

THE SHOPPER Newspaper

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 37

100 years young

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Dorothy “Dottie” Pease of Springfield, Vt., celebrated 100 on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Dottie and her twin sister were the first twins to be born at Springfield Hospital.

Springfield Health & Rehabilitation Center activities director Kara Greene asked the community to mail birthday cards to the facility, with a goal of getting 100 cards for Dottie’s 100 years around the sun. Dottie joyfully received 125 cards that now decorate the walls of her room.

Greene thanked the “entire community and beyond” for their thoughtful cards and gifts. She also thanked Bright Beginnings



Dottie with her family.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Child Care Center for visiting Dottie with their handmade cards, and Kristen Merrow of Hugging Bear Inn for donating 100 teddy bears and a 100-year cel-

bration bear.

Dottie “enjoyed all the love and cupcakes, and had a fabulous day” surrounded by family and friends, said Greene.

Rockingham obtains grant for Meeting House restoration

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Town of Rockingham was recently granted a prestigious, historic preservation grant, to be utilized during the restoration of the Rockingham Meeting House Preservation Project. Rehabilitation of the Rockingham Meeting House is being supported in part by a Semiquincentennial Grant from the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service (NPS), Department of the Interior. The estimated cost of the entire restoration



The Rockingham Meeting House.

PHOTO BY JOE MILLIKEN

project is \$3 million.

According to Rockingham historic preservation coordinator Walter Wallace, these Semiquincentennial Grants are given in honor of the country’s upcoming 250th birthday. The 19 grants given in 2024 were awarded in nine different states, with the grant awarded to the Rockingham Meeting House Preservation Project being the only in Vermont, equal to the largest grants ever awarded by the NPS.

“The project breathes life into our towns, our regions, and our states’ remembrance of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026,” Wallace said in a recent interview. “Rockingham had a ‘committee of correspondence’ keeping in touch with Sam Adams in Boston. There was a ‘Liberty Tree’ located near the first meeting house, where letters were posted to keep up with news of events that led to the Declaration of Independence.”

Essentially, the restoration construction of the meeting house is divided into three phases, with Phase 1 focusing on foundation, drainage, window restoration, and roof work. Phase 2 will then focus on the exterior, interior, plaster, and pew restoration, with the final phase concentrating on ADA-compliance and life-safety.

“National Parks Service has approved above-ground construction plans for Phase 1, including the foundation, window, and roof work,” Wallace continued. “We need to complete an archaeology review of the site

before NPS greenlights our moving forward with contractor bids, because they want to make sure that what we do follows the Secretary of the Interior’s Guidelines for Historic Preservation.

“There is optimism that construction can begin in the summer of 2025 and continue through 2026. The project is ambitious, and we are moving forward with deliberate speed tempered by various historic preservation and environmental reviews at both the state and federal levels.”

Funding for the restoration project will be coming from a variety of sources, including the aforementioned Vermont Division of Historic Preservation, NPS’ Save America’s Treasures Grant, as well as town funds and select philanthropy.

When Phase 1 work begins, the workers will build a new foundation under the building to stabilize and keep the structure from shifting further. The shifting of the building has been mostly responsible for the interior plaster, woodwork, and window damage that will be restored following the building of the new foundation.

“Bids for the restoration work cannot go out until NPS gives final approval of the construction plans,” Wallace added. “We are waiting on the reviews of the submitted archaeology surveys, and bidding will follow through the Town of Rockingham’s procurement policy and the National Park Service for bidding. For this work, we would like to tap into as much local talent as possible.”

Historic preservation commission receives Excellence Award

BY PAULA BENSON

The Shopper

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – On Tuesday, Sept. 3, the Rockingham Selectboard held their regular meeting at the historic Rockingham Meeting House (RMH), which they do once per year.

Board Chair Rick Cowan called the meeting to order, “in this magnificent structure where our predecessors met 237 years ago.”

A special meeting began at 5 p.m., where Laura Trieschmann, state historic preservation officer with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP), presented the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission (RHPC) and coordinator Walter Wallace with the “first ever” Excellence Award. Trieschmann said VDHP has seen all the work RHPC has done over the years, “how you’ve reached out, fostered preservation, fostered education, excited people about buildings, not just rare, wonderful historic landmarks like this building, but everyday houses [and] commercial buildings.”

Trieschmann reported that the RHPC participates in the VDHP’s grant program every year, and has



Selectboard Chair Rick Cowan speaks at the Rockingham Meeting House during the Sept. 3 selectboard meeting.

PHOTO PROVIDED

been awarded 16 grants, more than any other community.

Once the regular meeting commenced, town manager Scott Pickup mentioned two upcoming public meetings. The first meeting, to address public concerns regarding the Bellows Falls Riverfront Trail Extension Project, is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 5:30 p.m., in the lower theater. The second meeting, on Thursday, Sept. 26, at 6 p.m., will be a public discussion of the Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), looking at the next five years of economic growth in Rockingham and all of southern Vermont. More information on CEDS can be found at www.battleborodevelopment.com/help-develop-the-strategies-that-will-shape-southern-vermonts-economic-future-ceds-public-input-sessions-announced.

Debate over the Town Plan continued, specifically with regards to the wording around zoning bylaws and other unsubstantial changes, with the board ultimately deciding to adopt most of the proposed revisions, tabling two items that will be reconsidered on Sept. 24, at 5:30 p.m., prior to the start of the Tri-board Meeting.

The board voted to raise the fee for fall leaf disposal bags to \$5 per roll, board member Bonnie North was appointed to the Rockingham Library Board, and a preliminary discussion was held about forming a local committee to work

with the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission. The committee would be formed by members of local museums, historical societies, the Rockingham Free Public Library, and RMH, along with a diverse group of citizens.

Additionally, Cowan mentioned that state legislators Michelle Bos-Lun, Leslie Goldman, Wendy Harrison, and Nader Hashim would attend the upcoming Tri-board Meeting. Village President Paul Obuchowski will chair that meeting, and had suggested the board submit their questions for the representatives by Sept. 10.

The selectboard will meet again on Tuesday, Sept. 17. Included on that agenda will be discussion of financials, an update from the Bellows Falls Opera House, and a confirmation of the October Depot Street Bridge presentation.

New real estate agent expanding her business role

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Local business owner Sue Barnett-Brandon, who currently operates the Random Finds gift shop on The Square in Bellows Falls, recently announced that she will be adding the title of real estate agent to her services, as she joins the Brattleboro Masiello Group real estate office.

“I am excited to be joining Steve Schoppmeyer, who manages the Brattleboro office, after completing the prelicensing class, the state exam, and the national exam,” Barnett-Brandon said in a recent interview. “I’m looking forward to working with and learning from Steve and his team as I develop my clientele.”

Established in 1966, and locally located at 218 Main Street in Brattleboro, the

Masiello Group is a second-generation, family-owned and -operated company now led by Chris Masiello, who has been involved in the real estate business for more than 35 years. They have nearly 40 offices throughout northern New England, and are known as one of the most trusted brokerages in the northeast. The Masiello Group offers a variety of services, including mortgage, title,

commercial, home warranty, and home relocation services.

Growing up locally in Saxtons River, Barnett-Brandon has been a resident of Westminster for more than 30 years with her husband, and knows the area very well. She splits her time between being a marketing director, running the Random Finds gift shop, owning a race car, and now, building up her real estate

clientele.

“I’m thrilled to become a part of the Masiello team,” Barnett-Brandon said. “I first learned about Masiello after they had sold a house to my sister, and she had a great experience and trusts them, so, when I began pursuing my real estate license, it was logical for me to reach out and contact Mr. Schoppmeyer and the Masiello Group.

“I am licensed in Vermont

and New Hampshire, so I can serve both states, and will be working in commercial, land, and private home sales. Living and working locally allows me to be very flexible when setting up appointments with clients. I can meet with customers in my shop during the day, or after hours wherever it is most convenient for the individual client. I believe that flexibility is a great asset that I’ll be able to offer.”

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DEADLINES

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

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Family contra dance at SAPCC

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) will be hosting a family contra dance on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 3-5 p.m. This event will be held indoors at SAPCC's Workforce Development and Training Center, 51 Jack and Jill Lane, North Springfield, Vt.

Contra dancing is a deeply-rooted New England tradition, where pairs dance in a line following the instructions of a caller. There will be live folk music by Amy

Englesberg and friends, snacks, and treats by donation.

No special footwear is required – dress as fancy or casual as you wish. You do not need to bring a dancing partner or have children to attend, and no experience is required. Come for the music and snacks, to see your friends and neighbors, for the dancing, or all of the above. Proceeds benefit the work of SAPCC, which provides wraparound services, support, and education

for children, families, and caregivers throughout southern Windsor and northern Windham counties. Visit www.sapcc-vt.org to find out more about their work.

