

**FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT**  
See Page 10



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**  
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# THE **FREE** Vermont Journal

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## Big Pops Sandwich Shop opens in Ludlow

LUDLOW, Vt. – Big Pops Sandwich Shop celebrated their grand opening day on Friday, Oct. 25, at their new location, 57 Pond Street in Ludlow, Vt. This expansion marks a significant milestone for Big Pops, having begun in June with their Airstream in Manchester, Vt.

Since their inception, Big Pops Sandwich Shop has garnered a reputation for serving delicious food with great community spirit. Open every day of the week, their menu features an array of gourmet sandwiches, salads, soups, French fries, and subs that cater to all tastes. From classic favorites to innovative new creations, Big Pops Sandwich Shop has an incredible selection filled with fresh creativity.

At the ribbon cutting, owners Jan Giejda and Luca Sena, and the rest of the team – Paisley Barr,



Big Pops Sandwich Shop opened Oct. 25.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Karen Vargas, and Michael Reyes – stood together along with Okemo Valley Chamber executive director Carol Lighthall, and assistant director Leah Kriebler, to celebrate opening day at the Okemo Marketplace.

Drawing on his experiences as an executive chef and his extensive background in hospitality, owner

Jan Giejda shared his enthusiasm for bringing his passion for cooking and community to the Okemo Valley. The concept for Big Pops Sandwich Shop was inspired by his grandfather, known as Big Pops, and the community is excited to welcome Big Pops Sandwich Shop to the region.

## Public comments open for Vermont Rail Plan update

REGION – Would you like to see passenger rail service along the state-owned rail line that runs from Bellows Falls through Chester and Ludlow to Rutland? Now's your chance to let the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) know.

The 2025 update of the Vermont Rail Plan is underway. The Rail Plan sets the state's goals for the future of intercity passenger rail (Amtrak) and freight rail.

"Ideally, comments for the Rail Plan update should be received by Friday, Nov. 8, in time for the fall meeting of the Vermont Rail Advisory Council (VRAC) on Nov. 12," said Preston Bristow, Chester's town planner.

To access the Vermont

Rail Plan Comment Form, go to [www.vtrans.vermont.gov/rail/reports](http://www.vtrans.vermont.gov/rail/reports). Scroll down to "Development of 2025 Vermont Rail Plan," and click on "Interactive Webtool," which will bring you to the comment form.

At the Vermont Rail Plan Comment Form, use the scroll bar in the middle of the page to scroll down to "What is your comment?" You can ignore the option to "drop a pin on the map to reference a location in your comment (optional)."

What to say in the comment box? It's always best to provide comments in your own words, but Bristow suggests, "In addition to extending Amtrak's Valley Flyer trains to White River Junction, I support routing a Valley Flyer along the state-owned rail line from Bellows Falls, through Chester and Ludlow, to Rutland."

Under "What theme does your comment relate to?" check "Service." You can then decide whether you wish your comment to be anonymous, or to provide your name and email address.

"Amtrak service to Chester and Ludlow may be years away," said Bristow, "but we won't reach that destination if we don't start the journey. The Vermont Rail Plan is the place to start the journey."

"This is another instance of where your vote counts," he added.

## Stratton Mountain School heading to World Cup

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

STRATTON, Vt. – Professional cross-country skier and three-time Olympic medalist Jessie Diggins is the most decorated American cross-country skier in history. Diggins recently took home the overall and distance FIS Cross Country World Cup Crystal Globes, winning the last race of the season in Falun, Sweden. Originally from Afton, Minn., Diggins spends her summers training with the Stratton Mountain School (SMS) T2 team, an elite group of world-class athletes based out of Stratton Mountain.

Started in 2013, SMS T2 has evolved over the years into a formidable crew that includes eight U.S. Ski Team



The 2024-2025 Stratton Mountain School Ski Team.

PHOTO PROVIDED

members and three Olympians. The nonprofit program seeks to support international excellence in cross-country skiing, to grow the sport in local communities, and to promote a healthy lifestyle.

SMS T2 partners with the West River Sports Association, a volunteer-run

organization that promotes the "physical and intellectual development" of area youth by offering programs in soccer and cross-country skiing.

Others on the team include local athletes Will Koch from Guilford,

See **SKI** on Page 2

## Halloween Boo Basket winner

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

PHOTO PROVIDED



## Londonderry Transfer Station and Town Office updates

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB

The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Londonderry Selectboard met on Monday, Oct. 21, for their regularly scheduled meeting.

Among the first items on the agenda, the town proposed to reclassify a portion of Rest Haven Road, roughly a 400-foot distance in close proximity to the Rest Haven Cemetery, from a Class 3 road to Class 4. Town administrator Shane O'Keefe explained that a Class 3 road is maintained by the town, while a Class 4 road is not.

