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Springfield to vote on firearms ordinance

BY PAULA BENSON
The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield voters are encouraged to attend a public informational hearing on Monday, Oct. 28, ahead of the Nov. 5 election. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m., in the Selectboard's Hall at 96 Main Street, for the purpose of discussing Article 1, which poses the question, "Shall the voters... disapprove of Ordinance 2024-0002 To Restrict Discharge of Firearms in Hartness Park as adopted by the selectboard on Aug. 12, 2024?"

The selectboard signed the ordinance at the behest of the Springfield Trails and Rural Economy Committee (ST&RE) as part of the town's overall effort to attract new businesses, residents, and visitors to Springfield. ST&RE has been working with town employees and volunteers to maintain and upgrade Hartness Park, recently adding new gates and a kiosk, and has actively been promoting park trails for recreational running, walking, and biking.

After a group of residents successfully petitioned to repeal the proposed ordinance, the selectboard was required to put the issue to a townwide vote.

ST&RE evolved from a

group of volunteers first assembled in 1990 to assist with building the Toonerville Trail. The group was instrumental in applying for grants to offset construction costs, and maintaining the trail once completed.

ST&RE member Bettina McCrady said the committee "took a step back" after about 10 years before deciding to resurrect the group in February 2021. ST&RE was officially established to "analyze, educate, promote, assist in planning... develop plans, [and] apply for grants" in support of Springfield's areas of natural, scenic, recreational, and/or historic interest.

Committee member John Bond wrote, "Having an in-town park, like Hartness Park, is a rare gift. An ordinance restricting firearm discharge within 500 feet of residential-zone dwellings already includes one-third of the park. Following a request from the ST&RE committee, the selectboard voted to cover the remaining area under that ordinance. We support this because of safety concerns with increased trail use. It also sends a message that this is a safe place for families, children, and pets."

At the Sept. 23 selectboard meeting, Ramona Emery and a group of town residents reported to the board that they were circu-

lating a petition to repeal the ordinance. Joining Emery were Don Shattuck and Kurt Merriman, who each strongly stated that hunting should continue to be permitted in the park, with Shattuck commenting, "There has been hunting at the park for 90 years without incident."

Merriman said he's been hunting in the park for 50 years, and "hunters know the area and know the rules. People that want to walk the park should be respectful of the hunting seasons, and hunters should be respectful of the walkers."

ST&RE Chairperson Jim Fog said the committee's intention was "to keep the distinction of parks and forests," and added that "Meeting Waters" near Route 5 was open for hunting. "Hartness Park is surrounded by residential neighborhoods on four of five sides," Fog pointed out, making it "more appropriate as an area for people who don't want to have firearms discharged around them."

The special vote is scheduled for Nov. 5 to coincide with the general election, and will take place from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., at the Riverside Middle School.

Springfield talks Wall Street one-way, Toonerville tunnel

BY PAULA BENSON
The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Monday, Oct. 14, the Springfield Selectboard held a public hearing to gather feedback from residents regarding the proposed ordinance change designating a portion of Wall Street as one-way.

Selectboard Vice Chair Michael Martin introduced the proposal, reminding everyone of why the idea was originally suggested. "The town began working on repairing the sidewalks along Wall Street, and it became clear that the road was not sufficient for two-way traffic," Martin stated. "As a result, a determination was made that the portion of Wall Street between Summer Street and Reed Street be designated as one-way. Public Works recommends that the one-way traffic on Wall Street go from Summer Street to Reed Street due to maintenance concerns."

The board also took the opportunity to correct some errors and omissions in the existing ordinance.

Board Chair Kristi Morris opened the hearing up to public comments, prompting Springfield resident Dan Keebler to tell the board that he has lived on that section of Wall Street since 1978. Keebler felt the change had

not been clearly attributed and was not supported by most residents, and cited a list of concerns. He wanted to hear how the one-way traffic proposal would impact the real estate value of the homes in that area. He asked how the switch will affect emergency services, delivery services, trash and snow removal services, and wondered why the town had not been called to vote on the question. Keebler concluded, "I ask that you do not include Wall Street in this ordinance."

Fellow Wall Street resident Tanya Kell spoke up to thank Keebler for being so "eloquent and thorough," and stated that she agreed with him 100%.

Kevin Malloy, another Wall Street homeowner, said he would be for the one-way traffic proposal for safety reasons, but also that he would be open to discussing other alternatives. He reported that the road in front of his house is very narrow, and he had seen many "close calls," especially involving larger vehicles.

Malloy further remarked, "I don't think enough outreach was done to the residents or property owners." He mentioned he was only attending the hearing because he'd heard about it from a neighbor.

Town manager Jeff Mo-

bus addressed the citizens' comments. "When this first started," Mobus said, "one of the neighbors was very concerned because she [lived] right in the middle of that narrow stretch." Mobus explained that in that area, the road is 15-16 feet wide, and the standard for the state is 11-12 feet per direction, plus 5 feet for sidewalks.

During the sidewalk repair project, a damaged railing was revealed, and the embankment and retaining wall were found to be crumbling and in need of restoration. Mobus explained that limiting the road to one-direction traffic allows for the space to make the needed repairs, increases safety, and would potentially save money for the town. "If the board and the residents want to keep it two lanes, that's fine," Mobus remarked. "[But] we will have fewer options to do the repairs to the sidewalk and the wall."

Morris thanked everyone for their participation, and said the board would take all points made into consideration moving forward.

The regular selectboard meeting commenced,

See **STREET** on Page 2

Discussions over local fire department merger

BY JOE MILLIKEN
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – In late August, at meeting of the Rockingham Fire Equipment Committee, both the Rockingham and Saxtons River fire departments presented a proposal that expressed their interest in merging into one department, as opposed to merging with the Bellows Falls department as to create one department. The committee includes the fire chiefs of the three departments: Rockingham Chief Kevin Kingsbury, Bellows Falls Chief Shaun McGinnis, and Saxtons River Chief Art Smith.

This all comes after a study conducted by AP Triton LLC, a Wyoming-based firm specializing in fire service, fire prevention, and emergency medical services, which recommended that the three local fire departments – Bellows Falls, Rockingham, and Saxtons River – merge into one district-wide fire department.

The Bellows Falls Village Fire Department serves the one square mile that makes up the village, has paid firefighters and chief, and houses a more updated facility and better equipment than the Rockingham and Saxtons River departments. Merging the three departments would allow for better distribution of resources and manpower.

Additionally, the Saxtons River fire station all but needs to be replaced,

which would mean a new fire station for the two departments would have to be built at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million.

In the Rockingham/Saxtons River proposal, it is stated that the merger of just the two departments would enhance the response of personnel and equipment to fire calls in both coverage areas, and would also solve Saxtons River's current manpower shortage.

"Any time you undertake a process that could impact organizations with over 200 years of service, it is a challenge," Bellows Falls town manager Scot Pickup said in a recent interview. "The three boards have made it clear that not only is there a potential to save taxpayer support to equipment and trucks, it is also a chance to look at training, response times, and other operational improvements."

Currently, taxpayers from all three municipalities pay for three separate departments, no matter where they live, and the town also has duplicate and unnecessary apparatus. Additionally, there is no municipality-run fire department currently in the Town of Rockingham. The Rockingham Volunteer Fire Department Inc. is a private corporation that receives funding from the town.

"The new proposal calls for a new, municipally-run fire and rescue department to serve the entire town of Rockingham," Bellows Falls Fire Chief Shaun McGinnis said in a recent interview. "Both Saxtons River and Bellows Falls would be asked to transfer ownership of all equipment to the new-

ly formed department.

"Both Saxtons River First Response Rescue and the Rockingham Volunteer Fire Department would be encouraged to apply and join the new department. This new proposal keeps all three stations open in the town, including a new station in Saxtons River, and no stations would be closed."

The AP Triton study indicated that the new department would offer better chances of quicker response times and standardized fire department operating procedures town-wide, which would make it safer for firefighters. It also indicated a cost savings of roughly \$150,000 per year, plus other equipment savings moving forward.

In another recent development, a number of Rockingham residents have been developing a petition that opposes the proposed merger of the fire departments. The petition was started by a longtime Rockingham resident, after a discussion about the possible merger with Rockingham Volunteer Fire Chief Kevin Kingsbury.

Their main concern over the merger is the number of miles between the Bellows Falls fire station and residents who live on the outskirts of Rockingham and other areas such as Bartonsville. They are not only concerned about the possible loss their fire station, but also their rescue squad, as well as the possibility of a tax increase.

The next Tri-board Meeting to further discuss the potential merger of the three fire stations is scheduled for Oct. 22.

40th Vermont Apple Festival & Craft Show a success

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The 40th annual Vermont Apple Festival & Craft Show, hosted by the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce, was a resounding success.

This year's event featured six vendor sections: The Gym, with the usual classic craft vendors; The Café, with specialty foods and other tasty finds; The Kids' Corner, sponsored by ServPro of Windham and Windsor, with indoor activities by the Springfield Town Library, Springfield Area Parent Child Center, Black River Innovation Campus, and the River Valley Technical Center computer sciences class; The Farmers Market, with the Springfield Farmers Market and others; The Home, Health, and Business Corridor, sponsored by Jerry Farnum State Farm Insurance, with flu and Covid shots through North Star Health, inflatable archery with the Boy Scouts, a Humvee with the Army

National Guard, and many other local businesses, organizations, and clubs; and The Upper Landing, with eight food trucks.

Activities overflowed into the fields, with face painting offered by the Springfield High School Spanish Exchange Program, and pumpkin painting hosted by the National Honor Society. We also had Troy Wunderle's Big Top Adventures, the Fastest Kid in Town Race, and a petting area with some very cute goats and more vendors. Out back of the parking lot we had a UTV obstacle course hosted by the sheriff's department for the kids to try their hand at driving.

The festival drew over 3,000 attendees, and featured more than 100 vendors. Other highlights included a caricature artist, balloon animals, and live music with performances from Bill Brink, Matt Merserve, Horse Nail Hill Duo, Johnny O, Paula Boyle, AliT, and The Milkhouse Heaters.

Children were thrilled by the balloon art from the Ballonatic, and a captivating acrobatic performance by Uplift Acrobatics between musical sets. Adults enjoyed the beer and wine garden, hosted by Black Rock Steakhouse. Southern Vermont Astronomy Group provided solar viewing activities, and Miss Vermont 2024 made a special appearance, meeting guests and serving as a judge for the apple pie contest.

The pie contest showcased pies baked by community members and students from the culinary program at the River Valley Technical Center, who also prepared pans of delicious apple crisp for us to sell. Meanwhile, the horticulture program pressed fresh apple cider, led by John Harmer. The chamber provided free apples for guests to enjoy as they browsed vendor booths, and also sold cider donuts and bags of apples from Wellwood Orchards.

