also sur-

vived by her siblings Lana Craig, Harriet Seymour, Arthur Beaugard, and her two grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her daughter Harmony Singleton, and siblings Linda Dessaint, David Beaugard, and Dennis Beaugard

A graveside service will take place on July 27, at 1 p.m. at the Pinecrest Cemetery in Charlestown, N.H.

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

Celebration of Life for Wilma Weghorn and Jennie Noor Parker

CHESTER, Vt. – A Celebration of Life for Wilma Weghorn and Jennie Noor Parker will be held on July 13, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., at 220 South Main Street, Chester, VT 05143. On this day, we will be celebrating the lives of two incredible women.

Join us with memories, photos, and a dish to share. There is no set schedule of events during the event, it will be an open social with lots of food, friends, flowers, and photos – a few things that they both loved. The event will be outside, so please plan accordingly.

Please email Shannon at wisdomriverdesigns@gmail.com with any questions.

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

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

JULY 12 – CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The fifth Band Concert, hosted by the Charlestown Senior Center, will feature Firehouse 6 Dixieland Band on Friday, July 12, from 6:30-8 p.m., at the Charlestown Senior Center. The center is located at 223 Old Springfield Road, Charlestown. Refreshments will be on hand for this concert, including burgers, hot dogs, chips, popcorn, and hot or cold beverages, along with a sweet treat. We hold a 50/50 raffle and remind attendees to bring your lawn chairs, unless the weather forces us inside.

JULY 13 – N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – North School Preservation Society yard sale fundraiser

on Saturday, July 13, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Rain or shine. 5 School Street, North Springfield, Vt.

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The First Congregational Church of Westminster, Vt. will hold its annual Strawberry Supper, Saturday, July 13, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Dinner will include ham, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, and homemade strawberry shortcake for a fee. Reservations are suggested, call 802-518-0321. Take out meals will be available. Join us at 3470 Route 5, Westminster, Vt.

JULY 14 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Sammy B & Friends will be playing live music on Sunday, July 14, from 6:30-8 p.m., at

Veteran's Memorial Park in Ludlow. The rain venue is the Ludlow Town Hall. For more information, visit www.ludlowtparksandrec.com.

JULY 15 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive on Monday, July 15, from 12-5:30 p.m., at the Ludlow American Legion. To make an appointment, call 100-RED-CROSS.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield United Methodist Church is having a chicken barbecue on Saturday, July 15, starting at 2 p.m., and running until sold out during the Springfield Street Fest. The menu is 1/2 chicken (original recipe), pasta salad, cole slaw, and watermelon, for a fee. We look forward to seeing you at the Springfield UMC at 10 Valley Street, Springfield, VT 05156. Everyone is welcome.

JULY 20 – ALSTEAD, N.H. – Beekeepers must take timely steps to control American foulbrood and varroa mites. Charles F. Andros, former New Hampshire/Vermont apiary inspector, will hold

a beekeeping workshop on Saturday, July 20, from 1-3:30 p.m., at 18 MacLean Road, Alstead, N.H. Look for the "BEE" sign on the south side of Walpole Valley Road. The topics of discussion will be taking off and extracting honey, wax processing, queen assessment and requeening, treatment of mites and foulbrood, and making propolis tincture. Bring a veil, if you have one, as we shall be opening some colonies. Water and sunscreen are also a plus. Registration is required, email lindenamel@gmail.com, or call 603-756-9056.

JULY 21 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Better Days Band will be playing live music on Sunday, July 21, from 6:30-8 p.m., at Veteran's Memorial Park in Ludlow. The rain venue is the Ludlow Town Hall. For more information, visit www.ludlowtparksandrec.com.

JULY 22 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Lunch on Monday, July 22, at 12 p.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, Ludlow. John Murphy's barbecue chicken, potato salad, pasta salad,

cookies, and ice cream. Free cash Bingo to follow. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. All are welcome.

JULY 27 – MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – The 17th annual Mount Holly Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, July 27, from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., with a rain date of July 28. A self-guided tour of diverse gardens, it features sustainable organic fruit and vegetable practices, as well as sweeping landscapes with mountain views, ponds, stone walls, and perennial flower beds. Picnicking is welcomed at several gardens. Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour at the Mount Holly Library, 26 Maple Hill Road. Kids 12 and under are free. Tickets include entry into our garden-themed gift raffle.

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

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Plymouth Historical Society, located in the former Plymouth Elementary School on Route 100 in Plymouth Union, is open Sunday afternoons, from 2-4 p.m. Visit our museum, or do research on your Plymouth ancestors.

