



Vote on Town Meeting Day 2025

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Meeting on emergency department merger

BY PAULA BENSON
The Vermont Journal

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – On Saturday, Feb. 22, more than 100 residents of Rockingham, Saxtons River, and Bellows Falls gathered at the Rockingham Public Library for a presentation on the proposal for a newly consolidated Rockingham Municipal Fire and Rescue Department. Saturday’s meeting was the final opportunity for voters to review and discuss the proposed plan, as well as voice any questions or concerns before voting on the article at Town Meeting on March 1.

As written, Article 9 would, if approved, call for the creation of “a transition committee consisting of designated representatives from each of the three departments, and representatives from the Bellows Falls Trustees, Saxtons River Village Trustees, and the Rockingham Selectboard will be tasked to develop a detailed plan.”

The article further states

that, “Upon completion, the plan will be reviewed and presented to the Rockingham Selectboard for adoption no later than July 1, 2026.” However, there was some resistance to that statement conveyed at the meeting. Several residents insisted the article should be amended to call for another townwide vote once the board had formulated a plan, rather than giving the selectboard the final decision. It was generally understood that voters would be allowed to amend the article to include such a provision at Town Meeting.

The initiative for a single municipal fire and rescue department was first introduced after Rockingham development director Gary Fox and Bellows Falls Fire Chief Shaun McGinnis applied for and were awarded a federal grant to fund a feasibility study. That study, aka the A.P. Triton Report, found that Rockingham could not financially support three separate fire departments, and the creation of a shared, single mu-

nicipal department would reduce costs and improve efficiencies and response times. The full presentation can be viewed on the Rockingham town website, www.rockinghamvt.org.

The meeting was moderated by Village President Paul Obuchowski, who kept to the schedule, from 10-11:30 a.m., and outlined the rules to be followed. Ellen Clark-Lawrence, a 30-year resident of Saxtons River and four-year member of the Saxtons River Board of Trustees, led the slide presentation that covered the basics of the plan, which proposes to strengthen the emergency services provided to the community while increasing safety, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness.

Rockingham Selectboard member John Dunbar read statistics detailing the myriad skyrocketing costs for rural emergency service providers, reporting that Rockingham was on par with national numbers when it comes to low levels of recruitment, increased expenditures, and handling a higher volume of calls.

Board member and former Board Chair Peter Golec cited examples of how coordination between the three separate fire stations has not always been efficient, and how redundancy and response times would each be reduced by combining resources. “When that alarm goes off, you don’t care who shows up as long as someone shows up,” Golec commented.

Dunbar pointed out they were fortunate as a community to have three existing fire stations, and although

the Saxtons River facility will need major repairs, there will continue to be three stations in the new configuration.

One financial concern voiced by some Bellows Falls residents was not directly addressed during the informational meeting. The Village of Bellows Falls had voted to approve a tax increase to fund the renovation of their aging fire station, with construction completed in 2022-2023. Many of those residents feel they should not be expected to contribute to the repairs at the Saxtons River station once the Town of Rockingham takes over.

Fox explained that federal grants are an important resource of funding for emergency services, and the redundancy issue affects the application process as well. With things the way they are currently, Fox said the departments are “competing against one another” for funding, and by combining efforts will likely be more successful in getting grant money awarded.

The discussion at Saturday’s meeting was at times emotional, with long-time resident Deborah Wright asking, “Are we currently safe?”

Priscilla Lambert, a BFUHS Board member currently running for reelection, admitted to being “filled with anxiety,” as “this vote is being pushed through with a lack of planning.”

Jamey Berrick, member of the Rockingham community, voiced his concerns with the proposal, claiming it is based on assumptions and estimates, and



Bellows Falls Fire Chief Shaun McGinnis responds to comments. PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

not enough input from the community.

Additionally, there was some talk of the “elephant in the room,” as one resident commented, which was that there were some members of the three fire departments who might be unwilling to cooperate in the event of a merger.

Rockingham Deputy Fire Chief Tim Jeffrey admitted that, “All my volunteers will walk” because of people on the Bellows Falls Fire Department that are “difficult to work with.”

Jonathan Shaughnessy, a volunteer firefighter for Bellows Falls and Putney, responded, “That drives me nuts, anyone who would quit...We are out there to help people.”

Another volunteer commented that someone causing issues would be disciplined, and if people leave, so be it. An additional comment suggested that a new, combined municipal department would incentivize younger members of the community to volun-

teer, and create a commitment to work together for a stronger future.

Putney recently consolidated their fire and emergency efforts, and Bellows Falls Trustee Wade Masure reported that, although the transition wasn’t without its “bumps and bruises,” the way the department is operating now is working. Shaughnessy echoed those sentiments. Masure named other communities that had gone through similar reconfigurations.

Ultimately, it will be the people’s vote that decides whether this proposal moves forward into the planning stages.

The Rockingham Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 1, at 2 p.m., at the Bellows Falls Middle School. Australian ballot voting for town officials will be held on Tuesday, March 4, at the Masonic Temple, 61 Westminster Street, beginning at 8 a.m. Town Meeting will be accessible via Zoom, but voting is only permitted in person.



