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VOLUME 63, ISSUE 42

A vacancy on the BF Board of Trustees

BY PAULA BENSON
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The meeting of the Bellows Falls Trustees on Tuesday, Oct. 8, was initially hampered by intermittent video and audio glitches, but as town manager Scott Pickup continued, the quality improved. An issue with the audio between Zoom participants and those at the town hall cropped up later in the meeting, when board members were unable to hear trustees Taylor Pichette and Conor Floyd, attending the meeting via Zoom. After troubleshooting the connection at the town hall, the sound was restored.

Pickup mentioned that it was National Fire Prevention Week, which ran Oct. 6-12, and reminded everyone to use this time of year to check that the smoke alarms in their homes are working.

Unfortunately, the Fire Prevention Parade scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 13, in

Bellows Falls, had to be cancelled due to weather.

The trustees approved a parade permit request from Central Elementary School for their annual Halloween parade, to be held on Oct. 31, from 2-2:30 p.m., near the school. The board also gave the go-ahead to the school's request to place a banner in downtown Bellows Falls from March 10 – April 5, 2025, for the Rockingham 5K.

Pickup and Alyssa Harlow, finance director, presented an update on the District 5 water and sewer billing and accounts. Pickup began by thanking Harlow for “spending a lot of time and energy trying to reconcile all these various accounts in terms of what they should be being billed versus what they are being billed.”

After the District 5 board agreed to turn their billing over to the Village of Bellows Falls Water Department, Pickup reported that Harlow was able to resolve about \$30,000 in past-due

accounts.

Harlow announced that some customers will see their rates increase, but for most people rates will go down. For owners of one-to-three-bedroom homes that use village sewer only, Harlow said they will pay less now than under District 5's billing system. Homes with four or more bedrooms will likely see their sewer rates go up.

“Half of the people are on our water already,” Harlow explained, “and those people are seeing the biggest decrease in their bills.”

Tuesday's meeting was the last one for Floyd, who was appointed as trustee through May 2025, but is moving out of the community. The vacancy is posted on the town website, asking interested parties to contact Village President Paul Obuchowski at paul.obuchowski@gmail.com before Oct. 30.

DNA confirms rare sturgeon fish in Connecticut River

BY JOE MILLIKEN
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – During an ongoing study and investigation being led by the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC), DNA from the endangered shortnose sturgeon fish has been detected for the first time in the Connecticut River, between Bellows Falls and Turners Falls, Mass.

Initiated by Dr. Kate Buckman, CRC's river steward for New Hampshire, the study utilized existing research and previous sightings by sturgeon biologist Micah Kieffer of the Eastern Ecological Science Center, along with information from local diver and archaeologist Annette Spaulding of Rockingham, and Joseph Graveline of Northfield, Mass., to help pinpoint what stretches of river to concentrate on to collect environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling. Buckman is also in partnership with James Garner, who is a doctoral candidate at the University of Massachusetts specializing in eDNA techniques.

“The project came together quickly,” Buckman said in a recent interview. “I started thinking about whether this type of project was feasible in 2023, and applied for some funding late in the year. James [Garner] had been considering it independently, but could not undertake it alone. A mutual colleague introduced James and I in early 2024, and we realized we had complementary skill sets and would make a good team.”



Shortnose sturgeon.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE CONNECTICUT RIVER CONSERVANCY

The shortnose sturgeon fish is a federally endangered species, which makes it illegal to target, catch, or disturb them. Years ago, shortnose sturgeon were common throughout the Connecticut River watershed in the Bellows Falls area. However, the building of several dams over the years, commercial fishing, and habitat degradation have negatively impacted populations of this fish.

Shortnose sturgeon have existed longer than humans have, and are culturally important to both indigenous and other populations, and have an intrinsic value and role to play in their native ecosystems. This particular study began in large part as a response to reported shortnose sturgeon sightings in the reaches of the Connecticut River upstream of the Turners Falls and Vernon Dam. The first round of samples had positive “hits” found in water collected in Northfield; Vernon, Vt.; and Westmoreland, N.H. A second round of sampling is currently underway.

“The CRC received a grant from the Lucy Downing Nisbet Charitable Fund, Bank of America, N.A., trustee, in the spring, to fund the beginning study. Our first round of sampling took place in June and July, and we are now involved in the second round of sampling.”

The main goal of the

study is to positively detect the presence of shortnose sturgeon upstream of Turners Falls, where they were considered to live by the regulatory and management agencies. It was all inspired, in part, by various reports from community members over the years of shortnose sightings, and the desire to validate the observations and create the consideration and protection they deserve.

“A secondary goal,” Buckman added, “was to provide additional information on the utility of the best methods for implementing eDNA techniques with a rare species like this in a large river like the Connecticut.”

The shortnose sturgeon was listed as an endangered species in 1967 under the Endangered Species Preservation Act, and then the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Some of the main threats to sturgeon are dams and other objects/activities that restrict movement and access to habitat, and bycatch and illegal taking.

“We always like to emphasize that these fish are protected, and it is illegal to intentionally target, catch, or disturb them. We do want to keep hearing reports from the community if they see one in the river in New Hampshire or Vermont, and if they can get a photo without disturbing the fish, that's even better.”

First robotics club meeting at SAPA TV a success

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Tuesday evening marked a significant milestone for the community, as the very first elementary grades LEGO League Robotics Club meeting at SAPA TV drew an enthusiastic crowd of approximately 15 children and their families. First through fifth graders from our area's elementary schools engaged in creative building and coding activities, fostering both teamwork and innovation.

Earlier this year, Springfield's own River Valley Robotics and Drone Team (RADs) placed 14th in a national competition to which only 60 teams were invited, and they were the only team from Vermont. Several RADs team members were on hand Tuesday evening to mentor their younger peers. “We are thrilled with the turnout and the energy the kids brought to the event,” said RADs coach Christopher Gray. “A big thank you to everyone involved for making this evening a success.”

As we embark on this exciting LEGO robotics initiative for elementary students, Coach Gray, who is also the advanced manufacturing and engineering instructor at River Valley Technical Center (RVTC), is committed to supporting this initiative through mentorship from RADs members, necessary equipment, and potential funding from grants.

The RADs invite all elementary, middle, and high school students in the RVTC service region to join our dynamic and competitive robotics and aerial drone clubs. The middle and high school level RADs meet every Wednesday, from 3-5 p.m., in the advanced man-



Elementary students at the first robotics club meeting.
PHOTO PROVIDED

ufacturing and engineering classroom at the River Valley Technical Center. The elementary level club meets at SAPA TV on Tuesdays, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

A FIRST LEGO League (FLL) club is also starting on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at Weathersfield Elementary School, with support from the American Precision Museum in Windsor, Vt. Black River Innovation Campus (BRIC) STEAM coordinator Ben McVety, SAPA TV executive director Aimee Parnell, and RVTC outreach coordinator Kelly Broker Campbell, along with parent volunteers, will facilitate the elementary level clubs.

The clubs offer students the opportunity to engage with cutting-edge technology, and participate in competitions across six exciting platforms, including FIRST LEGO League, FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), VEX IQ, VEX VRC, and REC Foundation Aerial Drone Competition.

Whether you are a seasoned competitor or new to robotics and drones, everyone is welcome to come and explore the world of STEM in a fun and collaborative environment.

“Joining the River Valley

RADs is not just about competition; it's about building skills, teamwork, and creativity,” said coach Gray. “We encourage all interested students to check us out and see what we're all about.”

“We believe in nurturing the next generation of innovators and problem solvers, so we are delighted to host the RADs and the new elementary-level robotics club in SAPA's newly renovated community space,” said SAPA director Aimee Parnell, whose second grader is also participating in the club. “While BRIC is working to renovate the club's permanent space at the former Park Street School this winter, we saw a wonderful opportunity to open up an underutilized space in our building to help build community connections, which is a key part of SAPA's mission.”

For more information about future meetings and events, please visit www.sapatv.org/fll for the Springfield elementary level club, or www.facebook.com/RiverValleyTechCenter for the middle and high school level club.

Meet the candidates for Springfield State Rep.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Ballots have arrived in the mail, but you may want to wait before voting. Springfield residents are invited to engage directly with the candidates vying for the position of state representative at a special event on Saturday, Oct. 26, at 11 a.m., at the Springfield Town Library, for an informative gathering.

This is a unique opportunity to meet and interact with the candidates running for Springfield's

state representatives: incumbent Democrats Alice Emmons and Kristi Morris, and Republican challengers Judith Stern and Keith Stern.

Attendees will have the chance to hear from each candidate about their platforms, visions for our state, and plans for the community. This is not just a meet-and-greet; it's an opportunity to ask questions and gain insights that will help you make an informed decision when it's time to vote.

Your voice matters in shaping the future of our community and state, so come out and show your support for democracy in action. For more information, or if you have questions you want to be sure are asked, please contact library director Sue Dowdell at 802-885-3108 or springfieldlibrary@hotmail.com. If you cannot attend in person, we plan to stream the event on our YouTube channel. Join us in making an informed choice for our future.

Charlestown cemeteries to close Oct. 31

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Town of Charlestown Cemetery Department kindly reminds all citizens that

Oct. 31 is the deadline to pick up any flowers or decorations from the cemeteries. After this date, the cemetery staff will begin removing

all remaining items for seasonal maintenance. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain the beauty of our cemeteries.

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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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Dinoman comes to Bellows Falls

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Free Public Library invites the community to an exciting event featuring dinosaurs with Dinoman on Saturday, Oct. 26, at 11 a.m. This special event with giant dinosaurs on display will take place next door to the library at the Masonic Temple.

Dinosaur tracks lead right to Bellows Falls. Have no fear, Dinoman is here. With magic, merry mayhem, and magnificent props, families will be taken on a trip throughout the Mesozoic era. How do we know dinosaurs were here? What is a fossil? How are they

made? The fun, informative, and interactive performance for all ages will start as Dinoman (Bob Lisaius) follows tracks to the stage, and end with the discovery of a number of life-sized dinosaurs. Dinoman has garnered a “Best Bet” from the LA Times, has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal, and has appeared at Boston’s First Night 15 times.


A dino-themed lunch will follow Dinoman’s performance. The lunch is free for families, registration is requested; let the library know your family will be staying for lunch by registering at [\[hamlibrary.org\]\(http://hamlibrary.org\).](http://www.rocking-</p>
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Dinoman is presented as part of Family Night Out, a free monthly event for families hosted by the Greater Falls Family Partnership with support from the Bellows Falls Rotary. The Greater Falls Family Partnership is made up of Building Bright Futures, Greater Falls Connections, Parks Place Community Resource Center, Rockingham Free Public Library, and Springfield Area Parent Child Center. With thanks for the generous use of their building, this event is made possible by the Bellows Falls Masonic Temple. For more information, contact Sam at the library at 802-463-4270, youthservices@rockinghamlibrary.org, or any of the Greater Falls Family Partnership organizations.