Online registration is preferred, and a limited number of tickets will also be available at the door. Register at www.tinyurl.com/Contradance2024Register. Reach out to SAPCC@sapcc-vt.org or call 802-886-5242 with any questions.

Springfield Rotary earns two more Trex benches

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – As a reward for Springfield residents collecting more than a ton of thin film plastics for the Trex Thin Film Plastics Challenge, the Trex Company (Trex) provided the Springfield Rotary Club with two outdoor benches that were placed at the Springfield Town Library.

The Rotary Club entered the Trex Thin Film Plastics Challenge in February of 2023, on behalf of the Springfield community, placing a Trex bin in the Springfield Town Library. In addition, thin film plastic was collected at McGee CDJR of Springfield, Springfield GMC, Springfield Hospital, Bibens Ace Hardware, Springfield Family Center, and the Springfield Food Co-op. Two other businesses outside of Springfield, Factotum Designs and McGee Office Products, also participated. Since that time, Springfield residents have been avidly pitching in to re-

cycle their share of thin film plastics, diverting over 6,143 pounds (over 3 tons) of thin film plastics from the waste stream.

The challenge is part of the Trex Recycling Program, aimed at encouraging the public to recycle their grocery bags, bread bags, produce bags, cereal bags, ice bags, case overwrap, bubble wrap, dry cleaning bags, Ziploc and other resealable bags, and similar bags and wrap for other objects. If the sponsoring group's participants collect 1,000 pounds of thin film plastics, Trex will send the group a Trex Outdoor Furniture 48-inch Yacht Club Bench. Trex does not manufacture the benches, they are a purchased gift for meeting the minimum requirement in the program. The plastic that is turned in is being upcycled into Trex decking (www.trex.com). The benches are part of the Trex-branded furniture line through Polywood (www.polywood.com).

Polywood uses milk jugs and water bottles to manufacture their furniture.

These are the seventh and eighth benches that have been donated. The first two can be found at The Common, the third at the Park Street School overlooking the Kingsbury House, the fourth at the North Springfield Bog Trailhead, and the fifth and sixth at the bus stop on Main Street.

Volunteers from the Springfield Rotary Club and from the Springfield Town Library collect and weigh the bags, report the bags' weight to Trex, and deliver the bags to Trex's closest participating drop-off retailer location, Shaw's Supermarket in Springfield.

The Trex bin will remain in place at the Springfield Town Library. The Springfield Rotary Club has partnered with Friends of Springfield Town Library, the Union Park Neighborhood Association, the Black River Action Team, and Springfield on the Move (SOM). Working with the Green on Main, Springfield Rotary Club has launched another challenge to earn an additional outdoor bench for the Springfield community.

The benches are dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the Springfield Rotary. The Rotary Club of Springfield, founded in 1927, is an active community service club of more than 40 members who engage in community and human service projects both locally and internationally. For more information, visit www.springfieldvtrotary.org.

Extra Pasture Pals sessions at VINE

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Due to popular demand, VINE is thrilled to announce that our "Pasture Pals" program is back with brand new Saturday sessions. If your family couldn't make it during the summer, now's your chance to join the fun. Starting Sept. 14 - Oct. 5, come hang out with us every Saturday morning, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Pasture Pals is a fun, hands-on, humane education program designed for kids. Each session, led by a local elementary school teacher, offers a unique lesson focused on empathy, volunteerism, environmental awareness, and learning to celebrate differences. And because we keep things fresh with different activities each time, your little ones are welcome to join as many sessions as they'd like.

After the lesson the



Visit Pasture Pals at VINE Sanctuary.

PHOTO PROVIDED

real magic begins, as kids get to meet our animal residents. There will be easy fun chores like refilling water troughs and sharing donated fruits and veggies with the animals. It's a special opportunity for kids to connect with nature and our sanctuary friends.

Closed-toe shoes are a must. Please, no food. Our goats may be sweethearts, but trust us, they're also sneaky snack thieves. You don't want to find out how

fast they can swipe a granola bar.

No need to register – just show up and be ready for a day of learning and fun. A parent or guardian must accompany all kids, and we recommend arriving on time so you don't miss out on the essential instructions and gate entry at 10 a.m.

For more details about Pasture Pals or other activities at VINE, visit www.vinesanctuary.org.

Kurn Hattin Homes begins new school year

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – As summer winds down to its finish and the new academic year ramps up, the atmosphere at Kurn Hattin Homes (KHH) is filled with high expectations, optimism, and hope for the children who live and learn on its campus.

Before the children returned to begin a new academic year, a lot had to happen. For example, each Kurn Hattin staff member was tasked with successfully completing a three-hour safety and awareness mandated reporter training program created by KidSafe Collaborative and administered through the Vermont Agency of Human Services.

A great deal of staff preparation took place on campus during Training Week 2024, an entire week dedicated to the training and retraining of new and returning Kurn Hattin Homes staff. Teachers, counselors, residential staff, administrators, dining services members, health services members, maintenance and grounds crew members, and other personnel reviewed policies and procedures. Challenging topics included self-harm and bullying, daily pro-

cesses surrounding vehicle protocol, updated technologies, a reinvigorated communications initiative, and a review of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. PBIS is a learning framework that utilizes an acknowledgment system to reinforce positive behavior as it happens, and helps children understand how their behavior impacts others.

Training Week is also a special opportunity for staff members to come together from all areas of the campus, get to know each other better, share thoughts and ideas, and learn more about the roles and responsibilities of their colleagues.

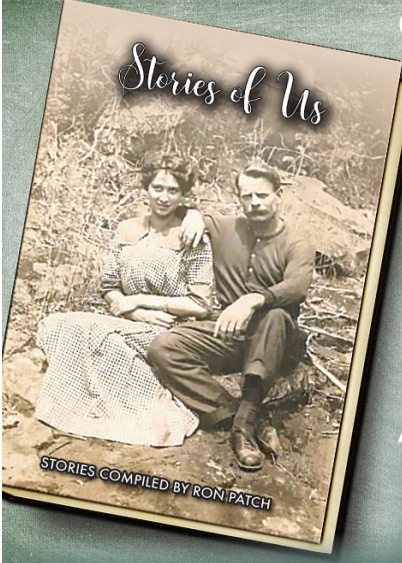
Mark Bodin, president of the Kurn Hattin Homes Board of Trustees and president of the Savings Bank of Walpole, addressed the group at the launch of Training Week and asked, "What makes today the greatest day?"

Bodin explained, "During Training Week, anything

is possible. It's a time to ask ourselves how we can be exceptional and do amazing things for the kids. It's a time to be reminded that we should never stop striving to achieve our best. It's a time to think about our goals for the coming year, and about the children who will have a new beginning when they make Kurn Hattin their home."

Bodin concluded his remarks with one more question, "How many people do you know who can go to work every day and know they can change someone's life?"

As Kurn Hattin Homes executive director Steve Harrison brought Training Week to a successful conclusion, he shared an important message. He said, "We are responsible for upholding high standards and consistent patterns of good behavior, civility, and respect in a nurturing fashion. Let's model it so that the children can understand it and repeat it."



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Springfield Rotary

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – John Somers, manager of Bibens Ace Springfield, was inducted as the Springfield Rotary Club's newest member during the club's regular meeting, held on Sept. 3, at Maebellines. Somers was sponsored by rotarian Michelle Chamberlain.

Pictured from left to right: Springfield Rotary Club president Deb Cox, John Somers, and Michelle Chamberlain

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Some Bellows Falls history

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

In my mail this past week, from an anonymous donor, came a 1937 book titled, "Vermont: A Guide to the Green Mountain State, 1937," written by Workers of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of Vermont.

This project was part of Roosevelt's New Deal. Thank you, kind soul, for sending me this book.

The following is an excerpt from the book, describing Bellows Falls.

"BELLOWS FALLS lies on one of the most sharply defined series of terraces that the Connecticut River has cut throughout its long course. On the New Hampshire side towers Mount Kilburn, stark and craggy; to the west rise the green hills of Vermont. Bellows Falls is definitely divided in three levels; the bottom lands, shaped into an island by a canal, are occupied by industry and a railroad; the middle level is the business

mart; the upper sections are residential. The main thoroughfare, Westminster Street, is hemmed in by the bluff covered by homes and the industrial flats along the river. The height of the two- and three-story brick buildings packed on either side is accentuated by the extreme narrowness of the street.

"The tall brick tower of the Town Hall overshadows this canyon; projecting signs hang over narrow sidewalks, and store-windows reflect the jam of pedestrians and automobiles. Compressed between the walls of the vari-shaded brick, the small central square makes a peaceful oasis in the most crowded business district of the State.