BFWC delivers treats to municipal workers

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Woman’s Club (BFWC) recently delivered sweet treats as a thank-you to 26 area municipal and agency essential workers. Pictured are Jennifer Tolaro-Heidbrink and Julie Cermola of Parks Place Community Resource Center in Bellows Falls, thus recognized.

PHOTO PROVIDED

BRIC joins coworking consortium

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The University of Vermont’s Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships has launched a consortium of coworking

spaces from across Vermont to spark collaboration and amplify economic impact in the state. In the pilot year of this initiative, the Leahy

Institute is partnering with four spaces: The Hub Co-Works in Rutland, Black River Innovation Campus in Springfield, Do North

Coworking in Lyndonville, and Hula in Burlington. Vermont’s coworking

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Vegetable-Forward Potluck at the library —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Kick off National Nutrition Month in March by coming together for Vegetable Celebration Potluck, a whole-food, plant-based (WFPB) community potluck. A gathering that’s all about delicious, nourishing food and meaningful connections. Whether you’re a long-time plant-based eater, or just curious to try something new, this event is a welcoming space to enjoy wholesome, home-cooked dishes and friendly conversation at the Rockingham Free Public Library, on Monday, March 3, at 6 p.m.

This free event is an op-

portunity for the community to share tasty, nutritious, plant-powered meals, while learning more about the benefits of whole-food, plant-based eating, and is a collaboration between the library and Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun, who serves on the on the Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry Committee. Guests are encouraged to bring a WFPB dish – featuring whole grains, vegetables, legumes, fruits, nuts, and seeds. Be sure to label your dish with ingredients for those with allergies, and come hungry and ready to connect with a welcoming community.

“We believe that food has the power to bring people together and create positive change,” said Bos-Lun, “This potluck is a chance for everyone to experience the joy of plant-based eat-

ing, while connecting with others who share a passion for health, sustainability, and good food.”

Attendees will not only get to enjoy a variety of delicious dishes, but also exchange recipes, tips, and inspiration for healthier living. Whether you’re looking to improve your health, reduce your environmental impact, or simply explore new flavors, this event is for you.

For more information about this free and open to the public event, please call 802-463-4270, email youthservices@rockinghamlibrary.org, go online to www.rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.



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Gardening Roundtable at Rockingham Library—

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – With more than 110 years of gardening experience between them, Laurel Green and Wendy Regier will share their knowledge and discuss attendees’ gardening challenges at the Gardening Roundtable, on Thursday, March 6, at 5:30 p.m., at the Rockingham Library. People with all levels of gardening experience, including no previous experience, are welcome. Attendees are welcome to share their gardening knowledge and experi-

ences as well.

Though both seasoned gardeners, these two gardeners’ areas of expertise and interest vary. Green’s special expertise is in transforming a standard lawn into a thriving garden. She loves growing her own lettuce seeds. Her favorite thing about gardening is that “there’s always more to learn and try.”

Regier enjoys growing anything she likes to eat, and “perennials and shrubs, peonies, and hydrangeas.” Designing flower and vegetable gardens is her special expertise. Her least favor-

ite thing to do is thinning seeds, “as I feel I’m pulling out friends.”

All library programs are free and open to the public. Another gardening program is coming up this spring. Henry Homeyer will be presenting “Growing Great Flowers: Old Favorites and Lesser-Known Beauties,” on Saturday, April 26, at 2 p.m. For more information, contact programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270, or stop by the Rockingham Library, 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

The 18th annual Cabin Fever Supper —

WESTMINSTER WEST, Vt. – We are all in need of connections. Come join your friends for a fun evening of friendship, stories of past years, and the importance of simply gathering together as neighbors, at the Congregational Church of Westminster

West, on Saturday, March 8, from 5:30-8 p.m., for our 18th anniversary of Maple and Mud. As always, this will be a family-style meal, with food provided by Sharon Boccelli, formerly of Boccelli’s on the Canal in Bellows Falls. Dinner will be vegetarian minestrone soup, antipasto of local and

imported cheese and olives, chicken bracioletti, pasta with slow home-cooked Italian red sauce, and Italian cookies. The pasta will have both a vegetarian variety and meatballs available, as well as a gluten-free pasta option. Cost is a sliding scale. You may bring your own wine.

BRIC

From Page 1

spaces serve as critical hubs of community engagement, entrepreneurial activity, and education. However, interaction between these organizations, separated as they are by geography, has been limited. This consortium seeks to change

that. It will provide an opportunity for the members to share ideas, gain support from peers, and explore opportunities for greater collaboration, all of which will strengthen Vermont’s ecosystem of innovation hubs and coworking spaces.

The consortium held its first in-person meeting last week at the Hub CoWorks,

which is housed in a magnificent renovated opera house in Rutland. “Before coats were even off, the consortium members were bouncing ideas off each other, discussing funding opportunities, and sharing experiences,” said Summer Colley, economic development coordinator for the Leahy Institute. “It was a rapid and wonderful start to the many conversations this initiative is meant to spark.” The consortium will continue to convene quarterly, rotating between the four hubs during the year.

While it’s clear that Vermont’s coworking spaces have energized business activity and community engagement in their regions, research on rural coworking is limited. To help address this deficit, the consortium members will participate in a research project, led by Erik Monsen of the Grossman School of Business, that seeks to better understand the needs of rural coworking spaces and their communities.

