

FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT
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Sunday, Nov. 3



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Deb Collier retiring from GFRCC

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – After many years as our fearless chamber director, Deb Collier is retiring from Greater Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce (GFRCC). We thank Collier for her many years of service, and her dedication to the community. She has welcomed countless visitors, attended many meetings for the region, spearheaded events, and kept the chamber and Waypoint Center running through its ups and downs.

Her legacy includes our most beloved event, the Southern Vermont Flannel Festival.



Deb Collier (center) at her signature event, the Southern Vermont Flannel Festival.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Deb Collier. PHOTO PROVIDED

It grew from a funny little idea to a widely known and popular event that drew thousands to our beautiful region. We hope to still see her smiling face at local events. We know she'll be thrilled to not be responsible for speaking at them. Deb looks forward to spending time with her family both near and far.

Join us for Deb's retirement celebration on Thursday, Nov. 7, at 5:30

p.m., at the Bellows Falls Moose Club. We would love for you all to attend to show your appreciation for all her dedication and hard work. Singo will immediately following the celebration at 6:30 p.m. A new and exciting spin on bingo, players listen for their favorite music instead of numbers. Bring your friends, grab a beverage, and have fun.

Kurn Hattin hosts Ashuelot Concerts musicians

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Music has always been an important part of the Kurn Hattin Homes experience.

"Music is more than an academic subject," says Sue Kessler, assistant executive director of Kurn Hattin Homes. "Music has always been an integral part of our curriculum, because it benefits the children on so many levels, it can be a transformative experience. Learning to play an instrument and being part of an ensemble can foster self-confidence and social skills, teach patience, and enhance creativity. Having the Ashuelot Concerts musicians bring their talent and passion for music education to our students adds a dimension to our program that's incredibly valuable."

Ashuelot Concerts, led by artistic and executive director Nick Burns (pianist) and program and artistic director Louisa Stonehill (violinist), is a nonprofit organization that offers schools the opportunity to bring music education and live classical music from some of the world's most talented musicians to their students.

At their recent visit to Kurn Hattin Homes, Ashuelot Concerts presented a program entitled "When Tchaikovsky Met Brahms & Grieg." In between the musical selections, they shared information about the pieces and the composers, then



Nick Burns and Louisa Stonehill.

PHOTO PROVIDED

welcomed questions from the children at the conclusion of the performance.

"It was a joy, a pleasure, and privilege to share our music with the students and staff at Kurn Hattin," said Stonehill. "I am in awe of these young people who had such a sophisticated response to the concert. The thoughts, questions, and insights that the children shared at the end of the performance shows just how visceral the impact of the live classical experience was for them."

Ashuelot Concerts School Program uses live music to inspire young minds. Their work at Kurn Hattin is part of a broader program that reaches around 5,000 children annually. By bringing world-class musicians directly into schools, they create special moments of inspiration that resonate long after the final note is

played. To hear "When Tchaikovsky met Brahms & Grieg," visit the Ashuelot Concerts October Listening Club at www.ashuelotconcerts.org/october-2024-listening-club-when-tchaikovsky-met-brahms-grieg.



Rotarian Bob Flint looks on as Steve Mas, manager of TMM Dispensary, draws the ticket for the \$5,000 raffle prize.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Halloween Boo Basket winner

Emily, 6, of Springfield won our Halloween Activity prize drawing. Congratulations, Emily. Happy Halloween!

PHOTO PROVIDED



Central Elementary installs Little Free Library

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Central Elementary School (CES) in Bellows Falls, Vt., is happy and proud to announce that we have installed a Little Free Library in front of the school. As a collaboration between CES teacher Laurie Bolotin; Principal Kerry Kennedy; Rick Schuhmann, head of district custodial staff; and Bellows Falls Union High School, the idea was presented to offer a high school senior an opportunity to do a senior project with a direct, relevant, and community-minded outcome. Elizabeth Anderson, recent BFUHS graduate, rose to the challenge and built the book box that



Left to right: Rick Schuhmann, Kerry Kennedy, Elizabeth Anderson, and Laurie Bolotin pose with the CES Little Free Library. PHOTO PROVIDED

was recently installed in front of the school. Future plans will be to have CES students work with the art teacher Jay Palmisano to decorate the Little Free Library. Children's books are available for anyone to take, free of charge, with the intention of building literacy and inspiring readers in our community.

Springfield Elks Lodge DAP Trunk or Treat

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Lodge 1560 members and Springfield High School youths held a "haunting" drug awareness program (DAP) as part of Springfield's annual Trunk or Treat event. Elroy the Elk tried to make an appearance, but was blown away by the high winds, so his lodge helps distributed drug awareness coloring books, crayons, literature, and candy, while escorting them through the "haunted" trailer. Over 1,000 people



Springfield Elks Lodge participating in Trunk or Treat. PHOTO PROVIDED

that had over 40 sponsored trunks.

70th annual Springfield Rotary Penny Sale a success

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The 70th annual Springfield Rotary Club Penny Sale was held on Saturday, Oct. 19, at Riverside Middle School in Springfield, with an enthusiastic crowd of 500 in attendance. Three-hundred-forty prizes, with values from \$15 to \$500, were distributed.

The Penny Sale netted over \$16,000. Doreen Bolger was the winner of the

drawing for the grand prize of \$5,000 in cash. In addition, Michelle Ryan was the door prize winner, selected from the grand prize tickets, for \$500 in cash.

The Springfield Rotary Club has raised over \$750,000 since the inception of the Penny Sale. The club annually awards scholarships to Springfield students who are going to college. The total scholarships donations resulting from the Penny Sale

exceeds \$230,000. Rotary International is an international service organization with over 1 million members in over 200 countries. The Rotary Club of Springfield, founded in 1927, is an active community service club of more than 40 members who engage in community and human service projects both locally and internationally. For more information, visit www.springfieldvtrotary.org.

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DEADLINES

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

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VTSU information session at Rockingham Library

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Free Public Library will host a Vermont State University (VTSU) information session on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m. Join us to learn about opportunities for adult learners to earn a college degree in a format that works with your family and work commitments,

too. A VTSU admissions representative will explain the online education programs available through VTSU Online (www.vermontstate.edu/vtsuonline), how to apply for admission, and how you might even be able to earn your degree for free. See www.vermontstate.edu/freetuit

for details. This informational program is free and open to the public.

Please register at www.vermontstate.edu/rockinghamlibraryprogram so we know you're coming. The Rockingham Library is located at 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

Food for Life vegan potluck Nov. 3

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join us for the Food for Life vegan potluck on Sunday, Nov. 3, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., in the Huber Building, 80 Main Street in Springfield, Vt. It's time to move back inside and we are grateful to have a handicapped accessible space. These potlucks are a great way to get to know people and build community. Why vegan? Everybody

can eat plant-based food, but people who don't eat animal products don't find much they can eat at regular potlucks. Eating just plants cuts out cholesterol, reduces saturated fats, and increases intake of fiber and a wide range of nutrients, so it is healthier for us overall. It is also healthier for the planet. Growing plants for food reduces production of methane and nitrous oxide,

greenhouse gases that are much more powerful than carbon dioxide, uses less open land, and fewer fossil fuels than raising plants to feed animals to feed people. You don't have to be vegan to enjoy these potlucks. Just bring something to share that has only plant and mineral ingredients, and be prepared to enjoy the delicious foods that people bring.

