

There is not a Crossword or Sudoku this week due to space. Check back next week!

Thank you for your understanding.

ECRWSS
PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
JOURNAL, LLC

8 HIGH ST
LUDLOW, VT 05149-1008
Postal Patron

THE **Vermont** Journal

JANUARY 29, 2025 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 05

Londonderry discusses Town Warning, budgets

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB

The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – At the Jan. 20 Londonderry Selectboard meeting, the board discussed articles and budgets on the warning for their upcoming annual Town Meeting.

The board considered amending the engineering contract with the structural design firm Hoyle, Tanner & Associates Inc. Town administrator Shane O’Keefe reported that there were some amended construction specifications for the Spring Hill Road Culvert project, resulting in an additional \$18,000 in expenses. The town has a \$350,000 grant from VTrans, and O’Keefe stated another \$175,000 from VTrans will help cover “soft costs” with an extended construction grant, but they will still need to borrow money for the project when it goes out to bid.

There was then a lengthy discussion on Articles 14 and 15 on the Town Warning, pertaining to the possibility of adding a portion of the current local options tax as a revenue stream for, and what percentage of the that revenue would be deposited into, the Community Economic Improvement Reserve Fund. This fund “supports municipal efforts to plan, promote, and implement economic recovery, revitalization, and development efforts.” The

fund can be used by any board or commission for the specified uses.

As a prerequisite, on Article 13, the Londonderry Housing Commission requested that “housing” be added to the purposes of the fund, for uses such as housing crisis relief and affordable housing.

The improvement reserve fund was established in 2021, and \$5,000 has been put into the fund each year since. This year, Patty Eisenhaur, Londonderry Housing Commission chair, requested the board allocate 50% of the generated options tax funds to the improvement reserve fund on Article 15.

At last year’s Town Meeting, a 1% local options tax on rooms and alcohol was approved by voters, which was established to generate revenue to help offset taxes. Board Chair Tom Cavanaugh noted that an additional 1% sales tax, which could have generated a larger figure to offset the town’s expenses, was not approved by the voters. It was forecasted that the fiscal year 2025-2026 would generate about \$50,000 in revenue from the local options tax, therefore allocating \$25,000 to the improvement reserve fund, if approved.

There was discussion about designating a percentage versus a set figure to the fund. Board member Taylor Prouty expressed his approval of the idea

of the resources being used for housing, but thought that it would be “more likely to pass if it [was] an appropriation.” Treasurer Tina Labeau agreed, expressing that it would make her job a “nightmare” to keep track of a percentage that would change from year to year based on the revenue from the options tax, which also fluctuates.

The board moved to approve Article 13 to add “housing” to the uses of the Community Economic Improvement Reserve Fund. They also removed Articles 14 and 15 from the warning, and amended Article 16 to vote to approve the appropriated sum of \$25,000 to be deposited into the improvement reserve fund.

The town office renovation project bond repayment terms were then voted on, with the approval of a 20-year term. A 30-year term would have resulted in over \$900,000 in interest fees, while the more aggressive 20-year term lowered the interest rates and overall interest costs to \$594,360.

The fiscal year 2026 budget of \$3,153,024 was then approved to be presented to the voters at Town Meeting.

After an executive session, the board then moved to execute a contract with O’Keefe, beyond his current employment, to remain a part-time employee as assistant town administrator and project coordinator through June 30.

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

Senior center seeks Meals on Wheels volunteers

LUDLOW, Vt. – The mission of the Black River Valley Senior Center is to improve the physical and emotional health of community members of all ages. Programs meet at various times for people to participate in activities that increase physical mobility and socialization. All are welcome at the Black River Senior Center, located at 10 High Street in Ludlow. There is no age requirement.



Tammi Norton, Unit 36 president; and Fred Willson, Post 36 commander.

PHOTO BY JEAN STRONG

A big thank-you to the Ballard-Hobart American Legion Family Post 36 in Ludlow for generously

supporting the senior center. The senior center is the local meal site for Meals on Wheels. Last year, over 6,000

meals were delivered to veterans, seniors, and others in need in the Ludlow and Plymouth areas. With the lack of available home caregivers, this program has become even more essential to help folks live independently in their own homes. Meals are delivered by caring volunteers, who in many cases are the only visitors the recipient sees on a regular basis.

Volunteer opportunities are available and greatly appreciated, call 802-228-7421 for more information.

Plymouth talks budget and reappraisal

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB

The Vermont Journal

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – At the Jan. 13 meeting, the Plymouth Selectboard discussed and approved the town budget of \$1,592,689 to be raised by taxes to pay the estimated expenses of \$1,999,739, to be presented on the Annual Report, and to be voted on at Town Meeting. Chair Jay Kullman also reported that he and treasurer Cherry Nicoll were able to reduce taxes by \$12,000. Kullman added that there was a loss of \$100,000 to the general fund budget, “which is pretty remarkable,” as those expenses were due to the flooding.

There were a few citizen comments among the room. Carol Goodwin was concerned with The Vermont Journal’s

reduced coverage of Plymouth’s meetings. Board member Keith Cappellini noted the physical size of the paper had decreased, and assumed word count was reduced as well. Though there is limited print space and availability to cover each meeting, The Vermont Journal does not intend to discontinue coverage of Plymouth.

Bruce Pauley expressed his concerns with property taxes, and the “ridiculousness” of how the state sets the education tax rate. He feels that “the schools tell us how much money they want,” and the taxpayers are “forced to vote on it.” He continued that “our system is not working, it’s definitely broken, and it’s not producing results...Our students are middle of the range as far as education...The amount of money spent and the results that we’re getting, it’s ex-

tremely disappointing.” Pauley pressed that the town should take a stand on the increases in education property tax. Board member Rick Kaminski explained that the school district would have to allow Plymouth to opt out of the district, and there’s no incentive for them to allow that. He suggested offering solutions to better the education, or ways that may lower the tax rate.

The board then discussed the upcoming reappraisal, scheduled for fall of 2026, which is slated as far out as the town could postpone it. This reassessment of properties would impact the 2027 property taxes. Kullman noted that Plymouth is located between two ski resorts, and “property values have risen disproportionately on the spine of Route

See **PLYMOUTH** on Page 2

CORRECTION:

The article “Chester hears funding request from SAPA TV,” published in the Jan. 22 edition of The Vermont Journal, stated that SAPA TV’s cable revenue has decreased by 15% over the last year. In fact, it has decreased by 18% total over the previous three years.

INDEX

Arts & Entertainment 3
Opinion..... 4
Obituaries/Services 5
Calendar 6
Legal Notices 6-7
Classifieds/Directory 7
Real Estate 8

CONTACT US

OFFICE ADDRESS:
8 High Street • PO Box 228 • Ludlow, VT
BILLING ADDRESS:
PO Box 116 • Rutland, VT 05702
PHONE NUMBER:
802-228-3600
WEBSITE:
www.VermontJournal.com

ADS:
ads@VermontJournal.com
sales@VermontJournal.com
NEWS:
editor@VermontJournal.com
CALENDAR:
calendar@VermontJournal.com
BILLING:
billing@VermontJournal.com

DEADLINES

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

EMAIL YOUR SHORT, 2-3 SENTENCE CALENDAR EVENTS
calendar@vermontjournal.com

EMAIL YOUR DISPLAY ADS AND CLASSIFIED LISTINGS
ads@vermontjournal.com

EMAIL YOUR PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES, AND PHOTOS
editor@vermontjournal.com

Fire and Ice fundraiser

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Jan. 25, the Ludlow Firefighters Association hosted its second annual Fire and Ice fundraiser at the Jackson Gore Roundhouse on Okemo Mountain, bringing the community together for an unforgettable evening of music, fun, and philanthropy. The event was a resounding success, raising funds to support the department's efforts to upgrade critical communications equipment.

The evening featured an incredible performance by Myra Flynn and her band, generously sponsored by William Raveis Vermont Properties. The team also devoted considerable resources to organization and promotion of the event. Additionally, Open Door Vacation Rentals hosted the band's lodging. Kathy Burns, Kevin Barnes, Claire Isherwood, Lisa Schmidt, and Abby Childs deserve a shout-out for their commitment to bringing the event to life.