Dinoman comes to Bellows Falls.

PHOTO PROVIDED



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Tom Charlton listening event in Windham

WINDHAM, Vt. – Please come meet candidate Tom Charlton at the Timber Ridge Base Lodge on Thursday, Oct. 17, at 6 p.m. Coffee and light refreshments provided. Please reach out to Emily Goyette 802-289-4012 with any questions. We hope to see you there.



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Book discussions at the Rockingham Library

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Listen to local author Mimi Yahn talk about her debut novel “Usurpation” on Thursday, Oct. 24, at 6:30 p.m., at the Rockingham Library. Set in 1997 and spanning two cities – Portland, Ore., and New Orleans – “Usurpation” tells a powerful story about gentrification through the lives of two families, and the eyes of the novel’s historian protagonist, Kitty Feliz. When her best friend’s son is murdered, Feliz uncovers a racist scheme involving drug gangs, police corruption, and gentrification through the deliberate blighting of Portland’s historically Black district, Albina. Copies of her book will be available to purchase.

Marie St. Pez is the nom de plume of Springfield resident Mimi Yahn, a longtime writer of essays,

short stories, investigative articles, and political blogs. “Usurpation” is now available in bookstores, through the Phoenix Books, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon websites, and directly from the author at www.mariestpez.wordpress.com. This program is free and open to the public.

Pick up a copy of “The Mountains Wild” by Sarah Stewart Taylor at the front desk of the Rockingham Library, and join the discussion on Thursday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m., when the author will be on hand to discuss her work, answer questions, and read aloud from this book.

“The Mountains Wild” opens when Maggie, a police detective from Long Island, finds herself drawn back to Dublin, Ireland, where her cousin Erin dis-

appeared 23 years ago. The discovery of Erin’s distinctive scarf, coupled with the disappearance of another young woman, fortify Maggie’s intention to find out what happened to both women. The Kirkus Review states that, “This mystery, evocative of the Irish diaspora, interrogates both a young woman’s disappearance and the meaning of homeland.”

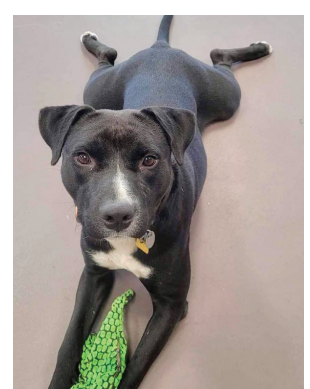
This program is free and open to the public. You do not need to be a regular patron of the library to borrow a copy of “The Mountains Wild.”

For more information on either discussion, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270, or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

Fisher

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The one word to describe Fisher would be “happy.” This handsome 2- or 3-year-old is the happiest dog around. He loves people and other dogs. Walks are fun, and car rides too. Fisher would love a home with another playful dog, and a fenced yard to run around in. This guy is sure to make every day happier, and every home a better home to be in.

Join us Nov. 2 and 3, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the shelter, for our annual Holiday Bazaar.



Featured pet: Fisher. PHOTO PROVIDED

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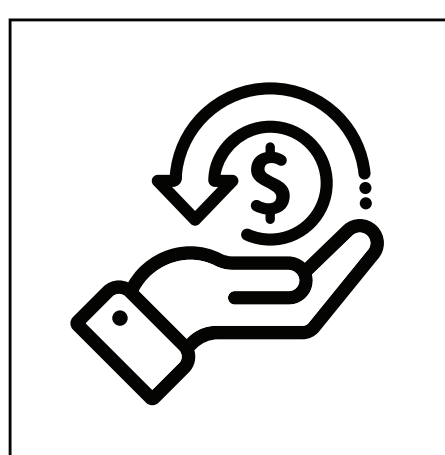


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Driftwood hunters

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

Last week I wrote about Bob Turco and antler shed hunters. Vermonters have always felt a strong gravitational pull to the natural world. This is why we collect stuff.

Driftwood is something we have all picked up or admired as we walk the beach or riverbanks. There are a small number of driftwood hunters today. They're still around, but they keep a low profile. I used to see them at flea markets. Some have a better eye.

These driftwood hunters know when to walk the Connecticut River. After spring runoff, once ice is

out and the river returns back to its original level, is a good time to look. They find all kinds of driftwood. It could be a weathered, pressure-treated board, showing interesting, elongated grain. It could also just be a branch or root that took its form from years of tumbling and drifting.

Each piece is to be judged by the eye of the beholder. Some hunters have a better eye. The photo with this article is a piece of driftwood I bought from a driftwood hunter years ago. We both saw what could only be a walleye. It's about 25 inches long, and weighs almost nothing. One passerby, not knowing it was driftwood, commented, "What a beautiful sculpture."

We all live here. If we slow down and open our eyes, we will see such natural wonders all around us.

Wasp nests

Another thing many of us collect is wasp nests. You might find one hanging from a branch in your backyard, or maybe in the woods. They can be quite large. I have seen them 16 inches high and 10 or 12 inches in diameter. Make sure there are no current inhabitants.

Stone structures and Indian arrowheads

Another strong magnetic pull for Vermonters is the earth itself. Since the earliest introduction of Europeans to Native American culture, the white man was aware that he was not the



Driftwood in the form of a walleye.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

first to inhabit this area.

Many interesting stone structures were encountered by colonists. Today you can still find these Native American structures in Andover and Mount Holly.

We've always picked up Indian arrowheads whenever we found them.

Today, on Route 103 out of the Stone Village, on the left is what I call "the Merrill Stevens barn." This barn belongs to the Town of Chester Water Department.

This is where the solar farm is today. We have at the historical society a collection of arrowheads found at this site by Merrill Stevens.

In those days a plow was drawn by horse or oxen. The plowman walked behind the draft animal, holding the wooden handles of the plow. From this vantage point and speed, the plowman would notice an arrowhead as it was turned over, stop the team, and bend over to put it in his pocket. We have his collection of arrowheads at the historical society. Some arrowheads from his collection date back 8,000 years.

Archaeologists have documented arrowheads and other finds from this site. For thousands of years, this area was a camping ground for Native Americans trav-

elling to the fishing grounds in Bellows Falls. They came from northern New York, Canada, New Hampshire, and Maine. Many of these arrowheads are made of a stone that does not exist here.

Burl

Burl is another natural wonder. It was in the antiques business where I learned about Native American burl bowls and dippers. They could be worth thousands of dollars in the 1980s. Burl is a growth or wart on a tree, usually maple, ash, or cherry. Its grain remains unequalled. Again, there were a few Vermonters who recognized these objects needed to be saved.

This week's old saying. "Frankly, Scarlet, I don't give a damn."

New biography chronicles Bellows Falls man's Army career

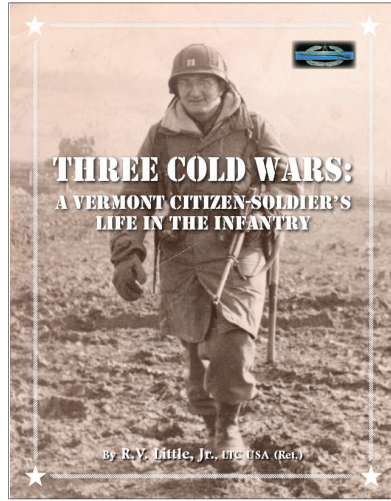
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – A recent book chronicles the life of Ralph V. Little and his wife, the former Eleanor Baraby, both of Bellows Falls. "Three Cold Wars: A Vermont Citizen-Soldier's Life in the Infantry," is authored by his son R.V. Little Jr., himself a career intelligence and infantry officer. The book reveals a man who rose from the Great Depression to experience combat and unheralded Cold War service. Intended for family, the story evolved into a military history of a valorous man and

untold combat. Details are enhanced by the writer's background, extensive archives, and battlefield research assisted by four Italian museums.

Half the content follows the development of a hometown private in Company E, 172nd Infantry Regiment of the Vermont National Guard, through development into an infantry officer, and on to World War II combat. The reader accompanies then-Lt. Little through all aspects of service, and sees how things happen – the training, personal life, movement to combat, engagement, recovery, separations, and even the paperwork battle. The format repeats for subsequent death-defying combat in Korea. Throughout are either hitherto un-

reported battles, or new details on the initial 1950 Chinese attack in Korea. The combat and occupation duties impress how his third war – the Cold War – took form from the eyes of a player. As a captain, Little served as grand marshal of the 1951 Bellows Falls Memorial Day Parade.

The book includes weapons and manpower charts, maps covering all the action, and troop lists depicting the players. Family and military photos appear with the pertinent event. Both military and general readers will be fascinated by text that identifies the exact en-



The cover of "Three Cold Wars." PHOTO PROVIDED

emy, defines wounds, and traces medical evacuations. Accompanying the story are vignettes showing the bigger picture of history alongside the subject's service.

"Three Cold Wars" is available on Amazon, ISBN 979-8-218-44060-2.

SAHS Annual Meeting

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Art and Historical Society (SAHS) will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 19, at 1 p.m., at the SAHS facility, 65 Route 106 in North Springfield, Vt. There will be a short business meeting, and then a program with speaker Hugh Putnam. Putnam will speak on his booklet "World War I: Women War Workers and Related Activities" This program is free and open to all. The new 2025 calendar of historical photos is now available, and copies will be sold that day. If you'd like one mailed to you, send a check to SAHS, P.O. Box 336, North Springfield, VT 05150. For more information and cost, call 802-886-7935, or email sahs@vermontel.net.

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obituaries

COMMUNITY NEWS

In memory of Brenda Lee Hill (Luther), 1965-1982

42 years. Since you've been gone, your loss has not gotten any easier. I still cry. It really hurts. I wonder why. Your memory is what keeps me doing what I do for you. I miss you a lot.

Time stops and life goes on, but from my heart you're not gone. I think about you always. I talk about you, too. I have so many memories of you, but I wish I still had you. I will never forget you. I love and miss you.

Love always,
Arlene (Sam)

Shawn M. Gilman, 1971-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Shawn Michael Gilman, 53, of Springfield, Vt., passed away unexpectedly at his home on Oct. 1, 2024. He was born on July 29, 1971, to Roy and Jacqueline (Gomez) Gilman, in Springfield, Vt.

Shawn attended Chester Elementary School and Green Mountain High School. He was a longtime resident of Ludlow, Vt., before moving to Springfield, Vt. He worked hard for companies like Roof Masters, Roby's Roofing and Painting, and passed away owning his own business, Gilman's Property Solutions. He took great pride in his work, and his work ethic was undeniably strong.

Shawn loved being outdoors; he enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, and dirt biking. You could also find him spending time enjoying NASCAR and wood-working. He was a jack-of-all trades, and was always able to figure out how to fix things. An incredibly intelligent man.