The success of this year's

See **APPLE** on Page 2

INDEX

- Opinion/Health 4
- Obituaries/Services 5
- Calendar 6
- Legal Notices 6-7
- Classifieds 7
- Arts & Entertainment 8-9
- Real Estate Section 11

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BFUHS Elks September Student of the Month

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – It is a pleasure to announce that Nola Sciacca has been named the September Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS). Nola, a senior, is the daughter of John and Amy Sciacca of Westminster.

Nola, an extremely bright student, excels in academic analysis and logical thought. She can always be relied on to produce original and creative work. Nola works hard to develop her writing

skills in addition to learning an enormous amount of content. Tremendously passionate about learning, she is even more passionate about debating and discussing controversial topics. She is inquisitive, energetic, and always willing to offer her own insights into class activities as she adds a new dimension of depth and insight to class discussions.

Her tremendous enthusiasm and interest in life and the world make her a positive role model for oth-

ers. She is courteous and respectful to all, and works hard to include others in activities. Clearly interested in academics, on her own, Nola attended a school board meeting and spoke passionately in support of the Advanced Placement classes and how the curriculum had added value to her life.

She comes to school every day ready to learn and participates in a variety of activities. She has emerged as a leader within the school

community, and is well respected by her peers and the staff at BFUHS. Students gravitate toward this courteous and respected young woman. Working to give back, Nola has served as secretary and president of the Class of 2025 over her four years at BFUHS. In addition to this, she has been treasurer and a valued member of the Student Council.

Nola is looked upon as an honest and dedicated student who is nothing short of a pleasure to have in class.

One of the attributes that places Nola above her fellow students is the respect that others have for her. Whether it is the staff at BFUHS, her peers, or even parents in the stands at athletic competitions, she is revered as one of the school's finest. A model of the BFUHS Community Standards, Nola represents BFUHS and the community proudly and enthusiastically in school and at events that she attends and participates in.

Clearly deserving of rec-



Nola Sciacca.
PHOTO PROVIDED

ognition, BFUHS and the Elks are proud to have Nola represent us as a Student of the Month.

Scam and fraud awareness at Rockingham Library

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Wednesday, Oct. 30, at 6 p.m., AARP representative Alan Baker will present three ways to prevent scams and fraud at the Rockingham Free Public Library. Learn how to counter the

techniques that scammers use when they contact us, using phone, messages, and websites. Learn how to avoid identity theft and financial loss. Learn best practices for creating, storing, and entering your online credentials

safely. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, email annedempsey464@rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster Street.

Regional Priority Project process

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Regional Development Corporation (SRDC) is partnering with the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC) and area towns to develop the list of Priority Projects for state and federal fund eligibility.

The Priority Project process is going on in each region in the state, and the final product is provided to the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), who will share with other funders for consideration in mak-

ing decisions on grant programs.

Eligible projects must have an economic development nexus, and should demonstrate purpose and benefit to the region; be prepared to get underway, if funded; have principals who have demonstrated experience with similar projects; support identified community and regional economic and development goals; have a project budget which exists with identified sources and uses, and a demonstrated funding gap, and job creation and/or retention.

The Project Information

Form is available at www.springfielddevelopment.org and www.marcvt.org. Submissions should be made to either SRDC or MARC by Nov. 8.

The Project Information Forms will be evaluated according to the Scoring and Prioritization Matrix, which will also be posted on the organization's websites. The top ten projects will be submitted by the region to ACCD and posted on our websites.

For more information, please contact Bob Flint at bobf@springfielddevelopment.org or 802-885-3061.

STREET

From Page 1

and the first agenda item was presented by Adam Goudreau, VTrans project manager, asking the board for a decision on the realignment of the Toonerville Trail at Exit 7. VTrans had initially approached the board in May 2023 with several alternatives, and after some review, nar-

rowed that down to two. The first is a 250-foot-long tunnel constructed on the existing trail alignment, and the second would relocate the trail along U.S. Route 5 and Vermont Route 11, offset with a 5-foot esplanade, crossing below Interstate 91 at Bridge 28.

Goudreau outlined the project proposals, revisited previous alternatives, and after hearing from the board and several residents, the

decision to move forward with the tunnel was made unanimously.

Mobus took a moment to recommend the VT-Alert application. After a "significant water break at the intersection of Giddings Street and Route 106 caused the first 'boil water' order in many years," residents who subscribed to the app received an immediate notification. Vermonters may sign up for alerts at www.vermont.gov/vtalert.

The selectboard will meet again on Monday, Oct. 28.



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be possible without them contributing their time, skills, and equipment, and helping us move giant apple decorations in their trucks. Thank you to the Springfield Rotary and Springfield VFW Post 771 for helping with parking. And a big overall thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers, board members, staff, vendors, and attendees for making this event happen.

This year's sponsors included: Apple Barrel sponsors WCFR, HB Energy, and Springfield Hospital; Golden Apple sponsors VTEL, North Star Health,

Mascoma Bank, and Jerry Farnum State Farm; Red Apple sponsors SAPA TV, Springfield Co-op, Cota & Cota, One Credit Union, Springfield Rotary Club, Black River Coffee Bar, and ServPro of Windham and Windsor; Green Apple sponsors Claremont Savings Bank, Richards Group, Gallery at the VAULT, Wellwood Orchards, Springfield Housing Authority, Crown Point Country Club, and Imagetek; and Apple Seed sponsors Cannatrol, Springfield Regional Development, Lamb & McNaughton, and Primerica.

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Some apple cider stories

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

My introduction to gathering wild apples for profit began in the mid-1960s. Dad and I hunted every weekend for rabbits, squirrels, and partridge. These hunts took us across Weston, Mount Holly, and Shrewsbury.

In those days there were many abandoned farms, but by then most were just cellar holes. Apples were an excellent cash crop. Every farmer cultivated them. I have seen many ledger entries from the 1760s into the 1840s. Cider brandy was a hot commodity, and widely accepted as payment.

Many of these abandoned farms had a dozen or more old apple trees. As we looked for deer and bear sign under the trees, I noticed all the apples lying on the ground. It occurred to me that there might be a market for these apples. Sure enough, there was.

Dad always encouraged my business ventures. We carried in the Scout burlap bags and bushel baskets. When we were done hunting, I would fill bags or bas-

kets with apples. Dad always pitched in to help. Where to sell them was the question.

Nelson Kendall

Nelson Kendall had a cider press in his central barn entry. When I had gathered up a few hundred pounds of apples, Dad would drive me to see Nelson. Dad didn't interfere. Nelson and I made the deal. I always left with a little money and some cider for the family to enjoy.

One recent Sunday at Kendall church, the Kendall brothers told me about their father Nelson buying apples and pressing them. First the apples are ground and then pressed, under hydraulic pressure, to extract the juice. Some Weston boys brought Nelson apples for him to buy. Apples were weighed and bought by the pound.

The Weston boys added rocks to their bags of apples to increase the weight. You can imagine what would happen to the grinding mechanism when rocks were introduced. Many cider makers would have deservedly gone ballistic on the Weston boys. Nelson wasn't a violent person, but he was very firm when the boys returned with apples. He made them dump their

apples on the lawn and remove any rocks before he would buy them.

Bob Turco

Bob told me about his brother Mike and Jimmy Keith picking up apples along the road next to Marie Hill Farm. You may remember when there was a row of apple trees along the road at Marie Hill Farm. Bob said they sold their apples to Nelson and bought beer with their profit.

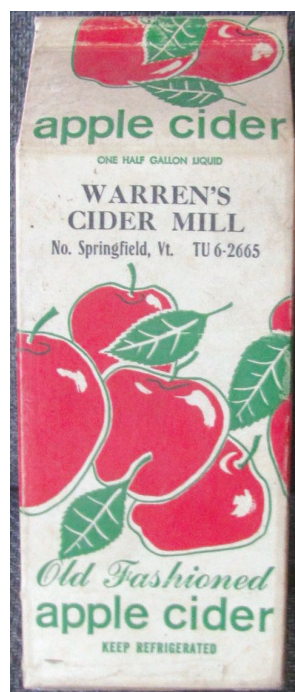
Wild apples

Wild apples are the key to the best cider, hard or sweet. These apples have not been sprayed with insecticides. They are smaller apples complete with warts. Warts will include worms insecticides would have killed in an apple orchard of today.

Today, a lot of cider is pasteurized before it hits your table. Cider from wild apples is a rarity today. This cider is not pasteurized, nor the apples washed before grinding. Orchard apples need to be washed before being ground to remove insecticides sprayed on them during the summer.

Ogden's cider mill in Hartland

When Nelson sold his press in the late 60s, I took



Cider carton from Warren's Cider Mill.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH



Willis Wood standing next to his press.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

Road is grinding and pressing apples. He makes and sells a lot of cider jelly.

Willis makes about a thousand gallons of drinking cider. His major product is cider jelly. To make cider jelly, Willis uses 30,000 gallons of cider. He boils his cider on the same arch he uses for maple syrup, although different pans. Willis says it's an 8-to-1 ratio. Eight gallons of cider will boil down to one gallon of cider jelly.

His cider press was built in 1882, and was run by water power. Today it uses an

electric motor. Watching the gears and ratchets mesh is interesting for someone like me. Willis presses three times a day, each press producing about 200 gallons.

He's open every day now until mid-November. He's located on the Weathersfield Center Road. Stop by and see his operation. It's a neat place.

This week's old saying. "Even rarer than a doctor who can't stand the sight of blood, is a lawyer who can't stand the sight of money."

Tin ware discussion in Saxtons River

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Before plastic became king, there was tin ware.

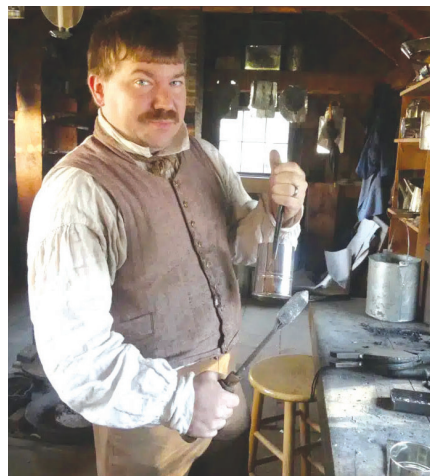
Early tin ware manufacture in Saxtons River is the topic of a talk Sunday, Oct. 27, at 2 p.m., at the 24 Main Street community center.

Tinsmith Richard Eckert will give a slide lecture on the tin makers who operated in the village, beginning with the Perry brothers in 1831 and continuing up to about 1900. Eckert was the tinsmith at Old Sturbridge Village for 10 years, having studied with some of the master tinsmiths.