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

WESTON, Vt. – Bingo is Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Weston Rod & Gun Club, 982 Route 100,

1.5 miles north of Weston Village. All are welcome.

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

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

LUDLOW, Vt. – Cardio & Sculpt, Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

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

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

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

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Thursdays at 6 p.m., join Lori Wright for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

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

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

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

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

TOWN OF CHESTER
Temporary Road Closure
Please be aware there will be a temporary road closure for Green Mountain Turnpike beginning July 8, 2024. The road will be closed at Rhoman Wai Farm, 686 Green Mountain Turnpike, for approximately 3 weeks for a culvert replacement. The road will be accessible from both sides only up to this point. Please seek alternate routes during this closure. Thank you for your patience.

TOWN OF CHESTER
Local Cannabis Control Commission
Looking for an opportunity to serve your community? The Local Cannabis Control Commission has a three year volunteer position open for appointment. This commission was formed to assess and control the sale and distribution of retail cannabis in Chester. Interested parties should submit a letter to julie.hance@chestervt.gov or Town of Chester, P.O. Box 370, Chester, VT 05143 by July 26, 2024.

Town of Plymouth, Vermont
Highway Department Position Available
The Town of Plymouth has an opening for a Town employee in its Highway Department. This is a full-time, year-round position. Duties will include snow plowing, sanding and salting roads, road construction, maintenance and other related duties. Applicant must hold a valid VT CDL and have experience operating a dump truck with a plow and sander.

Competitive salary as well as a great Municipal Benefit Package to include health & dental insurance, retirement plan, paid holidays, and paid vacation. Overtime is required in the winter for storm events and compensation is 1.5 times the hourly rate.

Please submit a completed application to the Plymouth Town Clerk's Office at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont 05056 or email clerk@plymouthvt.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Plymouth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC), formerly Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission, invites the public to a hearing to provide input on Cavendish's amended Town Plan with its new Enhanced Energy Plan element. The plan is available for review on the MARC's website at <https://www.marcvt.org/town-of-cavendish.html>. The Town of Cavendish is seeking a certification from the MARC that its plan complies with energy planning requirements set forth in statute [24 V.S.A. §4352]. The public hearing will be conducted at 12:00 noon on July 22, 2024 in the MARC Conference Room located at 38 Ascutney Park Road in Ascutney, Vermont and on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 826 8623 0085
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82686230085>
Dial by your location: 1 929 205 6099

The public is encouraged to submit written comments regarding this request to the MARC via email at icomstock@marcvt.org. Please include Cavendish's Determination Request Comments in the subject line. Dated this 2nd day of July, 2024, at Ascutney, Vermont Mount Ascutney Regional Commission

Resilience Initiative for Vermont Empowerment and Recovery (RIVER) Public Forum
The Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC) and the Town and Village of Ludlow invite you to attend a public forum to share ideas regarding how to mitigate the impacts of future flooding events in Ludlow. The Resilience Initiative for Vermont Empowerment and Recovery (RIVER) is an initiative for developing a list of priority projects to help address current and future flood risk in targeted communities throughout the State; specifically, select communities heavily impacted by the July 2023 floods. Project(s) deemed eligible, with demonstrated community support, will be submitted for implementation funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Examples of eligible projects include floodplain restoration, dam removal, bridge/culvert upsizing, elevating or floodproofing structures, and other similar practices.

Where: Heald Auditorium, Ludlow Municipal Offices, 37 Depot Street, Ludlow, VT 05149
When: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 6:00pm

Light refreshments will be provided.

Contact Chris Yurek, cyurek@marcvt.org with any questions or comments. Please see riverprojectsvt.org for more information.

Okemo State Forest
Healdville Ash Tree Mitigation
The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) will attend the Mount Holly Selectboard meeting at 6:30 p.m. on July 16, 2024 to discuss and receive feedback on management of white ash trees on a 500-acre unit of Okemo State Forest in response to future emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation. This unit is within the infested zone of emerald ash borer, and the arrival of the insect is expected soon. FPR proposes to remove ash from areas where ash will be a public safety hazard once killed by EAB. Additional areas between safety zones will also see harvest of ash trees to ensure a healthy forest persists in the face of emerald ash borer. For additional information, contact Stewardship Forester Tim Morton at Tim.Morton@vermont.gov or 802-777-6899.

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, August 5, 2024** to consider the following:

Application # 25-01 Application # 25-01 Lisa Moir (owner) property located at **165 Upper Hourglass Rd.** The Applicant is requesting a Lot Line Adjustment. Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 447 Rural Residential District; and 215 Zoning Permit Procedures** 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.