UVM student interns will join each of the four consortium members this summer to help with that research effort, and to support the operational activities of the individual coworking spaces.

“The Leahy Institute is thrilled to partner with these coworking spaces as they seek to grow their impact and strengthen rural economic development,” said Tricia Coates, director of the Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships.



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Chester basketball history

Support Miss Bellows Falls

BY RON PATCH
802-374-0119
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The photo with this article is the 1920-1921 Chester High School basketball team. The boys are identified on the reverse.

I won't list their names, as several are incorrectly identified. As an example, Ray Pollard graduated in 1914, as did Dean Severance. The name I would expect to see is Granvil Thompson. He is not listed. Someone really got it wrong.

Granvil Thompson
Granvil lived where Jersey Girls was located, on Route 103 North. I used to stop and see Granvil to buy antiques, or sometimes just to visit. Granvil had some great stories.
Granvil told me how he drove a horse-drawn vehicle to attend Chester High School. He parked his wagon or sleigh, depending on season, and stalled his horse where Clara Smith lived on Maple Street. This is where William Austin ran his antiques business for years. After school, Granvil would hitch up the horse and drive home.

One of the stories he told me was about a basketball game in Townshend. Granvil played basketball for Chester High School, and graduated high school in 1923, so it is possible he is one of the misidentified in this 1921 photo.

Granvil told me both the boys and girls basketball teams journeyed to Townsend one winter night. I seem to remember Chester won both games. What was interesting about this story was the return trip.

The snow was really coming down. By the time they reached Grafton, the snow was very deep. The team of horses couldn't pull the barge up the hill coming up out of Grafton, so the boys and girls got out and pushed. They arrived in Chester in the wee hours of the morning. Granvil hitched up his horse and drove home, only having a couple hours of sleep before going back to school.

The barge
The "barge," as it was called, was part of W. R. Spaulding and his son Edward's taxi service. What we might know as a school bus today. The barge was a large box type affair on heavy runners. It had bench seats along the sides. Boys on one side, girls on the other. In Spaulding records, I did find mention of Ed Spaulding taxiing kids around. While I didn't find mention of the Townshend trip, I found enough evidence to support my theory that Ed Spaulding drove the kids to Townshend that night.

Howard Peck
Howard had a long life with an excellent memory of the old days. Howard told me basketball games used to be held upstairs at Chester Town Hall. The hoops were at opposite ends of town hall, one at the stage, the other at the balcony. Bleachers were



The 1920-1921 Chester Basketball Team. Note boy second from right in the top row, who moved during the exposure.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

along the sides, with some seating in the balcony.

I can't swear to it today, but I seem to remember hearing that at one time the upstairs of town hall was used for roller skating. This makes sense if you remember how the old maple floor was laid out. The outer edges of the floor were angled in a geometric design, not the 90-degree corners we have today.

Chester High School gymnasium

The old Chester High School was built without a gymnasium. In 1938, the gymnasium was built as an addition. Many will remember the stage on one end, with bleachers on the sides. I remember many basketball games played here in the '60s.

Springfield was our enemy.

The gym would be packed with kids and parents rooting for their team. I used to hear we were going to have a rumble after the game. This might have happened, but I never witnessed a rumble, though I was ready.

Ted Spaulding told me about the building of the old high school. Webb Hall was the contractor. Someone raised the corner stake markers after Webb had left for the day. I guess it's time to tell that story. Like Howard Peck, Ted has an excellent memory.

This week's old saying is from Willie Nelson: "There are more old drunks than there are old doctors."

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – What happens when you combine the love of diners and the support of Bellows Falls Moose Lodge #527 with the celebration of 50-year lodge member and former Miss Bellows Falls Diner owner Del Bush? The kickoff Diner Dinner, on Saturday, March 8, begins a series of three diner fundraisers in 2025, and recognizes the contributions of Bush over the last 50 years as a member of the lodge.

Diner Dinners are the means by which the Miss Bellows Falls team of Rockingham for Progress (RFP) will be sharing progress reports in 2025, including plans, timelines, challenges, and triumphs. RFP is working with Banwell Architects on developing 50% plan sets, which will be shared at the March dinner, with a Q&A.

Fundraising efforts for the restoration of the historic Worcester Lunch Car #771 have been underway. To date, over \$230,000 has been raised from individual donations.

"Our goal is to restore, renovate, and reopen the Miss Bellows Falls, leasing to an operator who can keep providing good, honest, affordable food to folks near and far, with-

out being saddled with debt," says Charlie Hunter, of Rockingham for Progress. "We want to carry on the legacy of Del and Joanne Bush, and set the Miss BF up for the next 80 years of success."

The events are an opportunity to feature classic diner meals intended to bring back memories of the days when the Miss Bellows Falls Diner was operating. Del and Joanne Bush, former owners of the diner from 1973-1983, were asked for suggestions on some favorite meals, and settled on a seasonal menu for winter, summer, and fall.