The Ludlow Firefighters Association extends its deepest gratitude to Okemo Mountain Resort for host-

ing the event, and to the following local businesses that stepped up as lead sponsors, helping cover key expenses: M&M Excavating, Master Plumbing and Heating, Ted Stryhas Builders, ID3 Design, and Knight Tubs.

A highlight of the night was the silent auction, featuring 80 items donated by local businesses and individuals. Attendees and virtual supporters bid generously on a wide array of items.

A special thank-you goes out to the following businesses and individuals for their contributions, which made this event possible: 3 Graces Boutique, Anthony Andre, Big Pops Sandwich Shop, Blue Duck Deli, Blue Sky Trading Company, Book Nook, Boot Pro Ski Shop, Brewfest, Calm Moments Massage Studio, Castle Hill Resort & Spa, Chef Mei, Claire Isherwood, Clear Lake Furniture, Cota & Cota, Darkside Snowboards, Depot Street Gallery, DJ's Restaurant, Down to the Roots, Echo Lake Inn, Four Square Hospitality, Fox Run Golf Club, Garvey & Garvey, Grafton Cheese

Company, Green Mountain Fireplace, Green Mountain Sugar House, High Country Contractors, Homestyle Hotel, Jim West, Johnny's Kitchen, LaValley Building Supply, Little Mexico Restaurant & Cantina, Magris Talc, Main + Mountain, Mojo Cafe, Northern Ski Works, Pop's Biscotti & Chocolates, Russ Hurlburt Photography, Singleton's General Store, Sunoco, Sydscompufix, Tacos Tacos, Teaselwood Design, The Boot Pro, The Cookster, The Killarney, The Pointe at Castle Hill, Vermont Country Store, Village Pizza, Weidman Law, and Woodstock Farmers Market.

The fundraising initiative for communications equipment is ongoing. For more information, or to make a donation to the association's 501(c)(3), please visit www.ludlow-firevt.org/donations, or write to P.O. Box 355, Ludlow, VT 05149, or ludlow-firedepartment@yahoo.com.

OVWC meeting recap

LUDLOW, Vt. – The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Okemo Valley Women's Club (OVWC) met for their first meeting of 2025 on Monday, Jan. 13, at the Black River Valley Senior Center in Ludlow. Twenty-six women were present, four remotely courtesy of Darlene Remy providing Zoom. The club women in attendance each brought shampoo to donate to Black River Good Neighbor Services.

The club held a business meeting where they reviewed community projects past, present, and future. The club is currently in the midst of their annual Trees of Remembrance Campaign, where holiday trees are lit on the Proctorsville Green and Veteran's Memorial Park in Ludlow to commemorate, remember, and recognize family, friends, and loved ones. An upcoming project will be the club's annual bake and appetizer sale, to be held Friday, Feb. 14, from 2-6

p.m., at Singleton's Store in Proctorsville. Proceeds from these and other projects support the club's many community activities. The club discussed this year's upcoming high school scholarship program, and the statewide Barbara Jean Barker Scholarship, which assists displaced women re-entering the workforce through education. The social committee suggested a group trip to the Springfield Cinema to see "A Complete Unknown," and there will also be a local screening of "Just Getting By" at the Ludlow Town Hall auditorium, on Feb. 6, at 6:30 p.m.

Following the business meeting, the club again welcomed Scott Sterns and Patty Greenwood, from The Book Nook in Ludlow. Sterns and Greenwood presented "Bloomin Books," a discussion of 2004 and 2005 books they recommend to readers of all interests. From 2004, they suggest "The Women" by Kristen Hannah, "Lion Women of Tehran" by Mar-

jan Kamali, "God of the Woods" by Liz Moore, and "My Vermont Table" by Gestine Bullock Prado. Books that are on sale now or will be later include "All the Water in the World" by Eiren Caffall, "The Queens of Crime" by Marie Benedict, "Three Days in June" by Anne Tyler, and "The Sirens" by Emilia Hart. Sterns also reminded the club women that The Book Nook has a reading group that is open to anyone interested.

The Okemo Valley Women's Club is a member of The General Federation of Women's Clubs, an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. OVWC meets the second Monday of every month. Anyone interested in attending may contact President Sally Scarp at 407-242-0901, Membership Chairwoman Suzanne Garvey at 802-236-4341, or any member.



HUNTLEY
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Getting a second opinion on your financial future may:

- Lower your investment fees
- Improve your performance
- Help you understand your investments and risk
- Make sure you don't outlive your money

Call us today to set up a no risk private consultation. Isn't your peace of mind worth the time?

802-228-5774

101 Main Street, Suite 2, Ludlow, VT

Member FINRA/SIPC
Securities offered exclusively through American Portfolios Financial Services Inc.

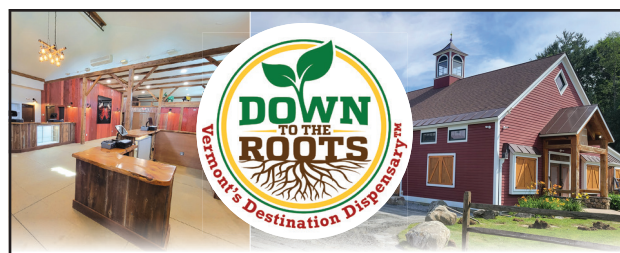
Rick Strobl
Income Tax Preparation

Affordable • Experienced • Accurate • Direct Deposit

Now Accepting All Major Credit Cards

Specializing in: "Personal 1040" "Self Employed" "Rental Properties" "Small Businesses"

Call for Appointment: 802-299-5121
Springfield, VT Claremont, NH



Celebrate Dry January with Us!
Purchase 3 THC Drinks, 50% off the 4th
Enjoy an alcohol-free month with THC-infused seltzers, sodas, "wine" & water, OR create your own mocktail experience with our THC drink infusers.

Friday Nights Mexican Meal Deals, 5:30-8pm
Purchase \$50 of products and receive a \$10 meal ticket for Maria's Mexican – good for that weekend of purchase.

\$10 Deals Every Monday & Tuesday, Starting JAN 27
We'll have an array of high-quality products for \$10/each. Stop by or check our website for details!

Super Discount on Superbowl Sunday, FEB 9
Wear your favorite NFL team's logo in our store and receive 20% off your purchases.

Gift Bags for Valentine's Day, Friday, FEB 14
Treat your special someone to one 5-pack of 1906's hemp-infused LOVE tablets, a THC-infused chocolate bar, one bottle of hemp-infused "wine" (subject to availability) or 5 X 10mg THC-infused drinks, & one lighter. Check our website for details!

7 Pineview Drive, Chester • 802-875-WEED • DownToTheRootsVT.com

Cannabis has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA). For use by individuals 21 years of age and older or registered qualifying patient only. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN AND PETS. DO NOT USE IF PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING. Possession or use of cannabis may carry significant legal penalties in some jurisdictions and under federal law. It may not be transported outside of the state of Vermont. The effects of edible cannabis may be delayed by two hours or more. Cannabis may be habit forming and can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Persons 25 years and younger may be more likely to experience harm to the developing brain. It is against the law to drive or operate machinery when under the influence of this product. National Poison Control Center (800) 222-1222.

PLYMOUTH

From Page 1

100," due in part to the continuation of homes selling and driving prices up. He expressed that people are leaving the area because of taxes, and "the state doesn't care a bit about that."

The reappraisal is required by the state when the coefficient of dispersion falls below a certain level. The common level of appraisal (CLA), a factor that adjusts the education property tax rates and reassesses property values to the current fair market value, is brought back to 100%. The Town of Plymouth's CLA is at 48%, meaning that most property values would double in order to bring the CLA back up to 100%.

Cappellini provided that a house with a value of approximately \$200,000 would most likely increase to a fair market value of \$400,000. He expressed that, even if the tax rate were to decrease, each property is taxed on an increased value, and therefore taxes would not necessarily go down.