"A concrete stairway, an unusual device for Vermont, climbs from Westminster to the level of School Street. From the flats below, the smoke of factories and locomotives rises to shroud the defile made by the river and hangs in a gray pall over the dark bulk of Mount Kilburn, standing grimly like a backdrop for

the Bellows Falls drama of concentrated industrialism and commercialism. The scene has a strong similarity to that of Brattleboro, and less, to that of Windsor.

"The town's most distinctive scenic feature is the falls, originally called Great Falls and named, like the town itself, for Colonel Benjamin Bellows, of Walpole, an early promoter. The falls are divided at their verge by a large rock, which at low water diverts the whole flow into the sixteen-foot western channel below, the narrowest point in the river's entire length.

"During a freshet the waters dash against the rock, rise high into the air, and fall in smashing sheets fifty feet below to drive through both channels with a violence that has altered the near-by landscape several times.

"Usually destructive, these freshets have occasionally been beneficial, as when the one of 1797 created the river bank sites of several of the town's present factories by filling a worthless swamp-hole with allu-

vial deposits.

"At least a dozen persons have gone over these falls and lived. The first of whom there is any record was an Abnaki squaw, whose adventure was celebrated in print as early as 1781. Carelessly allowing her canoe to be drawn to a point where she could not paddle against the current. The squaw drank a bottle of rum that she was taking to her brave and lay down in the canoe to await her fate.

"She was fished out below the falls, quite safe and quite drunk. The latest person known to have made the brief but perilous trip was Captain Paul Boynton, who passed over the falls in a rubber suit in 1879 before a crowd of two thousand people.

"The falls occasioned the construction here, between 1792 and 1802, of the first



Railroad bridge with stone arches. Tucker covered bridge upper left. No-tice locomotive on bridge.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY DANNY CLEMONS

canal in America upon which work was actually begun, though not the first completed for navigation. Built by John Atkinson of London, it was retained until 1858, though little used after 1840. Nine locks were necessary to lift the barges, rafts, and small steamers over the falls.

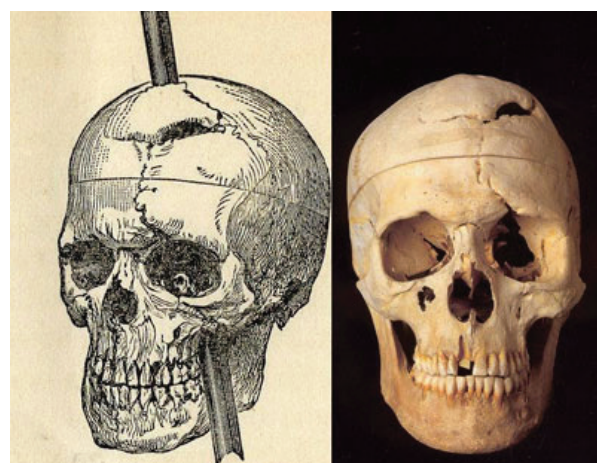
"In the early 1830s the 'William Hall' made a trip up the river. The trip ended at Hartland and was never repeated, for the 'William Hall,' a side-wheeler, was bigger than any boat the canal-builders had envisioned

and had to be drawn past the falls by means of ox-power, via the village street.

"After the late 1840's the railroads soon destroyed all commercial navigation on the northern Connecticut, and the shrill blasts of their locomotives, instead of the merry, rowdy songs of the boatmen, were flung against the gaunt sides of Mount Kilburn to reverberate with piercing intensity over the town."

This week's old saying, "The only thing constant is change."

Annual Phineas Gage Walk and Talk



The skull of Phineas Gage, with drawing showing the tamping rod that pierced it.

PHOTO PROVIDED

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Once again, the Cavendish Historical Society (CHS) will be holding the annual Phineas Gage Walk and Talk on the Sunday closest to the date of the accident. On Sept. 13, 1848, Gage, a railroad foreman, had a tamping rod pass through his head as a result of a blasting accident, and lived for 12 more years.

His accident made medical history, thanks to the dedication of Dr. John Harlow, the Cavendish physician who documented his injury and course of recovery. Harlow was able to secure Gage's skull and tamping rod, which now reside at the Warren Anatomical Museum. Thanks to Cavendish Labs, CHS has a 3D exact replica of Gage's skull.

This year's walk and talk takes place on Sunday, Sept. 15, at the CHS Museum, Route 131 in Cavendish, Vt. The program begins at 2 p.m. The walk includes the location of the accident, Dr. Harlow's home and surgery, and the boarding house where Gage was taken after his injury. Note this event takes place rain or shine.

The site of the accident is

approximately ¼ of a mile from the museum, and by the time other sites of interest are visited and we return to the museum, you will have walked close to two miles. Participants can stop at any time. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

This program is free and open to the public. Donations are welcomed. For more information, please call 802-226-7807, or email margocaulfield@icloud.com

Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission, coordinator honored

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – State Historic Preservation Officer Laura V. Trieschmann presented the award for Preservation Excellence to the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission and their coordinator, Walter Wallace. The award recognizes the stewardship and ambitious efforts of the commission to encourage the appreciation and preservation of Rockingham's long and rich Native American heritage, important Revolutionary War history, and 19th and 20th century development. John Leppman, Karen Jarret, Annette Spaulding, and Elijah Zimmer serve as commissioners.

"The Division for Historic Preservation is exceptionally proud to honor the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission and their dedicated coordinator," stated Trieschmann. "Their efforts to provide education, celebrate our history, and foster excitement in preservation deserves recognition, and should serve to inspire others."

Designated as a Certified Local Government in 1993, Rockingham has strengthened its local preservation efforts through direct participation in the identification, evaluation, registration, and preservation of historic properties. This engagement, with funding in part from the State Historic Preservation Office, includes Old House Awards, technical support to property owners through workshops and consultations, speaker series, and support for the stewardship and interpretation of Rockingham's many sites and historic districts. For the Rockingham Meeting House, a National Historic Landmark built in 1787 and owned by the town, the commission has organized a conference on graveyard conservation, conducted historic window assessments, and analyzed the original paint colors (it was

red).

The enthusiastic stewardship of Rockingham's heritage has resulted in several significant grant awards from the National Park Service. In 2022, the town received Vermont's first Underrepresented Communities Grant to revisit the sacredness of the Bellows Falls petroglyph site and update the Bellows Falls Island National Register of Historic Places nomination. In February 2024, the town was awarded a Save America's Treasures grant for the restoration and preservation of the Rockingham Meeting House, which is the largest intact 18th-century public building in Vermont. Just this month, the town rep-

resented Vermont as one of 19 historic preservation projects from nine states receiving funding through the Semiquincentennial Grants, which were created specifically for places like Rockingham Meeting House that represent the founding of our nation.

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<p>2017 Ford Escape Fully Loaded</p> 	<p>2018 Kia Sorento Fully Loaded</p> 

health

OBITUARIES

Ask the health officer discussion –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Town Library will host “Ask the Town Health Officer” on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 6 p.m. Join us for an interactive discussion with Chuck Wise, our deputy health officer and zoning administrator.

Do you worry about the health of your home, espe-

cially if you are a tenant? Do you worry about a property in your neighborhood? By law, every town and city in Vermont has a local board of health. The local board of health consists of the town health officer and the selectboard. The duties and responsibilities of the board of health are established by

state statute.

Town health officers have four specific duties: investigating possible public health hazards and risks within the town; taking action to prevent, remove, or destroy any public health hazards; taking action to lessen significant public health risks; and enforcing

health laws, rules, and permit conditions, and taking the steps necessary to enforce orders.

This is your chance to ask questions, share concerns, and learn more. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with others and get the answers you need.

Second annual Age Successfully Fair

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Senior Solutions, the area agency on aging for southeastern Vermont, in partnership with Our Place Drop-In Center, Parks Place Community Resource Center, and the Bellows Falls Senior Center, will be hosting the second annual Age Successfully, A Health & Benefits Fair on Friday, Sept. 20, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Waypoint Center, 17 Depot Street in Bellows Falls. This event is free and open to the public, and there will be a free barbecue.

This is an opportunity for older Vermonters to learn about and sign up for wellness-based benefits and services, with over 30 exhibitors scheduled to

appear. Nearly 200 area seniors have come to previous fairs to learn about the goods and services available in the community.