Kurn Hattin staff appointments

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Kurn Hattin Homes for Children is proud to welcome several new staff members in the third quarter of 2024. These highly qualified individuals bring a wealth of experience and expertise, reinforcing Kurn Hattin's commitment to nurturing a compassionate and enriching environment for the children it serves. The addition of these new team members strengthens the focus on delivering the highest quality academic and residential programs. Their contributions will further enhance the cohesive and supportive environment Kurn Hattin Homes strives to maintain, ensuring that each child has the opportunity to grow and succeed.

Terry Andrews has been promoted to the position of admissions coordinator. Andrews, who has been with Kurn Hattin Homes for nine years, will serve as a vital link between the organization and the public, educating community referral sources throughout New England about the services and resources Kurn Hattin has to offer children and families in need of assistance. Terry says, "I'm extremely passionate about the homes' mission, so this job is an extension of my commitment, and an absolute pleasure."

Debbie Barreau has joined the residential staff as a houseparent. Barreau says, "What drew me to Kurn Hattin Homes is the deep commitment to providing a nurturing and supportive environment

for children. I'm looking forward to getting to know the kids, building meaningful connections, and having fun as we create a positive and loving home together."

Deborah Billings has accepted the position of Kurn Hattin Homes nurse. Having recently relocated from Rhode Island, Billings says, "Kurn Hattin is where I want to be. The first time I visited the campus, it felt like the right fit. It's a beautiful setting with all the right reasons for me to be here, helping children grow into healthy, confident young people."

Jason Dumaine has joined the residential staff as a houseparent. He comes to Kurn Hattin from the Milton Hershey School in Pennsylvania, and says that his previous experience as a houseparent has prepared him well for the position at Kurn Hattin. Dumaine is looking forward to making a positive impact on the children who call Kurn Hattin home.

Brian Jordan has joined the maintenance department, with responsibilities that include maintaining the campus grounds.

Dylan Otto has accepted a part-time position

in the maintenance department, working as a custodian in the Mayo Center, Kurn Hattin's academic school building.

Renee Phelps has accepted the position of administrative assistant in the Mayo Center. Phelps, who has worked in the school system for 25 years, says, "Not only was I drawn to the beautiful campus, I'm looking forward to seeing the children on a daily basis and learning more about aspects of Kurn Hattin that make living and learning here so special for the children."

Kaitlyn Weber has started the new academic year at Kurn Hattin teaching third and fourth grade students. Weber, who has a background in the Vermont public school system, says, "The staff leadership is so supportive, and I'm looking forward to the wonderful things we can do together for our students."

To learn more about employment opportunities at Kurn Hattin Homes, please visit www.kurnhattin.org/employment-opportunities.

BF Woman's Club October meeting

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Members of the Bellows Falls Woman's Club (BFWC) will meet on Nov. 12, at the United Church, School Street, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The program presenter will be Kathy Cray, showing her quilt and speaking of other fabric arts, including dolls. Her program is entitled "Playthings by the Yard."

At the Oct. 8 club meeting, members and several guests heard a presentation on the JED Foundation from Kelly O'Ryan, principal of Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS), and faculty member Vicky Jones. This grant-funded program's focus is student mental health and suicide

prevention. On Oct. 26, the local club held a successful food sale in conjunction with the Friends of the Walpole Library's book sale. Monies raised through this and other fundraising initiatives support the club's public service to the greater area communities and two high school scholarships.

The Bellows Falls Woman's Club is a member of the GFWC, an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Area women interested in joining the club and working on its projects and outreach may contact Membership Chairman Sally McGaffigan at 603-445-2729.

Advantage Truck Group celebrates 40

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Forty years ago, Kevin Holmes invested his life savings of \$12,000 to open a Getty gas station in Ashland, Mass., never imagining two years later it would launch the Tri State Truck Repair business that would become Advantage Truck Group (ATG). Today, ATG is New England's largest Daimler Trucks, North America dealer, and includes 400 employees across eight locations.

"When I think about the past 40 years and the journey to get here, it's the people who made the difference and helped build our success," said President and CEO Kevin Holmes. "It's our business partners who believed in us, and each customer who trusted us with their business. Yet no one is more important than every person at ATG, and I am proud to share this milestone with them," said Holmes.

The first technician Holmes hired 40 years ago and many of its earliest customers are still with the company today. ATG continues to support the next generation and foster their success, making investments in training and providing opportunities for growth within its dealer network.

"Our customers deliver the products and services our families, businesses, and communities rely on every day, and no detail is too small when it comes to the service and support they need," Holmes said. On Oct. 29, ATG hosted celebration events for team members across its dealer network, and offered giveaways to customers who visited any of its eight locations – Raynham, Shrewsbury, and Westfield, Mass.; Lancaster, Lebanon, Manchester, and Seabrook, N.H.; and Westminster, Vt.

"As we plan for the next 40 years, a commitment to our employees, customers, and communities will remain at the heart of everything we do," said Holmes.



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First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls turkey dinner

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls First Friday Fundraiser in November is a free turkey dinner. Donations will be collected for Our Place Drop-in Center. Turkey dinner with all the fixings. Friday, Nov. 1, from 5-6:30 p.m.

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Half a step behind

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

This past week has been for me what I call, “half a step behind.” I couldn’t seem to catch up. Sometimes it sneaks up on me, as it did this Sunday morning. I couldn’t think of anything to write about. So, I hope you find these ramblings interesting.

Cavendish Bicentennial
I have a little pamphlet for the 1761-1961 Cavendish Bicentennial. An excerpt is included below.

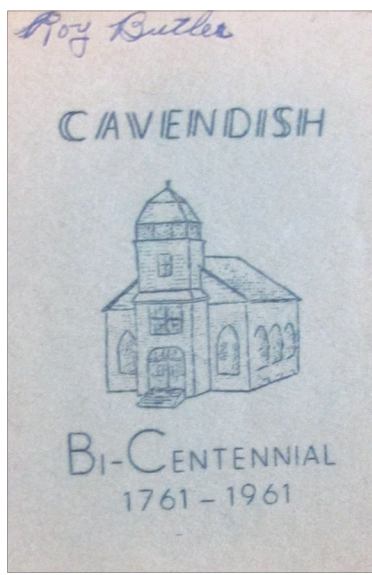
“Cavendish Gorge is the most interesting case of erosion ever recorded by the hand of time. The chain of lakes, once existing in the terraced basin of Black River Valley (where Cavendish, Proctorsville and Ludlow are located)

had an outlet through Duttonsville Gulf. A high rocky barrier extended along the eastern end, through which the stream finally found a passage at lower level.

“Varnum’s Point’ is a name given one point affording a magnificent view. In 1841, as the story is told, Varnum Lockwood, working on the ledge, lost his balance and fell forty-five and one half feet into the swirling eddy below. His companions watched him buffeting with the waves, but he secured a hold on a jutting rock and drew himself from the water, almost in an exhausted state. He was beyond reach of the companions, who were unable to descend to his assistance, but inquired about his fall. Looking up, and feeling in his pocket,

while water ran in torrents from his drenched person, he replied, ‘The fall didn’t hurt me much, but I’m darned fraid I’ve lost my pocket-knife.’ The spot has since been called Varnum’s Point.

“Down the southern bank about 40 rods is ‘Lover’s Leap.’ Here the jutting mica schist stands out in a perpendicular precipice, one hundred feet above the foaming current. This is one of the wildest and most romantic scenes of



Cavendish Bi-Centennial program cover, 1761-1961.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Cavendish Gorge.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH



The potholes in the Cavendish Gorge.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

Learn about “The Barns of Weston”

WESTON, Vt. –

The image of a weathered barn, standing in a meadow, against the background of the Green Mountains, is a Vermont icon, the subject of countless drawings, paintings, and photographs, because barns convey a sense of tranquility and tradition. On Sunday, Nov. 17, at 4 p.m., educator and historian Jonathan Bigelow will deliver a well-illustrated and acclaimed talk on the barns of our area. The venue is the Old Parish Church, on Route 100 in Weston.