Kaminski then reported that the bids for the energy conservation project for the town hall renovation were over budget. He said that VMS Construction is overworked and understaffed, and though he is still going to use them, he is going to renegotiate the bid.

Kaminski said he is doing a good deal of leg work himself to help get the heat pumps in the entire building and radiant heat in the highway department. He explained that he is checking with individual vendors, pricing out materials himself, rebidding project work, and is also looking into other grant income. He reported there is some funding left over from Phase 1, along with the \$500,000 grant. He confirmed the budget would not exceed \$709,000, stating he was not going to request more money from the taxpayers.

The next Plymouth Selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 3, at 6 p.m.



FOOD SHELF

BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES

37B Main St, Ludlow, VT 05149
Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 AM-3 PM
Phone: 802-228-3663
www.brgn.org
"We are here to help"
Serving Ludlow, Mt. Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville & Plymouth

CHAVES EXCAVATING

ALL MATERIALS FOR COMPLETE SITE WORK

Sand • Gravel • Stone
Shurpac • Topsoil • Fill



5,000 lb. Hydraulic Hammer for Ledge & Rock Splitting

Portable On-Site Crushing & Screening Equipment

802-824-3140
Londonderry, VT



Aqua-Aid Systems
WATER CONDITIONING & FILTRATION

Solving hard water, iron, blue staining, radon, and arsenic problems in the Windham and Windsor Counties since 1984

- Water Conditioning
- Free On-Site Water Analysis & Estimate
- Iron and Manganese Removal
- Radon & Arsenic Removal
- Systems Maintenance
- Home Supplies Delivery

We Service All Makes And Models Locally Owned & Operated Since 1984



Hellenbrand
What's In Your Water?™

ON SITE, NO CHARGE, TESTING AND ESTIMATES

800-252-8484

Walking on water

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

Twice a year, Vermont Fish & Wildlife hosts a free fishing day. This past Jan. 25 was the annual winter free fishing day. This is a program to introduce people to ice fishing. I went and took Ryan with me. We didn't fish. This was a chance to introduce Ryan to a new activity to see if it was for him.

We went down to the setback by the toll bridge in Springfield. It was just above zero as we stepped onto the ice. Ryan grew up in a warmer climate where ice fishing doesn't exist, so this was something new.

Ryan had safety concerns as we walked out on the ice. I assured him all was safe. It didn't take Ryan long to become comfortable. His first comment was, "This is surreal!"

Jacks

We walked toward two men my age with their dog. They had jacks set up and while waiting for a flag, they jigged some. They were local boys. Jacks are my preferred method of ice fishing. There are topwater jacks and underwater jacks. I use both. First you have to drill or cut a hole in the ice.

Next you use a sounder to determine water depth. A sounder is a 2-ounce weight that attaches to your hook that you drop down the hole in the ice. Pull it up till taught, then pull the line up another 6-12 inches. I always tie a simple knot in the line at reel level. This way you don't have to sound the hole again. Some fishermen use a small button instead of a knot. You bait the hook with a shiner. You want the shiner swimming just off the bottom. If the shiner is lying on the bottom fish won't see

it. So pull it up some and let him swim. He'll be noticed.

Jigging

Lots of people jig. They use a modern, very lightweight rod and reel, maybe 30 inches long. You can stand over the hole and jig, but most have a 5-gallon pail they sit on. Most use a small spinner as an attractor for the fish. Below the spinner is a hook with bait. We talked to one man from Castleton who was using maggots for bait. These are sold commercially at bait shops. He was having some luck, as was evidenced by fish in his pail. Ice fishermen jig for crappie, bluegill, and perch. Jigging for smelt is popular on the Ludlow lakes.

We walked toward three men. They had both topwater and underwater jacks. They had caught a beautiful 18-inch bass. These three men were really enjoying themselves. As we ap-

proached them, Ryan asked me, "These fishermen don't mind us talking with them?" Ice fishermen are very friendly and happy to share knowledge.

Cutting a hole

Today most fishermen have gas powered augers, or the latest augers powered by a cordless drill. It's getting easier. I still use a long-handled chisel. It's more laborious with a chisel, so I cheat. I look for holes drilled by other fishermen the day before that have frozen over. There might only be 2 inches of fresh ice in the hole. I can chisel through two inches in no time. Once the hole is opened, you need a skimmer. You dip the skimmer in the hole to clean out floating ice chips. The skimmer has holes in it for water to drain through.

The sun was bright and warm. We saw a family on the ice with their young



Notice the tent shelter in center. To the right the auger is grounded. Two men at left jig for panfish.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

children. Start them early. Ryan repeated several times, "It's surreal." His other comment was he couldn't believe how "calm" it was on the ice. It really was a beautiful day, and we didn't get cold. I was dressed in layers.

Ryan wants to go ice fishing with me someday soon. I fish all around. For walleyes, I like to fish Roundy's south of Springfield on Route 5. Here the water is deeper, maybe 18 feet in front of the ledges. The Springfield

setback is 4-9 feet deep. I have caught walleyes there as well. We also saw a bald eagle.

I hope you try it. If you do, I suggest you go the first time and just walk around and talk to the fishermen. It's a very inexpensive sport, and you'll know where your food comes from.

This week's old saying is from Bob Fraser: "A bad day of fishing beats a good day of work."

Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem -

PUTNEY, Vt. - Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present New England's acclaimed folk/roots quartet Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem, at Next Stage on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem feature four-part vocal harmonies, indelible songs, fiddle, acoustic and electric guitars, bass, and a homemade percussion kit of cardboard boxes, tin cans, caulk tubes, packing-tape tambourines, bottle-cap rattles, Mongolian jaw harps, and a vinyl suitcase. Over the past 20

years, the quartet has toured its uplifting, healing performances to concert halls, festivals, and residency engagements across North America, and has released seven CDs on Signature Sounds. This band's steadfast brew of wit, camaraderie, and musicality leaves audiences everywhere humming and hopeful, spirits renewed.

In the lineage of string bands who blur the boundaries of American roots music, Arbo, Andrew Kinsey, Anand Nayak, and Scott Kessel have always been stan-

dard-bearers, with a particular knack for pairing words and music. From bluegrass barnstormers to sultry swing, old-time gospel to bluesy folk-rock, they consistently turn in lush arrangements of original songs alongside artful reworkings of a melange of music.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. Advance tickets are available at www.nextstagearts.org. For information, call 802-387-0102, or visit the website above.

Ricky McEachern exhibition

NEWFANE, Vt. - Artist Ricky McEachern explores moments in time in an exhibition of his paintings opening Tuesday, Feb. 4, at Newfane's Moore Free Library Crowell Gallery.

Titled "Everything is Now," the show features landscapes and people in varied and colorful settings that McEachern has observed in his years exploring New England.

The artist will be on hand to share his perspective at an

opening reception Saturday, Feb. 8, from 4-6 p.m. The show runs through March 28.

McEachern hosts a podcast called "Eager to Know," in which he engages with creative people of all types, and he recently put his DJ skills to use with an early morning weekly broadcast on WOOL-FM radio in Bellows Falls called "Bellows Hellos," and a tea dance that he organized at Ciao Popolo restaurant.

McEachern came to painting after working as an engineer, and then exploring art in Chicago, before moving to Saxtons River a few years ago. More details and examples of his art can be found at his website, www.rickyartist.com.

The library is located at 23 West Street in Newfane. Further information is available at the library website, www.moorefreelibrary.org.

Jim Keller at Walker Farm

WESTON, Vt. - Get ready for an unforgettable evening with iconic guitarist Jim Keller, best known as chief songwriter for Tommy Tutone, and the unforgettable 1981 hit "867-5309/Jenny."

Keller has spent the last 30 years crafting a distinctive blend of heartfelt rock, soul, and poetic lyricism. Whether performing at New York's Rockwood Music Hall with some of the finest musicians in the business, or in front of new audiences like yourselves, Keller brings a personal touch to every song.

The event is a benefit concert, with all proceeds going to West River Sports, a volunteer-run community organization committed to fostering a love of the outdoors and

healthy activity with and for our area's younger populations.