Each meal includes a full entree and dessert. On March 8, meatloaf and apple crisp will be prepared by guest chef Aime Theroux. On July 19, enjoy ribs and strawberry shortcake, with diners invited to provide their favorite baked beans, which will be judged by the audience. The final dinner occurs on Oct. 18, and features roast pork, with diners invited to share their favorite dessert pie, to be judged by the audience. Winners receive a gift from the Miss Bellows Falls store.

Bar service will be available, and the meal will begin with an informational update at 5:15 p.m., to share ongoing diner restoration

progress. Dinner will be served buffet style, starting at 6 p.m. On March 8 only, following the recognition of Del Bush at 7 p.m., the band Rust and Bone will play at 8 p.m. Band tickets are available on the website, or from lodge members.

Information about the dinner schedule and ticket purchase information can be found at www.missbellowsfalls.com. Choose individual tickets, a table of six for family and friends, or purchase the entire series. The lodge is located at 59 Westminster Street, in Bellows Falls, Vt. The building is handicap accessible.

For more information about the Miss Bellows Falls Diner project, history of the diner, merchandise, or Rockingham for Progress, visit www.missbellowsfalls.com.



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Three Stations

The members of the Bellows Falls Firefighter's Association fully support Article 9, the creation of a single municipal fire department with three stations. This article moves emergency services forward in Rockingham, Bellows Falls and Saxtons River. This article provides:

- Higher level of EMS service from First Responders town wide
- Stabilize and in some cases lower insurance ratings for lower premiums
- Eliminate costly, redundant equipment
- Improved Firefighter safety
- Faster response times
- Establishes a plan for future savings
- A municipal department that is accountable to the Town

This plan uses ALL trained first responders from all three municipalities working together for the most effective response to an emergency town wide. We, the members of the Bellows Falls Firefighter's Association, support this, and will all step up to become part of a team to provide the best service possible for all three municipalities. This article is about improving public safety as well as cutting costs.

Do the right thing for ALL of Rockingham, Vote YES on Article 9 at the Rockingham Town Meeting, Saturday March 1st, 2 pm at the Bellows Falls Middle School.

You must be present to vote

This ad was paid for by the members of the Bellows Falls Firefighter's Association

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opinion

Dear Rockingham Voters,

My name is Chris Kibbe, and I am writing to request that you write my name in for the three-year seat on the Rockingham Town School Board versus Priscilla Lambert on election day, March 4. This is the seat that I currently hold, but unfortunately, I was ill and missed the petition filing deadline in January. I would like to serve the town and the school district for another term in order to continue the important work that the board has embarked upon in the last year. I currently serve as the chair of the Rockingham School Board. This past year, the board adopted a set of goals that has guided our work. These goals include improving student achievement, decreasing the number of student absences, building an affordable budget for the coming year, enhancing board and community communications, effectively maintaining our school buildings, and, in the longer term, expanding stu-

dent learning opportunities and promoting sustainable schools for Rockingham. As you can see, this is an extensive and comprehensive set of goals, and we have made progress in many areas. Student absences are down somewhat, and our school buildings remain in excellent condition. We will be presenting an expense budget to the voters that is up 4.32% with a modest projected tax rate increase, combined with the high school, of about 2.5 cents, a percentage increase of 1.6%. Although student achievement remains a concern, we are receiving regular reports about progress in math and literacy from the administration. In addition, we are actively working on board-community communications. The WNESU and Rockingham Town School Districts employ many effective administrators, teachers, and staff who really are the ones upon whose shoulders the job of continuous school

improvement falls. As a board member and as board chair, I have tried to both support and cajole our employees to strive for improvement and good management. I am very clear about the fact that it is not a board member's job to micro-manage the school system. In closing, I want to again request that you write my name in for the three-year seat on the Rockingham School Board. It is important for you to know that this is the only seat to write me in, as I support the candidacies of Caitlin Deschenes-Desmond and Rob Weltz, who are running unopposed for other seats on the board. I will have additional reminders about this on election day outside the polling area. Paid for by Christopher Kibbe Rockingham, Vt.

Dear Editor,

People sometimes ask me, "What kind of doctor are you?" It's a fair question – when you run for public office, folks want to know your background, and what you bring to the table. For the record, my doctorate is in computing technology in education (Ph.D.), and along the way, I also earned two master's degrees (MBA, MSS), a postgraduate degree (Ed.S.), and a graduate certificate in human resource management. I even had the chance to serve as a military science professor during my time in uniform. My doctoral research focused on helping soldier-students balance military deployment and distance learning, and I was honored to provide my published work to the U.S. Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard. Earning that doctorate took nine years – all while serving on active duty. During that time, I deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, led a task force in the aftermath of Hur-



Dr. August Murray. PHOTO PROVIDED

ricane Katrina, and worked on a multinational mission in Honduras. One month after return-ing from Kabul, I defended my dissertation, and became Dr. Murray. Being a colonel and a doctor are titles I'm incredibly proud of, but the one that means the most is dad. After retiring from the Army, my wife Andrea and I took on a new mission – restoring our old farm, and working to help provide food security in our community. Along the way, we saw the overwhelming need for foster and adoptive homes in Vermont. Too many children in our state face uncertainty, loss, and

hardship. They need love. They need stability. They need a safe place to grow. So, Andrea and I became licensed to foster and adopt. That's how I earned my favorite title: dad. Kids deserve warm meals, a roof over their heads, and most importantly, to feel safe and loved. They deserve to know that they have hope and a bright future. That's what truly matters. You can call me August, colonel, or doctor – but the title that brings the biggest smile to my face will always be dad. I am now running for Weathersfield Selectboard because I love my community and want to see it thrive. On Tuesday, March 4, I would be grateful to earn your vote. Voting in Weathersfield will take place from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., at Martin Memorial Hall, Route 5, in Ascutney. Paid for by Dr. August Murray Weathersfield, Vt. Candidate for Selectboard www.facebook.com/MurrayForSelectboard