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT **PROBATE DIVISION**
Windham **Unit** **Docket No.: 24-PR-00193**

In re ESTATE of: Cunrad P. Merritt

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Cunrad P. Merritt
Decedent

late of Londonderry, Vermont
Decedent's Town of Residence

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: 6-26-24 *Signature of Fiduciary*

Executor/Administrator James Young, Esq.	Mailing Address 16 Pleasant Street
Phone Number 802-975-0803	City, State, Zip Ludlow, VT 05149
Email james.young@younglawvt.com	

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal

Publication Date: July 10, 2024

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court - Windham Probate
Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road, Second Floor
Brattleboro, VT 05301

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

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ESTATE SALE

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Estate sale July 12, 13, 14, from 8-5. 604 French Meadow Road, Springfield.

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TOWN OF LONDONDERRY VERMONT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. The Londonderry Development Review Board will meet at 100 Old School St at 5:30 PM on Wednesday July 17, 2024, to hold a public hearing for an application from Matthew V Josephs to add a second driveway at 1290 Middletown Rd

The River Valley Technical Center Carpentry Program. Is now accepting sealed bids for our 2024-2025 modular house. Styles to choose from: Rochester - 1,040 sq ft Ranch - 3 bed / 1 bath, Roanoke - 952 sq ft Ranch - 2 bed / 1 bath, Concord - 936 sq ft Cape - 3 bed / 2 bath, Crystal - 1,272 sq ft Cape - 2 bed / 1.5 bath

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN TRANSFER STATION ATTENDANT. The Town of Charlestown is seeking a qualified individual to fill the position of Transfer Station Attendant. This position is part time and year-round. Weekly schedule is Tuesday through Saturday.

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN PART TIME WINDOW CLERK. The Town of Charlestown seeks qualified applicants for the position of Part-Time Window Clerk, working under the administrative direction of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, responsibilities will include but are not limited to: Issuing motor vehicle registrations, plates and titles; Tax collection; Issuing vital records; birth, marriage and death certificates; Maintaining official municipal records; Issuing licenses, including Fish and Game and dogs; Assisting with elections, including voter registration.

BROOKVIEW APARTMENTS WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT. Continues to Accept Applications for 2 Bedroom Units. Utilities, snow, trash removal included. Laundry facility on premises for tenant use only. USDA guidelines do apply.

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Campground: CATON PLACE CAMPGROUND. Chiropractor: FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC. Electrician: KJ ELECTRIC LLC. Family Conflict Mediation: THEFLATTABLE.COM, TOM SALMON CPA, MA

Masonry: DRC STONE DESIGN. MOORE MASONRY. Organic Lawn & Land Care: GREEN BEE LAWN & GARDEN. Tools: \$\$ CASH PAID FOR OLD TOOLS \$\$

arts & entertainment

Springfield Street Fest —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — On Saturday, July 13, Springfield on the Move (SOM) and the Springfield Food Coop are hosting the second annual Springfield Street Fest, from 3:30 to 8 p.m., in downtown Springfield.

Pre-empting the day's activities is the Fresh Cut Film Festival, from noon to 3 p.m., at the Springfield Cinemas 3, where people can watch the participants' films on the big screen.

Starting the event off is SOM's spoof event the Zero K Donut Dash, where participants start at the Woodbury Courtyard in front of the cinema, eat a pink frosted doughnut with sprinkles as they make their way over to the Comtu Cascade Park to pick up their almost-instant-gratification T-shirt. On-site registration for the dash is cash only.

The Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce will have its life-sized Simpsons characters at the courtyard for photo ops.

Starting at 4 p.m. in the park will be live music featuring Gypsy Reel, followed by The Illusion at 6 p.m. Yummy fare by JC's Market, the Springfield Humane Society, life-sized games provided by All-4-One, and a 21-plus area run by The Copper Fox.

The coop is closing its parking lot from noon to 8 p.m. so that vendors and activities can happen, including the Battle of the Badges, starting at 4 p.m., where the Springfield Fire and Springfield Police departments battle it out on the basketball three-point line for the GOAT status.

Following that, the Springfield Parks & Rec will then have their own three-point

shooting contest in six different age categories. Other vendors include Adult Day, All-4-One, Black River Produce, Calvary Baptist Church, the Dance Factory, the Congregational Church, the Edgar May Health & Rec, the Methodist Church, Springfield Area Parent Child Center, Springfield Rotary Club, Springfield Telescope Makers, Springfield Town Library, Turning Point, the VAULT, and Johnny O.