The concert will be held at Walker Farm, on Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. Walker Farm Music is a pick-your-price

event, letting you choose the ticket value that makes the most sense for you. Tickets are on sale now, and can be purchased at www.westontheater.org, or by calling the box office at 802-824-5288.

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 6-9 pm
Green Mountain Boys - Prizes!

802-228-7797
Kitchen Hours Monday - Friday 4-9pm
Saturday 12-9pm, Sunday 12-8pm

Monday Open Mic Night at 8:30pm
Tuesday Trivia at 6pm with Rick Davis
Thursday Irish Session with Gypsy Reel at 6:30pm

THERE'S NO STRANGER AT KILLARNEY, ONLY FRIENDS YOU HAVEN'T MET

Echo Lake Inn
The Quintessential Vermont Country Inn

CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY AT THE ECHO LAKE INN

Join us at our 4.5 Star Restaurant
Chef Inspired Cuisine • Renovated Dining Area

Saint Valentine's Four Course Gourmet Dinner
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025
\$89 PER PERSON

Includes your choice of a Starter, Small Plate, Large Plate, and a selection from our Dessert Cart

Featuring Butternut Squash and Coconut Cream Bisque, Bacon Wrapped Scallops, Roasted Duck Breast, and Maine Lobster Ravioli

Serving Dinner Tue - Sat, 5:30-9 p.m.
Reservations Suggested at 802-228-8602
Holiday Menus at www.EchoLakelnn.com
Check out our Cozy Renovated Guest Rooms

opinion

Dear Editor,

Allow me to share the following thoughts from my legislative mentor, Jim Harrison.

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, members of the administration will share their proposal to reform Vermont's education system and the way to fund it. One leading legislator said the reform plan may be the biggest overhaul the legislature has seen in 50 years.

It's no secret that last year's increase in property taxes played a large role in changing the political makeup of the legislature in November. Understanding the new political dynamic and the message from voters, legislative leaders appear more open to hearing the governor's reform suggestions this session.

Changing the status quo is never easy. Whether it is a change to a "foundation formula" like most states, where each district receives

a flat amount per student from the state, or a change to Vermont's lowest-in-the-nation staff-to-student ratio, there will be critics. The NEA and some other groups, for example, have argued that Vermont does not have a spending problem, but rather needs more income from higher earners.

The governor is also taking a lead on improving public safety. In his weekly press conference, he outlined a plan to help us move towards safer communities. A few of the administration's proposals included repealing the "Raise the Age law" for 19-year-old young adult offenders, and reforming our youthful offender procedures to ensure accountability; revising bail laws to make it a tool courts and prosecutors can use to hold violators accountable, as the governor indicated many view our status as a

"catch and release" system which does not deter repeat offenders; simplifying extradition laws; building a system that can deliver a swift and sustained connection to addiction treatment and recovery by retooling and reinvigorating existing programs; and elevating the Department of Public Safety to the Agency of Public Safety, making its director a cabinet level position in line with its importance.

Other items of note: the highly anticipated Clean Heat Standard report from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) was released this past week to the legislature. While the report estimated lower heating fuel increases than previously anticipated, the PUC concluded that the "Clean Heat Standard is not well suited to Vermont." The report went on to say, "[A]chieving thermal sector greenhouse gas reductions consistent with the Global Warming Solutions Act would be best achieved by building upon existing programs, rather than overlaying a new and complex regulatory structure such

as the proposed Clean Heat Standard."

Rep. Noyes, D-Wolcott, and I will be leading a bipartisan effort to phase out the Vermont income tax on social security benefits. Vermont is currently one of only nine states that tax this important benefit to seniors.

A new pro-housing advocacy group, Let's Build Homes, made of a wide range of people and organizations, says Vermont needs to build, build, and build again to address the state's housing crisis. The former mayor of Burlington, Miro Weinberger, is the executive chair of the new group's steering committee.

Jim Harrison is the state representative for Chittenden, Killington, Mendon, and Pittsfield.

Submitted by Rep. Kevin Winter, Ludlow-Mount Holly-Shrewsbury district.

Dear Editor,

I am the parent of two Rockingham students, as well as a public educator myself in a different district. I am writing today to voice my concern regarding the changes proposed to the physical education position at Central Elementary. My experience as an educator is that these consolidation choices are a one-way street. Once this is done, it will never go back to the way it was.

You are taking a position that is already difficult to fill, and making it less desirable. In doing so, we risk driving out a fine educator, and at the same time creat-

ing an undesirable position, which in turn opens Bellows Falls to the bottom of the barrel when it comes to job applicants. The most qualified educators will never take this position once it becomes split between two schools, and teachers are forced to have ever-larger classes. Bellows Falls will be stuck with mediocre PE teachers and high turnover rates for years to come. This is bad for students, this is bad for staffing, and this is bad for Bellows Falls.

Sincerely,
Michael Schlenoff
Bellows Falls, Vt.

Dear Editor,

We were glad to see the article in The Vermont Journal called "Chester adopts rural development bylaws," in which there was much reporting on the issue of extraction in the newly named RUR-3, which is approximately 60% of Chester. From speaking with friends and neighbors, we have found that few are aware that the town has the ability to issue a lifetime conditional use permit to allow a quarry to locate 100 feet from your property line. This means there can be drilling, blasting, noise, and trucking. This noise is disturbing, repetitive, and ignored by town officials when reported.

This means a family could spend their whole lives developing a home and property, only to have their quality of life ruined by a conditional

use permit granted by the town. If the conditional use permit is not followed, the Town of Chester states they are unable to enforce the violations of their own conditions in their own issued permit.

This issue needed to be addressed and changed in the Chester Unified Development Bylaws, and there was much discussion about extraction in the planning commission minutes. Ultimately, the only change in extraction policy was the removal of its conditional use from RES-2. Interestingly enough, the town owns a gravel pit in RES-2, and can extract gravel if needed due to previous use.

If the town is truly interested in attracting new homeowners to the Town of Chester, we feel the planning commission, development review board, selectboard, and the town manager need to establish updated conditional use enforceable restrictions for extraction and quarrying. Who would move to Chester knowing that there could be a quarry 100 feet from your property line?

Sincerely,
Scott Kilgus and Leslie Thorsen
Chester, Vt.

AFS WEALTH MANAGEMENT

FINANCIAL PLANNING • INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT • TAX STRATEGIES

Hudsen W Hagland, CFP®
Investment Advisor

www.afswm.com
802-875-8100

P&L Excavating and Trucking

"Stumps to stones and everything in between"

PO Box 993
Chester, VT
Office: 802 875 2819

Owner/Operator
Palmer cell: 802 291 3417
Ryan cell: 802 291 3363

GREATER FALLS INSURANCE
serving VT and NH since 1996

Home • Auto • Farm • Business • Motorcycle • Recreational Vehicles

7190 US Route 5 • Westminster, Vermont 05158
802-463-1900 • www.greaterfallsinsurance.com

RON PATCH
Buying Antiques
802-374-0119

DCI
DESIGN • BUILD • REMODEL

CUSTOM HOMES, ADDITIONS, & RENOVATIONS
SERVING LUDLOW AND SURROUNDING TOWNS

CONTACT US FOR YOUR NEXT PROJECT!
802-461-3573 dci@dciconcepts.com

PICTURE PERFECT, NOW

WAIT UNTIL YOU TASTE IT

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL BUTCHER
OMAHA STEAKS
SINCE 1917

Butcher's Classic Pack **SAVE 57%**

- 4 Butcher's Cut Filet Mignons (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (5 oz.)
- 4 PureGround® Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)
- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 8 FREE Omaha Steaks Burgers (4 oz.)**

78237XDS separately \$300.95
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$129.99

Scan Now To Order

ORDER NOW! OmahaSteaks.com/ClassicPack7199 | 1.833.897.4133
Ask for your FREE burgers with offer 78237XDS

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. 8 free 4 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes 78237. Limit 2. Standard S&H added per address. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use. Expires 12/31/25. 24M7165 | Omaha Steaks, LLC

INTRODUCING ACESSA™


Innovative Treatment for Uterine Fibroids


Uterine fibroids are muscle growths in and/or on the womb. Symptoms may include heavy bleeding, pelvic pressure, bloating, pelvic and/or back pain, and urinary or bowel problems. If you have known or suspected fibroids, call for a consultation to see if ACESSA™ may be right for you.