"I have had a love of history since childhood," Eckert said. He said growing up in old homes and watching Norm Abrams on "New Yankee Workshop" is what attracted him to handmade work.

Eckert will explain the process of dipping sheet iron in molten tin to create tinsplate that could then be shaped into useful items for home and farm, such as cups, plates, graters, cooking pans, scoops, lunch pails, milk pans, milking pails, and maple sap pans.

A group of about 30 peddlers would carry these wares in horse-drawn carts around the countryside to meet the needs of residents. In exchange, they would receive money or recycled goods. The latter were often more valuable, since there was a need for rags for papermaking, feathers for mattresses, and tallow for candles and soap. Even hair was on the list of items that could be bartered.



Richard Eckert, tinsmith.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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RON PATCH

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my apples to Ogden's mill in Hartland to sell. I was somewhat intimidated by Ogden's operation. It was larger and more commercial than Nelson's. Remember, I'm just a teenager.

Jim Warren

Jim ran a cider mill in North Springfield. I don't recall doing cider business with Jim, but I did sell him honey.

Willis Wood

Today, Willis Wood on the Weathersfield Center

Division for Historic Preservation and support from 24 Main Street. Entrance is through the rear level.

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FOR STATE SENATE

Windsor District

Printed by Andrea Murray for Senate

opinion

HEALTH & COMMUNITY

Dear Editor,

While a thank you serves adequately to recognize a thought, action, or deed, it can sometimes seem inadequate in light of the powerful energy of a dedicated group of volunteers. With that said, Black River Good Neighbor Services' (BRGNS) Rummage Sale volunteers have once again served our community with amazing commitment and cheerful energy. We are extremely grateful.

Both spring and fall rummage sales represent a significant fundraising effort for this organization, as proceeds are directed to food shelf, client assistance, and disaster needs, all within the community. The amount of work in moving merchandise, setting up, selling, and cleanup is a huge undertaking and again, reliance on dedicated volunteers is essential for all of this to take place.

The end result is that many families and individuals within our community are served through the commitment and work of volunteer support. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to each and every BRGNS Rummage Sale volunteer.

Sincerely,
Krey Kellington
Executive Director,
BRGNS

Dear Editor,

Both the State of Vermont and the Town of Springfield recognize the economic importance of having outdoor recreational opportunities nearby. In the effort to attract residents, businesses, and visitors to Springfield, it is a main selling point.

Having an in-town park like Hartness Park is a rare gift. Recently, the Springfield Trails & Rural Economy Committee (ST&RE) has worked with town employees and volunteers to upgrade the park with new signage, benches, and upgraded trails.

An ordinance restricting firearm discharge within 500 feet of residential dwellings already includes one-third of the park. Fol-

lowing a request from the ST&RE committee, the selectboard voted to cover the remaining area under that ordinance. We support this because of safety concerns with increased trail use. It also sends a message that this is a safe place for families, children, and pets.

This is not a hunting ban. We respect the rights of those who hunt with firearms, and we hope the Meeting Waters Forest, Muckcross State Park, North Springfield Lake, and other public and unposted private land will provide reasonable opportunities elsewhere.

Springfield voters are being asked whether they support the updated ordi-

nance. Please vote "no" to support the firearms discharge restriction within the 50 acres of Hartness Park where it is not already restricted. Vote at Riverside Middle School on Nov. 5, early at the town hall, or by requesting an absentee ballot.

We hope a park that's easy for trail users to enjoy year-round will be attractive to future businesses and new homeowners, increasing our grand list and thereby decreasing our taxes.

Sincerely,
Springfield Trails & Rural Economy Committee
Springfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Cavendish Town Elementary School's (CTES) families, teachers, and staff, the parent-teacher group (PTG) extends a heartfelt thank you to Tyler Butterick and his nonprofit company, Fairway Fund-raising. This summer he

donated money to purchase a much-needed sound system for our beloved school. We'd also like to thank the event's primary sponsors, including The Loft Tavern, Audiology Associates, Powered by Beltone, M&M Excavating, Calamari Re-

cycling, Piper Sandler, and Mary Davis Realtors.

The total amount raised was \$11,978, with \$1,000 covering the cost to move the playground slide by Scott Piper, who graciously donated the remaining cost in labor and supplies. Our

Our Place receives tribute donation

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Our Place Drop-in Center has been named recipient of a large contribution in recognition of the 20-year leadership of Abby Atkins of the Holt Fund.

Bank of America is supporting Atkins in making a donation to a community-based organization in the region, citing her "unwavering dedication to the Holt Fund and the southeast region of Vermont."

Atkins said she has chosen Our Place "in

recognition of the important role you play as a prominent community-based organization in the region."

Atkins is currently Health Resources in Action's managing director of community health assessment, which administers the program for Bank of America.

The Fanny Holt Ames and Edna Louise Holt Fund (the Holt Fund) was created in 2000 at Edna Louise Holt's instructions, with Bank of America as the trustee. To date, the

Holt Fund has invested more than \$18.7 million in programs to improve community health outcomes in Grafton and surrounding towns.

Our Place is a community food center located at 4 Island Street in Bel-lows Falls that provides resources including meals and food pantry items for households in the greater Rockingham, Westmin-ster, Athens, Grafton, and nearby New Hampshire areas. Further information is available at www.our-placevermont.org.

Tai chi classes coming to Westminster

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Tai chi is about life. Life is about breath. In tai chi, we breathe deeply and time our movements with breathing. Breathe in as arms rise; breathe out as arms lower. Tai chi, with its slow movements, is often called meditation in motion. We find

movement in stillness and stillness in movement.

A beginner class is forming at Westminster Institute in November, taught by Oriental Healing Arts Association instructor Leslie Lassetter. Classes will be held on Tuesdays, at 11 a.m. The first class, on Nov. 12, is free. Students may join through November, or with permission of the instructor beyond that. The class is ongoing.

What happens during class? We begin with a qi gong warmup, progress to form practice, and end with a closing cooldown. The form is a series of ordered, slow movements called Yang 24, beginning with open the energy gates, flying diagonal, and separate heaven and earth. These time-honored moves have been practiced in the East for centuries.

Why do Tai Chi? Yes, it's exercise, but it's more. Unlike Western exercise, jumping jacks, crunches, and the like, tai chi moves chi (life energy) through the body along rivers of energy called meridians, the same meridians acupuncturists study. This energetic aspect is one reason medical professionals often prescribe tai chi to patients. It can improve blood pressure, arthritis, balance, heart problems,

and more. In addition to physical benefits, there are social benefits of meeting and moving with others. People make friends.

Leslie Lassetter studied extensively with master teachers Gene Gaudreau and Jim Winner of Oriental Healing Arts Association (OHAA) before beginning her teaching journey, as well as with local teacher Ben Daviss of Walpole. OHAA trains its instructors to be senior safe and senior friendly. A senior instructor, meaning she has taught well over 500 class hours, Leslie also has background in movement therapy, and has completed Level 3 certification with Tai Chi Vermont. Check out her YouTube channel, Tai Chi with Leslie.

Leslie's students are enthusiastic about her classes. One says she loves having a whole hour of quiet. Another says she rides her horse differently. She feels better, and so does her horse. That is due to increased body awareness and improved body alignment. So knowing oneself better physically is one decided benefit. That same awareness can improve balance, especially useful on snowy, icy surfaces. Tai chi can also engender emotional, mental, and spiritual awareness. It embraces, yet goes beyond, the mere physical.

There is also seated tai chi on Tuesdays, at 9:45 a.m., for those recovering from injury, with chronic arthritis, etc. This class is designed for those who cannot stand for an hour. Class size is small. Current students say their doctors and physical therapists are enthusiastic about their involvement in seated tai chi. Class can be joined anytime. Call in advance.

There is a small cost per class for both tai chi and seated tai chi. Partial scholarships are offered by Westminster Cares. Class location is Westminster Institute, 3534 Route 5, Westminster, Vt. For more information, or to sign up, contact Donna Dawson at wecares@sover.net or 802-722-3607.

POLITICAL LETTERS DEADLINE

Please note the final week for publishing political letters will be in next week's Oct. 30, 2024, edition, in print and online, per our publishing guidelines. Political letters include endorsing, electioneering, or campaigning for a specific candidate or party. Political letters will be charged at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. Other letters regarding community news will still be considered. We reserve the right to publish at our discretion. The viewpoints expressed in the editorial section do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper Newspaper.



Sound equipment for CTES, purchased with funds donated by Tyler Butterick and Fairway Funding.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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obituaries

Peter Lynn Brooks Jr., 2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Peter Lynn Brooks Jr. sadly passed away, at the age of 41, on June 20, 2024, at 6:26 p.m.

He was a strong man in life. He suffered a lot of heartbreak, but always did his best for his loved ones.

He'll join his father Peter Lynn Brooks Sr., his son Tacoma Brooks, his wonderful grandmother Daisy Brooks, and Carol Jarvis. He left behind his wife of 17 years Tara Lynn Sargent, and four kids who all miss him dearly.

In life, Pete was many things; he was a hunter, a fisherman, a mechanic, and more important than any of that, he was a father, a wonderful partner, and a friend. He has been fighting his health problems for years, being strong with his loved ones by his side. Everyone was preparing for this, with the doctors saying



Peter Brooks Jr., 2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

he doesn't have long, but he was a fighter, and he continued the fight for eight years. However, you can never prepare for the death of a son, a father, or a lover. He will forever be missed.

Contact Tara Lynn Sargent on Facebook about a Celebration of Life. And keep his memory alive, that's all he ever wanted, not to be forgotten.

William O'Connor, 2024

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – William "Bill" O'Connor, 91, died peacefully at his home in Westminster, Vt., on Oct. 13, 2024, with his loving wife Marlene by his side, and surrounded by his children Michael, Shannon, and Erin; their spouses; and his brother Paul. The whole family spent the last month together at their family home, reminiscing and celebrating both Bill and Marlene's birthdays in September, a gift they will all treasure.

Bill served as town manager for Westminster, Vt., had lifelong ties to the Bellows Falls Country Club, and was devoted to his faith and St. Charles Parish in Bellows Falls. Calling Hours will be Oct. 25, from 6-8 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Oct. 26, at 10 a.m., at St. Charles Parish, burial to follow at St. Charles Cemetery. After, a Celebration of Life



William O'Connor, 2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

will be held at 12:30 p.m., at the Bellows Falls Country Club. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his honor to Westminster Cares, P.O. Box 312, Westminster, VT 05158, or online at www.westminstercares.org.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street. The full obituary can be read at www.fentonandhennessey.com.