Further down Main Street, Springfield Roots Pizzeria will be having a pizza-by-the-slice and a drink special, and the Springfield Housing Authority, Greater Falls Restorative Justice, and the VAULT will have activities going on in front of the Huber Building and the adjacent alleyway.

Springfield Community Band children's concert —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — On Tuesday, July 16, at 6:15 p.m., the Springfield Community Band will present its very well-received annual children's concert.

Nick Pelton will conduct the concert, which will take place at The Common — a park in Springfield opposite the Summer Hill Cemetery.

Children (and adults) are urged to come dressed in the brightest, most clashing, outfit they can put together — stripes and polka dots?

The band will play music chosen from various Disney movies. We're pleased to welcome vocalist Kelly DeAngelis, who will sing Elsa's big hit "Let it Go" from the movie "Frozen." A rare treat will be band director

Nick Pelton on saxophone, playing "Lightning Fingers." The title speaks for itself.

Children who wish to do so will have the chance to conduct the band! And there will be free ice cream for all.

This concert is always fun. Don't forget your chair. Please note that the program could change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Gallery at the VAULT calling all local artists —

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

The next show's theme is "Celebration," which

will be on display from July 24 to Oct. 9. You can bring in two works if they are 18" x 20" or smaller, or one if it is larger. Sculpture, pottery, and more are appreciated just as much as wall art. The work needs to be suitable for viewing by all ages. Wire on the back of wall art is needed for our hanging system.

The time to bring in your creation is Wednesday, July 17, from 11 a.m. — 5 p.m.;

Thursday, July 18, from 11 a.m. — 5 p.m.; Friday, July 19, from 11 a.m. — 6:30 p.m.; or Saturday, July 20, from 11 a.m. — 5 p.m.

For more information, please call Gallery at the VAULT at 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, visit our website www.galleryvault.org, or Facebook/Instagram. The VAULT is located at 68 Main Street, Springfield. Handicapped accessible.

Yankee Chank to play July 17

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. — Cavendish will present the next in its continuing series of Wednesday evening concerts on July 17, at 6 p.m., with local favorite Yankee Chank appearing on the Svec Memorial Green.

Yankee Chank is a Vermont group that performs traditional Cajun music from the heart of southwest Louisiana. The French-speaking people of eastern Canada were the inspira-

tion for the southern Cajuns and Yankee Chank. The band has been performing Cajun and Zydeco music, using fiddle, accordion, guitar and bass, around Vermont and beyond since 1996, providing a distinctive immersion into this unique regional music.

This concert is sponsored by Murdock's on the Green Restaurant. The Cavendish Community and Conservation Association coordinates all concerts, which are free and open to the public, on behalf of the town. Bring a blanket or a chair, as well as a picnic dinner, if de-

sired. Murdock's Restaurant will be open for dining that evening as usual. They also offer takeout, as do Singleton's General Store and Outer Limits Brewing. Support your local businesses and help to continue this Wednesday evening tradition in Proctorsville.

Email cavendishcommunityconservation@gmail.com with any questions. In case of inclement weather, updated information can be found on the Cavendish Community and Conservation Facebook page.

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802-228-2400 | JohnnysKitchenVT@gmail.com

Duo Ondine at Next Stage —

PUTNEY, Vt. — Next Stage Arts presents French-Italian four-hands piano duet Duo Ondine at Next Stage on Friday, July 19, at 7:30 p.m.

"Watching four hands cover the piano, ranging from classical to contemporary pieces, the Duo Ondine is a must-see for anyone interested in wit-

nessing piano virtuosity," says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts.

Duo Ondine is a French-Italian four-hands piano duet born in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2014. Ten years later, it keeps delighting the international stage with refined, virtuoso, and profound programs, and a precise and highly sensitive

playing. Specialized in French and Slavic repertoires, Juliette Aridon-Kociotek and Clémentine Dubost have worked on several programs, including pieces of Debussy, Ravel, Dukas, Saint-Saëns, Dvorak, Rachmaninov, Borodin, Moussorgsky, and Stravinsky.

In a sense of deep artistic meaning, they always design their concert programs around a specific theme or connecting thread, making each piece interact with the others. Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org; there is also a livestream option. For information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website.

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Retirement Sale

The Picker is retiring on July 31, 2024. Vermont Picker Antiques on Rte. 103 in Chester is closing. Everything must go. Stop by and "dicker with the picker" for a deal.

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