Some citizens were concerned with the proposal, thinking that it would make it more difficult for the cemetery to get maintained or for people to visit the cemetery. Board member Taylor Prouty clarified that this small portion of road had not been maintained by the town for a while, and therefore the reclassification wouldn't change the condition of the road. "It's in the interest of the town to have our efforts align with our map and classification," he explained.

Board chair Tom Cavanaugh added that the road in that particular section is only about 4 feet wide, which is why the town is not able to maintain it currently.

With 60 days to make a decision, and board members Martha Dale and Jim Fleming absent, the board moved to revisit the topic.

Esther Fishman, solid waste coordinator, addressed the board regarding the vending machine they planned to purchase to sell punch cards. The machine would have only held 220 cards, and Fishman said they sell about 500 a month, with an ad-

ditional 50 bulk cards. She proposed a different machine that would hold more, and would cost \$1,600 less than the original.

The board approved the new vending machine, and moved to reconsider the trash compactor they approved at the previous Oct. 7 meeting. Though a representative from Casella Waste visited the transfer station and said the power in the facility is sufficient to run a compactor, they decided that the transfer station needs electrical upgrades anyway, and decided to postpone purchasing the unit and preparing the slab and site for it. The board voted to revisit the matter during the coming winter.

The board also approved a sharps disposal container be installed at the transfer station. After discussing that there was a great need for needles to be collected from residents that have diabetes, arthritis, cancer, and other medical or personal reasons, the board was made aware that people need a place to dispose of their sharps safely. It is a big metal container that looks like a mailbox, that is locked and secured by key, and will be emptied monthly, or as necessary, by Stericycle Waste Company for \$120, who also collects medical waste from smaller medical centers in the area.

The board reiterated that they are still searching for winter maintenance crew members. O'Keefe also expressed that the job description for the hiring of a new town administrator needed to be updated. He noted a few things that he does that is not in the description, and other things he doesn't do that are listed. Board member James Ameden said that after recently speaking with Dale, they'd like to request that O'Keefe red line the document as soon as possible, so the board can make adjustments at the next meeting.

get the job officially posted, and look to hopefully hire someone by January or February.

Ameden added that he received an email from someone who already has interest in the position, but they'd like to have a full interview process for any and all qualified applicants.

O'Keefe moved to discuss a few more change orders for the town office renovation project, explaining they still have a lot of water in the basement, despite drainage work they did a few years ago. O'Keefe said they'll need to bust up the ledge and foundation in order to put in a drainage system, noting this is a big ticket item costing \$36,812, but is necessary.

Additionally, they need to reroute the generator cable that was not properly sleeved originally. Cavanaugh added that an inspector would require this to be redone correctly. This project totals \$11,843. Lastly, the parking lot is in need of a subbase material for \$8,000, based on a structural engineer analyzing the existing soil that is currently there, and concluding that it is degrading.

O'Keefe added that they didn't have a large contingency set up originally for the project, but to date they have about \$80,000 in change orders. Cavanaugh expressed it's important to do it right now. The board approved the changes for the renovation project.

O'Keefe then provided the board with a list of companies who create websites for municipalities. He said it might be good to figure out what they want, and look into each company for comparisons, and then narrow down the list. He added that most companies allow you to spread out the costs over a couple of years.

The Londonderry Selectboard meets the first and third Monday of each month, at 6 p.m.

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THE Vermont Journal

THE SHOPPER NEWSPAPER

**DEADLINES**

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

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# Communitree Project takes root at CTES

CAVENDISH, Vt. – On Monday, Oct. 21, there was a lot more activity on Cavendish Town Elementary School (CTES) grounds than usual. There'd been a small, quiet community project in the works for months, and it took root on that sunny, warm fall day.

Two Cavendish Fletcher Community Library board members planted the seed after a microburst took out the two trees in the schoolyard last fall. The project branched out from there, as the library board, CTES and GMUSD administrators, the Cavendish Town Office crew, the Cavendish Streetscapes Committee, and local landscape architect Tim Calabrese climbed on board. All the aforementioned organizations were tapped to help fund this tremendous community project.

On that beautiful day, eight trees and two lilac bushes



Nate and Nick of Skyline Landscaping work to plant trees on the grounds of CTES.

PHOTO PROVIDED

were planted across the front of the schoolyard by Skyline Landscaping from Springfield, Vt. Nate and Nick worked all day getting everything safely planted in the ground. Thanks go to them, and to all of those involved in making this project a reality. The crown of the project is that each of the trees planted will be dedicated in honor/

memory of a Cavendish community member who was/has been dedicated to improving the community of Cavendish through their hard work and volunteerism.

Details on that part of the project will be announced before the dedication is held in the future.