Subjects to be covered include how and when the majority of barns in our area were built, how the basic barn structure was altered to fit the specific crops or products being farmed, and how barn design has evolved as farming practices



Antique barns, like this one on Route 100 in Weston, played important roles during southern Vermont's agrarian era. Though picturesque, many have become fragile.

PHOTO PROVIDED

have changed over time.

While some buildings that are called “barns” were constructed to house carriages, or for other purposes, most in our area were built to support agricultural production. As agriculture in southern Vermont has declined, many of these structures have been left standing in the harsh Vermont weather, no longer needed nor maintained. While these structures may offer a “nostalgic” or “romantic” appearance, these relics of another era, another economy, may soon be lost to us

without some measure of preservation.

There is no cost to attend the lecture. Donations to the event’s sponsor, the Weston Historical Society, will be accepted with thanks.

Mystery novelist visits Bellows Falls

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –

Vermont author Sarah Stewart Taylor will be reading from and discussing her mystery novels at the Rockingham Library on Thursday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m. Taylor is the author of the Sweeney St. George series, set in New England; the Maggie Darcy mysteries, set in Ireland and on Long Island; and her recently published “Agony Hill,” the first in a new series set in rural Vermont in the 1960s. The Rockingham Library Book Club is currently reading “The Mountains Wild” from her Maggie Darcy series. Many of Taylor’s titles are available to borrow from the library. If you don’t already have a Rockingham Library card, this might be a great time to get one. Cards are free for Rockingham residents.

Taylor has been nominated for an Agatha Award and for the Dashiell Hammett Prize, and her mysteries have appeared on numerous best of the year lists. A former journalist and teacher, she writes and lives with her family on a farm in Vermont, where they raise sheep and grow blueberries. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270, or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

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health news

Rockingham Health Center to close Jan. 1

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – At North Star Health, we value our patients, and understand that any changes to healthcare can feel overwhelming. Recently, we made the difficult decision to consolidate our Rockingham Health Center with our Springfield and Charlestown locations, effective Jan. 1, 2025. As highlighted by the Green Mountain Care Board's recent guidance under Act 167, Vermont's healthcare system is at a

crossroads. This necessary decision reflects the evolving healthcare landscape and our commitment to ensuring long-term access to care.

We know this may feel challenging, and we're here to help. You will have the option to follow your primary care provider to either our Springfield or Charlestown Health Centers (just a short drive from Rockingham), or you can choose another provider within North Star who is

accepting new patients. Our team will work with patients to find the best solution based on their needs. We're committed to helping patients make this transition as smooth as possible.

For those concerned about transportation, our community health team is available to assist with resources, to ensure no one is left behind as we navigate this transition.

Since 2020, the number of primary care patients at

the Rockingham Health Center has decreased by nearly 50%. The combination of the low numbers, financial challenges, staffing shortages, and aging facilities, make it clear that we must rethink how care is delivered to ensure sustainability and access for all. Though unsettling, consolidating services into fewer, better-supported locations is essential to the bigger picture of preserving access to quality care to those who need it most.

As North Star announces this restructure, please know that we have engaged closely with our elected officials, who agree that reimbursement models must evolve for healthcare to be truly accessible. At the same time, our community members are feeling the burden of rising taxes, and cannot bear much more. It is a complex issue that no single solution will solve, but rest assured we are exploring many approaches.

Your voice in this mat-

ter is meaningful. We invite stakeholders to join a community forum in the waiting room of the Rockingham Health Center on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 5:30 p.m., to discuss the change.

We appreciate the community understanding and flexibility as we navigate these changes together. Your trust and support mean the world to us, and we are committed to being here for you – today and in the future – providing the care you deserve.

Hearts of Hope

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – It is that time of the year when we remember and honor loved ones, friends, or coworkers in a unique way. The Hearts of Hope Campaign, sponsored by Springfield Hospital and its volunteers, gives us time to pause, to reflect on those that have meant so much to us. When you contribute to the campaign, a hand-made heart ornament will be placed on the Hearts of Hope holiday tree at Springfield Hospital. All donations will support

Springfield Hospital services.

Our tree dedication ceremony will be on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. We will gather at the Nolin-Murray Center, 10 Pleasant Street, adjacent to St. Mary's Church, in Springfield, Vt. Light refreshments will be provided. For all donations received by Nov. 30, the name of your honoree will be included in the ceremony's program. We welcome donors and members of the community to attend this ceremony.

After the ceremony, the tree will be on display at Springfield Hospital in the Level C lobby. If you are unable to attend the dedication ceremony, you may stop by the hospital until Dec. 14 to pick up your ornament(s). After Dec. 14, your ornament(s) will be mailed to you or your designee. To learn more, and to download a contribution form, visit www.springfieldhospital.org/fundraising-events.

Grace Cottage hosts Saturday flu shot clinics

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Grace Cottage will host a flu vaccine clinic on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Grace Cottage Family Health, 185 Grafton Road, Townshend, Vt.

You do not need to be an established patient at Grace Cottage to get a flu shot at these clinics. Preregistration is recommended by calling 802-

365-4331; walk-ins will be accommodated as space permits. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Most insurance covers flu shots; please bring an ID and insurance card with you. If you are not insured, payment for your flu shot is expected at the time of service.

Two different flu shots are being offered this year, one for those age 6 months to 64 years, and another for those who are 65 and older. Flu shots are also available at Grace Cottage weekdays by appointment, call 802-365-4331.

An annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to avoid getting the flu and spreading it to others. It takes about two weeks for protection to develop after vaccination. The Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone age 6 months and older get an annual flu vaccine. People over age 65 or those with a chronic disease, such as diabetes or asthma, have a higher risk of contracting the flu, and are especially urged to get the shot.

For more information about the flu and vaccination, visit www.healthvermont.gov, or call the Vermont helpline at 211.

Grace Cottage will collect donations for the Townshend Food Shelf during the clinic. If you wish to support the food shelf in this way, you can bring a nonperishable food item to the clinic.

For more information about this or other Grace Cottage services, visit www.gracecottage.org, or call 802-365-4331.

Jennifer Chambers appointed to Clinical Utilization Review Board

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Hospital is pleased to announce that its director of case management and social services Jennifer Chambers has accepted a three-year appointment to Gov. Scott's Clinical Utilization Review Board. The Clinical Utilization Review Board (CURB) was established by Act 146 during the 2010 legisla-

tive session. The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) was tasked to create the CURB to examine existing medical services, emerging technologies, and relevant evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, and



Jennifer Chambers.

PHOTO PROVIDED

make recommendations to DVHA regarding coverage, unit limitations, place of service, and appropriate medical necessity of services in the state's Medicaid programs. The CURB is comprised of 10 members with diverse medical experience, appointed by the governor upon recommendation of the Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access.

Springfield Family Center "Buy a Day" fundraiser

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Support Springfield Family Center with "Buy a Day, Make a Difference!"

With Springfield Family Center's recent move to a more accessible location, we're experiencing a surge in demand for our charitable food resources. Unfortunately, this increased need coincides with decreased funding opportunities. As an organization dedicated to providing free food, we rely solely on town appropriation, grants, and fundraising events to sustain our charitable food programs.

To help meet the ris-

ing demands, we're excited to introduce a new way for individuals to support our mission: "Buy a Day, Make a Difference!"