Shawn is survived by his wife Debbie Knight; his daughter Catherina Gilman of Vermont; stepdaughter Amanda Knight of Vermont; six grandchildren



Shawn Gilman, 1971-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

Caiden, Cameron H., Aliyah, Cameron W., Josiah, and Dominic, all of Vermont; his father Roy Gilman; sister Crystal Gilman; nieces Aisling, Kira, and Fallyn; and nephew Lucian.

He is predeceased by his mother Jacqueline Gilman; his brother Shane Gilman; and extended family members Francis and Deborah Roby.

A service and Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Springfield VFW, 115 River Street, Springfield, Vt., from 12-4 p.m.

Shawn will be remembered for his strength and resilience, leaving behind a legacy of lessons and memories that will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

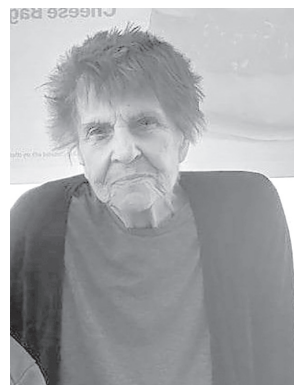
Esther M. Colburn, 1939-2024



SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Esther Mae Colburn passed away Friday night, Sept. 20, 2024, at Springfield Hospital. She was born on May 19, 1939, in Springfield, Vt., to Wilfred Colburn Sr. and Elizabeth (Farman) Colburn.

Esther is survived by her sisters Alice Riendeau of Bellows Falls, Vt., Jacqueline Haselton of Brattleboro, Vt., and Sylvia Colburn of Claremont N.H.; nieces Jennifer Haselton, Stephanie Haselton, Rebecca Buckley, and Donnalyne Matteson; and eight great-nieces and great-nephews. She was predeceased by her parents and brother Wilfred Colburn Jr.

Esther graduated from Charlestown High School in 1957, and went on to the Thompson School of Nursing in Brattleboro, Vt. She enlisted in the U.S. Army, and served proudly. At some point she moved to Maryland, which she



Esther Colburn, 1939-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

truly felt and thought of as home, and worked for the Maryland State Police and Department of Corrections for 3-5 years. She loved helping and taking care of others. She was an amazing woman, who will be greatly missed. She was very independent and loved by many.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls, Vt. There are no services scheduled at this time.



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Community Lunch

Ludlow Community Center
37 Main St, Ludlow

Thursday, October 24

Serving at Noon

A welcoming, homemade meal of:

Roast Porkloin

Wear your Halloween costume, funny hats & jewelry!

Sing-A-Long w/Catherine follows the meal

All are welcome, free of charge

MEAL PROVIDED BY:
BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES

Grace Cottage to hold Community Forum

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital invites the public to an open Community Forum at the Townshend Town Hall on Thursday, Oct. 24, at 5 p.m. Grace Cottage CEO Ol-

ivia Sweetnam will talk about recent recommendations from the Green Mountain Care Board's consulting firm, Oliver Wyman, and answer your questions. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call 802-365-9109. All are welcome, no RSVP necessary.

St. Peter's Church 150th Anniversary

WALPOLE, N.H. – St. Peter's Catholic Church in North Walpole, N.H., will be 150 years old in 2027.

A three-year celebration is being planned, kicking off with a ham dinner fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 26, at 5:30 p.m., in St. Peter's Church Hall, 39 Church Street, North Walpole, N.H. The menu will feature ham, potatoes, vegetables, rolls, and dessert. Coffee, tea, and bottled water will also be provided.

A 50-50 raffle will be held during the din-

ner, with a discount for a bundle of six tickets. Raffle winners will be announced at the dinner. The meal will be offered by a small suggested donation. Children 2 and under will be free.

Reservations are required, as space is limited; please contact Kathy Golec at 603-543-7868 or kb-golec@yahoo.com on or before Oct. 20. Please mention the number of people who will be attending.

All proceeds from the dinner and raffle will help defray the costs of our 150th Anniversary Celebration activities. This dinner is open to the public.



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1 PM – 3 PM
Mount Holly Town Library
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Annamarie Pluhar, our presenter, is the author of *Sharing Housing: A Guidebook for Finding and Keeping Good Housemates* and is also the founder of **Sharing Housing**, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit.

Find more info at SharingHousing.org and SharingHousing.com



This **FREE** event is sponsored by:



www.brgn.org

Registration for this event is being handled by our friends at **Green Mountain Neighbors**. Since space is limited, we encourage you to visit this link, <https://tinyurl.com/mw7rwuyf> and register today!







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obituaries

Andrew Augustinovich, 1928-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Andrew Augustinovich, 95, died on Saturday morning, Oct. 12, at the Jack Byrne Center in Lebanon, N.H. He was born on Dec. 13, 1928, in Springfield, Vt., the son of Nicholas and Anna (Laskevich) Augustinovich. He graduated from Springfield High School, and served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War era.

Andrew married Avis Laber in Springfield, Vt.

He was employed as a quality control manager with the Bryant Grinder Company in Springfield, Vt., for over 30 years.

He enjoyed woodworking, photography, camping, traveling, and spending time

with his family and friends.

Andrew is survived by his wife Avis, and daughters Diane Hebda (Jerome) of Grand Isle, Vt., and Donna Westcott (Robert Jr.) of Unity, N.H. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was predeceased by his parents, and by his brothers Alexander, Nicholas, Walter, and John Augustinovich.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, Oct. 18, at 11 a.m., at the North Springfield Baptist Church. The Rev. Joanne Thomas will officiate. Burial will follow in the Oakland Cemetery.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., is assisting with arrangements.

Mary A. Powers, 1954-2024

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Mary Alice Powers of Bellows Falls passed away on Oct. 4, 2024. Mary was born on June 13, 1954, in Bellows Falls, Vt., the daughter of Dr. Michael F. and Alice (Woynar) Powers. A graduate of Bellows Falls Union High School in 1972, she graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Mount Holyoke College in 1976, where she was also named a Sarah Williston Scholar. She obtained a master's degree in library science from Simmons College in 1978. Ms. Powers served as a reference librarian at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., and a senior reference librarian at Baker Library of Harvard University's business school, before becoming the librarian of Windsor Junior/Senior High School, Windsor, Vt., in 1988. She was nominated by the faculty and received the 1999 Outstanding Women Teacher award from the University of Vermont. In 2013, she was assigned her new position as the K-12 librarian for Windsor schools, which she held until her retirement in 2017. Thereafter, she substituted as a licensed educator at schools in the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union, particularly the Bel-

lows Falls Middle School. She enjoyed teaching information literacy skills, and promoting reading to the elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as swimming and playing piano. She was also a member of the St. Charles Church choir for many years.

Members of her surviving family include two sisters Michele M. Koson of Alstead, N.H., and Jane M. Steuwe (David) of Rockingham, Vt.; and three brothers Peter A. Powers (Jane) of North Walpole, N.H., Timothy Powers (Nancy) of Bellows Falls, and Michael D. Powers of Walpole, N.H. She is also survived by eight nieces and nephews, loving in-laws, as well as grandnieces and grandnephews. Mary was predeceased by her parents, and brother-in-law Peter Koson.

There will be no calling hours. A memorial service will be held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

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

Joyce C. Wilkins, 1945-2024

LUDLOW, Vt. – Joyce Caroline Wilkins passed away on Oct. 2, 2024. Joyce was born on Feb. 20, 1945, in Colchester, Vt., to Villa and Richard Wells.

She married Albert Wilkins on Oct. 17, 1959. Joyce and Albert had four children: Chuck, Chris, Peggy, and Kelly.

Joyce made her home in Ludlow, where she raised her children while working at Valentis Restaurant, the Jewell Brook Woolen Mills along with Albert, and at Dartmouth Woolen in Claremont, N.H. She loved to read her romance novels, and was a huge fan of the soap operas on TV in her younger days. She spent many a night driving to local bingo parlors.

Joyce was a loving and caring mother, often frustrated by her children and their antics. Mom always took great interest in what you were doing in your life. She was fiercely protective of all she loved and cared for, and woe to any that felt her wrath; Mom was known to swing a mean broom handle at the boys.

For many years, Joyce and Albert would spend the winters in Florida; this was something she always looked forward to.

Joyce's greatest joy came from all of her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, they always received her biggest smiles, and she loved them all.

Her husband Albert, her parents Villa and Richard Wells, her brothers Richard and Elton Wells, and her son Charles Wilkins predeceased Joyce.

Joyce is survived by her sisters Darlene (Brian) Haynes and Mary (Dan-



Joyce Wilkins, 1945-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

iel) Brooks; her son Chris (Jacqui) Wilkins; daughters Peggy (Robert Olney), Kelly Willard (Todd Sumner), and Kimberly (Chuck) Wilkins; grandchildren Sylvia Wilkins, Lacey (Alan) Benoit, Ashley Olney (Jason Benson), Corey Willard, Brooke Willard, Sierra (Jacob) Mitchell, Tiffany Wilkins, Lance Wilkins, Mercedes Wilkins, Sasha Nichols, and Ashley Bussino; great-grandchildren Zoe Hewitt (Dylan Bussino), Jaylynn Hewitt (Kelton Dutton), Ariel Benson, Riley Rabideau, Taylor Rabideau, Dalton Rabideau, Albie Willard, Brayden Mitchell, Everett Mitchell, and David Graves; and great-great-grandchild Kayden Bussino.

A graveside service and Celebration of Life for Joyce will be held Oct. 17, 2024, Joyce and Albert's 65th wedding anniversary. The graveside service will be at 12:30 p.m., at Ludlow Cemetery, and the potluck Celebration of Life at 2 p.m., at Jackson Gore Inn.

Memorial donations will be used to purchase a headstone for Joyce and Albert Wilkins. Special thanks to the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative & Hospice Care, and the wonderful staff there.

Edris L. Bonneau, 1927-2024

LUDLOW, Vt. – Edris Lorette Bonneau, 97, passed away on Oct. 9, 2024, in Ludlow, Vt. Born on March 19, 1927, to Oscar and Marguerite Bryant (née Kingsbury) in Cavendish, Vt., Edris was the second of six siblings, with her sister Ethelyn as the eldest, and her brothers Roy, Stanley, David, and Glenn following. Edris grew up observing her father's farming, and her mother's caregiving.

As a child, she attended the Tarbell Hill One Room School House in Cavendish, Vt., Black River Academy in Ludlow, Vt., and later graduated from Black River High School in 1945. At the young age of 6, Edris could be found participating in the Ludlow Baptist Church choir. After graduation, she worked for the Ludlow Telephone Company until she married Leonard Gendron Sr. on Nov. 1, 1947, with whom she had four children: Leonard, Diane, Paul, and Nancy. Following her separation from Leonard, she pursued her nursing career, graduating from Thompson School of Practical Nursing in Brattleboro, Vt. Edris then dedicated her career to nursing at Springfield Hospital, Poet Seat in Greenfield, Mass., and Belchertown State School in Belchertown, Mass.