Judith Scott, 1940-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Judith Goddard Scott, 84, of Windsor, Vt., passed away on Oct. 11, 2024. Born on March 4, 1940, she graduated from Valley Regional High School in Deep River, Conn., and furthered her education at Tufts University in Massachusetts.

Judy met the love of her life J. David Scott at the age of 15, in Essex, Conn., and married at 19 years old, at the Congregational Church of Old Lyme, Conn., near their home in Killingworth, Conn.

Judy, along with her husband J. David Scott, co-owned Scottaire Associates, a firm representing manufacturers of commercial air moving equipment in Connecticut and Southern Massachusetts. Their partnership in both life and business was marked by incredible success and teamwork. Judy and David spent the majority of their years living in Connecticut. They later retired to the lovely Town of Springfield, Vt., and resided at 1726 Skitchewaugh Trail. Judy lost the love of her life, her adoring husband Dave, in 2020. They were married 60 years. Judy then moved to The Village at Cedar Hill in Windsor, Vt., where she spent the last four years.

Beyond her professional life, Judy was a creative and talented artist, who enjoyed painting, drawing, knitting, and sewing. There was nothing she could not create, from professional portraits, to whimsical creatures and themes, she poured her soul and talent into everything she did. Her artistry even extended to decorating the house and cooking. These hobbies not only brought her immense joy, but joy to others as well.



Judith Scott, 1940-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Judy painted a portrait of her grandchildren yearly, and had them printed into Christmas cards. Friends and family looked forward to receiving a new portrait on a Christmas card every year. Judy was a very strong spirit, who had a great gift for sharing love, laughter, and jokes.

Judy was a devoted wife to her late husband J. David Scott Sr., and a loving mother to her daughter Robin Scott Sozzi and son J. David Scott Jr. She was a cherished mother-in-law to Bruce Sozzi, and a proud and devoted grandmother to Donald A. Sozzi and Thomas H. Sozzi. Her family remembers her as an amazing mother, wife, and friend, whose nurturing and supportive presence was a cornerstone of their lives. Judy was preceded in death by her husband and son, J. David Scott Sr. and David Scott Jr., respectively.

The family has chosen to hold private services upholding her wishes. In lieu of charitable donations, they wish to cherish her memory through personal reflections and remembrance.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

Jennifer Congdon Celebration of Life

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A Celebration of Life for Jennifer Congdon, who passed away July 8, 2024, will be held at the Springfield Moose Club on Nov. 9, at 2 p.m. All friends and family are welcome.

Vaughn F. Hadwen Jr., 1939-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Vaughn F. Hadwen Jr., 85, was called to sing with the Lord on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024, at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H. He was born Sept. 15, 1939, in Springfield, Vt., the son of Vaughn and Eleanor (Mooney) Hadwen. He attended Springfield schools, graduating from Springfield High School with the Class of 1958.

Following high school, Vaughn worked amongst the talented machinists of the Precision Valley, before being drafted into the United States Army from 1961-1963. After his service, he returned to Springfield and began working for his father at Vaughn F. Hadwen Painting and Wallpapering. There, he continued the legacy of exquisite work set by Vaughn Sr., taking over the business in the mid 1980s. After retirement, he served as the sexton for the First Congregational Church of Springfield.

Vaughn may have worked hard, but he played and loved even harder. On Nov. 1, 1969, Vaughn married his love, Tina Rook, in Springfield, where they settled for the remainder of their years. She predeceased him on March 27, 2008.

Music was Vaughn's biggest passion. He played trombone and served many roles with the Springfield Community Band over his impressive 70 years with them. In his later years, he was a dedicated member with The Firehouse Six band. He also loved to share his passion with younger generations as a mentor, playing and traveling often with the Bellows Falls Union High School Jazz Band. He played in too many bands over the years to mention them all. But his musical talent didn't end with an instrument. As a member of the First Congregational Church, he sang in their choir for most of his adult life. He also enjoyed singing as part of a barber-shop quartet with his friends.

Amongst his talents, Vaughn had his hobbies. He loved decorating cakes with his longtime friend Mary Jane Morin as Frick and Frack Cake Decorating. When his sons became involved in Boy Scouts,



Vaughn Hadwen Jr., 1939-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Vaughn jumped in with both feet. From the late 1970s until his death, he was involved at some level, earning both Order of the Arrow Vigil and the Silver Beaver Award. A true outdoorsman, he enjoyed his fishing, but loved his hunting. Every fall he returned to the Davenport Farm to join family during hunting season; early mornings on the hunt, and late nights of playing cribbage.

Vaughn was always the entertainer. He enjoyed making people smile and laugh. From dressing up as a clown or cow for the children's concert, dressing as Santa Claus around Christmas time, to dressing as a hobo for the variety show. Even when his luck was a little down, he dressed as the New Year's Baby and walked around the ICU he was a patient in, bringing tears of laughter from the providers and patients alike.

Vaughn is survived by his sister Lucy Davis; children Kelly Hadwen Bisson, Daniel Hadwen (Nancy), Shawn Hadwen (Amy), and Mark Hadwen (Jennifer); grandchildren Micayla, Candace, Katelynn, Shawn Jr., Avery, Parker Hadwen, and Sydney Rathbun; and great-grandchildren Willow and Winter Perry. He is also survived by nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Vaughn was predeceased by his parents.

Visiting hours will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 2-4 p.m., at the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Nov. 3, at 1 p.m., at the First Congregational Church in Springfield, Vt. The Rev. Michael Mario, pastor, will officiate.

Memorial donations may be made to the Springfield Community Band, P.O. Box 342, Springfield, VT 05156.

Family of Jessica Ryea thanks the community

WINDSOR, Vt. – The family of Jessica Ryea would like to thank the community, friends, and extended family for the love and support during this difficult time. We greatly appreciate it.

Daneal F. Willey, 1951-2024

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – Daneal F. Willey, loving father, brother, and friend, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday, Oct. 14, after a bravely fought long illness.

Dan was born Nov. 24, 1951, to Mervyn and Phyllis Willey in West Stewartstown, N.H. Growing up he enjoyed horses, skiing, motorcycles, fast cars, music, and spending time with his family.

As a young man, Dan traveled overseas and across the U.S. numerous times, always excited to experience the world around him. His last cross-country trip was guided by his heart, and led him to his future wife Linda. In his later years, he made it as far as Thailand to attend his son's wedding.

Dan was a master of all trades – he was a real estate agent, machinist, and fine home builder. He built many homes in Windsor County. In his free time, he volunteered at Okemo each

winter, teaching many local children how to ski.

It was with the birth of Dan and Linda's first child that he found his true calling in life as a father. Dan loved his children more than anything. Anyone who knows him can attest that he was not shy about showing that love. From braiding hair, to fixing cars, to shopping for prom dresses, to remodeling houses, to gardening, he did it all. He was smart, quick-witted, attentive, kind, uplifting and supportive, always a safe haven regardless of the situation. The best dad that has ever been. He will be missed terribly.

Dan is survived by his children Danielle of Eastham, Mass.; Nicholas and Nuss of White River Junction, Vt.; and Neal of Perkinsville, Vt. He is also survived by his brothers Desi and Kelly of Windsor, Vt.; Darryl and Marilyn of Windsor, Vt.; and Dennis and Tina of Lebanon, N.H. Additionally, Dan leaves behind many nieces

Robert W. Marcotte, 1954-2024

E. RYEGATE, Vt. – Robert W. Marcotte, age 70, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Sunday evening, Oct. 7, 2024. He was comforted in his passing by his two best buds Frippy and Gaston. He was born on May 13, 1954, in Springfield, Vt., to Robert and Beverly (Gosselin) Marcotte, who along with his sister Cherie have predeceased him.

Rob spent the majority of his childhood in Perkinsville, Vt. After graduating from Springfield High School, he joined the Air Force, where he was subsequently deployed to Louisiana, Alaska, and most notably to Thailand during the Vietnam War.

After leaving the service, Rob returned to Vermont. Once home, he engaged in a variety of challenging hobbies which he would research, pursue, and master. His most recent in-house hobby was wood turning, with a focus on bowls. This kept him busy in the winter, but his real interest was the outdoors. He was an avid hunter right up to the day of his passing. He hunted deer, bear, turkeys, partridge, and woodcock.

His passion was hunting upland birds, which led to two additional hobbies. To increase his success in the woods, he began training gun dogs to hunt with him. He started with Brittanys, and after developing four excellent partners, transitioned to Griffons. His success with the Griffons was notable. Certification included hunt tests, and confirmation showing. It was entertaining to see Rob trotting Frippy on a leash around the ring.

Joyce Ordinetz, 2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Joyce (Goltz) Ordinetz passed away quietly at home on Oct. 30, 2023, at the age of 95. Joyce was well known throughout the community, growing up and living most of her life in Springfield, Vt. She was predeceased by her husband Tony in 2002, and son Terry in 2017.

Retired from Fellows after 40 years, Joyce pursued her passions for gardening, family, and volunteer work, including Vermont Basic Education, and the Springfield Osher program, greeting attendees and maintaining the mailing list of members. She worked to develop the Fellows history display at the Great Hall, where she also worked as a volunteer docent. As a Windsor County Reads reading partner, she developed the Books for Breakfast program at Union Street School, sharing her passion for reading



Robert Marcotte, 1954-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

All kidding aside it paid off; Frippy achieved Confirmation Show Champion, AKC Senior Hunter, and NAVH-DA Utility Prize 1, something Rob was very proud of.

Rob was very willing to share his knowledge and experience with others. He supported a variety of folks in his "train the trainer" program. There are a lot of quality gun dogs all over New England and the U.S. that have benefited from Rob's tutelage. But Rob being Rob, this wasn't enough. To further satisfy his love of hunting and the outdoors, he became a certified Maine guide. He spent many years as the camp guide for Loon Lodge in the North Maine Woods. He had a full life, and will be truly missed.

In Rob's own words, "When I die, please don't let them put me in a suit. I want to be wearing blue jeans, a green chamois shirt, and my bird hunting vest. Don't forget my whistle so I can call Mandy and Red to me."

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the AKC Griffon Rescue, P.O. Box 116, Smicksburg, PA 16256, check payable to AWPGA. There will be a small service, which will be announced later.



Joyce Ordinetz, 2023.
PHOTO PROVIDED

with struggling students. Joyce has touched many lives over the years.

Instead of a public funeral, the family has planned a Celebration of Life on Saturday, Oct. 26. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., at St. Mary's Catholic Church, on Pleasant Street in Springfield Vt., with a reception immediately to follow at the Nolin-Murray Center Parish Hall next door, from 12-3 p.m.



Daneal Willey, 1951-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

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.

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

calendar/church

LEGAL NOTICES

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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley Street, is having a baked bean supper on Saturday, Oct. 26, from

3-5 p.m., takeout only. The menu is home-baked beans, Essem hot dogs, coleslaw, brown bread, and St. Patrick's cake, for a small fee. Everyone is welcome.