Here's how it works. Honor yourself or someone special by purchasing a day on our calendar, which will provide up to 30 meals for food-insecure neighbors. The honoree will be publicly recognized on their chosen day as a vital partner in our efforts to combat hunger in the community.

This is a unique way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion by gifting hope and sustenance to those in need. Spread the word about your special day, because any donations made on that day will be matched up to \$100.

To secure your day, make a one-time minimum gift to the Springfield Family Center. Alternatively, become a sustaining donor for a monthly fee.

For more information or to purchase your day, please email us at SFCbuyaday@gmail.com. Together, we can make a difference.



ATTEND CLASSES ONLINE!

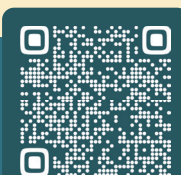
A career helping people age well is **life-changing.**

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

OCT. 31 – WESTMINSTER, Vt. – This Thursday, on Halloween, there will be Trunk or Treat, beginning at 4:30 p.m., in the First Congregational Church parking lot in Westminster. All children are welcome.

NOV. 3 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Food for Life vegan potluck will take place on Sunday, Nov. 3, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at the Huber Building, 80 Main Street. Everyone is welcome. Bring a plant-based dish to share if you can.

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 from 12-5 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.

NOV. 23 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center invites you to join them for their Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., at 139 Main Street in Springfield. There will be many vendors with wonderful handmade items, as well as a food and cookie table with many homemade treats to enjoy. A luncheon will be served.

SUNDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Loyal Order

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

MONDAYS – PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Mondays at 6:15 p.m., join Mikayla for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Zumba classes, Mondays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

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

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

details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Burger night is held every Tuesday, from 5-7 p.m., at the West Townshend Country Store, 6573 Vermont Route 30, West Townshend, Vt. There will be live music provided by a different local artist each week. For more information, visit www.westtownshend.org, call 802-874-4800, email info@westtownshend.org, or message the store on Facebook.

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

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

CHESTER, Vt. – Knit Knite at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common Thursdays, from 5-8 p.m., and via Zoom, from 7-8 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAYS – W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Pizza night is held every Friday, from 5-7 p.m., at the West Townshend Country Store, 6573 Vermont Route 30, West Townshend, Vt. There will be live music provided by a different local artist each week. For more information, visit www.westtownshend.org, call 802-874-4800, email info@westtownshend.org, or message the store on Facebook.

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

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT **PROBATE DIVISION**
Bennington Unit **Docket No.: 24-PR-03766**

In re ESTATE of: Garry Sharon

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Garry Sharon Decedent

late of Peru Decedent's Town of Residence

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

Dated: 28/10/2024 Signature of Fiduciary

<small>Executor/Administrator</small>		<small>Mailing Address</small>	
Chad Blodgett		c/o Law Offices of Amanda L. S. George	
<small>Phone Number</small>	<small>Email</small>	<small>City, State, Zip</small>	<small>City, State, Zip</small>
802-875-7777	chaffee@amandageorgelaw.com	PO Box 578, Chester, VT 05143	

Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal

Publication Date: October 30, 2024

Name of Probate Court: _____

Address of Probate Court: _____

Falls Area Community Television (FACT) Annual Meeting Notice

Falls Area Community Television (FACT) will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, November 6th, 2024, at 6:00 PM. The meeting will take place both in-person at the Greater Rockingham Area Services Conference Room, located at 1 Hospital Court, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, and virtually via Zoom.

The meeting is open to the public. For the Zoom link and additional information on how to participate, please visit FACT's website at www.fact8.com or contact FACT via email at alex@fact8.com.

If you are interested in becoming a board member, we encourage you to visit our website to complete a board member application.

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.

Like us! [@VermontJournal](https://www.facebook.com/VermontJournal)

After School Program (ASP) Director

Two Rivers Supervisory Union has an opening for the After School Program (ASP) Director. The ASP Director is responsible for planning, maintaining funding and executing the program. Responsible for the supervision of ASP Site Coordinators, staff, and daily operations. For more information or to apply please go to School Spring Job ID: 4829947.

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

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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

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 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 (tosh@vermontel.net). Applications may also be downloaded from the Town's website springfieldvt.gov/jobs. The Town of Springfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

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: SUB24-013

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

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.

Public Hearing Public Transit Program

Southeast Vermont Transit (SEVT) gives notice that, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 5311 Non-Urbanized Transportation Program, the opportunity is offered for a public hearing on a proposed Public Transit Program change in the towns of Rockingham, Chester, Ludlow, and Springfield, to change the winter weekend schedule on its #57 Bellows Falls-Ludlow Route from December 24, 2024-March 30, 2025. Persons desiring a hearing to be held should submit written requests to SEVT and to the Vermont Agency of Transportation at the addresses below within 14 days of publication of this notice. Upon receipt of a request, a date will be scheduled, and a notice of hearing will be published. A copy of the proposal may be seen at the Project Manager's Office. Persons desiring to make written comments should forward same to the addresses below within 14 days of publication of this notice.

Transit Provider: State Agency:
 Southeast Vermont Transit Vermont Agency of Transportation
 45 Mill Street Public Transit Section
 Wilmington, VT 05363 Barre City Place
 219 North Main Street
 Barre, VT 05641

Dated at Wilmington, Vermont, County of Windham, State of Vermont this 22nd day of October 18, 2024.
 Randy Schoonmaker
 Project Manager

outdoor news

Petitions for local Conservation District Board of Supervisors

REGION – The State Natural Resources Conservation Council chair, Rick Hopkins of East Montpelier, recently announced the availability of nominating petitions for the statewide elections of district supervisors in each of the 14 Natural Resource Conservation Districts. Natural Resources Conservation Districts are local subdivisions of state government established under the state's Soil Conservation Act to coordinate with landowners and municipalities in applying conservation practices to the land. Conservation Districts sponsor educational, techni-

cal, and financial assistance to address water quality and the conservation of natural resources. Conservation Districts offer a unique and powerful vehicle for citizens to become involved with local conservation work and establish programs that protect the environment.

Please visit www.vacd.org for more information about your local conservation district. To have your name placed on the Dec. 9 election ballot for the office of district supervisor, a person must have a minimum of 25 signatures on nominating petitions. Anyone residing

within a district may run for office of conservation district supervisor. Anyone owning land and residing within a district may sign a nominating petition. Supervisors for each conservation district board are elected for a term of five years. The deadline for submitting nominating petitions to your local conservation district office is Nov. 8. Nominating petitions and additional information may be obtained by contacting your local conservation district at onrcd1@gmail.com.

Stratton Mountain School T2 Send-off Dinner

STRATTON, Vt – Join us in celebrating and sending off our awesome Stratton Mountain School (SMS) T2 athletes as they prepare for a winter on the road, racing on the World Cup, World Championships, SuperTour, and U.S. National Championships. Send-off Week is not just a fundraiser, it's a powerful gesture that serves as a symbol of collective support, pride, and encouragement from our home community. Our Send-off events remind athletes that we believe in them, and it shows future generations of local kids that they can dream big too.

There are two ways for you to participate: attend our in-person

Send-off Dinner event at Stratton Mountain School on Saturday, Nov. 2, or contribute virtually via our Send-off Week Campaign, happening Oct. 28 – Nov. 3, at www.paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=Z94NEHW2WWMKL.

The annual Send-off Dinner will be held at Stratton Mountain School on Saturday, Nov. 2. The schedule for the event consists of a 5 p.m. happy hour at the PK Building; 6 p.m. athlete introductions and trivia in the PK Auditorium, and 6:30 p.m. dinner and auction. T2 athlete Jessie Diggins will be bringing her Crystal Globe from winning the overall World Cup last year for a rare opportunity.