In 1969, Edris met her late husband Earl Bonneau while square dancing, and they remained inseparable from that moment forward. Earl and Edris wed on Oct. 3, 1970. Edris had an immense love for her family, always eager to hear about their travels, new classes, and relationship experiences. As a woman of faith, she maintained a nightly prayer list for those in need, which varied in length but remained a consistent part of her routine. Edris treated



Edris Bonneau, 1927-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

everyone with equal love and fairness. Edris possessed a radiant glow; her smile could illuminate a room, complemented by her infectious chuckle and sense of humor.

Edris is survived by her children Leonard Gendron Jr., Diane Haskell, Paul Gendron, and Nancy Carle (Richard); grandchildren Michael Gendron, Renee Gendron-Potwin, Amanda Gendron-Roese (Michael), Christopher Gendron, Stephen Carle (Marina), Rick Carle (Becky), Karen Carle, Melissa Kowalski (Bryan), and Cami Koski; great-grandchildren Jaxon, Ryelee, Tristan, Noah, Alton, Jacob, Abigail, Juliette, Rylan, Adalyn, and Caleb; and brothers David Bryant (Vicki) and Glenn Bryant (Eydie). She is predeceased by her loving husband of 50 years Earl Bonneau; parents Oscar and Marguerite Bryant; and siblings Ethelyn Dever, Roy Bryant, and Stanley Bryant.

A visitation was held Wednesday, Oct. 16, from 5-7 p.m., at Davis Memorial Chapel. The Funeral Service will be Thursday, Oct. 17, at 11 a.m., at the United Methodist Church located at 10 Valley Street, Springfield, Vt. Entombment will follow at Pleasant View Cemetery, 37 North Depot Street, Ludlow, Vt.

Frances Webb, 1935-2024

CHESTER, Vt. – Frances Webb, 89, passed away peacefully at home on Sept. 30, 2024. She was born Frances Ahmann on April 9, 1935, on a small farm in Hartsburg, Mo., with three siblings. Sadly, both parents, Raymond and Martha Ahmann, were lost to cancer when Frances was just 13.

She graduated from a local junior college and moved to St. Louis, where she worked for Braniff Airlines. She transferred to their NYC base and enjoyed the late-1950s folk scene in Greenwich Village, and traveling. She switched to TWA, where she soon met and married Robert Webb. They had two sons and moved to Brookfield, Conn., where they enjoyed the beauty of Candlewood Lake, swimming, and waterskiing. The family would often travel to southern Vermont on winter weekends to ski, and so after a divorce, Frances took her two sons and moved to Chester, Vt.

Frances worked for several years at the well-known Chester Inn, playing tennis and skiing with the boys. She eventually started her own successful business, Cuddly Critters, on Main Street in Ludlow, and ran it for 20 years. Along the way



Frances Webb, 1935-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

she developed an interest in hand drumming, and astronomy through the Chester-based SoVerA group.

After retirement, she became more involved with the Fletcher Farm Community Garden in Ludlow, and tended two plots there for many years. A music lover, she liked attending the summer music concert series in Chester and surrounding towns, and occasionally well-known names like B.B. King, Tina Turner, and most recently, Marty Stuart.

She is survived by her two sons Mark of Chester, and Matt and his wife Mary Ann of Danby, their two sons Brennan and Christian, her sister Joyce Allan of Hartsburg, Mo., and many nieces and nephews.

Per her wishes, there will be no services.

Christine Carvage, 1966-2024

CHESTER, Vt. – Christine Carvage, born June 2, 1966, at Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, Vt., passed away peacefully on Sept. 30, 2024, at the Jack Byrne Center, with her family by her side. This date holds special significance, as it was also her beloved Grandma Bailey's birthday, highlighting the deep connection they shared.

Christine's compassion and kindness defined her life. She always put others first, offering care and support to everyone around her. She was a loving mother, daughter, sister, and friend, who cherished her family above all. Christine is survived by her parents Roxanne and Donald Carvage of Chester, Vt.; her brother Scott Carvage (Natalie) of Air, Mass.; and her children Todd McNeill (Amie) of Springfield, Vt., Zach McNeill of Claremont, N.H., and Jazmin McNeill of Springfield, Vt. She was a proud grandmother to Janiyah and Charlie.

Christine was preceded in death by her grandparents Norma and Carlin Bailey, and Mildred and Ralph Carvage; as well as her children's father Harold McNeill; cousins Kristin Bailey and Shelley Bailey; and uncle Carl Bailey. She leaves behind many cherished relatives, including her aunt Ginny (Jeff) Mer-



Christine Carvage, 1966-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

rill; aunt Pauline Bailey; uncle Michael (Casey) Bailey; uncle Dennis (Jody) Bailey; niece Carolee (Zach) Sutton; and cousins Suzie (Lance) Scorse, Jon Bobar, Erica (Mark) DiPierro, Dylan Bailey, Olivia (Alp) Sitahigil, Aimee Bailey, Denise Roberts, Joshua Bailey, and Emily Kendall.

Christine had a love for simple joys; playing bingo with her mom, enjoying Gill's grinders in Rutland, and celebrating her favorite holiday, Christmas. Her favorite color was purple, and her family meant the world to her.

A Celebration of her Life will be held on Oct. 27, 2024, from 2-4 p.m., at American Legion Post 67, in Chester, Vt. A private burial will take place at a later date. In memory of her giving spirit, donations can be made in her honor to the Chester Andover Family Center.

Jerry D. Szawerda, 1952-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Jerry D. Szawerda, 71, of Springfield, Vt., formerly of Meriden, Conn., passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on Friday, Oct. 4, 2024. He was the loving husband of Robin (Pelletier) Szawerda.

Jerry was born Dec. 1, 1952, son of the late Herman and Arlene (Dumont) Szawerda. A proud U.S. Air Force veteran, Jerry served his country with honor before embarking on a successful 40-year career in the restaurant industry. He was the owner of the Ebb Tide in Wallingford, Conn., and more recently, 56 Main Street in Springfield, Vt. Known for his warmth and humor, he created lasting connections with his customers and community.

After retiring five years ago, Jerry found joy in driving the school bus for students in Chester and Cavendish, Vt. What initially began as a need for drivers soon turned into a role he genuinely enjoyed, taking great pride in ensuring that students arrived at school and returned home safely each day.

Jerry had a unique way of



Jerry Szawerda, 1952-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

making those around him smile, often with a well-timed joke or a lighthearted story. He will be remembered for his kind heart, and the laughter he brought into the lives of his friends and family.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children Amy Jones and her husband Ross, and Abby Marcantonio and her husband Blake; his grandchildren Lily, Noah, Kade, and Ava; his brothers Lance and Richard; and sisters Susanne Service and Nancy Bedell. He was predeceased by his brothers Mark and Thomas.

Funeral services and interment in the Connecticut State Veterans' Cemetery were held in Connecticut.

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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: Subject to space. SEE PAGE 6.

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LEGAL NOTICES

OCT. 17 –
LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Academy Museum's Annual Dinner will be held on Oct. 17, at 6 p.m., at the Church of the Annunciation, 7 Depot Street in Ludlow. Come join us for a fun-filled evening, and bring a dish to share.

OCT. 18-19 –
CHESTER, Vt. – The annual Warm Hands Warm Hearts Clothing Drive will be held on Friday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 19, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Chester Baptist Church, on Main Street in Chester, Vt. We will take your clean, useable clothing of all sizes, and display it for two days of free shopping. We also will take blankets, quilts, linens, pillows, sweaters, pants, shirts, etc. For more information, or to schedule a dropoff of donated items at the church, contact Carla at 802-376-4822 or fae12rae@gmail.com.

OCT. 19 –
S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The South Londonderry Free Library invites kids of all ages to join art teacher Casey Junker Bailey for an art workshop on Saturday, Oct. 19, at 10:30 a.m. In addition to their fabulous artwork, children will bring home a free book thanks to a generous grant from the Stratton Foundation. For more information, contact the library at 802-824-3371.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – River Valley Animal Protection League will be having a Poker Walk on

Saturday, Oct. 19, from 2-4 p.m. Starts at the Silsby Library courtyard. A donation enters you for a chance to win a fabulous prize basket. All participants are eligible for additional prizes. For more information, call 603-826-3061.

OCT. 20 –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Sunday, Oct. 20, the Springfield Art Gym, 335 River Street, Suite 2, will hold a haunted house building workshop for children, from 2-4 p.m. For more information on the workshop or how to sign up, visit www.facebook.com/springfieldartgym. Space is limited for this workshop.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Historical Society's October program will be held at the North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Road (Route 12A), on Sunday, Oct. 20, at 2 p.m. Please join us to learn more about this historic church.

OCT. 25 –
CLAREMONT, N.H. – Come enjoy a social dance with a Roaring '20s theme at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Friday, Oct. 25, from 7-9 p.m. Dress in period costume for extra fun. Dance, or just listen to live music by Gerry Grimo and the East Bay Dance Combo, with added entertainment by his vocalist. This is the last social dance of the season. Open to the public, small cover charge per person. Bring a friend or make new friends.

BYOB, snacks provided. For more information, call the senior center at 603-543-5998.

OCT. 26 –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Sound Investment will be performing classic rock and modern country music on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 7:30-10:30 p.m., at VFW Post 771, 191 River Street. This performance is open to the public. For more information, call 802-885-6008.

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.

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. Watch for the "Open" flag.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness Airport in Springfield. The Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force tasked with the mission of supporting America's communities with emergency response,

diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. Cadets as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of volunteers.

MONDAYS –
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.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Overeaters Anonymous 12-Step Recovery Program is Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension in Bellows Falls. The program is free. For more information go to www.oa.org.

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

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

WEDNESDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Knitting with Friends at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common,

Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Knitting Together, every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m., at Village Square Booksellers, knitting hats and mittens for our school kids. We provide yarn, some direction, and an enjoyable visit. Acrylic yarn donations are always welcome. For more information, contact Caroline at 802-463-4653.

THURSDAYS –
TYSON, Vt. – The Tyson Ladies Aid Library Association meets the first Thursday of each month, typically at the Tyson Library. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and meetings start at noon. New potential members are always welcome. Please call Janine Norman at 802-228-8764 for more information or to verify meeting location.

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Support group for parents of pregnancy and infant loss on the first Thursday of the month, from 6-7 p.m., at Springfield Area Parent Child Center, 6 Main Street in North Springfield. For details or to register, email dominiquer@sapcc-vt.org or call 802-886-5242 ext. 258.

WALPOLE, N.H. – Alcoholics Anonymous women's meeting, a 12-step recovery program for women who have a desire to stop drinking, is happening every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of Westminster and Elm streets in Walpole, N.H.

For more information, call Viva at 802-732-8330.

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

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

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

SATURDAYS –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center offers Springfield residents the opportunity to come for a free swim every Saturday, from 1-3 p.m. Participants may need to show proof of Springfield residency. For more information, call 802-885-2568, email info@edgarmay.org, or visit www.edgarmay.org.