OCT. 27 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Sunday, Oct. 27, the Springfield Art Gym, 335 River Street, Suite 2, will hold a fall workshop on altering Precious Moments figurines, from 2-4 p.m. For more information on the workshop or how to sign up, visit www.facebook.com/springfieldartgym.

OCT. 28 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will serve a community lunch on Monday, Oct. 28, at 12 p.m. The menu will be mac and cheese with ham slices, with homemade cupcakes for dessert. Free cash bingo will follow. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. All are welcome.

NOV. 9 – WESTON, Vt. – The annual Weston Rod & Gun Club Game Supper will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9, at 5 p.m. Kids under 8 eat for

half price. Takeout orders will be available by calling 802-824-6824 between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. that day. The Weston Rod & Gun Club is located at 982 Route 100, one mile north of Weston.

NOV. 13 – BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – As part of the 10th annual global Rich Earth Summit, Rich Earth Institute will host a free open house at its Brattleboro Research Center on Nov. 13, from 4-5 p.m. The Rich Earth Summit is a global gathering dedicated to advancing urine reclamation to create sustainable and just nutrient cycles. The open house will provide a unique opportunity for both summit attendees and the local community to learn more

about the institute's research and community-scale demonstration program.

MONDAYS – WESTON, Vt. – Bingo is Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Weston Rod & Gun Club, 982 Route 100, 1.5 miles north of Weston Village. All are welcome.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Chorus invites you to come sing with us on Mondays, from 6-8 p.m., at the United Methodist Church, 10 Valley Street. These sessions will be led by our new music director, Patty Meyer. No experience is necessary, just a love of singing. Dues are collected, and assistance is available. Concerts will be held on Dec. 14 and 15.

TUESDAYS – LUDLOW, Vt. – Fletcher Memorial Library's infant and toddler playgroup is held on Tuesday mornings, from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., from Sept. 10 – Nov. 19.

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

FRIDAYS – SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. –

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

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

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

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

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St. Worship is Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, including online streaming, go to www.chesterbaptist.org.

Andover Community Church, 928 Weston-Andover Rd. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and worship service 10:45 a.m. For more information, go to www.andovercommunitychurch.org.

GRAFTON, VT.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St. Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to www.graftoncommunitychurch.org or call 802-843-2346.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S.

Londonderry

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

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.

Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 9 a.m. For further information, see our website at churchoftheannunciation.org, or call us at 802-228-3451.

Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green, 99 Main St.

Weekly worship services are in-person. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for all ages, and Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday's prayer meeting is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.LudlowBaptist.org.

PERKINSVILLE, VT.

Perkinsville Community Church, 35 Church St. The Rev. Michael Boy presides over services on Sundays, at 5 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

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

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

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33 Fairground Rd. Sunday Services 8:30 a.m. - Holy Days as announced. Services alternate between Clergy Officiated, Traditional Rite I and Contemporary Rite II, Holy Eucharist, and Licensed Lay Led Rites I and II Morning Prayer. All are invited regardless of religious affiliation. Call David at 802-885-2972 with questions.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, 10 Pleasant St. Sunday mass is at 9 a.m., followed by coffee hour as well as weekday services. To watch the live streams, go to www.youtube.com and search Holy Family Parish Springfield Vermont. Streaming is available five minutes before the service starts. For more information, go to www.stmaryjoseph.com.

WALPOLE, N.H.

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.

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

Notification of Management Plan Availability

Date: October 15, 2024

To: Parents, teachers, employees, other personnel or their guardians

From: Two Rivers Supervisory Union (LEA/Supervisory Union)
Todd Parah (Designated Person)
716 VT Route 103S (Address)
Chester VT 05143 (City, Zip)
802-875-2146 (Phone)

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) 40 CFR 763.93 [g] [4] requires that written notification be given that the following schools/buildings have Asbestos Management Plans for the safe control and maintenance of asbestos containing materials found in their buildings. These Management Plans are available and accessible to the public at the administrative office of each facility listed below.

School/Building	Address	Phone#
1. Green Mountain Union High School	Chester, VT	802-875-2146
2. Chester-Andover Elementary School	Chester, VT	802-875-2801
3. Cavendish Town Elementary School	Cavendish, VT	802-226-7758
4. Ludlow Elementary School	Ludlow, VT	802-875-5151
5. Mount Holly School	Mount Holly, VT	802-259-2692

Todd Parah
Signature of the Designated Person

WATER FLUSHING NOTICE VILLAGE OF LUDLOW

On Monday, October 28, 2024 through Wednesday, October 30, 2024, the Village of Ludlow Water Department will be flushing the water system and testing the fire hydrant system. The flushing will take place each day from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

Please note: The entire water system will be affected. Residents may experience discolored water during this time. When the flushing is complete, please be sure to let your cold water run until your water runs clear. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we perform our annual distribution system maintenance.

If you have any questions, please call the Water Department at 228-8431 or the Municipal Office at 228-2842 or 228-3923.

Thank you.

Development Review Board Town of Ludlow, Vermont Hybrid Public Hearing November 25, 2024 at 6:00pm

A public hearing before the Development Review Board for the Town of Ludlow, Vermont, will be held on 25 November 2024 at 6:00 P.M., in the Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, and via Zoom.

APPLICANT: Richard Votto
P.O. Box 6211
Hamden, CT 06517
PROPERTY LOCATION: 698 West Hill Road
Ludlow, VT 05149
Parcel No. 220569-200, and
Parcel No. 220569-220

REASON FOR HEARING: Application is to subdivide two contiguously owned parcels into an 8-lot subdivision. This project is in the Mountain Recreation district.

APPLICATION NUMBER: SUB24-012

The above application is available for inspection at the Ludlow Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing the Board. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Board either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda, posted at www.ludlow.vt.us.

Rosemary Goings
Director of Planning and Zoning

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.

WESTON SELECTBOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Weston Selectboard will hold a public hearing regarding a proposed update to the Weston Town Plan on November 7, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00p.m. At the Old Parish Church, 144 Main Street in Weston. The proposed Town Plan update includes revisions to the different sections of the Town Plan based on recent changes in the community and the Town's current goals and priorities. The Plan pertains to all of the Town of Weston. The Table of Contents includes: Introduction, Weston Town Plan Vision and Objectives, Community Profile, Weston Values, Land Use, Transportation, Town Government, Community Facilities, Services and Recreation, Natural, Scenic, Historical and Cultural Resources, Education, Energy, Housing, Economic Development, Flood Resilience, Implementing the Plan, Consistency with Vermont's State Planning Goals, and Town Plan Maps.

A copy of the proposed Town Plan update and the accompanying report are available for public review upon request, a hard copy of the report can be purchased for \$7.00 at the Weston Town Office at 12 Lawrence Hill Road in Weston during regular business hours.

Town Of Weston PO Box 98 Weston, VT 05161

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PAINTING ANNEX BUILDING (THE LITTLE SCHOOL) OUTSIDE

The Town of Weston is requesting bids to paint two outside walls of The Little School located on 8 Lawrence Hill Rd Weston, VT 05161

- Please visit the Town of Weston Scope of Work at www.westonvt.org

Proposals may be sent to Shawna Batogowski, Selectboard Administrative Assistant at selectboard@westonvt.org or mailed with a postmark date no later than **March 31, 2025** addressed to: **Town of Weston Selectboard PO Box 98, Weston VT 05161 Attn: Annex Painting**

All proposals will be opened at the Selectboard meeting scheduled on **April 8th, 2025**

The Town of Weston reserves the right to withdraw this Request for Proposals, to accept or reject any or all proposals in part or in their entirety.

The Town of Weston is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Town of Londonderry, VT JOB OPENINGS

Road Crew Member/Equipment Operators
Work includes plowing, grading, ditching, road repair, road-side mowing, culvert work, chainsaw operation, equipment maintenance, and other duties. A clean driving record, a CDL license, and the ability to pass drug/alcohol tests are required. Highway/road maintenance experience preferred. This is a full-time position with excellent benefits.

Minutes Taker
Part-time position for a person to take minutes for Selectboard meetings and other board and commission meetings as assigned. In-person meeting attendance is preferred, but remote attendance (either real-time or viewing video recordings of meeting) is acceptable. Meetings are normally held in the early evening with occasional daytime meetings, and the job requires timely drafting of accurate, thorough and informative minutes.

Further information is available on the Town website: www.londonderryvt.org. Applicants must complete and submit a required Employment Application, which can be found in the Town Forms section of the Town web site. Submit via email to townadmin@londonderryvt.org or mail to: Town of Londonderry, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155. Other supporting information from applicants is welcome.

Positions opened until filled. The Town of Londonderry is an equal opportunity employer.

LEGAL NOTICES

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.

HELP WANTED

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

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Assemblers wanted at Mack Molding company. Full time or part time employees, on both 1st and 2nd

shift. Apply at mack.com or call 802-375-0406. Come start your career at Mack!

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.

“Crossroads: Change in Rural America” in Claremont

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street, in cooperation with New Hampshire Humanities, presents “Crossroads: Change in Rural America.” The exhibition, examining the evolving landscape of rural America, opened at River Valley Community College (RVCC) on Oct. 14.

The exhibition will tour six communities across New Hampshire and Vermont from August 2024 – August 2025.

Americans have relied on rural crossroads for generations. These places where people gather to exchange goods, services, and culture, and to engage in political and community discussions, are an important part of our cultural fabric. Despite the massive economic and demographic impacts brought on by these changes, America’s small towns continue to creatively focus on new opportunities for growth and development.

“River Valley Community College is proud to have been chosen as a site for the inaugural hosting of a Smithsonian exhibit in New Hampshire,” said Alfred Williams, president of RVCC. “We look forward to welcoming the community we service onto

our campus to enjoy this traveling exhibit.” To coincide with the exhibit, RVCC is hosting a variety of free public events, including an opening reception on Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 1-2 p.m.; a selection of objects and artifacts from the Claremont Historical Society, on view through Dec. 13; a community art exhibit, on view through Jan. 10, 2025; “Harvest Fest,” a family-friendly fall celebration on Saturday, Oct. 26; and a series of public panel discussions on topics relevant to Claremont and the surrounding communities. Visit www.rivervalley.edu/crossroads for event details.

Designed for small-town museums, libraries, and cultural organizations, “Crossroads” will serve as a community meeting place for conversations about how rural America has changed. With the support and guidance

of state humanities councils, these towns will develop complementary exhibits, host public programs, and facilitate educational initiatives to raise people’s understanding about their own history, the joys and challenges of living rural, how change has impacted their community, and prompt discussion of goals for the future.