We need your financial

help to continue developing and supporting the best cross-country skiers in the world. The Send-off Campaign is our biggest fundraising event of the year. Our goal is to raise our annual operating budget, so that we can shift our focus to racing fast and sharing our team's success with our supporters, who are all a huge part of our World Cup Overall Crystal Globe, World Championship Gold and double Bronze, World Cup Podium, and U23 World Cup Leader, and loaded team of National Champions, SuperTour Champions, and NCAA Champions.

We will share fundraising updates in our newsletter and thank supporters via this page after completion of the event.

Stifel Killington Cup music

KILLINGTON, Vt. – Vermont's Killington Resort, the largest ski and snowboard destination in eastern North America, announced the entertainment lineup for the 2024 Stifel Killington Cup. Taking place Nov. 29 – Dec. 1, the eighth edition of the Audi FIS Ski World Cup will bring together the fastest female technical alpine skiers in the world, with live concerts, movies, fireworks, and more. Tickets to the Stifel Killington Cup are available at www.killington.com/worldcup.

Killington will host con-

certs on the Kona Big Wave Stage throughout the weekend. The entertainment kicks off on Friday with DJ Ross One, the athlete bib presentation, and a stunning fireworks display. Ross One is considered one of the top open format DJs in the world. A staple on the Hollywood party circuit, DJ Ross One has toured with artists such as Kanye West and Rihanna. He has earned the reputation as the go-to DJ for everything from Grammys after parties to Paris Fashion Week.

Between runs on Saturday, Killington will wel-

come a truly unique solo acoustic set with Matt Quinn, lead singer of the indie folk rock group Mt. Joy. After releasing three very successful studio albums, Mt. Joy returned in early 2024 with the poignant and deeply personal single "Highway Queen."

After the races conclude on Saturday, multiplatinum artists Fitz and The Tantrums will perform. Fitz and The Tantrums is a band who have energized popular music and culture with a series of unshakable, undeniable, and ubiquitous anthems and albums. Along the way, they've impressively tallied just shy of 4 billion streams and counting powered by hits such as the four-times-platinum "Hand Clap," three-times-platinum "Out of My League," platinum "The Walker," and gold "Moneygrabber." The Los Angeles collective has

magnified the scope of pop with a dash of indie, a dose of soul, and a whole lot of dancefloor-ready bounce.

Following the concert, the action moves to the Snowshed Lodge, where standout women from the ski industry and beyond will discuss the contributions of women in the industry on a panel as part of U.S. Ski & Snowboard's HEROic initiative. Immediately afterwards, stick around to catch an exclusive movie showing. Also on Saturday, don't miss the World Cup Rebels Après Ski Party at the Pickle Barrel Nightclub open to all ages, from 4-7 p.m., benefiting the World Cup Dreams Foundation.

On Sunday, American pop-punk trio Eve 6 will take the stage at midday following the first run of the ski race. For over two decades, Eve 6 has been a force in the alternative rock

scene, captivating audiences with their infectious sound and compelling lyrics. With a discography that spans hit albums like "Eve 6" and "Horrorscope," the band has left an indelible mark on the music landscape. Known for their dynamic performances and Max Collins' distinctive vocals, Eve 6 continues to resonate with fans, delivering a high-energy experience that transcends the boundaries of alternative rock.

"Watching world-class skiing isn't the only reason to attend the Stifel Killington Cup," says director of brand marketing and events Amy Laramie. "I am really looking forward to this year's lineup of music, with high-energy bands that will keep the party going all weekend long."

The full weekend schedule is available at www.killington.com/worldcup.

The 2024 Stifel Killington Cup is a fully ticketed event. All attendees will need either a general admission ticket, Grandstand ticket, or VIP ticket to enter the Festival Village, concerts, and spectating areas. General admission tickets are available online in advance, with a portion of all ticket proceeds benefiting the Killington World Cup Foundation, which supports athlete hospitality and provides grants to support winter sports infrastructure and access to winter sports throughout the region. A limited number of Grandstand tickets are still available for purchase, providing an unparalleled location to view the giant slalom and slalom races.

For additional information about Killington Resort and the 2024 Stifel Killington Cup, please visit www.killington.com/worldcup.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

yellow page

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Evergreen Wreath Making with Joanna Bombadil
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(01/15/25 - TFN - 13)

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(11/20/24 - 52)

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(11/06/24 - 13)

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(08/13/25 - TFN - 52)

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(12/04/24 - 26)

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(12/18/24)

arts & entertainment

BFOH Indie Filmmaker to screen "Sara's Circus"

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Slate Roof Films and Bellows Falls Films presents the independent family film "Sara's Circus" at the Bellows Falls Opera House (BFOH) on Sunday, Nov. 10. Doors open at 2:30 p.m., and screening begins at 3 p.m., followed by a Q&A.

Sara's Circus follows 20-year circus veteran and single mother Sara Greene as she attempts to create the first woman-founded tented circus, with her daughter Gigi by her side. From casting the show, to training animals, to setting up the tent, Greene races to complete her dream so that the one person who matters most can join her under the Big Top before time runs out. The film was just screened at the 2024 Monadnock International Film Festival (MONIFF) in Keene, N.H., and won the Audience Award for Best Feature Documentary.

Slate Roof Films is a full-service production company based in New Hampshire, focusing on people and their stories, documentary, narrative, commercials, and branded content. Sara's Circus is Slate Roof Films' second full-length documentary. Meagan Frappiea is editor, director, and animator, with a background in sound editing. She started her career at Ken Burns' Florentine Films, where she grew her love for documentary. Bryant Naro is a cinematographer, director, tech guru, and Florentine Films alum. He's served as cinematographer for feature documentaries, commercials, web series, and other projects.

The Bellows Falls Opera House is a municipally owned film and live event venue located in the heart of Bellows Falls. In an effort to provide accessible opportunities for independent filmmakers to screen their films in a fully operational theater, the Bellows Falls Opera House has created BF-Films, in special arrangement with Rockingham Entertainment Development (RED). Ticket sales will be handled through the Bellows Falls Opera House website, www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com. For more information or to explore booking your independent film, contact Susan MacNeil at susan@svdol.com.

who have always been here, whether the concert hall was ready or not. Since 2014, Palaver Strings has made its mark as one of New England's most innovative chamber ensembles. The ensemble's co-artistic directors curate artistic programming collaboratively and democratically, rotating project direction and musical leadership. Some musicians also hold administrative roles. Equally committed to education, Palaver launched the Palaver Music Center (PMC) in 2019. PMC programs offer pathways to musical development from birth through adulthood, including early childhood music classes and string instrument lessons taught by Palaver musicians. The PMC, located in the Bayside neighborhood where many of our students live, serves as a central community hub for classes, lessons, and rehearsals. Palaver musicians also offer high school- and college-level educational programming, including workshops, masterclasses, and a graduate course on music and community engagement at Longy School of Music.

Dana Cooper celebrates release of 32nd album

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Legendary singer-songwriter Dana Cooper will perform at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt., on Sunday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. Only 40 tickets will be sold. Tickets are sold in advance through www.stage33live.com, or at the door subject to availability. Americana singer-songwriter Cameron Sutphin opens. The performances will be recorded and filmed.

Come celebrate Cooper's 32nd full-length release, "The Ghost of Tucumcari," which features an all-star lineup of guest artists. The new album marks a major achievement for the veteran musician after over 50 years in the business. Artists lending their voices to this project include Lyle Lovett, Hayes Carll, Susan Gibson, Mando Saenz, Darden Smith, Shake Russell, Libby Koch, and more.