— Prompt Appointments Available —

Springfield Gynecology
A DEPARTMENT OF SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL
Where People Come First

25 Ridgewood Road, Springfield, VT 802-885-7561
www.springfieldgynecology.org


Kira Balkcom, MD


Thusitha Cotter, MD

obituaries

Ethel Anderson, 1936-2025

MILTON, Vt. – Ethel “Liz” Anderson, 88, of Milton, Vt., was born to Donald and Margaret Lockhart in Lake George, N.Y. She passed away Jan. 20, 2025.

Liz was a long-time member, past president, and chaplain of Post #374 American Legion Auxiliary of Lake George. She attended Lake George High School, and later became owner/administrator of the Lakeview Home for Adults, providing residential care for the elderly. She moved to Vermont in 1989, to become a nanny to her granddaughter Caroline.

Liz was predeceased by brothers Wallace, Donald, and George Lockhart; and sister Joyce Wood; also by her first husband Robert

Kirkpatrick, and second husband Lawrence Anderson.

She is survived by her children Bill (Linda) Kirkpatrick, of Williston, Robert (Jane) Kirkpatrick, of Westminster, Jean (Ernie) Blake, of Milton, Tom (Sui) Kirkpatrick, of Burlington, Jim (Steven) Kirkpatrick, of St. Albans, and Larry Anderson, of Colchester; as well as 15 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial is planned at the Eagle’s Club in Milton, Vt., on Friday, Jan. 31, at 3 p.m. The family wishes to extend heartfelt gratitude to the staff at McClure Respite Home, and to many friends and family for their care and compassion.

Bernard Haley Sr., 1926-2025



Bernard Haley Sr., 1926-2025
PHOTO PROVIDED

GRAFTON, Vt. – It is with great sadness that the family of Bernard “Pete” Haley Sr. announce his passing at the age of 98, on his 80th wedding anniversary.

As the family patriarch and the strongest man we know, he will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him, with his quick wit and incredible sense of humor.

Pete was born in Grafton, Vt., July 8, 1926, to Pearl and Raymond Haley. He spent most of his life in Grafton, just a few houses away from the house he was born in.

Pete enlisted in the Navy in 1944 during World War II, and was a sea cook on the USS Latona out of Galveston, Texas. He was well known on the ship for making the most delicious pies, cherry pies being his specialty. This was a treat that the sailors looked forward to, because it felt like a little piece of home.

Pete married the love of his life Isabelle Buell in Westminster, Vt., on Jan. 18, 1945. They raised four children.

Pete cared for Isabelle at their home for the last year of her life, always letting her know how loved she was. He said it was the toughest job he had ever done, not physically, but emotionally. He loved her so much. On the day of Pete’s passing, Isabelle painted him a glorious sunrise to welcome him home to be with her.

Pete had several jobs after coming home from the war. Most notably, he worked for Cota and Cota from 1973 until he retired. He was a fleet mechanic, and could always be found with a tool in his hand.

His favorite phrase to his granddaughters, when they would come to him with, “Something’s wrong with my car, it’s making noise,” he would say, “Turn the radio up, you won’t hear it,” with a chuckle.

Pete is survived by his daughter Corinne Miles, of Grafton, Vt., Reginald Hal-

ey/Sharon, of Winchester, N.H., and daughter-in-law Noreen Agoes Haley, of Greensboro, N.C.; granddaughters Michelle, Regina, Lori, Amy, Heather, Melissa, and Samantha; and grandsons John and Michael.

Pete also leaves behind great-grandchildren Ryan, Brent, Wesley, Troy, Bryana, Alyssa, Tianna, Erin, Sidney, Rafer, John Michael, Tyler, Victoria, Kyle, Tyler, Josh, Hunter, Remington, Tiffany, Shaina, and several great-grandchildren, who he was so proud of.

Pete was preceded in death by his wife Isabelle on Dec. 26, 2014, sons Bernard Jr. (Peter) and Raymond, and grandchildren Raymond Jr. and Denine. Also preceding him in death were his siblings Ruby, Doris, Cecil, Merton, Lawrence, Lewis, Charlotte, and Gertrude.

Calling hours will take place on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., with a service at 1 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt. Burial will take place in the spring, at the Houghtonville Cemetery in Grafton, Vt. Date and time will be announced.

The family would like to thank Bayada Hospice for the exceptional care, Grafton Cares, and a special thank-you to Diane, Melissa, and Amanda – his favorite girls.

Pete was a great soul, who will be greatly missed by many.

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

Gregory L. Columb, 1953-2025

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gregory L. Columb, born May 20, 1953, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Jan. 14, 2025, leaving be-

hind a legacy of devotion to God, family, and the great outdoors. For complete obituary, please go to www.davismemorialchapel.net.

Reine J. Laplante, 2025

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Reine J. Laplante, 93, of Springfield, Vt., passed away Jan. 22, 2025. A graveside service will be held in the spring of

2025. Full obituary will be posted at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Davis Memorial Chapel.

Ronald L. Smith, 1949-2025

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Ronald “Ron” Smith, 75, passed peacefully at home on Jan. 20, 2025, surrounded by family. He was born Dec. 3, 1949, the son of Wilfred “Bill” and Doris Smith.

He grew up on a farm in Chester, Vt., until they moved to Springfield, Vt., when he was a teenager.

He attended schools in Chester and Springfield, Vt. He went on to become a butcher and entrepreneur, operating a custom meat cutting business, R L Smith Custom Meat Cutting, processing deer and bear for the local hunters for many years. He also owned and operated a wood cutting and logging business. He worked for Adams Market in Londonderry, and Grand Union in Springfield. He also worked for Gurney Bros. for years.

Ron married Linda (Kehoe) Smith in 1970, and they shared two children, Jayson and Jodie.

In 1976, he married Kathleen (Alexander) Smith in Chester, Vt., and they raised their six children there.

In 1995, they moved to their home in North Springfield, where they would spend the next 30 years hosting Sunday dinners and enjoying watching their grandchildren grow. He spent countless hours

in the woods, hunting with his family. He also enjoyed spending time on the coast of Maine, in Wells and Kennebunk.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years Kathy; and his children Jayson, of Grafton, Vt., Jodie (Ron) Underwood, of Chester, Vt., Abram (Roberta) Crossman, of Londonderry, Vt., Rande (Jason) Berube, of Linwood, N.C., Lyndsey (Roy) Farrar, of Chester, Vt., Juston (Amanda) Smith, of North Springfield, Vt., and Dodie Crossman, of Londonderry, Vt.; as well as 12 grandchildren Cole, Holly, Zackary, Jakob, Kaleb, Had-die, Gabriella, Evan, Katelynn, Jordyn, Hannah, and Grace; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was predeceased by his parents; his siblings Robert (Bob) Smith, Debbie Speckman, and Sandra (Susie) Goodwin; and one grandchild Kody Smith.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 11 a.m., at the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield Vt.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Ron’s memory to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund at Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, 1 National Life Drive, Dewey Building, Montpelier, VT 05620-3208.

Catherine A. Griffin, 1951-2025

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Catherine A. Griffin, 73, died on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025, surrounded by her family. She was born April 23, 1951, in Barton, Vt., the daughter of Edward D. and Angie L. (Mason) Durkin.

Catherine was a loving mother, a homemaker raising her three daughters, worked at Grobet File, and was a caregiver for several years. She grew up on Per-ron Hill in Glover, Vt., with her dad, and always reflected on the wonderful memories of living with Roger and Blanche Perron and all her cousins.

She enjoyed fishing, walks in the woods, crocheting, playing Hay Day, and spending time with her family. Catherine enjoyed crocheting many hats and blankets over the years, and donated to the Mitten Tree at WCAX.