The exhibition is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions. To learn more about “Crossroads” and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit www.museumonmainstreet.org.

Exhibit hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Shawntae Webb
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 calendar@vermontjournal.com

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

8 High Street • Ludlow, VT 05149
 802-228-3600

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 SPRINGFIELD HELP WANTED MAINTENANCE WORKER II/TRUCK DRIVER

The Town of Springfield, VT is seeking a highly motivated individual to fill a full-time Maintenance Worker II position within the Public Works Department, with a minimum of two to three years' experience. Requires the ability to perform semi-skilled work related to the operation of trucks, light-duty motor equipment and manual labor. Must be able to make accurate reports of materials hauled and maintenance scheduled. Reports to the Highway Superintendent and/or Working Foreman. A Maintenance Worker II is often required to work independently and will occasionally supervise. Requires an understanding of job safety, a valid motor vehicle operator's license, and a CDL B license. Grade 14, Pay Scale of \$18.98 to \$23.02 per hour. This is a non-exempt union position with an EXCELLENT benefits package. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 (toshr@vermontel.net). Applications may also be downloaded from the Town's website springfieldvt.gov/jobs. The Town of Springfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

The Town of Springfield Development Review Board will hold public hearings starting at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, November 12, 2024, to review two zoning applications. The first is a nonconforming structure located at 21 Highland Circle. The second is a mixed use permit for the 10 Clinton Street property. Individuals wishing to participate in the public hearing may do so in person, via Zoom video conferencing, or by submitting written comments. Participation in this hearing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. Please contact the Town Planner (802-376-6102 /toszoning@vermontel.net) for copies of the agenda and zoning applications.

NOTICE TO SPRINGFIELD VOTERS

Absentee Ballots for the Springfield Special Town Meeting being held Tuesday, November 5, 2024, are available at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, and you did not already make a request for "all local elections" earlier this year, please contact the Town Clerk's Office in person, in writing, by phone or by email. If you make your absentee request in person, you can choose to vote your ballot and return it before leaving the Town Clerk's Office. If returning your ballot by mail, allow extra time for postal delivery. An Absentee Request Form can be found on the town's website https://springfieldvt.gov or you may request your ballot online at https://mvp.vermont.gov. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is Monday, November 4, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. You may register to vote on Election Day at the polls and then proceed to vote on that day. You may also register to vote any time at the Town Clerk's Office or online at https://mvp.vermont.gov. On or before Monday, November 4, 2024, absentee ballots may be returned in person, through regular mail and after hours through mail slots located in the entrance doors of Town Hall. All voted absentee ballots must be received at the polls by the Town Clerk before the close of polls at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. The polls are located at Riverside Middle School in the gymnasium and will open on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk's Office will not be open on November 5, 2024.

NOTE: The Springfield Special Town Meeting is a local vote separate from the Vermont General Election. If you have already returned your Vermont General Election ballot, the local Springfield Special Town Meeting ballot is also available to you upon request prior to November 4, 2024 or at the polls on November 5, 2024.

The Secretary of State has mailed all active voters the Vermont General Election ballot. If you are an active registered voter in Springfield and have not received your absentee ballot from the Secretary of State by mid-October, please contact the Town Clerk's Office.

Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC - 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156 (802) 885-2104 tosclerk@vermontel.net

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

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 (toshr@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.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE, GRAFTON, VERMONT
 Received for record Sept 17 20 24
 at 8 o'clock 30 minutes M.
 and recorded in Book 604 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

John H. ...
St. J. ...
Atterwood ...
Alma ...
 Selectboard

WARNING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD - SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

VOTE TO DISAPPROVE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE TO RESTRICT DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS IN HARTNESS PARK

The legal voters of the Town of Springfield are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Riverside Middle School in said Town on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. to vote by Australian Ballot on the following article:

ARTICLE I: Shall the voters of the Town of Springfield disapprove of Ordinance 2024-0002 To Restrict Discharge Of Firearms In Hartness Park as adopted by the Selectboard on August 12, 2024?

There will be a hybrid (in-person and remote) Public Informational Hearing on Monday, October 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectboard's Hall located at 96 Main Street, Springfield, VT for the purpose of discussing the presented article.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86548002531>
Meeting ID: 865 4800 2531
 One tap mobile +16465588656,86548002531#
 Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656

Dated this 1st day of October, 2024 at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont.

Kim C. Morris
 Kim C. Morris

Michael E. Martin
 Michael E. Martin

Tara Chase
 Tara Chase

Michael Schmitt
 Michael Schmitt

Heather Frahm
 Heather Frahm

Recorded in Springfield Town Acts on the 2nd day of October 2024.

Notice posted in four public places, in addition to the town's website Springfield, Vermont (springfieldvt.gov) on the 2nd day of October 2024.

M&T Bank Mall
 North Springfield Post Office
 Springfield Municipal Office
 Springfield Town Library

Attest: Barbara A. Courchesne
 Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC

A copy of the Ordinance To Restrict Discharge Of Firearms In Hartness Park is available in the Town Clerk's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday or posted on the town's website Springfield, Vermont (springfieldvt.gov)

arts & entertainment

“Vermont’s Supernatural Side” at Springfield OLLI

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Joe Citro will present the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) program “Vermont’s Supernatural Side: Chronicling Our State’s Ghost Stories and Unexplained Phenomena” on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center, next to St. Mary’s Church on Pleasant Street, in Springfield.

Citro, a writer, folklorist, and native Vermonter who grew up in Chester, will present a special Halloween program. He is considered Vermont’s expert in all things strange and mysterious.

Ghosts? Are they real? Are the routines of our lives occasionally disrupted by inexplicable happenings? Coincidences? Visions? Messages from beyond? Can we file fact from fiction in the realm of the supernatural?

Through a series of books,

both fiction and nonfiction, and via 22 years as a public radio commentator, Citro is the first writer in the history of our state to collect Vermont’s strangest tales, historic and folkloric. Join him for a sampling of our rich local lore and an overview of his efforts to preserve it. We’ll hear excerpts from his work, and the stories of how he collects and validates claims. His books will be available for purchase and signing.

He has probably done more than anyone to keep Vermont’s weird tales, historic and folkloric, alive in the popular culture. Four of his five Vermont-centric novels have been movie-optional, but sadly, every adaptation died on its way to the screen.

Sponsored by the University of Vermont, OLLI is run by local volunteer members,

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

You may view the entire semester programs by going to the website www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield. Preregistration can be done online at this website with a credit card. You may also register over the phone, using your credit card, by calling 802-656-8407. There is a membership series fee, or nonmembers are welcome and encouraged to attend individual programs for a single program fee.

“Just Getting By” to screen in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – “Just Getting By,” a new documentary film by Bess O’Brien focused on Vermonters struggling with food and housing insecurity, will tour Vermont from March 22 – April 12. The movie will play in Springfield, Vt., on Oct. 30, at 6:30 p.m., at The Nolan Murray Center, 38 Pleasant Street, Springfield, Vt. Tickets are free. Doors open at 6 p.m., and snacks and refreshments will be provided.

“Just Getting By” is a sweeping, and yet intimate, look at the lives of Vermonters who are struggling with food and housing insecurity.

Vermont has the second-highest rate of homeless people in the United States, right after California. One-third of Vermonters struggle to put food on the table.

These are big issues for a small state. “Just Getting By” focuses on these issues in the lives of everyday people.

The film tells the stories of working families, folks who are homeless and accessing food shelves and soup kitchens, and people who are living in temporary hotel/motel programs. In addition, the film focuses on new Americans grappling with the cost of living in America, Native people creating innovative farming practices, and folks on the ground providing services to their fellow Vermonters in need.

“Just Getting By” explores the day-to-day challenges and incredible resiliency that low-income Vermonters bear witness to every day.

The film was shot during 2022-2023 by director Bess O’Brien and cinematographer Patrick Kennedy. “We wanted to capture the day

to day lives of Vermonters who were living paycheck to paycheck, and who were struggling to keep food on the table and a roof over their head. We also wanted to show the incredible resiliency and courage of folks who have very little and still manage to get up every day and strive for a better life,” O’Brien says.

“We hope by touring the film across the state that we can raise consciousness about these pressing issues of food and housing insecurity with Vermont audiences across the state,” continued O’Brien.

The movie is produced by Kingdom County Productions. There will be Q&A after each screening of the movie with the director, folks from the movie, and audience members.

For more information, go to www.kingdomcounty.org, or email O’Brien at bobrien@pshift.com.

Support Stingray Swim Team at Casino Night

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Dive into an exciting evening of fun and fundraising at the Splash for Cash: Casino Night to support the Connecticut River Valleys Stingrays. Join us on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 6-9 p.m., at the Crown Point County Club, located at 155 Golf Course Road, Spring-

field, Vt. Get ready to test your luck with thrilling casino games, including blackjack, roulette, bingo, and a human slot machine. Guests must be 18 years or older to participate, so bring your friends and make it a night to remember.

Event highlights include cash prizes, a 50-50 raffle, and a Casino Royale 50-50 special raffle.

The Crown Point Pub will be open for regular business, offering a perfect spot to grab a drink and en-

joy the festivities.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Connecticut River Valleys Stingrays, helping to support our local swim team and their ongoing programs.

Don’t miss your chance to have a great time while contributing to the community. Mark your calendars and join us for a night of excitement, camaraderie, and charitable giving.

For more information, please contact Krissie Pelletier at kreinpellier@gmail.com.

Upper Valley Baroque at Claremont Opera House

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Upper Valley Baroque, the exciting professional music ensemble, will perform for the first time in Claremont.

Upper Valley Baroque creates unique experiences for listeners with their blend of passionate musicians bringing great music to life on period instruments in the best acoustical venues of the region. Their audiences rave about the joy of discovering new sounds in old music.



Upper Valley Baroque will perform in Claremont. PHOTO PROVIDED

The performance will be held on Sunday, Oct. 27, at 3 p.m., at the Claremont Opera House, 58 Opera House Square, Claremont, N.H.

This “Baroque Celebrations” concert features inspiring music from France, Italy, and England, performed on period instruments by Upper Valley Baroque’s world-class vocal and instrumental musicians.

Treat yourself to an afternoon of joyous and inspiring music – clarion trumpets, sonorous woodwinds, pounding timpani, lush strings, solo voices, and the resounding harmonies of

the choir.

Tickets are available at www.uppervalleybaroque.org/concerts, and at the door.

Upper Valley Baroque was founded in 2021 to share high-quality musical experiences and to introduce people to this uplifting repertoire. Upper Valley Baroque offers performances of Baroque and Early music by a variety of ensembles, provides educational opportunities, and supports musicians – all enriching our area’s cultural life. 2024-2025 marks our fourth season of bringing excellent Baroque music to the region.