Cooper's story is one of true perseverance and lifelong dedication to his craft. His musical journey began at the young age of 2, when his father would prop him

on the bar to sing along with the jukebox. Coming from Missouri, Cooper was surrounded by the sounds of classic country and folk music from an early age. He quickly became enamored with the guitar, and taught himself to play and to harmonize vocally by listening to records. By his teenage years, Cooper was performing in coffee houses and clubs around Kansas City, honing his skills as a singer, songwriter, and guitarist.

For over a decade, he was half of the highly acclaimed duo The Shake Russell/Dana Cooper band, who garnered a large following in Texas, as well as appearing on Austin City Limits. Through the '70s and '80s, he built his reputation on the club circuit, while also collaborating with artists like Lovett, Kim Carnes, Susan Werner, Kim Richey,

Hal Ketchum, and more. Central to Cooper's unique artistry is his ability to connect with audiences through his authentic stories and warm stage presence. His decades of experience shine through in the ease and humor he brings to both his playing and storytelling.

Cooper's music does not belong to one genre. His 2022 CD, "I Can Face the Truth," charted on five different radio charts – Americana, indie folk, alt folk, alt country, and roots, and three Best of Year End charts. That album ranked number 22 on the "Top Albums for 2022" chart from Americana Highways Listeners, ranking higher than artists like Dolly Parton, Brandi Carlile, Tom Petty, Patty Griffin, Kris Kristofferson, and more.

Painting New England architecture workshop

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Saxtons River Art Guild will offer a workshop on painting New England architecture with Robert O'Brien on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., at the United Church of Bellows Falls, 8 School Street, Bellows Falls.

In this creative watercolor workshop, participants will learn to paint the unique beauty of the historic New England architecture. They will also explore elements of composition and perspective as they relate to the

subject, as well as painting texture and natural materials, and how to render the unique beauty of light and shadow in a realistic manner. The class will begin with a demonstration by the instructor, followed by class painting. A critique and class discussion will be held at the end of the session. This workshop is open to all levels of painting ability.

O'Brien is a signature member of the American, National, and New England Watercolor Societies, along with several others. He is a full-time artist and instructor. He is a consistent award

winner in many regional and national watercolor competitions. Robert serves as the scholarship chair for the American Watercolor Society. He lives and paints in Weathersfield, Vt., and teaches workshops regionally and throughout the United States and abroad. For more information, visit www.robertjobrien.com.

The workshop fee is discounted for SRAG members. Coffee and tea will be available, and participants should bring a lunch. To register for the workshop, please email Carolyn at poohbear@ne.rr.com.

Palaver Strings at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents Portland-based string ensemble Palaver Strings on Friday, Nov. 15, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney. Tickets can be purchased at www.nextstagearts.org.


The ensemble's current program, "Ready or Not Revisited," celebrates the groundbreaking visions of women, queer, trans, and nonbinary composers from the medieval period to the present day. This program builds on the concept of Palaver's 2022 album "Ready or Not." Repertoire includes wide-ranging selections by Jessie Montgomery, Hildegard von Bingen, inti figgis-vizueta, Tanner Porter, Sato Matsui, Leilehua Lanzilotti, Pétalo Seslar, and Lili Boulanger. "Ready or Not Revisited" disrupts our expectations, challenges our narratives, and uplifts a multitude of voices

who have always been here, whether the concert hall was ready or not.

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fall home improvement

How to prep perennials now for beautiful spring blooms

StatePoint – It's a common misconception that once fall rolls around, perennials simply go dormant and don't require maintenance until spring. But, fall is actually the perfect time to show perennials love.

In a recent Backyard Smart video, the lawn and garden experts at Exmark give the lowdown on prepping perennials for cold weather, so you can enjoy beautiful blooms come spring.

When plants become overcrowded, they compete for essential resources like water, air, and nutrients, which can hinder their growth. Dividing perennials helps distribute plants across your yard, maintaining a healthy size, preventing overcrowding, and reducing the risk of disease.

Generally, fall is the best time to divide perennial plants that bloom in spring and summer. Conversely, spring's the best time to divide fall-blooming plants. But if you're planning on dividing in fall, don't wait too long. Get outside about four to six weeks before the ground freezes, or else your plants will be in for a rough

winter. Be careful, as not every perennial needs to be divided every year. Most need it every three to five years, and some don't need it at all. Do your research before you begin.

Make the necessary preparations to ensure your perennials properly take to their new homes. First, thoroughly water your plants a day or two beforehand, and cut them back so you can clearly see what you're dealing with. Then, head out on a cloudy, dry day, and get to work.

Dig up plants around the roots, and gently lift them out of the ground, knocking away loose dirt and debris. For best results, dig outside the outermost part of plants that water drips from. You can either gently pull apart the roots with your hands, cut into them with a knife or spade, or use two gardening forks to wedge plants in half. Vari-



Fall gardening tips.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ous perennials have different roots systems, so read up on the best method for the species.

You can typically get four to six new sections from a single plant. Just make sure each division has three to five shoots and a substantial, healthy root system. Afterwards, you're free to

plant your new divisions, rearrange existing beds, or share new plants with family or friends.

Even if you're not dividing your perennials, it's good to get one last thorough watering in before the first freeze. Leading up to that point, gradually wean perennials from reg-

ular watering to monthly watering throughout fall.

The general rule of thumb is to cut perennials back once they start to fade. However, there are exceptions. Some perennials should be left alone. Make sure you know what's in your garden before beginning.

Once plants are situated, it's time to layer up. Clear off old mulch so that the soil is exposed, and remove any weeds or grass peeking through. Then, spread on a 1- or 2-inch thick compost layer, followed by an equally thick mulch layer. The compost will gradually break down and release nutrients, promoting better

root growth, better soil pH, and hardier plants come spring. The mulch provides insulation while protecting soil from erosion and compaction.

Cold weather doesn't necessarily mean pests take a break from making a meal of plants. Many – such as slugs – will chow down on anything your garden has to offer, so stay attentive. Before mulching, lay down slug bait to send them packing.

To view the video, visit Exmark's Backyard Life, a multimedia destination that provides tips on everything from gardening to outdoor hosting at www.backyard.exmark.com.

"Perennials make every garden pop, providing beautiful blooms year after year. Spend some time this fall making your springtime even brighter," says Jamie Briggs, director of marketing at Exmark.

"A Boomer's Guide to Climate Change"

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Pick up a copy of "Am I Too Old to Save the Planet? A Boomer's Guide to Climate Change" by Lawrence MacDonald at the Rockingham Library, and get ready to join in the conversation on Monday, Nov. 18, at 10:30 a.m., at the library. Long-

time climate activists and Bellows Falls residents Laurel Green and Steve Crofter will facilitate this discussion.

The author offers strategies to fight climate change as individuals and, more importantly, as members of the growing global movement to save the planet. In the

words of Third Act founder Bill McKibben, "This small book is a gem of great value: it will turn more of us older Americans from complainers and worriers into people who are fixing the problems that assail us. It makes a powerful case for generational action; if the kids can

do it, so can we."

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270, or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.



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real estate

Consider downsizing into a “tiny house”

REGION – The current housing market in Vermont is not unlike housing markets elsewhere in the United States, specifically in areas considered “destinations,” where many sellers have taken advantage of the increased home values, while some are left evaluating their options. Buyers are seeing a growing inventory, but are mindful of dropping interest rates. The national 30-year average in August hovered around 6.73%. As of October, the rate was in the low-6% range.

In the interim, some wishing to relocate to Vermont might consider purchasing land, with the choice to then either have a new home constructed, or to install a prefab or tiny house on the property.