Older Vermonters and their caregivers in our community often are unaware of all the opportunities that are available to them. This fair offers a “one-stop shop” to find the services best suited for their needs. Exhibitors this year include Senior Solutions, Our Place Drop-In Center, Bellows Falls Senior Center, AARP, Assistive Technology Services from the State of Vermont, Athena Advocacy, Bayada Hospice, Dartmouth Cancer Center Community Outreach and Engagement, Economic Services Divi-

sion of the Department of Child and Family Services, FCP Live-In Homecare, Greater Falls Connections, Green Mountain RSVP, HCRS, Lincoln Street, My DNR Wish, NorthStar Health, Parks Place, Putney Community Cares, Rockingham Arts & Museum Project, Rockingham Library, Sharing Housing, Tai Chi Vermont, Turning Point, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Vermont Department of Health, Vermont Legal Aid, Visiting Angels, Visiting Nurses, and more.

There will be a free Bone Builders class demonstration presented by Green Mountain RSVP, and a tai

chi class demonstration that people are welcome to participate in.

For questions and more information, please contact Suzanne Burge, Senior Solutions, at 802-822-0498 or sburge@seniorsolutionsvt.org; Teagan Kosut, Bellows Falls Area Senior Center, at 802-463-3907 or bfasc@sover.net; or Amanda Reed, Our Place Drop-In Center, at 802-463-2217 or amanda@ourplacevermont.org.

This event is made possible from the generosity of Mascoma Bank, Bellows Falls Area Senior Center, Our Place Drop-In Center, Parks Place, and the Town of Rockingham.

Belle McKnight graveside service

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – A graveside service for Belle McKnight, who passed away Aug. 7, will be held on Sept. 21, at 2 p.m., at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Proctorsville, Vt.

Richard H. Damon, 1934-2024



WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Richard H. Damon, 90, of Westminister, Vt., passed away on Aug. 20, 2024, at his home, with his loving family by his side. Richard was born on March 25, 1934, in Bellows Falls, Vt., to Melvin and Arena (Haskell) Damon. He attended schools in Bellows Falls, and graduated from Bellows Falls High School. Richard served his country in the Army. He married Patricia Chapman, who passed away in 1993. Richard worked as an electrician for Interstate Electric.

Richard loved to play cribbage, and spend time with his family and his dog Marley.

Richard is survived by

his children Stephen and Kathleen Damon, three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents; wife Patricia; and siblings Melvin and Dennis Damon, and Mary Brandt.

A graveside service will take place on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 10 a.m., at Rockingham Meeting House Cemetery in Rockingham, Vt. A gathering at the Moose Lodge will follow.

In lieu of flowers, please consider giving to Westminister Cares.

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

Mary McDermid, 1943-2024

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Mary E. Craigue McDermid died on Aug. 28, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was born on June 15, 1943, the first of five girls born to Barbara E. (Rumrill) and Bertrum C. Craigue. Mary attended school in Springfield, Vt., graduating in the last class from the old Park Street High School in 1961. After graduation she worked for W.T. Grants and Wheelers Pharmacy, before going to Worcester, Mass., to Wards School of Business for keypunch class. After returning to Vermont, she went to work for Sears in the credit department. After having her son, Mary went to work at SEVCA food and nutrition, where she helped start food shelves, community gardens, and worked with the weatherization program. She also worked for Legasse advertising, and finally for the Springfield Family Center and its spin off, Precision Valley Free Clinic, from which she retired from working full time in 2010, but continued to work at the clinic until 2019.

Mary loved all things Elvis related; she collected all his movies, music, and anything Elvis. She also liked windchimes, family cook-outs and reunions, word-search books, puzzles, candle-



Mary McDermid, 1943-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

pin bowling, and going out with friends, especially trips to Maine with her lifelong friend Jayne.

She is survived by her son Brian McDermid, his wife Lori, and their children Aidan and Julianna; daughter Lisa Ramsey and her son Kyle; her sisters Donna Craigue, Ruth Davis, Janet Craigue, and Joan Fletcher; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will take place on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 2 p.m., at Rockingham Meeting House Cemetery in Rockingham, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to St. Jude Children's hospital in her memory.

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

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Substance Misuse Awareness

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Workshops are FREE and open to everyone. Register for one or all! Learn more about addiction and ways of supporting your community, clients, friends and family. The series will be led by Sharon O'Neill, MAT, Training and Coaching Specialist, and Northern Lights Master Trainer.

01 Oct	1:00 - 4PM	The Hungry Heart Viewing of this VT-based, award-winning documentary, Directed by Bess O'Brien, followed by discussion about the film and substance misuse in our region.
08 Oct	1 - 2:45 PM	"Hey Kiddo" Book Discussion Discussion about Jarrett Krosoczka's autobiographical graphic novel, and how substance abuse impacts children, families and communities. Participants receive a free copy of the book in advance.
	3:00 - 4 PM	Elevate Youth Services Presents A panel of young adults will present and answer questions about how substance misuse has impacted their lives.
15 Oct	1:00 - 3PM	Discussion with Turning Point Learn about Turning Point's programs and listen to stories from a panel of community members who've experienced substance misuse.
	3:00 - 4PM	NARCAN Training Turning Point will demonstrate proper administration of NARCAN. Participants get a free NARCAN kit.
	4:00 - 6PM	Community Meal Participants who attended any of the workshops in the series are invited to stop by for dinner at the Training Center!



REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!
 Scan to register while spots last or email sapcc@sapcc-vt.org

Join the Facebook Event page for updates



CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

George E. Benson Sr., 1939-2024

LUDLOW, Vt. – It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of George Edward Benson Sr., 85, on Sept. 6, 2024, surrounded by his family, at Springfield Hospital.

George was born on March 9, 1939, in Springfield, Vt., one of four children, to Marvin Fay Benson Sr. and Monica Lamere Benson. George graduated from Black River High School in 1957.

Upon graduation he began his successful career in the car industry, selling used vehicles in Rutland, Vt. He owned and operated Geo. Benson's Auto Sales from 1965-1976, with much of this time in Springfield, Vt.

In 1976 he moved to Ludlow, Vt., and operated Benson's Chevrolet Inc. with his brother Marvin, until Marvin's retirement. After receiving his 25-year Chevrolet dealer recognition from General Motors in 2001, he partnered with his son, George Jr., and they operated the dealership together until his passing.

On June 13, 1964, George married the love of his life, Janice J. Sheehan, to whom he always referred as his bride. Their love story spanned more than 60 years, and they raised five children.

George was a loving husband, proud dad, grandfather, and great-grandfather. His first grandchild nicknamed him "Namp," which became his name to many in and outside his family. He was an avid outdoorsman, and his love of the woods was year-round. His passion for maple sugaring started in his early years with his father. He passed his passion on to his son Mike, and they sugared together for years. George and his brother were the first two in Ludlow to earn the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, which is an Eagle Scout. He enjoyed many summer family trips to the beach in Maine, and



George Benson Sr., 1939-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

loved to host barbecues with family and friends at the lake. His annual moose hunting trip to Canada was a 50-year tradition, as well as hosting deer camp in Vermont for over in 55 years.

He is predeceased by his parents, his brother Marvin F. Benson Jr., his two sisters Anita B. Simonds and Paula B. Seal, and his son-in-law Tony Ciuffo.

George is survived by his wife; his children George Benson Jr. and his wife Mary, Michael Benson and his wife Melissa, Kimberly Lampert and her husband Jonathan, Gregory Benson and his wife Katherine, and Angela Benson-Ciuffo and her fiancé Jeffrey Michaud; his grandson Trevor Benson and wife Kaitlyn; granddaughter Erika Lardner and husband Tom; grandsons Nicholas Ciuffo, Topher Ciuffo, and Garrett Benson; granddaughter Emily Benson; great-grandson Liam Lardner; great-granddaughters Tierney Lardner and Sadie Benson; and many cousins.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Foley Cancer Center, 160 Allen Street, Rutland, VT 05701.

A memorial visitation was held at Benson's Chevrolet Inc. in Ludlow, Vt., on Tuesday, Sept. 10, from 5-8 p.m.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 11 a.m., at The Catholic Church of Annunciation, also in Ludlow, Vt.

Jane L. French, 1935-2024

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Jane Lee (Burney) French passed away on Aug. 31, 2024, at Pine Heights Home in Brattleboro, at the age of 89.

Jane was born April 4, 1935, to Lawrence W. and Phoebe (Dawson) Burney, in Charlestown, N.H.

Jane attended schools in Charlestown, and graduated from Charlestown High School in 1953.

On Sept. 27, 1953, Jane married Albert E. French of Cambridgeport, Vt., and they made their first home there before moving into Bellows Falls.

Jane held positions at Mary Meyer Toy Company as a seamstress, H.A. Manning as a supervisor/compiler, and at 5C Head Start as a day care worker and family counselor. She thought this job was her most rewarding. It was not unusual to be out and about with Jane and run into one of her Head Start kids. Several remembered her and would speak to her, and she remembered them all. She also served as a volunteer program chair for the SHARE/SERVE Food Program in the 1990s, distributing free food to the community.