Dear Editor,

For Weathersfield voters who might not know it, selectboard candidate August Murray, his wife, and their confederates, in December 2023 forced Windsor County Republican Committee Chair John McGovern out of the chairmanship. The event was written up by Valley News columnist Jim Kenyon on Dec. 17, 2023. They began the putsch by shouting, "Point of order! Point of order!" during the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. Murray, his wife, and three others subsequently filed a lawsuit against McGovern, and Murray became the vice chair of the group. In addition to marking their territory in the coun-

ty, the Murrays also made a try for the state legislature. Ms. Murray ran for a state Senate seat in 2024. The couple lent \$34,000 to Ms. Murray's campaign. The most any of their Democratic opponents raised by popular subscription and Vermont Democratic Party donations was \$14,000. Ms. Murray was not successful in gaining a Senate seat. Ignorant of his conduct in these matters, yet recognizing him as a new owner of a considerable property in Weathersfield, the Weathersfield selectboard appointed Mr. Murray to fill a vacancy on their board. Mr. Murray later ran for the seat and lost. He is running again this spring.

Mr. Murray recently bullied his way onto the Weathersfield Veterans Memorial Committee by attacking the veracity of its chair, DeForest Bearse, and impugning the conduct of the memorial committee itself. Ms. Bearse refuted his charges at a recent selectboard meeting, but in an attempt to defuse the hostile tone of the meeting, stepped down – and Mr. Murray was immediately appointed to fill the vacancy by the selectboard. As Republicans, the Murrays are allied with what's going on in the White House at this time. I do not recommend entrusting him with a role in Weathersfield governance. Paid for by Chuck Gregory Springfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

My name is Priscilla Lambert, and I am currently serving on the Bel lows Falls Union High School (BFUHS) Board. I am running for reelection to the three-year seat. I am also running for a three-year seat on the Rockingham School Board. I have previously served on both boards, including three years as chair of the Rockingham Board. I grew up here, and attended our schools. I also taught at Central Elementary and BFUHS. Thus, my background provides awareness of how issues impact our schools. As a parent, I had a special needs child and a high-achieving student, providing knowledge of the varying needs of students

and parents. As a teacher both at Central Elementary and at the high school, I worked within a budget. As a taxpayer, I am knowledgeable about the need to keep costs down while providing excellent programs. I recognize the importance of issues and the need to be a voice for everyone in my district. As a school board member, it is my job to strive for transparency by asking hard questions of administrators and staff to be fully informed, and also help other members think about the issues. I take into account what constituents say in my district, and consider their needs in my responses. As a board member, budgets and finances are an important task. I feel it is important to be aware of the issues, and support correcting the problems. Overseeing curriculum is a school board responsibility, so being aware of class content is important. Literacy and

math skills are a concern, so finding ways to improve achievement at reasonable costs must be found. I will continue to advocate to have systems in place to address and fix accountability. I follow the premise that tax dollars need to be used conscientiously in order to get the most for our money. I have served as board chair, budget committee chair, policy committee chair, and as a member of the negotiations committee, and as a warrant signer. Board work can be difficult and time-consuming, but I feel it is essential to strive for excellent schools and programs that provide opportunities for children. Over the past six years, I have strived to solve issues, and I will continue to do that. I want to be a voice for our community, and advocate for our schools and our taxpayers. Paid for by Priscilla Lambert Rockingham, Vt.

Community BRUNCH

Ludlow Community Center Cafeteria
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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12
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POLITICAL LETTERS

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

CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

Alfred O. Leonard, 1954-2025

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Alfred O. Leonard, of Bellows Falls, Vt., passed away on Feb. 17, 2025. Alfred was born on July 6, 1954, in Bellows Falls, Vt., to Alfred Leonard Sr. and Pearl (Lescord) Leonard. He attended schools in Bellows Falls, and graduated from Bellows Falls High School with the Class of 1972. He worked as a laborer for Our Place for many years.

Alfred is survived by his daughters Crystal Esslinger and her husband Graham, of Alstead N.H., and Samantha Leonard and her husband Dennis, of Rock-

ingham, Vt.; as well as four grandsons Isaiah Whidden, Wyatt Whidden, and Timothy Abbot, of Rockingham, Vt., and Westyn Esslinger, of Alstead, N.H. He is also survived by his sister Ruby Parker, of Bellows Falls Vt., and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents and his wife Karen Leonard.

A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date.

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

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

St. Charles Church, 31 Cherry Hill St.

Masses are held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, at 7 a.m.; Wednesday, at 7 p.m.; Saturday Vigil Mass, at 4 p.m.; and Sunday, at 9 a.m. For more information, call 802-732-8721.