Tiny houses are homes or mobile homes typically with a floor plan of less than 500 square feet. The

dwellings have increased in popularity over the past few years, spurred in part by the desire to create a smaller, more sustainable lifestyle and footprint on the planet, and as a remedy for rising housing costs. Not to mention the cleaning and maintenance of a 500 square foot home – as opposed to one double or triple the size – can be quite appealing.

Because of the term “tiny house,” one might assume that there are fewer regulations and requirements than for an average home, but it is advised that anyone considering purchasing or planning to DIY a tiny home check local bylaws before beginning any project. Each county in Vermont will have specific regulations and requirements for tiny house construction and placement.

According to www.greatlaketinyhome.com, “Tiny houses in Vermont are sub-



Check out tiny house options. PHOTO BY AYSEGUL YAHSI FOR UNSPLASH

ject to the same regulations and rules as permanent structures for living full time. They must comply with building codes, zoning laws, and health and safety requirements to follow the Vermont Building Code (VBC). Windham County has strict regulations that mandate all one-story resi-

dences to have a minimum square footage of 650 feet, and all two-story structures to have a minimum square footage of 500 feet.”

Jamaica Cottage Shop in Londonderry sells several models of tiny houses, with a variety of configuration choices shipped throughout North America. The shop’s

website describes tiny-house living as having “all of the conveniences of life without the maintenance of a big house, big property, and often bigger problems. Many people are downsizing to tiny houses, so they have the option of living a simpler lifestyle, and have the ability to move their home easily to another location for work or a change of scenery.”

Even online retail giant Amazon sells DIY kits, prefabricated, and “foldable” homes which allow for expansion. Most range in price between \$15,000-\$25,000, but there are “luxury” tiny houses in their inventory with features such as floor-to-ceiling windows, front porches, rooftop decks, and more.

Five months ago, WCAX-Channel 3 News reported that the popularity of tiny homes could help alleviate some of Vermont’s housing

problems. Although not a solution to the “housing crisis,” WCAX reported, “they can be an alternative to new or first-time homebuyers.”

It should be noted however that the price of these homes, plus the land cost, plus the expense of connecting to water, power, and sewer access does add up.

In an August article entitled “6 Things You Absolutely Must Think About Before You Build a Tiny Home,” Better Homes and Gardens advised, “While building a tiny home can be cheaper than building a new home of a larger size, it still isn’t cheap. Budget for a few upsells on features you’ll really love, and keep a savings cushion to cover future maintenance. Like any home, there will be wear and tear, and unexpected surprises, both big and small.”

Don’t fear a fixer-upper

REGION – Did you know that 67% of prospective homebuyers said they could be convinced to buy a haunted house if it checked enough of their boxes?

The cobwebs and creaky floorboards are perfect for Halloween, but once November comes around, you may be wanting to “evict” spooky roommates that came with the house. Since fixer-uppers are typically listed at a lower price, they can be a more affordable way to create your dream home when you don’t find what you want on the market.

Usually, it is cheaper to

renovate a home than it is to build one. However, depending on the scale of your remodeling project, the cost of financing either a new construction or a home renovation may be the same no matter which method you choose. That’s why if you plan on updating a fixer-upper, it’s important to talk with licensed professionals about renovation costs and renovation mortgage options.

Getting a mortgage to renovate a home is the same process as getting a traditional mortgage. The main difference is that a home renovation loan rolls

the cost of your renovations into the cost of the mortgage. You can also get a renovation mortgage to update your current home, make cosmetic fixes, or add a pool. Home sellers can also utilize a renovation mortgage to make appraiser- or borrower-requested repairs.

Popular renovation mortgages for when you want to buy a fixer-upper or update your current home include:

FHA 203k – With lower down payment requirements and lower refinancing interest rates, an FHA 203k loan can be used for

both cosmetic and structural repairs. And, to provide borrowers more options, it is available as FHA 203k Full/Standard and FHA 203k Limited.

VA Renovation – This renovation loan offers all the same savings as a traditional VA mortgage, with the convenience of one application, one closing, and one monthly payment. This loan allows borrowers to finance renovations for up to four units, and provides loan amounts up to \$1 million.

HomeStyle/CHOICE-renovation – Offered by Fannie Mae and Freddie

Mac, respectively, these loans can help you buy and repair a fixer-upper, or make updates to your current home. The costs of the updates are rolled into the sales price of the property, so borrowers don’t have to open a second line of credit to make their repairs.

Other renovation

mortgages include EZ “C”onventional, repair escrow, and pool escrow. If you have any questions about home renovation loans, call me and I can walk you through how they work.

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

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by Linda Thistle

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	9			1					7
		1			7	6			
		4			5	8			
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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

1 Fringe benefit
5 "Humbly" bug!
8 Rocky out-crop
12 Jai —
13 Swelled head
14 Valentine border
15 Cooking area
17 Gray's subj.
18 Wedding setting
19 Riyadh residents
21 Pride parade letters
24 GI entertainers
25 Ganges wrap
28 Incursion
30 "Tasty!"
33 Actress Thurman
34 Orchestral strings
35 Director Ang
36 Prohibit
37 Gas co., for one
38 Printer's blue
39 Corn core
41 Cruising
43 Drag
46 New York's — Island
50 Pundit's piece
51 Causing annoyance

DOWN

1 Brazilian rubber
2 Author Harte
3 Harangue
4 Capital of Rwanda
5 Wager
6 Past
7 Beer ingredient
8 Santa —
9 Not by design
10 "Superfood" berry
11 Understands
16 Work unit
20 German car name
22 Author Harte
23 Shire of "Rocky"
25 Long lunch?
26 Docs' org.
27 Cattle farm workers
29 Misfortunes
31 — culpa
32 Gents
34 Rubik's brain-teaser
38 Phoned
40 From days of yore
42 "A mouse!"
43 "Brave New World" drug
44 IRS employees
45 Get ready, briefly
47 Chic beach resort
48 Monogram pt.
49 Pvt.'s superiors
52 Parisian pal
53 Fanatic

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community news

MOOver proposes schedule change

REGION – Southeast Vermont Transit, aka the MOOver, is proposing a change in the Bellows Falls-Ludlow Route #57 weekend schedule that would become effective Friday, Dec. 24.

Last year, the MOOver provided weekend service from Christmas through late March, with one round trip in the morning and one in the afternoon. Ridership averaged one person in each direction. The proposal is to travel to Ludlow once in the morning, and to come back to Bellows Falls once in the evening on the Route 61 bus travelling to/from Okemo before and after its 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. service at the resort.

The bus would leave Penguin Mart in Bellows Falls at

5:43 a.m., arriving at Okemo at 7 a.m. It would depart Okemo at 5:55 p.m., and arrive at the Penguin Mart at 7:04 p.m. On weekends, it would not stop at the state offices, Park and Union Streets, Springfield Hospital, and JC's Market. The weekend service would run Dec. 28 – March 30, plus Dec. 24-27, Dec. 30 – Jan. 1, Jan. 20, and Feb. 17-21.

"We cannot economically justify operating for that level of ridership, yet we want to keep the service available," said Randy Schoonmaker, MOOver CEO. "By combining service with the Route 61 bus, we are still able to provide service from Bellows Falls to Ludlow."

SEVT has made similar adjustments on other routes

this spring and summer in response to rising operating costs without a corresponding increase in grant income.

Public input is welcomed, and can be given in any one of three ways. Riders can call 802-463-2474, Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., email randys@moover.com, or go to www.moover.com/customer-feedback. A copy of the existing schedule is posted online at www.moover.com or via an onboard bus schedule.

An opportunity to hold a public meeting can be made on or before Oct. 30, via the email address above.