Jane and Albert spent their retirement years setting up at flea markets, where they enjoyed talking to people and making friends.

Jane was a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Bellows

Falls for over 60 years. She held many offices there throughout this time, including the position of supervisor/coordinator, and teacher of Sunday School for over 30 years, but the mission programs were her passion, always encouraging the congregation to act as "the hands and feet of Jesus" at home and around the world.

Jane was predeceased by her parents; her husband Albert; and siblings Gale and Spencer Burney, Janice Moore, Glenna Phelps, and Bonnie Mitten. She is survived by children Gail Davis, Laurie Noyes, Cindy Cole (Ron), and Thomas (Hyon Suk - Ann). Jane also leaves eight grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren, as well as several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the First Baptist Church in Bellows Falls on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 1 p.m. A private burial will be held at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to First Baptist Church Missions, 9 Church Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101; or Westminster Cares, 3534 U.S. Route 5, Westminster, VT 05158.

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

Ruth M. Wilson, 1937-2024

BALTIMORE, Vt. – Ruth M. (Bailey) Wilson, 87, passed away on Aug. 30, 2024, at her home in Baltimore, Vt., with her devoted husband of 52 years by her side. Ruth was born April 16, 1937, in Burlington, Vt., and raised in Springfield by her loving parents Orin Bailey and Avis (Crowley) Bailey.

On June 9, 1972, Ruth married her beloved husband Edward, and together they raised a beautiful family of seven children and created countless cherished memories. Her kindness, strength, and willingness to help others will continue to inspire us, and her memory will forever be cherished.

Ruth is survived by her spouse Edward E. Wilson of Vermont; her children Michael (Peggy) Hall, Juli (Bud) Desautels, Patrick (Laureen) Hall, Lisa (Bill) Hall, Fawna (Patrick) Start, and Dennis (Tracy) Wilson. She is also survived by 15 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.



Ruth Wilson, 1937-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

She was predeceased by her parents, Aunt Louise (Whitehead) Coates, daughter Nicki D. (Wilson) Farren, and grandson James E. Ferguson.

Graveside services will be held on Sept. 22, at 10 a.m., at Oakland Cemetery, Springfield, Vt., with reception to follow at the American Legion in Chester, Vt., at 12 p.m.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Davis Memorial Chapel of Springfield, Vt.

Barry D. Moore, 1943-2024



CLAREMONT, N.H. – Barry D. Moore, 81, of Claremont, N.H., died Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024. He was born March 28, 1943, in Rutland, Vt., to Harlan and Ethel (Maxham) Moore.

He attended grade school in Bridgewater Corners, graduated from Windsor High School in 1961, then joined the Army National Guard in 1962.

Barry married his high school sweetheart, Sandra Flack, on May 5, 1962. He started his trucking career in 1963, picking up milk cans at local farms, then purchased his first truck. Shortly after, Barry started his own business with two new Mack trucks and did excavation work, log hauling, and aided in the construction of Interstates 89 and 91. After concluding his business in 1982, Barry worked for several other companies, including Jewell Enterprises, F.M. Blood Construction, C&I Construction, and St. Pierre Incorporated.

In between his busy work schedule, Barry enjoyed roller skating, bowling, and camping with friends and



Barry Moore, 1943-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

family. He was the president of Good Sam Windham Wanderers Camping Club, and spent many winters camping in Florida.

Barry was predeceased by his parents, his brother Conrad Moore, and his sister Audrey Brown.

He is survived by three children Danne Moore of Ludlow, Vt., Deana Burnham of Proctor, Vt., and Darre Moore of Springfield, Vt.; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a special friend, Delores Eastman of Springfield, Vt.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Barker Farm, located at 303 Barker Road, Ludlow, Vt., on Sept. 14, at 2 p.m.

Patricia Patterson, 1941-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Patricia "Patty" Patterson, born on Nov. 26, 1941, passed away peacefully on Monday, Aug. 26, 2024. Patty, aka "Grammie" or "Gram," was a tender and loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

She was predeceased by infant daughter Tina, husband Norman Patterson Sr., and son Norman Patterson Jr. She is survived by daughter Lorry Lachapelle; long-time partner Dick Williams; three grandchildren Michelle Lachapelle, Justin Lachapelle, and Nicole Patterson; and two great-grandchildren Blake and Emma Lachapelle.

To be around her was to be home, to feel a warmth and genuine kindness that was contagious. As a selfless and generous caretaker, she truly took pleasure in looking after others. When she wasn't bustling around the house, making something to eat, shopping, or tending to her dog (or two), she spent her afternoons re-watching "Law & Order," or TLC's "What Not to Wear." In the summertime, you could easily find her outside in a lounge chair, swinging by the campfire telling stories until midnight, or she and Dick would spend days going to bluegrass festivals. Many Friday nights, she and her cousin Sylvia would be out at Cactus Jacks in White River Junction dancing the



Patricia Patterson, 1941-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

night away to country music or her sweetheart, Elvis.

Having one leg shorter than the other didn't stop her from living a full and vivacious life – all it took was a trip to the cobbler for a "lift kit" on her shoes and she was "off like a herd of turtles," as she would say. This was her witty, and often flirtatious, sense of humor. She wasn't afraid to challenge some young guy in the car next to her to a race to the next stop light – even in her Buick LeSabre, she most likely won and then gave him a wink. She had a genuine love for life itself, but also appreciated its journey and patience. Patty was a born Vermonter who preferred the longer, yet scenic way around – often stopping for a vanilla ice cream on the way. But now that she's passed into our hearts and memory, we trust that the view is better from above.

CAVENDISH, VT.

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. online or in person. Online services are on Facebook at 10 a.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Cavendish-Baptist-Church-258814894244302. More at www.CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131.

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.

Worship is Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, including online streaming, go to www.chesterbaptist.org.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S. Londonderry

Worship service is Sunday at 10 a.m. at the church. Services will still be live streamed at www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html. For more information, visit www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org or call 802-856-7266.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.

Sunday services are 9:30 a.m. in person. Services are still streamed at www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt. For more information, go to www.calvarylovespringfield.com.

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.

WALPOLE, N.H.

St. John's Episcopal Church, corner of Westminster and Elm St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. in person or via Zoom. For more information, go to www.stjohnswalpole.org, email pastor@stjohnswalpole.org, or leave a message at 603-756-4533.

WESTMINSTER, VT.

First Congregational Church of Westminster, 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/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057.

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

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

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

SEPT. 1-30 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Community Closet at Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church Street, will hold a bag sale on summer clothes throughout the month of September. Fill a bag with clothes for a small fee. The Community Closet accepts SEVCA vouchers.

SEPT. 13 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls will be

delaying their First Friday Fundraiser Supper, originally scheduled for Sept. 6, to the second Friday, Sept. 13, from 5-6:30 p.m., to honor the calling hours of Hugh Haggerty, something a majority of our patrons and workers will wish to attend. The menu on Sept. 13 will include barbecued chicken, potato salad, green salad, corn on the cob, desserts, and beverages. It will be to benefit the Bellows Falls

Rotary Club, in honor of Hugh Haggerty, a long-time member and officer.

SEPT. 14 – WESTON, Vt. – Come join the Weston Volunteer Fire Department this Saturday, Sept. 14, as we celebrate our 75th anniversary. We'll be gathering on the Weston Town Green with lots of firetrucks, food, music, and games, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Meet firefighters from area towns, and see the tools and equipment we use to do our job. Fun for the whole family.

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The North School Preservation Society will hold a yard sale fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., rain or shine, at 5 School Street. The sale will include a variety of household items, arts and crafts supplies, sewing machines, furniture, books, tools, and much more.

RUTLAND, Vt. – The first annual Rutland MINT Soap Box Derby will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 1-2:30 p.m., as part of the Whoopie Pie Festival in downtown Rutland. The track runs down Center

Street, beginning at Court Street and ending just after Wales Street. Spectators will have an opportunity to get in on the action with early voting, winner predictions, and prizes. For more information, visit www.rutlandmint.org, or www.rutlandwhoopiepiefest.com.

SEPT. 15 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents Colombian "indie-tropical" group La Sonora Mazuren on Sunday, Sept. 15, at 5 p.m., at the Robertson Paper Company Field, 21 Island Street in Bellows Falls. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org, and kids under 12 are free. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for outdoor seating on the grass.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Historical Society invites you to the 250th anniversary celebration of the Little Red Schoolhouse on Sunday, Sept. 15, at 1 p.m. The schoolhouse is located at 1591 Acworth Road, Charlestown, N.H.