CAVENDISH, VT.

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.

Please join us Sundays at 8:45 a.m. with Pastor John Hawkins. All are welcome. For more information, call 802-674-3443 or go to www.facebook.com/stjamesumcproctorsville.

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.

Worship is Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, including online streaming, go to www.chesterbaptist.org.

Andover Community Church, 928 Weston-Andover Rd.

Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and worship service 10:45 a.m. For more information, go to www.andovercommunitychurch.org.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, 2051 N. Main St.

The church invites all to our monthly Service for Peace and Healing on Wednesday, March 12, at 7 p.m. Come join us for a time of quiet prayer and meditation. Everyone is welcome to come together in a space of peace. Take a moment to pray for yourself, a loved one, or anything that weighs on your mind and heart. With so much going on in the world, this is an opportunity to pause, reflect, and center yourself in the presence of God. Whether you come with a specific prayer, or simply a desire for stillness, all are invited to experience this time of healing. For more information, call 802-824-6453.

WALPOLE, N.H.

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.

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

WESTON, VT.

The Old Parish Church, 644 Main St.

A diverse, informal, and welcoming congregation. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. For more information, contact Jon Bliss, minister, at 802-824-4452 or email easthillfarm@vermontel.net.

Michael S. Kane, 1945-2025

GLASTONBURY, Conn. – Michael Stephen Kane, aged 79, passed away peacefully on Feb. 15, 2025, at Buckingham Heights, in Glastonbury, Conn. Born on March 24, 1945, in Bellows Falls, Vt., he was the beloved husband of the late Christine F. Kane, who predeceased him in 2018.

Michael is survived by his only child Gregory Kane; daughter-in-law Sarah; and grandsons Gavin and Grayson, of Manchester, Conn. He is also survived by his sister Patricia Witham, of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

Michael was a dedicated and respected pharmacist, having graduated from the University of Connecticut. His commitment to his profession was recognized with an honorary doctorate from UConn, awarded for his clinical supervision in retail pharmacy. He was also a volunteer fireman and fire photographer, capturing the bravery of his colleagues in action.

An avid skier, gardener, traveler, and friendly adventurer, Michael's love for life was contagious. He was a cherished member of his community, always greeting neighbors with a smile and treats for their dogs.

Joan M. Little, 1946-2025

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Joan Marie Little, 78, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025. She was born on June 14, 1946, to Harold and Alice (Schackett) Murray, in Middlebury, Vt.

Joan married Don Little on Nov. 24, 1962. She worked at cafe services at Riverside Middle School, and was a homemaker. Don and Joan made their home in Springfield, Vt., where they raised their two children. She enjoyed baking, knitting, reading, garden-ing, spending time at the ocean, and most especially spending time with her grandchildren.

Joan is survived by her husband, two daughters Carol Little-Benson and Denise McCarty; four grandchildren Cameron, Conner, Colby, and Caden Benson; a brother Timothy Murray; a brother-in-law James Maniery; and many nieces and nephews.

She is predeceased by her parents; and her siblings Linda Adamaitis, Brenda Little, and Pamela Maniery. Her passing leaves a big hole



Michael Kane, 1945-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

His warmth and generosity will be deeply missed.

Michael's services will be held on Thursday, Feb. 27, at the Coventry-Pietras Funeral Home. Calling hours are from 4-6 p.m., followed by a service at 6 p.m. A second service will take place at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt., on Saturday, March 15, at 11 a.m., with burial to follow at St. Charles Cemetery in Westminster, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Michael's honor.

Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.



Joan Little, 1946-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

in all of our hearts, and we take comfort in knowing she is in heaven, surrounded by her parents and sisters.

Friends and family may gather at the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, on Sunday, March 2, from 1-2 p.m., for visiting hours, followed by a funeral service at 2 p.m. A family graveside service will be held in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, please give an extra hug to your loved ones, and make a donation to the Springfield Humane Society, 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, VT 05156.

Richard P. Lockerby, 1948-2025

CHESTER, Vt. – Richard Lockerby, "Ritchie," to his friends and family, passed away Feb. 13, 2025, in his home, surrounded by family. He was born Nov. 5, 1948, to Robert and Mary Lockerby, of Grafton, Vt.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years Nancy. Together they have resided in Chester for the duration of their loving marriage. They built their home and raised their girls in Popple Dungeon. Never one to "let the moss grow," Ritchie kept busy with a number of projects and occupations over the years. He joined the National Guard out of high school, and served for more than 30 years. He also worked as a machinist in multiple factories in the area, and last worked at Vermont Machine Tool until he retired. Ritchie was well-known in the machinist community as a hard worker, and a solver of many problems that would pop up.

Along with working full time, he was extremely active outside of work. He produced some of the World's Best Maple Syrup for more than 20 years. He entered – and won – many maple competitions and festivals, and would travel with his wife Nancy to the Maplerama every year. He was very proud of his "aged sap" syrup awards, and loved educating other sugar makers on his process.