Share your A+E News!
802-228-3600
editor@VermontJournal.com

KIDS HARVEST HALLOWEEN PARTY!
SATURDAY OCT. 26
1 - 3 PM
AMERICAN LEGION POST #37
ROCKINGHAM ST.
BELLOW FALLS NOT SCARY!
FOR ALL LOCAL CHILDREN OF THE COMMUNITY 10 AND UNDER
KID FRIENDLY - CANDY - LIGHT SNACKS
PUMPKINS - WEAR A COSTUME / NOT REQUIRED

URBAN ENIGMA BARBERING
RODNEY SPURGEON | 603-826-0820
16 North Main Street | Charlestown, NH

HIGGINS HILL ORCHARD
Open from 9 am - 5 pm everyday
Pick Your Own APPLES
Mac, Cortland, Honeycrisp, Baldwin, Delicious, Northern Spy, Mutsu, and Gala
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

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

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

D	I	O	N	B	R	R	S	C	A	R		
A	R	E	A	L	I	E	H	O	N	E		
M	A	D	P	R	O	P	I	S	R	A	T	E
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T	I	M	P	S	M	E	A	L	P	L	A	N
R	I	O	M	A	X	I	S	C	O	T	O	
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T	E	T	E	A	O	K		T	I	E	M	

<h3>30 Day Accountability Coach</h3> <p>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)</p> <h3>Art Crafts Gifts</h3> <p>GALLERY AT THE VAULT Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops 68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111 OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. til 7 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 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 (01/15/25 - TRN - 13)</p>	<h3>Builders/Contractors</h3> <p>HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC "Not just for bangin' nails." We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 edwin.mortensen@gmail.com. Follow us on Instagram @nedthehammer (11/20/24 - 52)</p> <p>PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267. (11/13/24 - 13)</p> <h3>Campground</h3> <p>CATON PLACE CAMPGROUND 2419 EAST ROAD, CAVENDISH VERMONT SEASONAL SITES AVAILABLE FOR 2025! REASONABLE RATES! 802-226-7767, Catonplacecamp@gmail.com. Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites! (11/06/24 - 13)</p> <h3>Chiropractor</h3> <p>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 - TRN - 52)</p>	<h3>Electrician</h3> <p>KJ ELECTRIC LLC 802-428-6224 kjelectric63@gmail.com Chester, VT Licensed and Insured Quality installation and service since 2005 "Wiring is not a hobby! Call a professional!" (01/29/25 - 52)</p> <h3>Masonry</h3> <p>DRC STONE DESIGN Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com. (11/20/24 - 13)</p> <p>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)</p> <h3>Tools</h3> <p>\$\$ CASH PAID FOR OLD TOOLS \$\$ PLANES, AXES, STANLEY ITEMS, ETC. 802-579-5891 (12/18/24)</p>
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arts & entertainment

Wild Goose Players perform “Merrily We Roll Along”

PUTNEY, Vt. – The smash Broadway revival of “Merrily We Roll Along” has just closed, so Wild Goose has brought the show to your backyard at a fraction of the price. Now, instead of sitting far from the action for your expensive ticket, you’ll be up close and personal for one-fifth the price if you buy in advance.

This groundbreaking musical traces the dissolving friendship of three besties, but in this exploration, time moves backwards. We open at a party where the last fraying fibers of connection are violently cut,

and slowly reveal, as the clock rewinds, the beauty that was their friendship years before. Merrily we roll along.

Steven Sondheim was at the height of his powers when he crafted the exceptional score and slightly autobiographical lyrics that guide us through the struggles of modern life and the choices we make. Featuring superb performances from a 15-person ensemble, this production, directed by David Stern, with music direction by Ken Olsson, will have you coming back for more.

Performances of “Merrily We Roll Along” will be from Nov. 1-10, on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Times will be Fridays, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sundays, at 2 p.m. Shows will take place at Next Stage Arts in Putney, Vt. The running time of “Merrily We Roll Along” is approximately two hours and 30 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission.

Tickets can be purchased at www.wildgooseplayers.com/tickets.

Evergreen wreath-making workshop at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Create a beautiful evergreen wreath using fresh greens with Joanna Bombadil at Gallery at the VAULT on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

In this class, you will learn the techniques for securely attaching evergreens to a wire frame, and discover creative ways to personalize your wreath with embellishments. All materials will be provided, but you are encouraged to bring

in any unique decorations and/or greens you’d like to include. This is perfect for beginners and seasoned crafters alike. You will leave with a stunning, handcrafted wreath to enjoy throughout the season.

Joanna creates the most beautiful wreaths, and is fun to create with. The cost of the workshop is discounted for gallery members. Register by Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Gallery at the VAULT is

located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Friday, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

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

The Price is Right Live

RUTLAND, Vt. – The Paramount Theatre will play host to “The Price is Right Live” interactive stage show on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets went on sale Friday, Oct. 4, at 10 a.m., and can be purchased online at www.paramountvt.org/event/the-price-is-right-live. In-person box office hours, at 30 Center Street in Rutland, are Fridays, from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., and one hour prior to all main stage events.

“The Price is Right Live” is making its way across America in a live, interactive stage show this winter. “Come on down” and be a part of this nontelevised, family-friendly stage show offering fans a chance to make dreams come true and

relive feelings of nostalgia, while experiencing the same thrilling excitement of winning big, up close, locally and in person.

“The Price is Right Live” will be giving randomly selected contestants a chance to play everyone’s favorite games like Plinko, Cliffhangers, The Big Wheel, and even the fabulous Showcase. The show features an array of fantastic prizes, from appliances and electronics, to dream vacations, and a brand-new car. Lucky audience members can even win prizes right from their seat.

Special packages will be available for those who consider themselves a superfan of America’s legendary game show, including special gifts, seating, and the chance to spin The Big

Wheel. Check our website for details and packages available.

Playing to packed houses for more than 20 years, “The Price is Right Live” has entertained millions of guests, and given away more than \$15 million in cash and prizes.

For more information, follow “The Price is Right Live” on Facebook at www.facebook.com/priceisrightlive, X (formerly Twitter) at www.x.com/TPIRLIVE, and Instagram at www.instagram.com/priceisrightlive.

Halloween dance fundraiser in Acworth

ACWORTH, N.H. – Get ready for a spectacular evening of fun and music. The Acworth Village Store is excited to announce a Halloween dance fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 7-10 p.m., at the Acworth Town Hall, located at 13 Town Hall Road, Acworth, N.H. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Acworth Village Store, a beloved community gathering place.

The night will feature live music by The Blue

Collar Band, who will keep the dance floor rocking with their crowd-pleasing mix of tunes. There will also be a costume contest, so make sure to come dressed in your best Halloween attire for a chance to win prizes.

Additionally, the event will include a 50-50 raffle, offering attendees the opportunity to support the village store while potentially walking away with a cash prize.

Feel free to bring along your own refreshments to enjoy, and perhaps share

with others, throughout the evening.

Entry is by donation, so give what you can to support this important community cause.

Don’t miss out on this chance to dance the night away while supporting the Acworth Village Store. Mark your calendars for Oct. 26, and join us for a night of Halloween fun and fundraising.

For more information, contact Mary Lord or Ann Kosa at the Acworth Village Store, at 603-835-6547.

VSO String Quartet at Chester Town Hall

CHESTER, Vt. – On Nov. 10, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra’s (VSO) String Quartet will be performing “Elgar to Gershwin and Bach to the Beatles” in the beautifully restored, fully accessible Chester Town Hall Theater.

Violinists Jane Kitredge and Brooke Quiggins-Saulnier, violist Stefanie Taylor, and cel-

list Perri Morris will present an evening of classical and popular music, including Edith Piaf’s “La Vie en Rose,” Ben E. King’s “Stand by Me,” “All You Need is Love” by The Beatles, “Moonlight in Vermont,” the Bach “Double Concerto,” and more.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the concert begins at 7 p.m. Admission is by donation.

This program is presented by Upstairs at Town Hall, a volunteer nonprofit community group working to bring arts and cultural events to Chester and the surrounding communities. Those wishing to underwrite or sponsor this or other events, to donate to Upstairs at Town Hall, or to volunteer to help with events, please email upstairsattownhall@gmail.com.

Springfield Community Players present “Rumors”

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Players are preparing for their final show of the 2024 season, “Rumors” by Neil Simon. Under the direction of Ashlee White, the cast has been working hard to bring this hilarious farce to the greater Springfield community this November.

Set in Snedens Landing, N.Y., during the late 1980s, four prominent couples arrive at their friends’ house for their 10th anniversary party, but things are not as they should be. What happened to the happy couple, Charley and Myra Brock? Where are the servants? Where is the food? Why is Charley bleeding? As the

rumors start to fly, it is up to the guests to figure out what transpired.

The performances are Nov. 16, 22, and 23, at 7:30 p.m.; and Nov. 17 and 24, at 2 p.m., at the Players Studio, 165 South Street, Springfield, Vt. Tickets are on sale now at www.springfieldcommunityplayers.org, or by calling 802-885-4098.



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2024 Rockingham Old House Awards



The Bellows Falls Garage building.

PHOTO PROVIDED



The Hamby-Pruden Farm.

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Studio 92.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Rockingham Old House Awards have been announced, celebrating the efforts of local property owners and organizations committed to preserving historic sites in the area.

This year's honorees include P. Michael Myers, recognized for his home at 17 Westminster Terrace in Bellows Falls Village; Richard DeMuzio, for his work on 60 Green Street, also in Bellows Falls Village; Erica

Daniels and Tim Wells, for their contributions to Studio 92 on Rockingham Street, near the Bellows Falls Village Square; Christine Hume, for her preservation of the Hamby-Pruden Farm on Rockingham Hill Road; and Richard and Barbara Stickney, for their stewardship of their family farm along Pleasant Valley Road.

In addition, the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust is

being specially recognized for its outstanding efforts in conserving the historic landscape of northern downtown Bellows Falls. This is the first time in the nearly 30-year history of the Old House Awards that recognition is being given for historic reconstruction.

The Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission hosted a reception for the award winners on

Sunday, Oct. 20, at 11 a.m., at the Rockingham Meeting House, located at 11 Meeting House Road in Rockingham Village.

After the reception, there was a town hall meeting focused on the Rockingham Meeting House Preservation Project, where a status report was given. Construction is set to begin in the summer of 2025, with Phase 1 focusing on foundation and drainage improvements, supported by Save America's Treasures funding. Walter Wallace, project director, noted that approvals from the National Park Service are already in place for this phase.

Since the town received a National Park Service Semiquincentennial preservation grant on Labor Day,

Phase 2 planning is now underway. This phase will concentrate on conserving the building's woodwork and plaster, with work expected to continue through 2026.