SEPT. 17 – LUDLOW, Vt. – In an informative workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 11 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, an M&T Bank professional will help you learn how to identify the signs of identity theft and fraud, identify strategies to protect yourself from identity theft and fraud, and learn how to protect your data using safe habits.

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

MONDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Free Tobacco Quit class led by Sarah Doyle, Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls. Dinner included. Call or text Sarah at 802-289-0045 or email sdoyle@springfieldmed.org.

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 – ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Frances LeMoine Barsky facilitates a creative writing workshop at the Rockingham Library every Wednesday, from 1-2:30 p.m. Poetry, flash/short fiction, and narrative fiction is emphasized, but not to the exclusion of other genres. Even memoirs can be included in the mix. Make sure to bring a laptop, or a pad of paper and a favorite pen. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 802-463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

THURSDAYS – 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.

Now Hiring

Windsor County Coordinator

Green Mountain RSVP, a program that matches volunteers aged 55+ with volunteer service opportunities is seeking a coordinator for Windsor County.

32 hour, home-based position with flexible hours (can be a four-day work week). Employer provides excellent benefits, including contribution to HSA and paid time off from start of employment.

Must have car and be willing to travel (mostly in Windsor County, VT) about 50% of the time. Must enjoy speaking with people and building relationships with non-profits.

Associate's degree or 3 years of experience in non-profits preferred, basic computer skills required.

See website for full position description and how to apply:
www.rsvpvt.org

NOTICE OF HYDRANT FLUSHING
Cavendish Municipal Water System
Monday, September 16th, through Wednesday, September 18th, 2024
During the hours of 8 am to 5 pm

System users are reminded that: Flushing hydrants may cause temporary discoloration and turbidity of the water. We apologize for any inconvenience to our users, however this very important system maintenance procedure must be conducted each spring and fall. The flushing program allows the pipes to be purged and the hydrants checked for proper operation.

Users are advised to avoid drinking the water or washing clothes (especially whites) while discoloration is in evidence. Following hydrant flushing in your area, users should run cold water until it clears before resuming normal use. It is also a good idea to flush residential water heaters after the water clears following a hydrant flush in your area. Thank you for your cooperation,

Cavendish Municipal Water System
For additional information call 802-226-7291

Hiring Announcement from the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union Bus Driver

Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union (BRSU) is a public school system located in southwestern Vermont. We are in search of Bus Drivers at Flood Brook School in Londonderry, VT. The Bus Driver will have the responsibility of a designated bus route in the morning and afternoon of school days with the possibility of additional driving throughout the day. Responsibilities include transporting students to and from school, maintaining a clean and mechanically sound bus at all times, obeying all traffic laws, performing pre/post trip inspections of the bus, and ensuring the safety of students at all times.

Compensation starts at \$22.00 per hour (with the potential for more, depending upon years of experience) with benefits. This position reports to the Director of Transportation.

We encourage all interested candidates to apply, as we are more than willing to train the right person. For more details about the role and to apply, please visit www.SchoolSpring.com and enter Job ID 4740052.

BRSU is a Professional Learning Community which demonstrates best practice in teaching and is committed to high levels of achievement and success for all students. We offer a cohesive and collaborative work environment. We have excellent benefits and take pride in our inviting work culture filled with dedicated professionals. BRSU is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF PLYMOUTH
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Town of Plymouth is seeking qualified contractors to demolish and stabilize a residential property located at 4283 Route 100 that has been acquired through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. We are inviting you to submit a proposal for this project.

The scope of work includes the complete demolition of residential structures, site stabilization, and compliance with all applicable environmental regulations.

Please find the detailed RFP outlining the project requirements, submission instructions, and evaluation criteria on our website at www.plymouthvt.org or call 802-500-1815 ext. 1

Please send bid proposals to clerk@plymouthvt.org or mail to Town of Plymouth, 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont 05056, Reference 4283 Route 100 no later than 2 P.M. on Thursday, October 3, 2024 and bid selection will happen on October 7, 2024 at the regular Select Board meeting.

NOTICE OF WESTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD HEARING

Town of Weston and the Friends of the Weston Community Inc. on behalf of the Wilder Memorial Library have submitted an application to renovate and expand the existing Library building at 24 Lawrence Hill Road

Sean Rotermund has submitted an application to build a house within the riparian setback at the corner of Lawrence Hill Rd and Serenity Lane.

The Weston Development Review Board will hold a hearing on these applications on October 9, 2024 starting at 5:00 PM.

Those interested in seeing the applications, submitting written comments, or finding out how to attend the meeting online should contact the Zoning Administrator at: Town of Weston P.O. Box 98, Weston Vt. 05161 or Zoning@westonvt.org.


Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

TOWN OF WESTON
ROAD CREW MEMBER

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

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

This position has benefits, including health care, and a retirement package. The position is eligible for overtime. Mail or return your resume to: Town of Weston PO Box 98 Weston VT 05161 or drop off at the Town Office. You can also email the application to selectboard@westonvt.org. Applications will be reviewed as received with the position open until filled. The Town of Weston is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

 **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, October 7, 2024** to consider the following:

Application # 25-11 Application #25-11 Molly Marino (Owner) – property located at 3214 US Route 5. The Applicant is requesting an Inground Pool in the Historic District. This Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review, Section 445 Village District Zone and Article IX Historic Preservation District Zone** of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Application # 25-12 Application # 25-12 Timothy & Brenda Eno (Owners) property located at 5003 US Route 5. The Applicant is requesting a Minor Subdivision. Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 446 Residential District; Article XI Flood Hazard Overlay District and Article VIII Subdivision of Land (Minor)** 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
Windham Unit

PROBATE DIVISION
Docket No.: 24-PR-02914

In re ESTATE of: Barbara Fink

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Barbara Fink
Decedent
late of Londonderry
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: 09/06/2024
Signature of Fiduciary: Dennis Fink
Dennis Fink (Spouse, 2024 (S.1) (ES2))

Executor/Administrator Dennis Fink, Executor	Mailing Address c/o Law Office of Amanda L. S. George
Phone Number 802-875-7777	City, State, Zip PO Box 587, Chester, VT 05143

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal

Publication Date: September 11, 2024

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

arts & entertainment

La Sonora Mazuren comes to Bellows Falls —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents Colombian “indie-tropical” group La Sonora Mazuren on Sunday, Sept. 15, at 5 p.m.

La Sonora Mazuren is the latest addition to the already-rich indie-tropical scene out of Bogota, Colombia. Deeply rooted in the popular sounds and rhythms of South America, the group draws from cumbia, chicha, guaracha, champeta, and other styles mostly from Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru.

Far from being folklorists or revivalists, La Sonora Mazuren combines synthesizers and electric guitars with accordion and percussion to create a futuristic style indebted to early pioneers such as Polibio Mayorga or Bogota’s own Eblis Alvarez, of Meridian Brothers fame, who also produced their debut album. The result is a psychedelic feast reminiscent of the golden years of

Tropicalia.

“This is their first ever U.S. tour, brought to us by our friends at Barbes in Brooklyn. This cumbia band has been making waves without ever having toured in the U.S. I think that this group is on their way to being a big name in cumbia,” says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. “The group has an infectious style that inspires people to dance. We’re excited to bring them to southern Vermont for this tour.”

The Bandwagon Summer Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series running from early May through mid-October. More than 20 performances ranging from a diverse group of musical styles, circus arts, dance, and theater will take place at ballfields, farms, and parks throughout Windham County. Kids under 12 always get in for free, and a

dedicated play area will be available at all shows. Refreshments are sold on site, including the return of the hugely popular Barr Hill cocktails. Bring a picnic and a blanket or fold-up chair to enjoy our concerts.

Robertson Paper Company Field is located at 21 Island Street in Bellows Falls. Tickets discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org, and kids under 12 are free. For more information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website.

This concert is supported in part by the Bellows Falls Area Development Corporation.

Support for the Bandwagon Summer Series is provided by M&T Bank, Lawson’s Finest Liquids, Oak Meadow, The Porch Cafe & Catering, Southern Vermont Solar, and Confluence Acupuncture.

OLLI: “Saving the ‘Lost’ Paintings of Vermont” —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — Author Anita Rafael will launch the fall 2024 semester of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), with the program “Saving the ‘Lost’ Paintings of Vermont: The Lyman Orton Collection,” on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center, next to St. Mary’s Church, on Pleasant Street in Springfield.

Rafael will tell the story of the magnificent art collection of Lyman Orton, proprietor of The Vermont Country Store, and how he went about collecting this artwork for nearly half a century to ensure that these treasures stayed in their home state of Vermont. She’ll show photographs of many of the pieces, and describe how she helped to collect and tell the stories behind the scenes, and the artists that depict a true love of Vermont in the landscape and the lives of Vermont’s people. Included will be pieces by Rockwell Kent, Luigi Lucioni, Dean Fausett, Henry Shokler, and Stuart Eldredge of Springfield — all from a time that Orton calls the “golden era” of the painters in Vermont, from 1910-1970.