During the summer, he mowed fields, and in the winters, plowed snow. There was always a project to be tinkered on around the house that was full of his unique ingenuity, whether working on getting the wood in the cellar, fixing up an antique tractor, or "dubbing" in the sugar house. If you have been to an alumni parade in the last 20 years in either Chester or Bellows Falls, you likely saw him riding one of his many tractors and participating in the BF Class of 1966 alumni floats. He was a man who loved life to the fullest, visiting or chatting with friends and family in



Richard Lockerby, 1948-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

person or on the phone. It was not uncommon for him to "swing by" for a visit before, then, as he would say, "paddle back over the hill." He could often be found Friday nights at the American Legion, where he would dance and socialize. He was a Yankees fan since the age of 3, despite living in a house full of Red Sox fans, and enjoyed going into Boston and watching them play against the Red Sox with family or friends. One of his fondest memories is going with his grandson Darrell Hughes to see the Yankees play in the original stadium.

He is predeceased by his daughter Katrina, both his parents, and his brother Donald. He is survived by his wife Nancy; daughters Lisa Kelley and husband Chris, of Belmont, Vt., and Debra Heroux and husband Lee, of Swansea, Mass.; and his six grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings Robert Lockerby, of Adams, Mass.; Charles Lockerby, of Springfield, Vt.; and Sally Delevan, of Concord, N.H. Also amongst the survivors are his two sisters-in-law Gloria Watkins, of Turner Falls, Mass., and Darlene Smith, of Johnstown, N.Y.; and his brother-in-law Gary Watkins, of Chester, Vt.

The family would like to thank all our friends and family for all their support and love during the last five years. Especially, a huge thank-you to Gary, who came every day to check on Ritchie and help Nancy provide any care needed. Services will be held in the spring. Love to you all.

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

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

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

MARCH 2 – PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – First Sunday Music will be held on Sunday, March 2, from 4-5:30 p.m., at the Perkinsville Community Church, 35 Church Street, featuring Paula Boyle on cello. This event is free to

attend, donations will be accepted for local charities.

MARCH 3 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center potluck will be held on Monday, March 3, at 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact executive director

Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com. The senior center is located at 139 Main Street.

MARCH 6 – WEST TOWNSHEND, Vt. – On Thursday, March 6, at 6 p.m., Southeastern Vermont

Community Action (SEVCA) will hold a community information session at the West Townshend Country Store, 6573 Vermont Route 30. This event aims to share the resources and programs of SEVCA, answer questions, and collect community needs. This program is free of charge.

MARCH 8 – BELLOW FALLS, Vt. – There will be a free ice cream social on Saturday, March 8, at 5 p.m., at the St. Charles Catholic Church, 25 Cherry Hill Street. Come join in for ice cream and music, as well as to meet Father Victor Cruz, learn about CCD classes, youth ministry, music ministry, Bingo Night, and other programs. All ages are welcome. Please call Celeste with any questions, at 802-376-3507.

MARCH 12 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Garden Club wishes to invite the public to a talk by renowned plantsman Charlie Nardozzi. It will be held on Wednesday, March 12, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center, 38 Pleasant Street. His talk is entitled “Ecological Gardening and Companion Planting,” and is free. Come and learn how to improve your garden’s ecosystem and production while protecting birds, insects, and animals.

MARCH 29 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Academy Museum presents “Celebrate Maple Sugaring: A Vermont Tradition,” on Saturday, March 29, at 5:30 p.m. A fun-filled evening will be had by all in attendance. Mark your calendars, and support your local museum.

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

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

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.

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

stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

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.

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

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

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

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

TOWN OF CHESTER WARNING NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Chester Town Hall, Second Floor in said Town of Chester on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 6:00 pm., to act on the following Articles. Voting on Article 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be by Australian ballot on March 4, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall Second Floor.

- ARTICLE 1: To elect Town Officials for the ensuing year as provided by the Public Laws of Vermont. Voting by Australian Ballot.
- ARTICLE 2: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Twenty Four Thousand Dollars (\$524,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing a Grader for the highway department in the amount of \$374,000 to be financed for a term of 10 years, and paving sections of Flamstead Road in the amount of \$150,000 to be financed for a term of 7 years. This equipment is replacing existing equipment at the end of useful life and are not additions to the town inventory. Voting by Australian Ballot.
- ARTICLE 3: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Two Million Nine Hundred Eighty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$2,982,900), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of construction for the replacement of the Depot Street Force Main, Gravity Main, and First Avenue Pump Station. It is anticipated that the debt service on the bonds will be paid from revenue generated by wastewater user fees. Voting by Australian Ballot.
- ARTICLE 4: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed One Million One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$1,140,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of financing the purchase of a solar photovoltaic generation facility currently located on town property (Jeffery Well site). It is anticipated that the debt service on the bonds will be paid using revenue generated by, and electricity costs savings resulting from the facility. Voting by Australian Ballot.
- ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town of Chester will vote to approve borrowing for the purchase of a police cruiser for the Police Department in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 to be financed for a term of 4 years. This equipment is replacing existing equipment at the end of useful life and is not an addition to the town inventory.
- ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$4,225,000.00 to be paid to the Chester Town Treasurer on September 16, 2025, to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness.
- ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters establish a Housing Reserve Fund as a means to receive ongoing sources of funding to support the preservation and production of housing and increase opportunities for families and individuals to access affordable homes in Chester.
- ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Gassetts Grange #327. The municipal taxes in 2024 for the Gassetts Grange #327 were \$1,215.00, and \$2,180.00 for Education.
- ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Chester Rod & Gun Club. The municipal taxes in 2024 for the Chester Rod & Gun Club were \$1,869.00, and \$3,354.00 for Education.
- ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Green Mountain Softball, Inc. The municipal taxes in 2024 for the Green Mountain Softball, Inc. were \$772.00, and \$1,386.00 for Education.
- ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS (\$13,807) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND FORTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$3,044) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND FORTY DOLLARS (\$3,040) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Chester in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,200.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,250 (two thousand two hundred fifty dollars) for the support of the MOOver Rockingham to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Chester, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$800 (eight hundred dollars) to support Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Chester through volunteer service, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,800.00) toward the support of the Community Cares Network of Chester and Andover, Inc. a non-profit organization which provides services to senior citizens, helping them to stay in their homes longer safely, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$4,000 (four thousand dollars) to Meals on Wheels of Greater Springfield, Inc. for continued support and services to the citizens of the Town of Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY DOLLARS (\$5,570) to Neighborhood Connections, Inc. and Mountain Town Connector to cover the cost of providing services in Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?
- ARTICLE 22: Shall the town appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to the Black River Area Community Coalition for continuing to work within the Chester community preventing youth substance/ alcohol misuse in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2691?