Springfield Rotary Club donates books to CAES

CHESTER, Vt. – The generosity of the Springfield Rotary Club is putting new books in the hands of 50 lucky students. Through the Rotary Ideals Literacy Project, local club members donated a set of two books, "Andy & Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure" and "Becky & Lin's Apple Orchard Park," to each second- and third-grade classroom at Chester-Andover Elementary School.

"Andy & Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure," shares the story of a young entrepreneur named Andy. With the help of a mysterious voice in his head, Andy learns the value of truth, fairness, goodwill, friendships, and doing what will benefit all who are involved while starting an apple dumpling business venture with his neighbor Elmer. The story shares the system of beliefs of The Rotary Four-Way Test: Is it the



Left to right: Principal Joey Blane, Springfield Rotary President Deb Cox, rotarian Taylor Drinker, and Springfield Immediate Past President Emma McGuirk. In the front, Chester-Andover Elementary School student Owen.

PHOTO PROVIDED

truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

"Becky & Lin's Apple Orchard Park" is a story about Becky and Lin, who become partners to bring something new to the neighborhood. Demonstrating the idea of Rotary's motto, "service above self," they take on a major community project. And, inspired by their

example, others in the community come together and contribute to their efforts to create something wonderful and beneficial for everyone.

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

Andrea Murray: A Common-Sense Leader for Vermont

Tired of partisan politics? So is Andrea. As a farmer and small business owner, Andrea puts people over politics and will work for fiscally responsible solutions that help all Vermonters.

★★★

In the Senate, she'll work to:

- Lower taxes to keep families in their homes
- Achieve real solutions for the affordability crisis
- Exempt all Social Security benefits from State income tax

★★★

Vote for Andrea Murray!

Now or in person on Nov 5th for a Balanced and Affordable Vermont.

Visit: AndreaForVermont.com



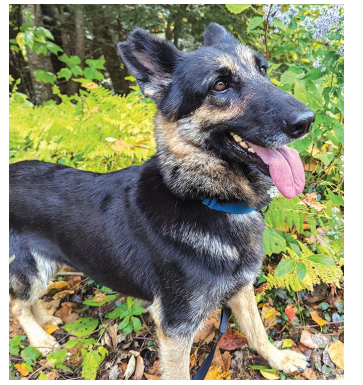
Windsor District

Featured pet: Alyson

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Alyson is a beautiful, 5-year-old German Shepherd. She has spent her life in a commercial breeding facility birthing puppies for someone to make money. Alyson is sweet, and will need a patient home to help her adjust to being part of the family she has never had. She would do best with a calm canine sibling. Alyson will need extra work, but she will be forever

grateful, and so will you. The Springfield Humane Society is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 12-4 p.m.. Join us for our annual Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 2 and 3, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the shelter.

Springfield Humane Society, 401 Skitchewaung Trail, Springfield, Vt., 802-885-3997, www.springfieldhumane.org.



Alyson.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Adult Learning board members

REGION – Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Dwight DeCoster, Liz DiMarco Weinmann, and Meghan Fay-McCaffrey to their board of trustees.

DeCoster's unique blend of experience, from military and fire service to weatherization, sets him apart. His unwavering dedication to workforce development and youth support, evident in his di-

verse expertise in education, employment counsel, corporate/business management, nonprofit management, programming, evaluation, and training, is truly inspiring. Currently he is serving as the weatherization director at the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO).

DiMarco Weinmann is a first-generation Italian-American and a dedicated educator with a profound passion for supporting adult learners. Drawing from her own family's immigrant experiences, DiMarco Weinmann empathizes with the challenges faced by the individuals VAL serves. With a background as a former college professor and current strategic growth specialist, DiMarco Weinmann deeply values VAL's operational excellence, and the commitment of its staff. Her expertise spans nonprofit management, fundraising, strategic planning, and organizational development.

Meghan Fay-McCaffrey has triumphed over educational barriers and achieved career growth through nontraditional education. She is a passionate advocate for VAL, and has witnessed firsthand its positive impact through her daughter's journey. When her daughter struggled to reengage in school post-Covid, she turned to VAL for support, and the transformation was remarkable. Fay-McCaffrey's professional background encompasses employment counseling, corporate and nonprofit management, fundraising, and HR leadership. She holds an undergraduate degree in organizational behavior and communication, and has been accepted into the leadership studies program at Vermont State University.

The local VAL office is located at 100 River Street, Suite 102, Springfield, Vt., and can be reached at 802-546-0880.

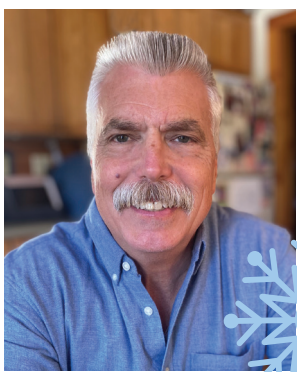
When you find yourself in a hole, STOP DIGGING!



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.

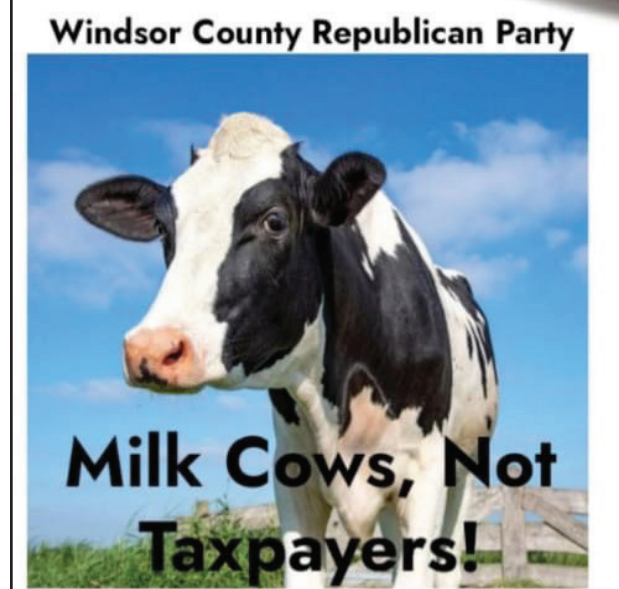
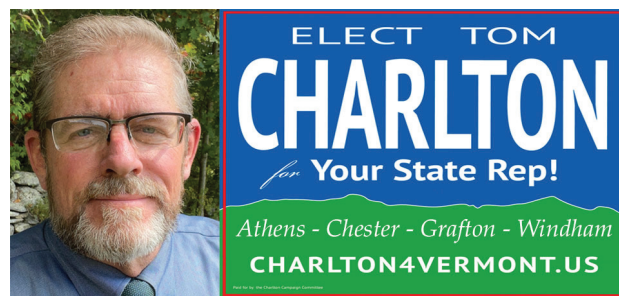


Kevin Winter

VT House of Representatives
Ludlow • Mount Holly • Shrewsbury

Want to talk? Call (802) 245-4190 or email kcwinter5783@gmail.com

Paid for by Kevin Winter for VT 1476 East Hill Rd, Ludlow, VT 05149



Vermont's legislature is in need of a serious course correction. The super majority has grown callous to the struggles of the citizens they claim to represent. Education property taxes are unaffordable and unsustainable. New heating fuel taxes will crush low and middle income Vermonters. Elect Windsor County Republicans and we will Vote NO on higher property taxes and Vote NO on new home heating fuel taxes. We will work to make your government more efficient and cost effective to better serve every Vermonter.

windsorcountygop.org
P.O. Box 500 Windsor Vermont 05089

Paid for by the Windsor County Republican Party.