John Leppman, chair of the historic preservation commission, expressed the community's pride in the 1787 Rockingham Meeting House, describing it as the birthplace of historic preservation in Rockingham. He highlighted its restoration in 1906 as a milestone that has set the tone for preservation efforts across the region.

The Old House Awards program is supported by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service. For more information, contact clg@rockbfb.org.

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Buying down your interest rate

REGION - Homebuyers looking for ways to bring down their monthly mortgage costs have embraced mortgage rate buydowns and discount points in recent years. A buydown involves paying a fee to lower your interest rate, which could make sense if you plan to stay in your home for a long time, or want lower payments in the early years of your loan.

There are two ways to buy a lower mortgage interest rate from a lender. The first is a "mortgage rate buydown" or mortgage buydown, where you pay a fee to the lender upfront to temporarily lower your interest rate for the first few years of the loan. Temporary buydowns cannot help the borrower apply for a higher mortgage than they'd typically qualify for.

The second involves buying "mortgage points" or "discount points," where you pay the lender a one-time fee at closing to lower the rate for the entire term of the loan.

A lender will quote you a mortgage interest rate that is based on the type of loan you're getting, your credit score, income, and other personal financial information. You can choose to pay a fee to the lender to buy "points," which will lower the rate for the life of the loan. You also can buy down the rate temporarily with a rate buydown.

Temporary mortgage rate buydowns

With mortgage rate buydowns, you pay a fee to

temporarily lower the interest rate at the start of your mortgage, typically for one to three years. This fee is part of your loan closing costs. There are different types of buydown structures to consider.

With a 1-0 buydown, your rate is 1% lower for the first year of the loan, and then increases to the higher base rate for the rest of the loan term.

With a 2-1 buydown, your rate is 2% lower the first year, and 1% lower the second year, before ticking up to the higher rate.

Finally, there is a 3-2-1 buydown. This one is less common, because the upfront costs are higher. It works like the other temporary buydowns, lowering the rate by 3% the first year, 2% the second, and 1% the third.

The cost of a temporary buydown depends on the base interest rate and the loan amount. For example, a 2-1 buydown on a \$400,000 mortgage with a long-term rate of 6.25% would cost about \$8,990. The fee amounts to prepaid interest, or what you would have paid at the higher rate for two years.

Mortgage point buydowns

With mortgage points - also called discount points - you pay your lender a one-time fee at closing to lower the interest rate for the duration of the loan, typically 30 years. This fee is part of your loan closing costs.

For mortgage or discount points, buying one point

usually costs 1% of the total loan amount. One point usually lowers your rate by 0.25%, but that can vary among lenders.

For example, let's say a lender offered you a \$300,000 loan with an interest rate of 6.5%. If you wanted to permanently lower that rate to 6.25%, you would buy one point, paying \$3,000 - or 1% of the total loan amount - at closing for the lower rate.

Eligibility
You're eligible to buy down your interest rate if you're purchasing a primary home or a second home, or if you're refinancing either of those homes without cashing out equity. Investment properties and cash-out refinances are not eligible for temporary rate buydowns.

The federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau found that nearly 59% of buyers who bought their home with a mortgage, and nearly 89% of homeowners who refinanced their mortgages bought down their interest rate in 2023, a year when rates surged from historic lows.

The analysis showed that the typical buyer that year paid for one point, and that buyers with lower credit scores paid points more often than buyers with higher scores.

Benefits
According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, "most borrowers only benefit from discount points if they keep their mortgage long enough that

the cumulative monthly savings from the reduced interest rate outweigh the upfront costs...Borrowers who plan to keep their mortgage for a long time and have cash on hand may find it advantageous to pay discount points. However, discount points are less useful for cash-strapped borrowers and those who expect to refinance or move in the near future."

To determine whether buying down your rate (aka "paying points") makes sense, you have to calculate how long it takes your monthly interest cost savings to cover the cost of the points.

In the above example, where you're borrowing \$300,000, the lender is offering you a 6.5% rate with no points on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage. Under that scenario, your monthly payment would be \$1,517 in principal and interest.

If you pay one point to lower the rate to 6.25%, the monthly payment would drop to \$1,478 - a savings of \$39 a month. So basically, you'd be paying \$3,000 - the equivalent of 1% of the loan amount - to save \$39 a month, or \$468 a year. If you stayed in the house for 6.4 years, the buydown would pay for itself, and continue to save you \$468 in mortgage payment every year for the next 23.6 years.

If you move before the buydown pays for itself, you would have paid more. If you stay in the home for 30 years, the savings on interest alone would total \$14,128.

There are pros and cons to buying down your interest rate. Some of the pros are: you save money by lowering your monthly payment; permanent buydowns, like discount points, could help you qualify for a larger loan; you might be able to reduce the cost of buying down the rate on your taxes if you itemize deductions; and the lower rate on a permanent buydown could help you qualify for the mortgage by lowering your debt-to-income ratio, one of the measures lenders use to assess your creditworthiness.

The cons of a permanent buydown include the fact that you have to bring more money to the closing unless the seller or builder is paying for it as a concession; your monthly mortgage payment will increase if you opt for one of the temporary buydowns; it might not pay off if you sell your home before you break even; if you're asking a seller or builder to pay for a temporary buydown, you might be giving up other concessions, such as a discounted purchase price or paying a larger share of closing costs, that could be more valuable to you; and you may not be able to recover the cost of a buydown if interest rates are in decline and you refinance the loan before the break-even point.

How to get a mortgage rate buydown

Talk to a loan officer and your agent. Not every lender offers temporary mortgage buydowns. Those that do set their own terms and conditions, and may not offer them on every loan type.

Interest rates vary among loan types, so the amount you could save will depend on the type of mortgage you're considering.

When you find a lender that offers rate buydown, you will still have to qualify for the mortgage. Temporary buydowns revert to the starting rate, so you want to make sure you can afford that.

If you're in a market that favors buyers - or if you're buying new construction - you can ask the seller or builder to pay for the rate buydown at closing. This tactic is most effective in markets that favor buyers, or when you're negotiating for a home that hasn't sold as quickly as expected. With this tactic, you and your agent would craft an offer over the list price and ask the seller to credit that money back so you can buy down the interest rate at closing. In effect, you're spreading the cost of the buydown over the life of the loan. This strategy is riskier since it requires the home you're considering to appraise at the higher amount.

Information provided by Zillow Group.

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- Pop singer Celine
- "It's c-c-cold!"
- Cicatrix
- Vicinity
- Fib
- Sharpen
- Huge kudos
- Assess
- Blue
- Shadowed
- Pretended
- Decorate
- Rapscallions
- Campus cafeteria offering
- Carnival city
- Long skirts
- Oklahoma tribe
- '80s arcade game
- Rights org.
- Head, to Henri
- Fine, at NASA
- Detail
- Tempura choice
- Furnace fuel
- Pay to play
- Clarinet insert
- Scepter
- Feels unwell
- Mattress option
- Writer Kingsley
- Music genre for BTS
- Plano's state
- Abba-inspired musical
- Lake bird
- Slightly
- Forget-me- (flowers)
- 1102, to Nero
- Esoteric
- Rum cocktail
- Hindu honorific
- Border on
- Give up
- Oodles
- Arduous journey
- Author Umberto
- Agt.'s cut
- Hearty brew
- "Tasty!"

DOWN

- River blocker
- A Gershwin brother
- British ref. work
- Italian port
- Huff and puff
- Wardrobe malfunction
- Check

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community news

When you find yourself in a hole, **STOP DIGGING!**



State spending has increased 43% since COVID, causing taxes and fees to skyrocket. For many Vermonters like me, a retiree, a deep hole has been dug, made worse by inflation. Now, progressive legislators are proposing to add \$1.79 to \$4.00 per gallon to home heating fuel. This madness needs to stop.

Greater fiscal accountability and affordability can be restored if Governor Phil Scott gains the support of just a handful of moderate legislators willing to combat a veto-proof supermajority. The Ludlow, Mount Holly,



Shrewsbury district could be the key, so every vote counts. Don't leave it to others to protect your pocketbook. Vote Kevin Winter for change.

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Want to talk? Call (802) 245-4190 or email kcwinter5783@gmail.com
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Boston Fed CEO visits Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – It's long been lore in the town of Springfield, Vt., that it was number seven on the list of the top U.S. sites Hitler wanted to bomb during World War II.

There's some question about the origins of this list, or even whether it really existed. But there's no question about the claim at the heart of the story: this small town and its thriving machine tool industry were vital to the war effort.

Today, that industry is gone from Springfield, and there's been long fallout from the loss of jobs and identity. For instance, the percentage of households receiving public assistance is nearly double the state average, according to Bob Flint, executive director of the Springfield Regional Development Corporation.

But Flint also pointed to the \$9 million already spent to clean up former factory sites in this town of 9,000, and the \$5 million more that's committed. The remediation is seen as a critical step toward commercial redevelopment at the sites.

"We've kind of picked ourselves up," Flint said. "We've been very resilient."

The town's efforts to reset include participating in the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Working Places initiative. On Thursday, Oct. 10, Boston Fed President Susan M. Collins

visited Springfield during a Vermont trip that also took her to a Rutland manufacturing site and a meeting with business leaders in South Burlington.

In Springfield, Collins told the Working Places team she knows "there's a lot of focus on the big cities like Boston."

"But a lot of people and a lot of our economy is outside of those cities," she said. "It's in towns, it's in rural areas, it's in smaller cities. And those are really important for a vibrant economy."

One overarching goal of the initiative is to increase workforce participation. Working Places brings different community sectors together to address long-standing problems, and Springfield was selected to be part of the initiative's Working Communities Challenge (WCC) in 2020. An overarching goal for the WCC team is increasing local workforce participation, which Flint's agency estimates at 56%, well below September's U.S. labor force participation rate of 62.7%.

Flint told Collins that to



Boston Fed CEO Susan Collins learns more about the Springfield Area Working Communities Challenge from project coordinator Amanda Sidler of SRDC.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF BOSTON

do that, it's important that social services and the private sector find a "common language," so both sides understand they share many goals and concerns. He also emphasized a "no wrong door" approach, meaning everyone who comes for help is routed to someone who can give it.

Team members said specific steps they've taken include advocating for employers to better understand and meet various challenges employees face – everything from addiction, to difficulties finding child care and transportation.

They're also working to take advantage of the area's exceptionally fast connectivity speeds to draw business. And the WCC launched a free laptop program during the pandemic, to provide access to technology and help teach its fundamentals.

WCC team member Sue Graff, Vermont's field services director, said people must have hope that good things are ahead.

"Connecting the partners and players through Working Communities is really the way we're going to do that, help people re-envision their future here," she said.

Written by Jay Lindsay, provided courtesy of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.



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