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

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

Living Hope Assembly of God, 582 Rockingham Rd.
Pastor Brenda Farkas welcomes all to Sunday worship at 10 a.m., the message at 10:30 a.m. with Children's Church for ages 3-7, and fellowship. Live streaming available at 10:30 a.m. at Living Hope Fellowship Facebook page, Living Hope Fellowship Youtube, www.sapatv.org, and www.fact8tv.com.

TOWN OF WESTON ROAD CREW

The Town of Weston seeks to add full-time and part-time, year-round member to our Road Crew. Candidates are required to hold a VT Driver's License and a valid CDL and participate in drug/alcohol testing.

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides final notice of its decision to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for an action located in a floodplain. Funding would be provided through Vermont Emergency Management to the Town of Chester to stabilize the river embankment along two sections of VT Route 35.

The action is located along VT Route 35 in Chester, VT. The actions which would affect the floodplain consist of the construction of two culvert outfalls and the stabilization of two sections of the embankment between the roadway and the South Branch Williams River. Culvert outfalls would convey stormwater from the west side of the road into the river through 2-foot-diameter culverts, and would include 10-foot by 12-foot stone splash aprons. Each section of stabilized embankments would be filled with stone along 220 linear feet of the riverbank. Stone fill would be planted with live stakes of native vegetation.

The project is within a mapped special flood hazard area. The action is expected to strengthen the integrity of the embankments, which would reduce, but not eliminate, the flood risks to the embankment and roadway. The project is also expected to have minor beneficial effects on the natural functions of the floodplain by slowing floodwater and improving the quality of the habitat for wildlife. A map of the area of available upon request.

The project must be in a floodplain because the riverbank and culvert outfalls are functionally dependent on their location within the floodplain. The "No Action" alternative was considered and dismissed because it fails to reduce the risk of flood damage to the roadway and foregoes the opportunity to restore the beneficial functions of the floodplain. Grant conditions will also require compliance with all federal, state and local laws, including coordination with the local floodplain administrator.

Map requests and comments about this project and potential floodplain impacts should be submitted within 15 days of the date of this publication to:

Alexander Miller, Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Cambridge, MA
Alexander.Miller@fema.dhs.gov; (202) 746-6856

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.

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.calvarylovesspringfield.com.

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

TOWN OF ATHENS, VERMONT Equipment Operator / Truck Driver

The Town of Athens, Vermont is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Equipment Operator / Truck Driver. Job duties include snow plowing, salting and sanding in the winter months and general highway maintenance and construction work in the other months. The employee must be able to perform general labor duties and minor repairs and maintenance of highway equipment. The ability to communicate in a courteous manner to coworkers and the general public is required. Must have a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL). The Town of Athens is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer and offers an excellent benefits package.

Applications are available at the Athens Town Office at 25 Brookline Rd., Athens, VT 05143, or can be downloaded at www.athensvt.com. Questions can be directed to the Town Clerk at townoffice@athensvt.gov or (802) 869-3370.

The town requests that interested applicants submit their materials by October 17, 2024. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN NH We're Hiring! Join Our Team Today!

Looking for a career with great Pay & Benefits? Look no further! Come work for the Town of Charlestown!

We're seeking motivated, passionate individuals to join our team. With competitive pay, excellent health and dental benefits, retirement plans, and more, this is more than just a job—it's your future!

Positions Available:
Water/Waste Water Licensed Superintendent
FT & PT Police Officers
Highway Dept. Driver/Equipment Operator/Laborer
Transfer Station Attendant
Cemetery Sexton

Don't miss out! Start your career with us today. **Apply now** and take the first step toward a brighter tomorrow!

For more information **Visit www.charlestown-nh.gov, click on Volunteer & Employment.**

Application available on the website or come in to the Town Office at 233 Main St. Charlestown NH

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.

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 westminstercongonline@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-lnc-1506511432980057.

TOWN OF ANDOVER ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing before the Zoning Board of Adjustment of Andover, Vermont will be held on **Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Andover Town Office to consider the following: **Application #6/26/24/9/16, Applicant/Owner:** Lauri Kalinen, **Property Location:** 2366 East Hill Rd., **Reason for hearing:** Application to request a minor subdivision of one existing parcel into two lots.

Dated at Andover, Vermont, this 8th day of October, 2024
Jonathan W. Stevens, Secretary, Andover Zoning Board of Adjustment

HELP WANTED TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD MAINTENANCE WORKER I

The Town of Springfield, VT is seeking a highly motivated individual to fill a full-time position within the Public Works Department. Desired candidate must have the ability to perform heavy manual labor and tasks requiring physical strength, coordination and dexterity. Strenuous physical effort is demanded in walking, bending, standing and lifting of heavy tools and materials. Often involves repetitive activities requiring limited skill and training. Requires use of equipment used on streets, water & sewer utilities when necessary, cemeteries and other Town properties. The MWI may be required to work independently on occasion. Requires an understanding of job safety and a valid motor vehicle operator's license. Pay Grade 11 (\$17.31 - \$19.35 per hour). This is a non-exempt union position with benefits consisting of Healthcare, (1) Personal Day, (13) Paid Time-Off Days, Short-Term Disability, Long-Term Disability & Life Insurance and an excellent Retirement Program. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 (tosh@vermontel.net). Applications may also be downloaded from the Town's website <https://springfieldvt.gov/office2.com/jobs>. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Springfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

OPINION

classifieds

CLEAN OUTS

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – EZ-Dump Enterprises is available for home/apartment/storage clean outs and disposal, and all other junk removal in the Windham and Windsor counties. Call 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

FIREWOOD

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Firewood in the Andover, Weston, Londonderry, Windham area. \$140 you cut & split, 1.5 ton Dump Truck load of 8-10 foot delivered,

cut last winter. Also cut & split, dry or green. Call 802-875-2646 evenings.

FOR SALE

CHESTER, Vt. – Crossbow for sale, brand new (Bear-Constrictor Pro). Won in raffle. List price

\$740, will sell for \$500 or best offer. Call 860-558-1024.

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW, Vt. – DCI Concepts is now hiring experienced lead and general carpenters. Call 802-461-3573.

to Vermont, buying sports cards and memorabilia. Call 203-767-2407.

PLANT SALE

WINDHAM, Vt. – Looking to plant more native species next year? The Fourth Corner Foundation in Windham is offering a presale for native plants. Now through October 30, a listing of over 40 native plant species are available for pick up in May

2025. To order visit their website at www.thefourthcornerfoundation.org. Pricing is based off a wholesale structure to make them highly affordable. Proceeds will go towards a 2026 donated native plant installation for a local organization. If you know an organization that would benefit from a garden installation or have any questions about the sale, please email Kate Fellows at kate@4cfoundation.org.



Dear Editor,

As we enter the last weeks of this election cycle, it is important to recognize the characteristics that are most critical in a candidate – integrity, honesty, transparency, and a genuine desire to be sensitive to and to understand the needs of the people of Vermont. There can be no ulterior or self-serving motives which would affect how that person votes on issues, no matter that person's personal beliefs or religious affiliations, and above all, they should be immune from the influences of outside lobbyists.

served as a Windsor-6 representative prior to that. Joe as the Hartford town treasurer and a proven community leader, with extensive business management experience, who is dedicated to a Windsor County where everyone can thrive.

All three have a vision for moving us forward in the 21st century, to be sure that Vermont remains a viable place for young people to live and start families, while also supporting the needs of older Vermonters,

attracting new businesses for expanded employment opportunities, developing affordable housing options which will encourage growth, and being sure that everyone is treated with compassion and respect – they are the problem solvers and leaders that we need now. Please join me in supporting Alison, Becca, and Joe this year.

Paid for by Sally Laurent Chair, Windsor County Democratic Committee

WE'RE HIRING!

JOIN OUR TEAM

The Bellows Falls C.C. Clubhouse Manager

BFCC is currently recruiting for a clubhouse manager for the 2025 season & beyond! This is a seasonal salaried position generally April to early-December. If you have experience in the hospitality industry, knowledge of golf, customer service & proven ability to lead & support a team you may be the person BFCC is looking for!

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter & resume to bfcctherock@gmail.com or mail to BFCC, P.O. Box 397, Bellows Falls, VT 05101. A complete job description is available upon request.

BFCC is an equal opportunity employer & welcomes candidates from all backgrounds to apply.

Town of Mount Holly Seeks Highway Maintenance Worker

The Town of Mount Holly seeks an experienced highway maintenance worker to join its road crew starting immediately. A valid CDL is required. The Town of Mount Holly offers competitive pay with starting pay ranging from \$21-\$24/hr and benefits including municipal group health and dental insurance, paid time off, and retirement pension plan (VMERS). A detailed description of the position and employment application can be found by visiting www.mounthollyvt.org and navigating to Announcements->Job Openings and Employment. Paper copies of the job description and application can also be picked up in person at the Mount Holly Town Office at 50 School Street in Mount Holly.

Interested candidates should submit questions and letters of application to the Mount Holly Select Board at mountholly-selectboard@gmail.com or can mail letters to Mount Holly Select Board at PO Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758. Applications can also be hand-delivered to the Town Office.

PUBLIC NOTICE Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation Solid Waste Management Program Ludlow Transfer Station

DRAFT CERTIFICATION

The public is hereby notified that the Agency of Natural Resources has developed a draft certification for recertification for the Ludlow Transfer Station in accordance with 10 V.S.A. Section 6601 et. seq. and the Vermont Solid Waste Management Rules. The facility is located off VT 100 South, in Ludlow, Vermont. The draft certification includes requirements for management of the facility for a ten year certification period.

A copy of the application and draft certification is available for public inspection during normal working hours at the office of the Solid Waste Management Program, located at 1 National Life Drive in Montpelier, Vermont and at the Ludlow Town Clerk's office.

Comments on the draft certification will be accepted until November 1, 2024 and should be sent to:

Josh Kelly
Solid Waste Management Program
1 National Life Drive - Davis 1
Montpelier, VT 05620-3704
(802) 522-5897
josh.kelly@vermont.gov

Shawntae Webb
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editor@vermontjournal.com
calendar@vermontjournal.com

Paula Benson
Billing Department, Staff Writer
billing@vermontjournal.com

Corporate & Production Office:
8 High Street • Ludlow, VT 05149
802-228-3600

Journal, LLC is a member of the Vermont Press Association

Drilling and blasting will occur at the Allard Stone Quarry at 1589 Grafton Street, Chester, VT 05143, between Oct. 23-25, between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dennis Allard
802-254-0680

CLASSIFIEDS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

POLITICAL LETTERS

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

RON PATCH

Buying Antiques

Photographs
Military
Clocks
Guns
Coins

802-374-0119

OTHER

REGION – Mr. Baseball, coming

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT
Windsor Unit

PROBATE DIVISION
Docket No.: 24-PR-05597

In re ESTATE of: Karen Balch

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Karen Balch

late of Chester, Vermont

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:

9/18/24

Signature of Fiduciary

Christine Balch-Palmer

Executor/Administrator	Mailing Address
Christine Balch-Palmer	c/o Parker & Ankuda, PC, PO Box 519
Phone Number	City, State, Zip
802-885-2582	Springfield, VT 05156

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal

Publication Date: October 16, 2024

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Unit Probate Division
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Greene
Woodstock, VT 05091

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

From: Town of Plymouth
68 Town Office Road
Plymouth, Vermont 05056

Attention: Angela Kissell

Date: October 14, 2024

The Town of Plymouth is participating in the Fiscal Year 2023 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program which provides funding to purchase equipment and services critical to protecting the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire related hazards that would not otherwise have adequate funding.