She is survived by her three daughters Samantha Grailich (Dale Holmes), West Parker (Randy), and Billie Jo Critchfield, and their father Francis Griffin; four siblings Ricky Durkin (Gloria), Sherry Durkin, Steven Durkin, and Beverly Rowles; grandchildren Paige Streeter (Aaron), Levi Parker (Kathryn), Wyatt Critchfield, Derrick Grailich (Madisyn), great-granddaughter Claire Grailich, Tyler Holmes (Isaiah), Brittney Critchfield (Chris), and Logan Critchfield; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and bonus children and great-grandchildren.



Catherine Griffin, 1951-2025.
PHOTO PROVIDED

She was predeceased by her parents, and two brothers Edwin “Sookie” Durkin and Donald Durkin.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, April 26, at 1 p.m., at the Pine Grove Cemetery in North Springfield, Vt. The Rev. Gerry Piper will officiate. A Celebration of Life will be held at the VFW Post 771 in Springfield, Vt., following the graveside service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to RRMCMarrow Donor Program, c/o Kerry Ellis, Marrow Program Coordinator, RRMCFoley Cancer Center, 160 Allen Street, Rutland, VT 05743 (memo: “In Memory of Catherine Griffin”).

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

OVER 2000
BROKEN-IN TIRES
MANY SETS OF 4

CANON TIRE
I-91, Exit 8, Ascutney, VT
802-674-5600
NEW TIRES TOO!!

CHURCH SERVICES:
We run Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space.

Harvey Replacement Windows, Raynor Garage Door Sales & Installation, Garage Door Repair & Vinyl Siding

BILL STANKEVICH
Building & Remodeling
Full Service Care Taking

173 Baltimore Road Perkinsville, VT 05151 802-263-9374 Fax 802-263-5129

David Chaves
EXCAVATING
Family Owned & Operated Since 1980

Complete Site Work
From Clearing to Finish
Grading, Roads, Foundations
Septics & Drainage Problems

Specializing In
Equine Land Development & Ponds

Sculpting your piece of Vermont to fit your Dreams!

802-824-3140
Londonderry, VT

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

LAWRENCE & LOBER
ELECTRIC
Residential-Commercial-Generator-Fire Alarm-Security
UL Listed 24 Hour Monitoring
www.llelectricservices.com • info@llelectricservices.com
15 Barker St. Bellows Falls, VT 05101 Tel: 802-460-3479 Fax: 802-460-3480

45 TAYLOR HILL ATHENS, VT 05143 FULLY INSURED FREE ESTIMATES

TAYLOR EXCAVATING LLP
TRUCKING & EXCAVATING
SEPTIC SYSTEMS, LAND CLEARINGS, DRIVEWAYS
COMPLETE HOUSE SITES
LANDSCAPING, WALL BUILDING
LAWN MOWING, SNOWPLOWING AND SANDING
802-869-2905 802-289-1508
DAN

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

Annual Report Notice of Availability

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Report containing the Town Auditor's Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 will be available February 22, 2025 and may be picked up at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office at 96 Main Street, M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or at the Springfield Town Library at 43 Main Street, M-F 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Annual Report containing the Town Auditor's Report will be available on the Town's website <https://springfieldvt.gov>. Upon request, the Auditor's Report shall be mailed. After March 31, 2025, the Town School District Report will be available on the School District website <https://www.ssdvt.org>. Barbara A. Courchesne Town Clerk, CVC (802) 885-2104 tosclerk@vermontel.net

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

Fulfilling Career as a Water Technician

The Town of Springfield, VT is seeking a Water Technician for a full-time position in the Water Department. The Water Technician is mainly responsible for operations dealing with all aspects of metering water, recording and maintaining flow data as well as routine maintenance of the supply pumping stations. The Technician must have the technical skills and physical capabilities necessary to deal with the daily operation of the Water Division. Must have a High School Diploma or GED with associate courses and experience relating to the Water Division. Must possess a valid Motor Vehicle Operator's License. Must be able to acquire a Commercial Driver's License within one year of hire. Requires a VT Class 3 public water system certification or higher (willing to train the right applicant). Pay is \$21.04 - 23.66 depending on experience, CDL requirement and certifications. This is a non-exempt, Union position with an excellent benefits package. Applications and a complete job description can be found at <https://springfieldvt.gov/office2.com/jobs>. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 (tosh@vermontel.net). 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.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD MAINTENANCE WORKER I

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

FEB. 8 –

LUDLOW, Vt. – A basket raffle will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Ludlow American Legion, to benefit the Gill Odd Fellows Home activities department.

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. –

The South Londonderry Free Library invites children of all ages to a special Valentine's Day art program with Casey Junker Bailey, on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 10:30 a.m. Hand-dyed and decorated papers, ribbons,

and lace will be used to create beautiful gallery-style valentines. Each family will also receive a copy of the delightful book "A Pinch of Love." As always, the program is appropriate for all ages and free of charge, thanks to a grant from The Stratton Foundation. For more information, go to www.slflibrary.org/event-calendar.html, or call the library at 802-824-3371.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Senior Center encourages all fun-

loving adults to join us for a Valentine's Day Dance and Dinner event, scheduled for Feb. 8, from 3-6 p.m., at 223 Old Springfield Road, Charlestown, N.H. Dancing and appetizers from 3-5 p.m., catered dinner by The Sumner House from 5-6 p.m. Music provided by The Silvertones. Advanced tickets required. Ticket sales end Sunday, Feb. 2. Tickets are available at the Charlestown Senior Center office, weekdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., or online at www.eventbrite.com/e/charlestown-valentine-dance-and-dinner-tickets-1217035498939.

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.

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. –

The Perkinsville Community Church, 35 Church Street in Perkinsville, Vt., will be hosting live music every first Sunday, from 4-5:30 p.m. This is a free event, but donations will be accepted each month to go towards local charities. Please keep an eye out for upcoming shows, they will be posted each month on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PerkinsvilleChurch. Any questions, please send an email to churchperkinsville@gmail.com.

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Plymouth Historical Society will be open for winter hours on the first and third Sundays for the months of January-April. Hours will be 2 to 4 p.m., in the

former Plymouth Elementary School, on Route 100 in Plymouth, Vt. Watch for the "Open" flag.

MONDAYS –

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

TUESDAYS –

LUDLOW, Vt. – Fletcher Memorial Library will hold an infant and toddler playground every Tuesday, from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., every Tuesday, from December-March. Playgroup is the perfect place for infants and toddlers to explore, learn, and grow together. Give your child the opportunity to make new friends and develop important social skills in a group while you connect with other parents and caregivers, share experiences, and build a supportive community.

WEDNESDAY –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Every Wednesday morning, from 8-11 a.m., at the Springfield VFW Post 771, 191 River Street, we get together with fellow veterans for coffee and donuts, and socialize for a few hours. All veterans of all ages are welcome. You do not have to be a VFW or American Legion member to come. Call 802-885-6008 for more information.

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.

TOWN OF WINDHAM

The Windham Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing at the Meeting House (26 Harrington Rd) at 6:30PM on Tuesday, February 25, to hear a request from the organizers of the Friendly Gathering for a conditional use permit to hold a music festival in July on the grounds of the former Timber Ridge ski resort.

Members of the public are invited to attend the hearing in person or remotely via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85281717478?pwd=ZALEqV8GhDcAdmHNI6NYW5gPHz79bw.1>

Meeting ID: 852 8171 7478

Passcode: 761975

Planning Commission 2025

Tuesday – February 18, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Public Hearing Notice

Hybrid Meeting - Heald Auditorium/Zoom

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4441 and §4444, notice is hereby given of a public hearing by Ludlow's Planning Commission to hear comments regarding amendments are proposed which modify the following sections of the Town and Village of Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulations: In Article 2, Sections 220, 221, 224, 227, including changes to the Town and Village Subdivision Regulations, for the Neighborhood Development Area. The public hearing will take place on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, beginning at 5:30 pm.