# GMUHS 2025 National Merit Scholarship Commended Student

CHESTER, Vt. – John Broadley, principal of Green Mountain Union High School, announced today that Andrei Solzhenitsyn has been named a Commended Student in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. A letter of commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented by the principal to this scholastically talented senior.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2025 competition for National Merit Scholarship Awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2025 competition by taking the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“Those being named Commended Students have

demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities, and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”

# Susan MacNeil to speak at New Thought Vermont

WESTON, Vt. – Grief while facing loss can be paralyzing. Death denial in the United States is commonplace. Fear about dying in pain from a lingering illness, a lack of certainty about what happens to our physical pres-

ence, or how loved ones left behind will cope when we die makes it easier to simply avoid the conversation.

A presentation will occur on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 1-4 p.m., at the home of New Thought Vermont, 614 Main

Street in Weston. Author Susan MacNeil will conduct a reading and book signing, and March will provide resources and insight into her work as a death doula. Coffee, tea and cake will be available. Adults 18 and older are welcome, RSVP is not required, and there is no charge to attend.

MacNeil, author of “18 Minutes: A Daughter’s Primer on Life & Death,” will share the experience of spending the last 18 minutes of her mother’s life while on a hospital phone that wasn’t amplified. Kasey March is an end-of-life doula, a trained International End of Life Doula (INELDA), who serves as a person to help guide and console a dying person, their family, and friends during transition toward death. The conversation will offer a chance to talk about preparing for a good death through the lens of their own unique experiences.

# Plymouth Schoolhouse expands, hosts program tour

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – On Tuesday, Oct. 29, Let’s Grow Kids, and Windsor County lawmakers and selectboard members, business leaders, and community members held a program tour celebrating the recent expansion of the Plymouth Schoolhouse, the only licensed, full-year child care program in Ply-

outh. Through new public investment from Act 76, the Plymouth Schoolhouse was able to expand its program into a second classroom, hire additional staff, and create four new infant and toddler spaces for the Windsor County community. The event featured a tour of the program led by program owner Lauren Skaskiw, re-

marks from Let’s Grow Kids CEO Aly Richards, and the opportunity to hear from several parents of children attending the program. This program expansion is already having positive impacts on the Plymouth community, and is a local example of the progress being made on child care statewide through new public investment.

# Cavendish Fletcher Community Library Day of the Dead, life and legacy events

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Join us for our upcoming events at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, 573 Main Street in Proctorsville.

A Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4, from

3-7 p.m. Join us from 3:30-5:30 p.m. for a workshop in making decorations for a community ofrenda, then stay from 5:30-7 p.m. for a potluck dinner. This event is free and open to all ages.

Then, on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 6 p.m., Damien Costello presents “That the

People May Live: The Life and Legacy of Nicholas Black Elk.” Costello explores the life and legacy of Nicholas Black Elk, the Lakota holy man made famous by the book “Black Elk Speaks.” This event is free, and recommended for those aged 10 and older.



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## SKI

From Page 1

Finn Bailey from Peru, Ben Ogden from Landgrove, and Jack Lange

from Lebanon, N.H.

Canadian Rémi Drolet joined the team after graduating from Harvard University this past spring. Drolet competed at the Beijing Olympics, and won the 2023 NCAA Championship 20-kilometer classic race in Lake Placid, N.Y.

On Saturday, Nov. 2, SMS T2 will give folks the opportunity to support this talented team of acclaimed athletes, meet team members, and join the community in sending the team off for a winter of hardcore racing.

Diggins, Ogden, and team members Julia Kern and Sydney Palmer-Leger have already made the initial World Cup team. The grueling competition schedule

begins on Nov. 29, in Ruka, Finland, and ends March 23 in Lahti, Finland. The rest of SMS T2 will be racing the SuperTour or NCAA circuit, with the ultimate goal of making the World Championship team.

Known as The Send-off Campaign, Saturday’s event includes happy hour, dinner, and an auction, and is the biggest fundraising event of the year for SMS. Program director Maria Stuber said they were planning to arrange a group photo with the coveted Crystal Globe awarded to Diggins after winning the overall World Cup title in March. For more information, visit [www.smseliteteam.wordpress.com/send-off-week-2024](http://www.smseliteteam.wordpress.com/send-off-week-2024).

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# Half a step behind

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119  
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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.