Equipment & Services

Bid/Proposal should include materials, equipment, and labor to complete the following work:

- 24 SCBA units SHALL consist of Harness/backpack, Face piece and 2 – 30-minute 4500psi cylinder. SCOTT 2018 X3 Pro 4.5 with QC regulator and Snap change cylinder or equivalent.
- RIT pack SHALL consist of a carrying case, regulator, face piece and 60-minute 4500psi cylinder.
- Compressor SHALL be Bauer Legacy 13-E1 13 SCFM 230VAC/1-phase with CO monitor or equivalent
- SHALL be Bauer CFS5.5-2S fill station or equivalent.
- Cascade system. SHALL be American Airworks 6000psi UN cylinder cascade system with 4-6000psi UN cylinders and corresponding hardware or equivalent.
- Includes delivery, installation, must be able to service on site, provide certificate of insurance, warranty (parts and labor), flow testing before delivery, In service training, quantitative fit test for the face piece.

Please find the detailed RFP outlining the materials, equipment, and labor requirements 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 Plymouth Emergency Services** no later than 10 A.M. on Thursday, November 14, 2024. Bids will be opened on November 18, 2024, at the regular Select Board meeting.

The Town of Plymouth reserves the right to reject any or all Bids/Proposals. This solicitation in no way obligates the Town of Plymouth to award a contract. A valid Certificate of Insurance showing proof of the contractor's liability and Worker's Compensation coverage naming the Town of Plymouth as additional insured is required.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE, GRAFTON, VERMONT
Received for record Sept 17 20 24
at 8 o'clock 30 minutes M.
and recorded in Book 64 Page 153
Attest Kim Record
Town Clerk

WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Grafton, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall, 117 Main St. in Grafton, Vermont, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, between the hours of nine o'clock (9:00) in the forenoon (a.m.), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Article of business:

ARTICLE I

Shall general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed Nine Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$946,525), subject to reduction by the application of federal and state grants-in-aid, and reserve funds for the purpose of the reconstruction of bridge #B20 on Route 121 East, the estimated cost of such improvements being Nine Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$946,525)?

The legal voters of the Town of Grafton are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said special meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

The legal voters of the Town of Grafton are further notified that an informational meeting will be held on Monday, October 28, 2024, at six o'clock (6:00 p.m.) in the evening, at the Town Hall, 117 Main St. in Grafton, Vermont in Grafton for the purpose of discussing the proposition.

Adopted and approved at a regular meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Grafton duly called, noticed and held on September 16, 2024. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Town of Grafton on September 16, 2024.

ATTEST:

Kimberly Record
Kimberly Record
Town Clerk

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
Selectboard

arts & entertainment

Mindy Fisher Solo Show at Canal Street Gallery —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — Canal Street Art Gallery presents the Mindy Fisher “Lost Creatures from the Atomic Volcano” show, open Oct. 18 – Dec. 14. Join the gallery for Third Friday Gallery Night, Oct. 18, in historic downtown Bellows Falls, Vt., from 5-7 p.m., for an opening reception for the artist. All gallery events are free and open to the public; for wheelchair accessibility, call 802-289-0104.

“Prepare to be entranced,

dear viewer, as you venture into the colorful and hypnotic realms of ‘Lost Creatures from the Atomic Volcano,’” says Fisher of the show. Canal Street Art Gallery invites the public to experience this brain-tingling collection of abstract paintings as the artist guides the viewer on a journey through a mysterious world of marvelous mayhem.

Fisher asks, “What would happen if an undiscovered megavolcano suddenly erupted, spewing uranium-poisoned lava and evaporating almost all life on earth? Without the interference of humankind and minimal traces of surviving technology, what would emerge from the radiated ashes?” Fisher imagines the astonishing possibilities with her super saturated gouache paints. A supporting cast of oil pastels, spray paint, and dye deliver surprises throughout the canvases. Abstract forms spontaneously evolve into a boundless array of plant life and alien-like creatures battling their way into existence. Oozing scenes depicting vast, unearthly landscapes and microscopic lenses. Visitors are encouraged to record their discoveries in the logbook, and to take home a lost creature from

the unearthed pile of affordable sketches, or create their own at the public art-making station.

Fisher was born and raised in southern New Hampshire. In 1998, she moved to Chicago to study set design for theater at Columbia College. She lived in Chicago for 14 years, and focused on painting, cartooning, and exploring animation. She taught youth cartooning and sewing at Right Brained Studio in Oak Park, Ill. She now lives in Vermont, and works out of her studio in Bellows Falls. Fisher has shown work in Chicago, Ill.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Lafayette, La.; Portland, Ore.; Keene, N.H.; New York City; and Clifton Springs, N.Y.; as well as many towns in Vermont, and has sold work to collectors around the globe.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street in historic downtown Bellows Falls, Vt. For more information about the Mindy Fisher “Lost Creatures from the Atomic Volcano” show, go to www.canalstreetart-gallery.com, call Mike at 802-289-0104, or email artinfo@canalstreetart-gallery.com.

Watercolors by Brad Dunbar at Project 9 Gallery

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — The Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP) is pleased to exhibit watercolors created by local artist Brad Dunbar at Project Space 9 in Bellows Falls. The work captures still lifes, landscapes, and birds.

Dunbar, a native Vermonter, was raised in Springfield, and his education in the public school system introduced him to ceramics, and sketching and charcoal drawing later in college.

In the 1970s he was able to study with Les Sheehan in Saxtons River, and after retirement he has had more time to explore the watercolor medium and, in his words, has “always preferred the appearance of watercolor and the relationship between paper and pigment.”

The Project 9 Gallery space is a public gallery in the lobby of the Exner Block, located at 9 Canal Street in downtown Bellows Falls.

An opening is planned for Friday, Oct. 18, from 5-7

p.m. The exhibit will run Oct. 18 – Dec. 31. The public is encouraged to attend.

Project Space 9 is wheelchair accessible; call in advance to make arrangements. For more information, please contact RAMP at 802-463-3252, or ramp@sover.net.

RAMP acknowledges the Vermont Arts Council, The National Endowment for the Arts, Chroma, The Windham Foundation, and Stewart Property Management for helping to support its mission.

Canal Street Art Gallery grows with eight artist studios

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — Canal Street Art Gallery presents The Working Artist Program, providing local artists with a self-curated exhibition and work space within a gallery setting. The gallery is pleased to announce the expansion of this program from its current number of three artists, to a total number of eight artist studios. The program offers visitors a unique and personal experience by introducing them directly to artists and their artworks. Par-

ticipating artists have the opportunity to provide the community with free public events and private talks, lectures, demonstrations, and classes.

The eight studios comprising the Working Artist Program range in size from 28 square feet to 77 square feet, each with 12-24 linear feet of wall space. Artists provide their own studio furniture, tools, and supplies. This makes for a range of affordable monthly exhibition fees, all with flexible predetermined lengths of time.

Customers may purchase

any artwork in the gallery during open hours. Artists processing their own sales pay no commission to the gallery.

Beginning Nov. 15, the gallery will be open to the public Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Bellows Falls Third Friday Nights, 6-8 p.m.; and Vermont Open Studio Weekends in the spring and fall. Working artists will staff the gallery each with publicized hours.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street, in Bellows Falls, Vt.

American Legion Post #37
42 Rockingham St. Bellows Falls, VT 802-463-9700

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER
5:30 PM TO 7:00 PM
Oct. 18, 2024

BAKED HADDOCK
Rice Pilaf, Vegetable, Salad, Roll w/ Butter, and Dessert

Hosted by the American Legion

\$12.00/person
Reservations until 6:00 PM

Cmdr. Pete Squires
PR Smokey Aumand

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Senior Citizen Discount
5 Mins from Exit 5, I-91 • Westminster, VT
Westminster Heights Rd. to Orchard Hill Rd. Follow Signs
Open Daily 9am - 5pm

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

King Crossword Answers
Solution time: 22 mins.

R	A	P	L	A	I	L	A	C	B	S			
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F	A	C	E	C	R	E	A	M	E	N	D		
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A	L	A		A	R	E	T	E		S	L	O	
Y	A	M		R	A	K	E	D		P	L	Y	

Windham Harvest Supper and Square Dance

WINDHAM, Vt. — Windham’s annual Harvest Supper and Square Dance returns for the first time since the Covid shutdowns. The feast begins on Saturday, Oct. 26, at 4 p.m., at the historic Windham Meeting House, 26 Har-

rington Road, Windham, Vt., on the corner of Windham Hill Road. Look for the tall white steeple.

The traditional dinner is hosted and prepared by the Windham Community Organization (WCO). We will be serving ham,

butternut squash, baked beans, scalloped potatoes (plus a gluten-free version), a vegetarian Mexican cornbread casserole, salad, sweet breads, rolls, and assorted homemade pies and desserts. The cost is discounted for children 12 and under, with a family rate available.

After dessert, Sally Newton will be calling the moves for an incredibly lively square dance.

She will be accompanied by talented local musicians, many of whom are her relatives. Newton is excellent at explaining the dance moves and creating a fun atmosphere, so don’t be bashful. Donations are appreciated for our musicians and for square dance only. All proceeds benefit Windham area residents through WCO. Come on out for the last big fling before winter.

KIDS HARVEST HALLOWEEN PARTY!

AMERICAN LEGION POST #37 ROCKINGHAM ST. BELLOWS FALLS

SATURDAY OCT. 26 1 - 3 PM

NOT SCARY!

FOR ALL LOCAL CHILDREN OF THE COMMUNITY 10 AND UNDER

KID FRIENDLY - CANDY - LIGHT SNACKS

PUMPKINS - WEAR A COSTUME / NOT REQUIRED

SMOKESHIRE DESIGN
INSPIRED DESIGN TO SHARE & EXPERIENCE

Artisan Festival
October 19th * 4-7 pm
Food Truck * Live Music
Free Refreshments
Special Artist Debut
Live Demos * Kids Crafts

Please join us! 3630 Rte 103N Chester smokeshiredesign.com

30 Day Accountability Coach

TOM SALMON CPA, MA
Sign up for a Dry Alcohol Free 30 Day Challenge for clarifying goals, finances, and healthy living. Receive accountability, guidance, and mentorship. Free yourself and start taking the productive actions towards the future you wish to create.