You may attend the Public Hearing in-person at the following address:

Ludlow Town Hall
37 Depot Street
Ludlow, Vermont 05149

Or via Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/99996776407?pwd=SVdjanFDUTFrS3FEZkV4VTZiaVZuQT09>
Meeting ID - 999 9677 6407
Passcode - 428636

Comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Town of Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulations may be submitted verbally at the Public Hearing. Written comments may also be submitted via email to Brendan McNamara, Ludlow's Town Manager at tmanager@tds.net or Terry Carter, Ludlow's Planning Commission Chair at tmgcarter@gmail.com.

Statement of purpose:

The purpose of the proposed amendments to the Town of Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulations:

- implement both the 2019 Municipal Plan and Act 47 (the HOME Act);
- comply with the provisions of 24 VSA §4412, 4413 and 4414.
- update Town and Village of Ludlow Subdivision Regulations necessary to apply with the Neighborhood Development Areas Application Requirements

Please see the Planning Commission's report on the amendments for more detailed information on the town website.

Geographic areas affected:

Portions of these amendments apply to all areas of the Village and Town.

List of section headings affected:

In addition, amendments are proposed which modify the following sections of the Town of Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulations:

In Article 2, Sections 220, 221, 224, 227

In addition, amendments are proposed which modify the following sections of the Town and Village of Ludlow, Vermont Subdivision Regulations:

In Article 4, Sections 4-6, no.4-c and 11 and 4.8, no. 2a and Section 6.2

The full text of the amendments to the Village of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulations, including the revised zoning map, Town and Village of Ludlow Subdivision and the Planning Commission's report, are available online at <https://www.ludlow.vt.us> The proposed amendments and report can also be reviewed in hard copy format in the Town Clerk's Office in the Ludlow Town Hall located at 37 Depot Street, Ludlow, VT 05149.

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN NH

We're Hiring! Join Our Team Today!

Looking for a career with great Pay & Benefits?

Look no further!

Come work for the Town of Charlestown!

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

Positions Available:

Water/Waste Water Licensed Superintendent
Experienced Finance Clerk
FT & PT Police Officers
Transfer Station Attendant
Cemetery Sexton
PT Building Inspector
PT Deputy Building Inspector

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

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

HCRS welcomes new staff

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's community mental health agency, is pleased to announce the appointment of 11 new professionals during the month of December, whose talents will augment HCRS' services across Windham and Windsor counties.

HCRS welcomes the following new employees: Ashlee Kelley, office generalist, in Hartford; Anne-Marie Toussaint, DSP employment float, in Brattleboro and Bellows Falls; Abigail Mudano, residential specialist, in Bellows Falls; Samantha Derosia, YSP program coordinator, in Brattleboro; Monika Costello, school-based behavioral interventionist, in Brattleboro; Elysa Ray, clinical intern, in Hartford; Heather Mason, vocational educator at Kindle Farm; Alaina Millard, peer support

advocate, in Brattleboro; Courtney (Stebbins) Emerson, CYF respite provider, in Hartford; Jesse Baughman, billing specialist, in Springfield; and Tamara Kinsman, CYF respite provider, in Hartford.

These new hires will

support the nonprofit agency's team of more than 550 staff providing comprehensive mental health, substance use, and developmental disability programs, which serve more than 4,000 people annually across southeastern Vermont.

CLEAN OUTS

EZ-Dump Enterprises has firewood for sale and is available for home/apartment/storage clean outs and disposal, and trash and junk removal. Serving Springfield and all surrounding areas in VT & NH. Call 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

FOR RENT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Room for rent. Nice, established neighborhood in the Elm Hill area. \$750

per month. Call 281-750-1747.

LLC specializes in caretaking, housekeeping and grocery services. mountainbreezepropertymanagement.com 802-770-4129.

OTHER

KILLINGTON, Vt. – Mountain Breeze Property Management,



TOWN OF LONDONDERRY VERMONT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Londonderry Development Review Board will meet at 139 Middletown Rd at 5:00 PM on Wednesday February 19, 2025 to hold a public hearing for an application from Rachel Febbie for a two-lot subdivision on Edgell Rd, and an application from Tysea and Anthony Kurjiaka to expand a Daycare Center at 1289 Little Pond Rd.

Please note the earlier than usual start time.

Those interested in seeing the applications, submitting written comments, or attending the hearings remotely should contact the town's Zoning Administrator at zoningadmin@londonderryvt.org.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Sections 4464(a)(1)(c) and 4471(a), participation in the local proceedings is a prerequisite to take any subsequent appeal.

Town of Mount Holly Seeks Select Board Clerk

The Town of Mount Holly seeks an experienced, part-time clerk/administrative assistant, to start immediately. Pay starts at \$19/hour and is commensurate with experience. Exact hours range weekly but are typically 6-10 hours/week.

Responsibilities include managing weekly correspondence for the Select Board; managing the Select Board's digital and paper archive; onboarding new Town employees, vendors and contractors; managing the Select Board's weekly invoices and orders; serving as the Town's human resources point of contact; warning public meetings; taking and posting minutes at Select Board meetings; corresponding with the Town's attorneys and other legal counsel; and supporting administration of various grants, applications, certifications and permits. Candidates must have demonstrated proficiency in G Suite productivity tools, such as Gmail, Drive, Docs, and Sheets, and must have superior organizational and written communication skills. References required.

Interested candidates should submit questions and letters of interest to the Mount Holly Select Board at mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com or can mail letters to Mount Holly Select Board at PO Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758. All letters of interest should be accompanied by a resume and a list of two references who can attest to the candidates' prior work experience.

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT

Windsor Unit

PROBATE DIVISION

Docket No.: 25-PR-00063

In re ESTATE of: Michael James Zito

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Michael James Zito

Decedent

late of Windsor

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:

01/17/2025

Signature of Fiduciary

Allison Zito

Executor/Administrator		Mailing Address	
Allison Zito		c/o Parker & Ankuda, PC, PO Box 519	
Phone Number	Email	City, State, Zip	
802-885-2582	parkerankudajp@vermontel.net	Springfield, VT 05156	

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal

Publication Date: January 29, 2025

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Unit Probate Division

Address of Probate Court: 12 The Greene Woodstock, VT 05091

Green Mountain Union High School has openings for the following positions

Girls Varsity Softball Coach (March 2025)
Girls Varsity Soccer Coach (August 2025)

Email todd.parah@trsu.org to apply

Art Crafts Gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Chocolate Tasting Feb. 1, 12-4 & Student Art Show

Art, Crafts, Gifts, Exhibits & Workshops
68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111

OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. til 7

Visions of a Veterinarian Paintings by Robin Truelove Stronk
Register for Workshops & Shop Online at www.galleryvault.org

Calligraphy with Love with Jorika Stockwell 2/8 \$40

Raku Pottery with Andrew Berends
Two days: 3/1 & 3/8 \$275. Includes materials.

Make Fabric Bowls with Beth Ezold 3/15 \$68

Beginner Pysanky with Shannon Wallis 4/5 \$65

Easy Accordion Books with Deborah Stuart 4/26 \$35
(04/16/25 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

DCI CONCEPTS

DESIGN - BUILD - REMODEL

A family business first. Our projects are held to a higher standard starting from the very first phone call to the final walk-through. Our team will impress you with professionalism, quality, and integrity.
6 Andover St. Ludlow, VT
802-461-3573
dci@dci-concepts.com
(11/05/25 - 52)

HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC

"Not just for bangin' nails."