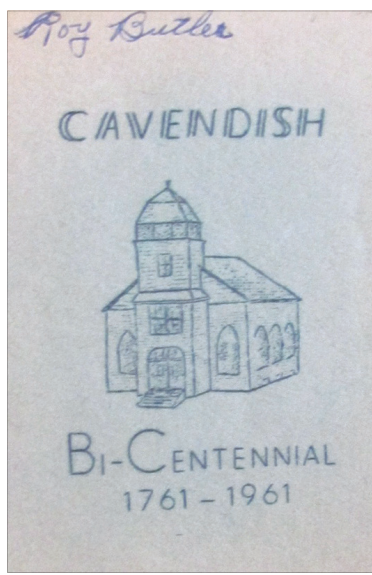
“Cavendish Gorge is the most interesting case of erosion ever recorded by the hand of time. The chain of lakes, once existing in the terraced basin of Black River Valley (where Cavendish, Proctorsville and Ludlow are located)

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:SFCbuyaday@gmail.com). Together, we can make a difference.



ATTEND CLASSES ONLINE!

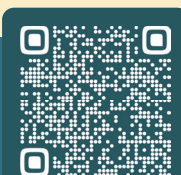
A career helping people age well is **life-changing.**

Learn more about human services positions and find out which program is right for you at

[MoreThanAJobVT.org](http://MoreThanAJobVT.org)

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Two-semester HUMAN SERVICES CERTIFICATE



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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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.westtownshend.org), call 802-874-4800, email [info@westtownshend.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.westtownshend.org), call 802-874-4800, email [info@westtownshend.org](mailto: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](http://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*

<b>Executor/Administrator</b>		<b>Mailing Address</b>	
Chad Blodgett		c/o Law Offices of Amanda L. S. George	
Phone Number	Email	City, State, Zip	
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](http://www.fact8.com) or contact FACT via email at [alex@fact8.com](mailto: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](mailto: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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For more information **Visit [www.charlestown-nh.gov](http://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](http://www.westonvt.org)

Proposals may be sent to Shawna Batogowski, Selectboard Administrative Assistant at [selectboard@westonvt.org](mailto: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](mailto:tosh@vermontel.net)). Applications may also be downloaded from the Town's website [springfieldvt.gov/jobs](http://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](http://www.ludlow.vt.us).

Rosemary Goings  
 Director of Planning and Zoning

**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

**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.



# 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.killington.com/worldcup).

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Answer									Answers												
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2	9	6	5	1	4	3	8	7	PERK	BAH	CRAIG										
8	5	1	3	9	7	6	4	2	ALAI	EGO	LACE										
6	1	4	7	2	5	8	9	3	RANG	TOP	ANAT										
5	2	9	1	8	3	7	6	4	ALTA	R	SAUDIS										
7	8	3	9	4	6	2	1	5		LGBT	USO										
9	7	2	8	5	1	4	3	6	SARI	RAID	MMM										
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# 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 Festi-

val (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](http://www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com). For more information or to explore booking your independent film, contact Susan MacNeil at [susan@svdol.com](mailto:susan@svdol.com).

## 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](http://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](http://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 [poohebear@ne.rr.com](mailto:poohebear@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](http://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.

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.



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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](http://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](mailto: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

dwelling has 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.greatlakestinyhome.com](http://www.greatlakestinyhome.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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	9			1					7
		1			7	6			
		4			5	8			
	2			8	3				4
7			9					1	
9					1			3	
		8		7					1
	6	4			9				

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 outcrop  
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](mailto:randys@moover.com), or go to [www.moover.com/customer-feedback](http://www.moover.com/customer-feedback). A copy of the existing schedule is posted online at [www.moover.com](http://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](http://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](http://AndreaForVermont.com)

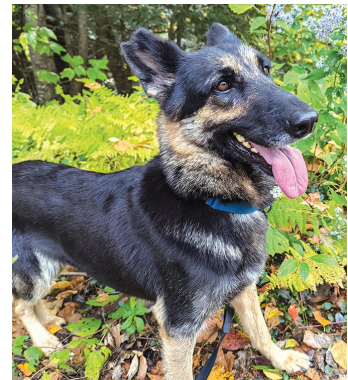


## Featured pet: Alyson

**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](http://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.

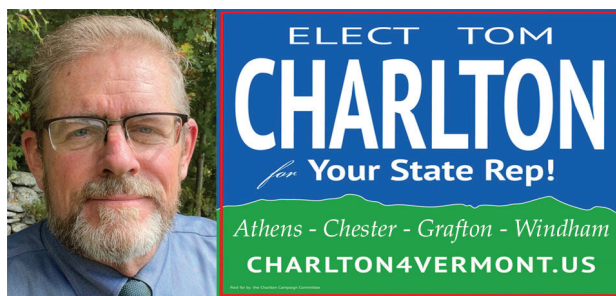


# Kevin Winter

VT House of Representatives  
Ludlow • Mount Holly • Shrewsbury

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

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



Windsor County Republican Party



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](http://windsorcountygop.org)  
P.O. Box 500 Windsor Vermont 05089

Paid for by the Windsor County Republican Party.