No fee required. A donation of any amount to a local cause or organization suggested.

Call or text 802-535-1555 or go to TheFlatTable.com (04/09/25 - 26)

Art Crafts Gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT
Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops
68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111
OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. til 7

Open Wall: *Glistening Wonders*
Drop off work 10/9 to 10/11

Northwest Passage - Photography Show
by Gene Parulis until 10/30

Exhibit/Sale- *Moonlight in Vermont*
Handpainted Silk Scarves by Terri Flowers until 10/31

Register for Workshops & Shop Online
www.galleryvault.org

Pine Needle Christmas Ornament with Irene Dizes
10/19 from 11-4 \$78.

Painting the Vibrant Colors of Fall with Rob O’Brien
11/2 from 9:30-4 \$85

Raku Pottery with Andrew Berends
11/2 & 11/9 \$275. includes materials
(10/16/24 - TFN - 13)

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Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites!
(11/06/24 - 13)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC
Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday 1pm-6pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm. (08/13/25 - TFN - 52)

Electrician

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kjelectric63@gmail.com
Chester, VT
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(01/29/25 - 52)

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MOORE MASONRY
Fireplaces, chimneys and liners, chimney sweeps, patios, walls, steps, restoration and repairs. Fully insured, free estimates. Contact Gary Moore at 802-824-5710 mooremasonry802@gmail.com. (12/04/24 - 26)

Tools

\$\$ CASH PAID FOR OLD TOOLS \$\$
PLANES, AXES, STANLEY ITEMS, ETC.
802-579-5891
(12/18/24)

arts & entertainment

Raku pottery workshop through the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is excited to offer a raku pottery workshop with Andrew Berends on two consecutive Saturdays, Nov. 2 and Nov. 9, from 1-5 p.m. each day. Register by Saturday, Oct. 26.

Berends will be teaching the Japanese firing technique known as raku. Raku is a 16th-century technique developed in Japan for making tea ceremony ware. It has been developed in this country to produce really interesting pottery. The firings take about an hour, and you get a finished piece at the end. Raku is a technique where pots are fired to 1,840 degrees, pulled out of the hot kiln, and manipulated with sawdust and water to change the look of the glazes. The glazes can be metallic, and/or have a crackle effect. We will also

fire pots with a technique known as “horsehair” raku, which creates designs on the clay.

The class will include wheel throwing, slab making, as well as extruding instruction. The first day will include making all types of clay work, and the second day will be glazing and firing all the pots in the raku tradition. Emphasis will be on being creative, and learning the basics of pottery, including making the work, glazing, as well as firing. The class is geared towards teens through adults, and limited to five students.

Berends has been a master potter for over 30 years, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, as well as a Master of Fine Arts from Montana State University. Upon moving to Vermont

in 1988, he became a professional production/art potter, and has exhibited internationally, as well as being represented by over 180 galleries nationally.

The cost of the workshop is discounted for gallery members, and includes 25 pounds of clay, glazes, and firing costs in a gas-fired kiln. Wear old clothing, and bring pottery tools if you have them. Directions to Andrew’s studio in Springfield will be given at registration.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, visit www.galleryvault.org, or stop by the gallery. Gallery at the VAULT is handicap accessible.

Play Every Town comes to Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Sunday, Oct. 20, at 3 p.m., composer and pianist David Feurzeig will play at the First Congregational Church of Springfield, 77 Main Street, as part of his Play Every Town series of concerts.

In May 2022, Feurzeig embarked on Play Every Town, 252 free concerts in each of Vermont’s 252 towns, to confront climate change through the power of community and music. With this project, Feurzeig will become the first musician to perform in every Vermont municipality. He is traveling in his solar-charged electric vehicle, offering free concerts to bring attention to the interrelated issues of climate and community.

“I want to support Vermont’s local communities with live performance in village centers and downtowns, while fulfilling UVM’s mission

to serve as a resource for the whole state,” says Feurzeig, a professor of music at UVM.

Each program is locally tailored. In Springfield, Feurzeig will play music by the child Mozart from 1761, the year Springfield was chartered, and his beloved variations on “Tinkle Twinkle” from the year the Congregational Church was founded, while a selection of Chopin mazurkas from 1833 mark the year the current church building was completed. In 1954, U.S. Sen. Ralph Flanders of Springfield famously asked Joseph McCarthy, “Have you no decency?” In honor of this signal moment in turning the tide of McCarthyism, Feurzeig will play Errol Garner’s 1954 classic “Misty.”

Springfield’s Kyle Washburn, a former student of Feurzeig at UVM, will join him for a rendition of Bach’s “Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring,” while Chloé Husser will

sing Bill Withers’ “Lean On Me,” released in 1972, the year the church’s Yamaha grand was manufactured. Like every concert in the project, this one will include its own unique sonata by Domenico Scarlatti, “Sonata no. 66,” for this 66th concert in the project.

Admission is free, with voluntary donations going to the Black River Action Team for their ongoing river cleanup work and work on flood resilience and promoting the planting of lots of native shrubs, trees, grasses, and flowering plants to help grow the soil so it can better absorb storm water. The bonus is all the shade and cooling of the microclimate wherever the vegetation is planted, replacing hard, hot surfaces where feasible.

Follow Feurzeig on his journey on Instagram, find up-to-date events for your town via Facebook, or visit the website at www.playeverytown.com.

Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, and San Miguel Fraser

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present an evening of traditional and contemporary Scottish and fiddle music by duos Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, and San Miguel Fraser (Galen Fraser and Maria San Miguel) on Sunday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m., at Next Stage.

The musical partnership between consummate performer Alasdair Fraser, “the Michael Jordan of Scottish fiddling,” and brilliant Californian cellist Natalie Haas spans the full spectrum between intimate chamber music and ecstatic dance energy. Over the last 16 years of creating a buzz at festivals and concert halls across the world, they have truly set the standard for fiddle and cello in traditional music. This seemingly unlikely pairing of instruments is the fulfillment of a longstanding musical dream for Fraser. His search eventually led him to find a cellist who could help return the cello to its historical role at the rhythmic heart of Scottish dance music, where it stood for hundreds of years before being relegated to the orchestra. Fraser and Haas blend a profound understanding of

the Scottish tradition with cutting-edge string explorations. In addition to performing, they both have motivated generations of string players through their teaching at fiddle camps across the globe.

Fraser has a concert and recording career spanning over 30 years. Haas has performed and recorded with a who’s who of the fiddle world, including Mark O’Connor, Natalie MacMaster, Irish supergroups Solas and Altan, Liz Carroll, Dirk Powell, Brittany Haas, Darol Anger, Jeremy Kittel, Hanneke Cassel, Laura Cortese, and many more.

San Miguel Fraser is a project bringing together Galen Fraser, a Berklee graduate and son of Alasdair Fraser, and Maria San Miguel, a native of Oviedo Conservatory with deep family roots in the traditions of her homeland. Together, they combine dynamic fiddling and string arrangements with the soaring, life-celebrating singing of San Miguel and the exciting, oh-so-sensitive cittern accompaniment of Galen. Surprises abound in this project, with

fresh compositions and startlingly touching and deeply thoughtful arrangements. San Miguel Fraser has performed at Celtic Connections, Festival de Ortigueira, Bellingham Celtic Festival, Bolao Folk, and at many other venues around the world.

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. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar.

Vermont Film Festival returns with “Funny Farm”

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Last winter, the Vermont Film Festival began with a speaker from the Vermont Humanities Council, and the showing of three films.

This fall, the celebration continues with three more films, two filmed in Vermont and one purported to take place there.

First up, on Oct. 24, is “Funny Farm,” filmed in Townsend and Grafton, Vt. Chevy Chase stars in this comedy about a cou-

ple who swap city life for the country, but their picturesque new hometown and country life turn out to be more than a little bit different from what they were expecting.

“Funny Farm” will be followed, on Nov. 14, by “Where the Rivers Flow North,” and on Dec. 12, by “White Christmas,” with Bing Crosby crooning the

title tune.

All films will be shown at the South Londonderry Depot, on Route 100, at 7 p.m. There will be no cost to attend; donations will be accepted and shared between the three sponsoring organizations, a consortium of the Friends of the West River Trail and the historical societies of Londonderry and Weston.



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fall home improvement

Fall home maintenance tips

REGION – Fall is here, and you know what that means – it's time to tackle those fall home maintenance tasks before winter hits. Checking the interior and exterior of your home can help you get ready for the changes in weather that will come, and help you discover any opportunities for home improvements.

Seasonal home maintenance can help keep your house in good order as the seasons change. Plus, it's important to make sure that features like a fireplace or heating system are ready to operate safely as colder

temperatures get ready to set in.

Outdoor fall home maintenance

Start by cleaning out your gutters and downspouts to make sure they are free of leaves and other debris, to avoid damage caused by clogged gutters. If you want to make this task easier each year, you can put a mesh cover on your gutters once they are clean to keep leaves from falling back in.

It's also a good idea to get a roof inspection in the fall, before snow falls. Check your roof for missing or loose shingles, as snow and

ice could cause water damage as they melt. While you're up there, make sure the metal flashing around any vents and/or chimneys aren't damaged. If you think there may be a potential leak, an inspector can help identify any issues.

You will also want to check your exterior walls and foundation for any cracks or gaps, as these could be places for small animals to burrow into your home. Gaps or cracks can also be areas for water and air to get into your home, so be sure to fix any bad spots before winter begins.

Indoor fall home main-

tenance

When was the last time you changed your furnace filter? If you don't remember, now is a great time to put in a new one. You should also consider having a professional come in to inspect your heating system, to make sure it runs at its peak performance all season long.

Don't forget about your fireplace. Make sure your chimney flue is clear, and that the overall fireplace is clean. A chimney sweep can help check for buildup in the chimney, as well as any damage that may need to be fixed.

While you're doing your



Fall home maintenance before winter.

PHOTO PROVIDED

fall home maintenance, be sure to test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Making sure these work and have new batteries can help you keep your family and your home safe.

Once you've completed your fall home maintenance tasks, be sure to sit back

and relax, because you've earned it. If you did find any major home repairs you need to make this fall, give me a call to talk about your financing options.

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

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Wreaths to support Brownsville IDC

BROWNSVILLE, Vt. – The theme for this year's Brownsville Independence Day Celebrations (IDC) was "Country Road, Take Me Home." Well, the 2024

IDC days are a fond memory in our rear-view mirrors, and the December holidays are a bit down the road ahead. Yet, here is an opportunity to check off a

gift or two while supporting the 2025 Independence Day Celebrations at the same time.

Back by popular demand, the Brownsville Independence Day Celebrations committee is, once again, offering fresh evergreen holiday wreaths and decorations as a fundraising effort for the 2025 IDC event. And the prices,

which include shipping to your doorstep or to that of your gift recipient, remain the same as last year.