Orton is sharing his collection with Vermonters at locations throughout the state. Many of the paintings are currently on exhibit until the end of the year at the Vermont Historical Society’s Pavilion



“Pillars of Vermont” by Luigi Lucioni. PHOTO PROVIDED

in Montpelier.

Rafael is the coauthor of the book chronicling this fascinating collection and the story behind it. She is a writer living and working in an 1840s carriage barn she rehabilitated in 2005, in the Village of Wardsboro, Vt. Her feature articles about people, places, arts, food, travel, and events in Vermont have appeared in lifestyle magazines and newspapers throughout the State of Vermont since 2007, as well as on websites and travel blogs.

Sponsored by the University of Vermont, OLLI is run by local volunteer members, and is geared mainly towards seniors who are 50 years of age and older who enjoy learning for the fun of it. Anyone who would be interested in this type of program, regardless of their age, is welcome. The programs are held Tuesday afternoons, at 2 p.m., and last about an hour and a half.

You may view the entire semester’s programs by going to www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield. Preregistration can be done online at

this website with a credit card. You may also register over the phone using your credit card by calling 802-656-8407 during regular office hours, Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. There is a membership series fee, and nonmembers are welcome and

encouraged to attend individual programs for a single program fee.

If you prefer to register by mail, send your contact information (name, address, phone number, and email address) indicating full series membership or which specific program(s) you wish to attend. Mail this information and your check made out to “University of Vermont – OLLI” to UVM Non-Credit Registration Office, 85 South Prospect Street, Box 34, Burlington, VT 05405.

If mailing in the registration, please allow 10-14 days from the date of mailing check to receipt and processing.

If there are weather-related changes to the schedule, you can check the above website on the morning of the program.

The next program, on Oct. 1, will be “The Long World War II.” Andrew Buchanan, senior lecturer in the UVM history department, will describe how today’s global world order is still being influenced by the events and politics of World War II.

Springfield Community Players present “Godspell” —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — If you walk by the Springfield Community Players Theater on South Street these days, you are apt to hear the songs of “Godspell” filling the air, as the cast prepares the players’ next production.

“Godspell” conceived and originally directed by John-Michael Tebelak, with music and new lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, is a musical based upon the Gospel according to Saint Matthew. Filled with gentle humor and tuneful songs, Act 1 is

a series of parables told in comic fashion, while Act 2 touches on the Passion of Christ. The songs are in different styles, from folk, to vaudeville, to rock, with the most recognizable song being “Day by Day.”

“Godspell” is under the direction of Don Gray, with Cindy Hughes as musical director, Kay Burge as accompanist, and Kallah Turner as choreographer.

Xzavior Fitzwater takes on the role of Jesus, while Tim Jones has the dual

role of John the Baptist and Judas. The followers of Jesus are played by Sonja Skalecki, Samantha Wood, W. Lynx Brammer, Arielle Descoteau, Summers Williams, and Nick Hattam.

This is a lively show filled with delightful songs and lots of humor, and is sure to touch the heart.

“Godspell” is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

The musical will be presented at the Springfield Community Players Studio at 165 South Street, Springfield, Vt., with performances on Sept. 20, 21, 27, and 28, with curtain at 7:30 p.m. There will also be Sunday matinees on Sept. 22 and 29, with curtain at 2 p.m. Tickets are discounted for students and seniors, and may be reserved online at www.springfieldcommunityplayers.org, or by calling 802-885-4098.

Rakish and The Early Risers at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. — Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present a contemporary folk double bill with Rakish (Maura Shawn Scanlin and Connor Hearn) and The Early Risers (Ashley Storrow and Putnam Smith) on Friday, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage.

Violinist Maura Shawn Scanlin and guitarist Connor Hearn unite to form Rakish. The pair gets their namesake from the traditional Irish tune “Rakish Paddy,” an origin that aptly suits the duo and their shared background in traditional Irish and Scottish music. Yet “rakish” itself also suggests something strikingly unconventional in its appearance, and Scanlin and Hearn knowingly embrace this wealth of connotation in their music, drawing on the music they grew up with and performing it with their own slant. In a performance that toes the line between concert music and session music, Rakish explores tunes and songs from Irish and American folk traditions in a way that reflects their shared interest in and love for old traditional tunes and chamber music. Scanlin, a two-time U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion and a winner of the Glenfiddich Fiddle Competition, wields the technical range of a classical violinist and the deep

sensitivity of a traditional musician. Hearn, a native to the Irish music communities of Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Md., makes his home in Boston, Mass., playing and teaching guitar. As a duo they have performed at venues and festivals across North America, and can be found teaching at fiddle camps across the country.

The Early Risers are a folk duo from Vermont, made up of Ashley Storrow and Putnam Smith. Both rootsy and lyric-driven, their original songs feature close vocal harmonies and arrangements on a wide array of instruments — banjo, guitar, mandolin, piano, and shru-ti-box. Their debut album, “Making Life Sweet” went to #1 on the National Folk DJ Charts in November 2019.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org. For information, call 802-387-0102. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar.

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arts & entertainment

Dot mandala, vinegar graining workshops

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is happy to offer a dot mandala workshop with Antje Ruppert on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 2-4 p.m.

You will use special dotting tools to create your mandala. Ruppert will introduce the tools and their application, and will provide practice sheets and a series of patterns to try out for the “perfect” dot placement, namely a sort of half-round, almost bead-like looking dot, to create a 3D feel.

Once ready, you will be provided with an 8-inch by 8-inch sheet of heavy card stock in a variety of colors, on which the center is already premarked for the placement of the first dot. You will be given a strip of six small paint pots, and can choose from a variety of acrylic paints. This is a very meditative and calming, creative experience, and absolutely beginner friendly.

Take your paint pots home for your own creations. Ruppert will explain how tools can be fabricated from things



A dot circle mandala. PHOTO PROVIDED

you have at home – toothpicks, Q-tips, dowels, pencils with erasers, etc.

The cost includes materials, and is discounted for gallery members. Registration through Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Explore the traditional art of vinegar graining with Corinne “Corky” Bond at Gallery at the VAULT on Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Discover the history and artistry behind this decorative technique, and create your own stunning piece by the end of the day. With all supplies provided except

your project piece, you will work through each step of the process, transforming a simple object into a beautifully grained masterpiece.

Bring a project piece such as a simple wooden picture frame, wooden foot stool, small wooden or nice cardboard box, or any other small item with flat, paintable sides. The cost of the workshop is discounted for gallery members. There will be a small materials fee, only if you need a project. Register by Sept. 25.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street, Springfield. We are open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Fridays, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

For more information, stop by the gallery, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org or the gallery’s Facebook and Instagram pages. Gallery at the VAULT is handicap accessible.

Saxtons River Sunday Concert Series continues

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – The Sunday music series at the Saxtons River Park continues Sept. 15, at 4 p.m., with the group Swing Low, who describe their style as “jazz standards and pop classics with mesmerizing vocals and swinging grooves.” The rain date is Sept. 22.

The four-member group includes Nick Scalerio on saxophone,

Ashok on bass, Maryann McArdle on keyboard, and vocalist Ajan Beer.

The series rounds out Sept. 29, at 3 p.m., with the Main Street Arts String Band under the direction of Jill Newton, offering traditional French Canadian, Celtic, Scandinavian, and American fiddle tunes. In case of rain, the concert will move across the street to Main Street Arts (MSA).

The String Band meets at MSA every Wednesday, from 5-6:30 p.m., and welcomes players to sit in on their sessions.

The Saxtons River Park Committee is sponsoring the series, which is open to all.

Notice of cancellation and rescheduling will be posted on the Saxtons River and Saxtons River Park Facebook pages.

Indie filmmaker showcase at BFOH

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – A story of obsession with singer-songwriter Ani DeFranco, and a dark comedy about bungling criminals will be the first two indie films to screen as part of the Bellows Falls Films Independent Filmmaker Showcase at the Bellows Falls Opera House (BFOH) in September and October.

The Bellows Falls Opera House is a municipally-owned film and live event venue located in the heart of Bellows Falls. In an effort to provide accessible opportunities for independent filmmakers to screen their films in a fully operational theater, the Bellows Falls Opera House has created BFFilms, in special arrangement with Rockingham Entertainment Development (RED). BFFilms seeks to offer a variety of films to the public by inviting independent filmmakers from throughout New England to present commercially viable projects without the burden of excessive upfront costs. Ticket sales will be handled through the Bellows Falls Opera House website, www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com.