We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 edwin.mortensen@gmail.com.
Follow us on Instagram @neatthehammer
(11/19/25 - 52)

PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267.
(02/12/25 - 13)

ROSE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT

Booking for winter & spring 2025 projects. Also offer carpentry, kitchen & bathroom remodels, interior & exterior painting, window & door replacements, window cleaning, vinyl siding washing, pressure washing, drywall repairs, and odd jobs. Call 802-591-0019 or email billr2808@gmail.com. Cavendish, Vt.
(07/09/25 - 26)

THE SEMI RETIRED PAINTER

Painting Interior and Exterior
All work done by the person you are paying
Small Honey Do List Projects as well
802-263-9693 rogcaw@msn.com
Roger, Perkinsville, VT
(12/05/25 - 13)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

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

Electrician

KJ ELECTRIC LLC

802-428-6224
kjelectric63@gmail.com
Chester, VT
Licensed and Insured
Quality installation and service since 2005
"Wiring is not a hobby! Call a professional"
(01/29/25 - 52)

Masonry

DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 37 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stonart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com.
(02/19/25 - 13)

MOORE MASONRY

Fireplaces, chimneys and liners, chimney sweeps, patios, walls, steps, restoration and repairs. Fully insured, free estimates. Contact Gary Moore at 802-824-5710 mooremasonry802@gmail.com.
(07/09/25 - 26)

Tools

\$\$ CASH PAID FOR OLD TOOLS \$\$

PLANES, AXES, STANLEY ITEMS, ETC.
802-579-5891
(03/19/25 - 13)

CLASSIFIEDS

Start at \$20 per week for 4 lines of text.
Buy 3 get 1 Free!

DIRECTORY LISTING

Start at \$150 for 13 weeks,
for approximately a 20-word listing.
Starting at \$250 for 26 weeks or \$400 for 52 weeks.

Email ads@vermontjournal.com with your listing today

real estate



Roscoe seeks a home

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – This sweet 5-year-old is hoping to be yours. Roscoe is a fun guy that loves car rides, walks, food, playing fetch, and soft squishy toys. He adores people, but due to a dog attacking him needs to be the only dog. Stop by Wednesday-Saturday, from 12-4 p.m., to meet and adopt Roscoe. Willow Farm has donated \$100 of his adoption fee. Call 802-885-3997 for more information.

Springfield Humane Society
401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, Vt.
802-885-3997 | www.spfldhumane.org

Five benefits of winter homebuying

REGION – In the market for a new home? House hunting in the winter might actually give you a leg up on other buyers. Why? Colder temps often leave some homebuyers waiting for a spring thaw. If you're willing to don your winter coat and brave the chill, you just might find your competition is at a minimum, while real estate agents and sellers are eager to close a deal.

Five benefits of shopping for a new home in the winter include:

Motivated sellers – There may seem to be fewer homes on the market in the winter, but the ones that are there are serious about selling. Use that to your advantage when negotiating your home price, as some sellers may be more agreeable to your purchase conditions.

Less competition – Fewer people looking for homes means fewer buyers to com-



Winter homebuying has its advantages.

PHOTO PROVIDED

pete against for the home you love. Fewer buyers means you can take your time searching for the perfect home without feeling rushed to make an offer.

Available agents – Winter can be a slower season for the real estate industry, which could make it a great time for you to find a real es-

tate agent. With a smaller client pool, agents can dedicate more time and effort to your search.

Winter-ready homes – One of my favorite things about touring homes in the winter is getting an inside look at how that home holds up to winter weather. You can get an idea of how effective the

heating unit is, and check for any drafty windows or doors. Most importantly, a winter home inspection can give you a deeper look at the home's winter durability.

Moving discounts – To make a winter move as low-stress as possible, hire professional movers. Some moving companies may offer discounts during the winter. Some even reduce their staff during this "off season," keeping only their most experienced movers on the team. That means you could hire the best of the best to move your things at a more affordable price.

If you're ready to make your dream home happen this winter, give me a call at 802-975-0350, and I can make sure your mortgage process is as simple as possible.

Article provided by Victoria Blodgett, Prime Lending.



HOUSE OF THE WEEK



LONDONDERRY - \$439,000

CHARMING FARMHOUSE & STUNNING VIEWS!

www.barrettandvalley.com 802-875-2323

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY, FEB. 1, 4-6pm
773 Hale Hollow Road | Plymouth



NEW LISTING: Stop by apres ski for S'mores and Hot Cocoa and tour this charming 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath home on 5+/- acres in Plymouth. Great location 8+/- miles from Killington and Woodstock and 16+/- miles from Okemo. Call or Text Listing Agent Lorien Kelly at 732-670-8001 for details.

Kelley Real Estate

Contact Us for a Free Market Evaluation
www.KelleyRealEstate.com
802-228-5333



Central & Main development milestone

WINDSOR, Vt. – Windham & Windsor Housing Trust's (WWHT) highly anticipated Central & Main housing development in Windsor has reached a sig-

nificant milestone in its construction – the building is now "dried in." With the completion of exterior walls, windows, and roofing, the structure is weather-tight,

allowing crews to focus on insulation and interior finishes during the winter months. The building remains on schedule, with a late spring/early summer opening anticipated.

Located at 133 Main Street, the Central & Main development transforms a vacant downtown lot into vibrant, efficient, mixed-income housing, featuring 25 residential apartments affordable to a range of moderate and low Windsor incomes. Accessible via Central Street for vehicles and Main Street for pedestrians, the building integrates seamlessly with Windsor's historic character, while making the existing landscape inviting and accessible.

The building will be managed by Stewart Property Management. There is no waitlist for this property, and applications for these apart-

ments will be opening once the building is near completion. The property manager is taking contact information for anyone interested in updates on leasing. Interested residents are encouraged to visit WWHT's Central & Main information page at www.homemattershere.org/central-and-main-windsor for detailed leasing information, eligibility requirements, and updates on apartment availability.

Windham & Windsor Housing Trust and Evernorth are collaborating closely with the Town of Windsor and the Windsor Improvement Corporation to bring this long-envisioned project to life. The Central & Main development represents a significant step forward in addressing local housing challenges, and supporting economic growth in Windsor's historic downtown district.



MARY W DAVIS
REALTOR & ASSOCIATES

HELPING YOU MAKE MEMORIES SINCE 1958

802.228.8811
info@davisandcompany.com
www.okemorealestate.com

TPW Real Estate
SALES & RENTALS

We Know Just the Place.™

Karen Wilson
Broker
ksw@tpw.com
203.550.7430

John Napier
Licensed Sales Associate
jmn@tpw.com
860.559.9334

TPWrealestate.com | 207 Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149

THM
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES
129 Lincoln Avenue, Suite A • Manchester Center, VT 05255
(802) 362-4663 • Fax (802) 362-6330 • TDD 1-800-845-1833 EXT. 326 OR 178

ADAIR HEIGHTS APARTMENTS
BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY
ONE & TWO-BEDROOM UNITS

Utilities, Snow & Trash Removal Included
Laundry Facility on Premises for Tenants Only
USDA Guidelines Do Apply

Call or Write to:
THM Property Management
129 Lincoln Ave.
Manchester Center, VT 05255
802-367-5252
802-367-5251
Hearing Impaired 1-800-545-1833 ext. 326

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

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

THM is an equal opportunity provider and employer




BROOKVIEW APARTMENTS
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT AVAILABLE

UTILITIES, SNOW, TRASH REMOVAL INCLUDED
LAUNDRY FACILITY ON PREMISES FOR TENANT USE ONLY

USDA GUIDELINES DO APPLY

CALL OR WRITE TO:
THM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
129 LINCOLN AVENUE
MANCHESTER CENTER, VT. 05255

1-802-362-4663 OR 1-802-367-5251
1-800-545-1833, EXT. 326 (HEARING IMPAIRED)

Equal Housing Organization
THM is an equal opportunity provider and employer




Love WHERE YOU LIVE

Purchase • Refinance • Renovation

Victoria Blodgett
NMLS# 179656 | Senior Loan Officer
802-975-0350 | vblodgett@primelending.com
www.vbprimelending.com

Your Home Loan Lender of Choice
126 Main St #1C
Ludlow, VT 05149



All loans subject to credit approval. Rates and fees subject to change. ©2022 PrimeLending, a PrimeCapital Company PrimeLending (NMLS 13649)
Equal Housing Lender. PrimeLending (VT lender) is no. 0127 and broker is no. 016448 (01/01/18)



Tyleen Murray, Broker
REALTOR®
802.777.8047
Ty@KelleyRealEstate.com

Kelley Real Estate

In the Heart of the Okemo Valley
72-B Pond Street, Ludlow, VT 05149
www.KelleyRealEstate.com