Go to www.giftitforward.com and use the Brownsville IDC code BROWNSVT001 to see the beautiful wreaths, swags, and tabletop centerpieces/trees available. You can now access products with this new flip booklet at www.heyzine.com/flip-book/25f2e8ba69.html#page/1.

Place your order online for your home decor or for gifts for friends and family, and then check off any number of items on your holiday list. Online orders can be placed until Dec. 6, and you can pick your shipping date starting the week of Nov. 11.

The volunteers of the Brownsville IDC and everyone who enjoys this free two-day celebration appreciate your support, and wish you a spectacular autumn and holiday season.

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fall home improvement

Button Up Vermont prepares homes for winter —

REGION – The best time to weatherize your home for a warm, comfortable, and more affordable winter is today. That’s the message from dozens of partners involved with the annual Button Up Vermont campaign, which launched on Oct. 1. Homes that have needed repairs to “button up” can now get up to an additional \$15,000 through a new home repair program that prepares homes to be weatherized.

Button Up Vermont encourages Vermonters to get their homes ready for winter with rebates and resources that make “but-

toning up” any home more accessible and affordable. This year, the campaign launches alongside a new home repair offer to address underlying issues in a home that need to be fixed before weatherization can happen. Up to \$15,000 for improvements is available to homeowners through the new home repair program.

The home repair program is available to low- or moderate-income homeowners planning to weatherize. All repair projects must be deemed necessary as part of a planned weatherization project in a home,

including manufactured homes. Homes served by Burlington Electric or Vermont Gas Systems are not eligible for the home repair offer.

Many home repairs are eligible, like roof repair, ventilation and ductwork, asbestos/vermiculite remediation, window repair/replacement, foundation repair, plumbing, siding/sheathing, and more. Any contractor can install or complete home repair measures, including members of the Efficiency Excellence Network of independent contractors, a list of whom can be found at www.encyvermont.com/find-contractor-retailer.

For full details, see www.encyvermont.com/rebates/list/home-repair.

After repairs, the next step to “button up” a home is a weatherization project. Efficiency Vermont’s Home Performance with Energy Star rebate offers 75% of project costs back,

up to \$9,500. Vermont Gas Systems also offers weatherization rebates. Income-eligible households can also get free weatherization from the state’s Weatherization Assistance Programs, which can be found at www.dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/weatherization.

Telltale signs a home has opportunities to button up include drafts even when the heat is on (a sign that cold air is leaking in and heat is leaking out), snow melting unevenly on a roof (indicating an attic in need of air sealing and insulation), and icicles or ice dams forming on a rooftop from escaping heat.

“Buttoning up is one of the best ways to make a home more comfortable year-round – and making essential home repairs is a great first step,” said Peter Walke, Efficiency Vermont’s managing director. “Once a home is ready, air sealing and insulating as part of a weatherization project means a warmer

home that uses less energy – and lower energy bills for years to come.”

Vermonters can join in and Button Up this fall in several ways.

Attend a Button Up event in your community. Community events can be found at www.buttonupvermont.org/events. Learn about reducing heat loss and trimming energy bills through energy fairs, webinars, and other opportunities. No events in your area? Sign up to host one at <https://www.buttonupvermont.org/partners>.

Not sure where to start? Try a free virtual home energy visit. An Efficiency Vermont energy expert can assess your home by video chat, and give you a personalized list of projects and improvements. Vermont Gas customers may also qualify for an energy assessment. To learn more, visit www.encyvermont.com/rebates/list/home-energy-visit.

Complete three DIY weatherization projects and get \$100 back at www.encyvermont.com/rebates/list/diy-weatherization. These do-it-yourself weatherization projects may not reduce your heating bills, but they can limit drafts and make your home more comfortable. Follow the DIY Weatherization Guide at www.encyvermont.com/blog/how-to/9-diy-projects-to-help-you-keep-warm-this-winter to start your buttoning up efforts.

As part of this year’s Button Up efforts, Efficiency Vermont is hosting “Weatherization Wednesday” webinars, offering weatherization tips and information about climate-friendly heating with heat pumps. Join a “Weatherization 101” webinar on Oct. 23, at 12 p.m., and/or join a “Heat Pumps 101” webinar on Oct. 30, at 12 p.m. Learn more and register at www.buttonupvermont.org.

CHS invasive plant workshop —



Japanese knotweed, a common invasive plant.

PHOTO PROVIDED

CAVENDISH, Vt. – When Japanese knotweed is mentioned, people often cringe, and tell tales of how it’s taken over parts of their yard and is impossible to kill. However, it’s long been part of traditional medicine in Asia for centuries, as a treatment for such ailments as inflammation, infections, skin burns, and, most recently, Lyme disease.

While knotweed was brought to the Americas in the 1800s as an ornamental plant, other plants that had medicinal properties were brought to the Americas by the colonists. In addition, the “seed trade” was big business, with middle- and upper-class landowners buying plants from around the world to study in their back yards.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, the Cavendish Historical Society (CHS) will host their third workshop on plants, this time focusing on the invasives. This talk will feature garlic mustard, plantain, barberry, eucalyptus, ragweed, and other plants that were introduced or traveled with settlers. We’ll be exploring plants that can do damage to existing ecosystems, yet also offer medicine.

The workshop will take place at the Cavendish Town Library, 573 Main Street, Proctorsville, starting at 2 p.m. Dr. Charis Boke, a member of the Dartmouth College faculty in anthropology, will once again be speaking. Boke is currently writing “Poison, Power, and Possibility: Building Relations with Medicinal Plants,” which will explore the poet-

ics, 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. 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.

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real estate

HOME Sweet HOME

Knowledge and preparation are key for first-time homebuyers —

REGION – Being a first-time homebuyer doesn't have to be an overwhelming experience. "A lot of clients come in with all these assumptions," said Michael Douthwaite, a mortgage loan officer with Zillow Home Loans.

"But it's not that complicated, especially if you have that educational moment on just what steps to expect," Douthwaite advises buyers to ask a lot of questions, and not to hesitate to request more information if something isn't clear.

An important factor to keep in mind when preparing to buy a home is that you cannot finance the down payment. Douthwaite explained, "Unless it's coming from a secured loan like a home equity loan, you can't take out a loan for the down payment. You can't

use a credit card, or anything like that."

The exception is borrowing money from a 401(k), but Douthwaite warns that there are "lots of rules to follow, and consequences for tapping those funds...be sure to talk to a tax advisor."

Additionally, there are several types of low-interest or forgivable loans and grants that are available for qualified first-time buyers.

One of the biggest challenges when purchasing a new home can be saving enough for a down payment. Twenty percent of the purchase price has long been considered the average down payment, but according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), the median down payment among homebuyers in 2023 was 15%. However, the lower the down payment,

the higher the loan amount, meaning higher monthly payments, and more interest paid over the course of the loan.

Douthwaite suggests buyers will want to get preapproved for a mortgage loan prior to starting their search. In competitive markets, preapproval is especially important. "We recommend having a conversation with financing, either at or before the first viewing, or right after the first viewing," noted Douthwaite.

Buyers can become discouraged if they don't find a home quickly, or if they miss out on a home they wanted, but Douthwaite wants to remind buyers that many lender preapprovals are good for 90 days. "You don't have to reapply again during that period. If one

home doesn't work out, you have our blessings to hit the ground running for the next one."

Part of the financial review process is to calculate an affordable monthly mortgage payment. Experts advise that a mortgage payment should be no more than one-third of your income. Utilizing online tools to estimate monthly costs or talking to a lending professional will help first-time buyers create a personalized budget. One such tool is BuyAbility, created by Zillow Home Loans to offer buyers an accurate, personalized estimate of the home price and monthly payments.

Data provided by Zillow Group.

Why it may be better to buy a home in the fall

REGION – Goodbye summer, and goodbye sizzling home prices. As the peak of summer homebuying reaches its end, fall homebuyers could expect to see lower home prices as we settle into autumn. If you've been waiting to buy, now could be the time to act.

A recent report from www.realtor.com found that, nationally, the best time to buy a home is during the first few weeks of October. For the first time since 2020, the Federal Reserve lowered interest rates by 0.50%, and mortgage rates may soon fall too. As mortgage rates trend down, we may see homebuyers who've been on the sidelines flooding the market. Not to mention, homeowners who have been waiting to trade

up jump into the buying game once rates get equal to or below what they are currently paying on interest.

Another benefit of fall homebuying could be falling home prices. Homes that have been sitting on the market all summer may experience price reductions in the fall. With winter creeping up, sellers are more motivated to negotiate if their home has been listed for a while.

Ultimately, the most important thing that makes fall a good time to buy a home is if doing so works for your budget. Knowing your mortgage options early on can help you make a stronger offer when the time comes. Contact me today to discuss your needs.

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

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The Readsboro Apartments are designed for individuals 62 years or older, handicapped/disabled of any age.

Rent is based on 30% of your monthly-adjusted income. Monthly rent includes heat, electric, water, sewer, snow/trash removal, and maintenance. Off-street parking and on-site mail delivery are available.

Income Limits Apply
On the Moover bus route

Call or write for more information
THM Property Management
129 Lincoln Ave.
Manchester Center, VT 05255
802-362-4663 or 802-367-5251
Hearing Impaired 1-800-545-1833 ext. 326

We do not discriminate against tenant applications on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, age, creed, gender identity, gender related characteristic or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling unit with one or more minor children or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, sexual orientation, marital status or disability.
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
THM is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 Knock

4 Boxer Ali

9 "60 Minutes" aier

12 Leading lady?

13 Edmonton player

14 2016 Olympics city

15 Moisturizer

17 Finale

18 Name

19 Buzzing insect

21 Neglect

24 Steerer's place

25 "So that's it!"

26 QB's goals

28 Nasal partitions

31 Lopsided win

33 Feeling down

35 Tank filler

36 Chef's garb

38 Up to

40 "Alice" waitress

41 Suffix with "techno"

43 Break fluid?

45 Sentence fragment

47 Overly

48 Wish otherwise

49 Famed Boston deserts

54 Carte lead-in

55 Mountain crest

56 — -mo

57 Orange tuber

58 Did yard work

59 Layer

DOWN

1 Game caller

2 Glam Gardner

3 Chest muscle

4 Short-horned grasshopper

5 Inflatable sleepers

6 Land in la mer

7 Extract via percolation

8 Fighting forces

9 Ineffectual type

10 Predicament

11 Pop

16 Sch. URL

17 euder

20 Staff symbol

21 TV explorer

22 Denny's rival

23 Baked potato topping

27 Used a chair

29 Conference leader?

30 Body lotion ingredient

32 — Bora (Afghan region)

34 Give orders

37 Daytona 500 acronym

39 Was foreboding

42 — firma

44 Dandy guy

45 Use a rosary

46 Luau dance

50 "A mouse!" acronym

51 "WWW" access enabler

52 Right angle

53 Tofu source

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