“Dear Ani” (www.dearani.com) kicks off the

series on Saturday, Sept. 21, and will be presented by New Hampshire filmmaker Keith Wasserman (www.keith-wasserman.com). Described as an odyssey of music, art, and mania, the film is about an aspiring songwriter who, more than 20 years ago, began a creatively obsessive correspondence with music icon Ani DiFranco, believing her reply letters were encoded in the lyrics of her songs. Three additional shorts will be shown, and Wasserman will be available for a Q&A and merchandise sales following the film. Reserve tickets online at www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com/special-events.

“Dead English” (www.vimeo.com/891311592?share=copy) will be presented on Tuesday, Oct. 8, with actor, filmmaker, and musician Matt Munroe (www.mattmunroe.com). The dark comedy explores what happens after a bungled heist goes wrong, and two friends are forced to deal with the body of the individual they burgled. A Brothers Munroe Production, Munroe is a Vermont native who spent 20 years in Los Angeles, and has returned home to live in southern Vermont. He was cast in the film “Independence Day: Resurgence.” Munroe will be available for



“Dear Ani” poster. PHOTO PROVIDED

a Q&A after the film. Reserve tickets online at www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com/whats-playing-2.

Additional films are booking throughout the end of the year, and will be announced soon. Dates in 2025 are being reserved now. For more information, or to explore booking your independent film, contact Susan MacNeil at susan@svidol.com.

Cindy Moses stained-glass art at River Artisan Cooperative

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The River Artisan Cooperative in Bellows Falls now offers colorful and delicate stained-glass pieces by artist Cindy Moses of Maple Leaf Design. Each piece is unique, and they are stunning hanging on a wall or particularly on a window with the light coming through.

Cindy makes earrings and jewelry, which are also very appealing with their delicate lines, but stained glass is a new artform for her. The year before last, she saw some examples in a gallery and was captivated. She had worked with glass before, making

beads, but the idea of using it to make small art pieces was new to her. She says she is particularly interested in the way colored glass with clear open space around it works. Since learning that Moses is creating these pieces, many people have given her boxes of all kinds of stained glass, and she is having a wonderful time with all the colors. They are a perfect and unusual gift for a birthday, holiday, or special occasion.

Come visit us and enjoy our rich array of handcrafted items. We’re the perfect shop for finding made-in-Vermont gifts. The River Artisan



Stained glass ornaments. PHOTO BY DEBORAH STUART

Cooperative shop is located at 28 Village Square in Bellows Falls. We are open Thursday-Monday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.riverartisanscooperative.com or call 802-591-2085.

Join the Fairy House Festival as an event volunteer

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Nature Museum in Grafton is preparing to host the 15th annual Fairy House Festival on Saturday, Sept. 28, and Sunday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Guests of all ages walk the fairy house trails and discover a magical village. This family-friendly annual tradition is possible because of the strong community support from Fairy House builders and volunteers who help host this re-

gional treasure.

Each year, over 60 volunteer builders create a fairyland of small structures built out of natural materials, opening a portal to the incredible world around us through observation of nature’s details. The creativity of the builders is the heart of this magical festival, and every year local artists, businesses, families, and classrooms come together to create a unique fairy village

full of surprises. Builders receive two free tickets for admission, and registration to become a builder is open on the Nature Museum website. Slots are limited and filling fast.

Festival volunteers sign up for three-hour shifts, which include posting flyers ahead of the event, helping with grounds setup, greeting visi-

tors along the fairy house trail, guiding family activities, and more. Open to everyone over age 14, volunteers receive free admission and a T-shirt, and students receive community service hours.

Visit www.nature-museum.org to register as a builder or event volunteer, or to purchase tickets and

plan your day for this autumn tradition.

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home sweet home

Why getting approved for a mortgage first matters

REGION – Are you among the myriad of potential homebuyers who will be jumping off the sidelines and getting into the homebuying game if rates drop? Go into your home search prepared by getting approved for a mortgage before you house hunt.

Not only can a mortgage approval help you understand

what you can spend on a home, but you will also receive a mortgage approval letter to prove to sellers that you have been approved for your home loan. Approval means an underwriter has reviewed your application and has verified all necessary forms of income, assets, and credit. All loans are subject to final credit approval and

acceptable property. Conditions and restrictions may apply.

To get approved for a mortgage, you will need to provide all of your monthly debts compared to your pretax monthly income, also known as your debt-to-income ratio (DTI); the loan amount divided by the appraised value of the home, or loan-to-value ratio (LTV); your credit history, to see how you have repaid debts (credit card debt, auto loans, etc.) in the past; your credit

score, which estimates the likelihood you will repay the money you borrow; two years' worth of W-2s, 1099s, child support, alimony, Social Security, or other sources that prove your income; and documentation that can prove at least two years' worth of your employment history.

Depending on your situation, there may be additional documentation necessary to get mortgage approval.

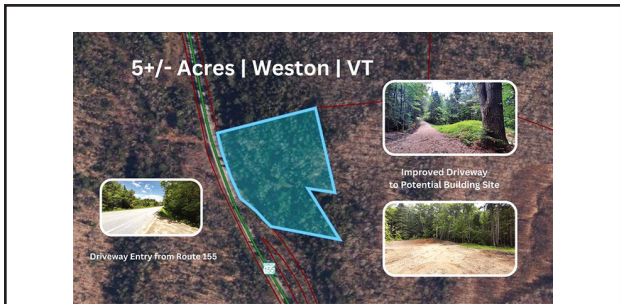
It's worth noting that a mortgage approval is

different than a mortgage qualification. While a qualification means your lender has provided an estimate based on the initial information you provide, an approval takes the process a step further by having an underwriter perform a full review. All loans are subject to credit approval. A qualification is not an approval of credit, and does not signify that underwriting requirements

have been met. Conditions and restrictions may apply.

How much home can you afford? Crunch the numbers on your homebuying budget with this free home affordability calculator at lo.primelending.com/vblodgett/calculators/how-much-home-can-i-afford.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, Prime Lending, Ludlow, Vt.



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SEVCA assistance with Homestead Declaration, Property Tax Credit Claim

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – If you are a Vermont homeowner, you can receive a reduction in your property taxes by filing a Homestead Declaration, but you need to act fast to ensure you meet the Oct. 15 deadline. Once filed, your tax rate is discounted based on your income. Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) offers free assistance with filling out the Homestead Declaration. If you are a Vermont homeowner, you are required to file a Homestead Declaration every year to receive the homestead property tax rate. Many individuals can lower their property tax bill by filing a Property Tax Credit Claim. The final

deadline for these claims is Oct. 15.

This assistance is part of our Volunteer Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Every year we help scores of people file their taxes via the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. We also assist Vermont residents with filing their Homestead Declaration, Property Tax Credit Claim, and Renter Rebate Claim. If you are interested in having your taxes prepared, or need assistance with your Homestead Declaration, Property Tax Credit Claim, or Renter Credit, go to www.sevca.org/tax-services, or call or text our direct line to the VITA program at 802-428-3032.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Broadway flop
5 Foot part
9 Urban carrier
12 Vivacity, in music
13 "Funny!"
14 Flamenco cheer
15 Rural tourist attractions
17 Skier Tommy
18 Actress Neuwirth
19 Serious
21 Wide, fancy necktie
24 Jazz singer Laine
25 Noggin
26 Reeve role
30 Einstein's birthplace
31 Mini-plateaus
32 Green prefix
33 Pudding choices
35 Firecracker sound
36 Grecian vessels
37 Embedded spies
38 Bas-relief medium
40 Reed instrument
42 Pirates' quaff
43 Duncan Hines products

DOWN

1 Telly network
2 Granada gold
3 Russian space station
4 Chocolate-coated treat
5 Melville captain
6 Demolish

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16				17			
		18				19	20			
21	22	23			24					
25				26	27			28	29	
30			31					32		
33			34					35		
		36					37			
38	39			40	41					
42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

48 Nest egg letters
49 Old Italian money
50 Protuberance
51 Mom's mate
52 Flair
53 Toe melody

7 "Evita" role
8 Pesters
9 Fast-food deal
10 Balm ingredient
11 Tavern order
16 Bumped into
20 "— the ram-parts ..."
21 Border on
22 Actress Ward
23 College
24 Handout for a freshman
24 Tax prep pros
26 Brief moments
27 Can. neighbor
28 Dreaded breakout

29 Eggy drinks
31 Prop for Mr. Peanut
34 Apr. address-ee
35 Aircraft manufacturer
37 May honoree
38 Clench
39 Franc replacer
40 Gumbo need
41 Existed
44 Have a cold
45 Tic-tac-toe loser
46 Sch. URL sender
47 Filming site

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