Dated at Chester, Vermont on this 17th day of January 2025.
Arne Jonynas, Chairman
Peter Hudkins

Lee Gustafson
Arianna Knapp

Tim Roper

TOWN OF CHESTER

Looking for an opportunity to serve your community? The Town of Chester has volunteer positions open for appointment on the Housing Commission, Planning Commission, and the Citizens Advisory Committee. Interested parties should submit a letter to julie.hance@chestervt.gov or Town of Chester, P.O. Box 370, Chester, VT 05143.

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

CLEAN OUTS

EZ-Dump Enterprises is available for old boiler removal, and 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

WESTON, Vt. – One bedroom

for rent in Weston. Well-kept apartment on beautiful property, walking distance to village center. Call Chris at 302-762-4626, please leave message.

HELP WANTED

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Part time driver needed for Wednesdays and Fridays to run errands. Call 802-226-8131.

NOTICE TO SPRINGFIELD VOTERS

Absentee Ballots for the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting being held Tuesday, March 4, 2025, will be available at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, a request for these elections must be made, please contact the Town Clerk's Office in writing, by phone or by email. If you make your absentee request in person, you can choose to vote your ballots and return them before leaving the Town Clerk's Office. If returning your ballots by mail, allow extra time for postal delivery and use two Forever stamps. An Absentee Request Form can be found on the town's website https://springfieldvt.gov or you may request your ballots online at https://mvp.vermont.gov. The deadline for requesting absentee ballots is Monday, March 3, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. You may register to vote on Election Day at the polls and then proceed to vote on that day. You may also register to vote any time at the Town Clerk's office or online at https://mvp.vermont.gov. Prior to March 4, 2025 absentee ballots may be returned in-person, through regular mail and afterhours through mail slots located in town hall entrances. All voted absentee ballots must be received at the polls by the Town Clerk before the close of polls at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. The polls are located at Riverside Middle School in the gymnasium and will open on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk's Office will not be open on March 4, 2025. Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC - 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156 (802) 885-2104 tosclerk@vermontel.net

Featured pet: Dottie

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Dottie is a 5-year-old redtick hound. She loves to be loved, but is also sometimes leery of new people. Poor Dottie has not always been treated with kindness. She is seeking a home where she can learn to be a “real” dog. A home that is feline- and young children-free, but is filled with as much love as she has to give, and it is a lot.

We are having a vaccine clinic on March 1. Check

out our Facebook page, or call us for more details.

Springfield Humane Soci-



Dottie.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ety, 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt.

802-885-3997 www.spfldhumane.org

Town of Londonderry, VT Job Opening – Parks Maintenance Employee

The Town of Londonderry, Vermont is accepting applications for a part-time, seasonal Parks Maintenance position. This position will help maintain grounds and recreation infrastructure in all of Londonderry's town owned parks.

A hiring package including the job announcement, job description, and employment application can be found on the Town website: www.londonderryvt.org. Positions open until filled. EOE.

WARNING ANNUAL TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING HYBRID (PHYSICAL and REMOTE)

The legal voters of the Town of Springfield and Town of Springfield School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at Riverside Middle School Gymnasium in said Town on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. (8:00 o'clock in the forenoon) until 7:00 p.m. to vote by Australian ballot for Town and Town School District Officers, for all appropriations to be voted by Australian ballot, and all other items of business to be voted by Australian ballot.

A public informational hearing will be held in-person, and will be accessible remotely by electronic means, at the Springfield High School on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to hear reports of the Town Officers, Town School District Officers and Committees, to discuss all Australian ballot articles on the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting Warning and to do any other business that can legally be done under this Warning.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING WILL BE ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS:

- **ZOOM MEETING ID: 884 5145 2290**
- **By computer:** Join meeting by clicking here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88451452290 You may be prompted to enter the Meeting ID. You may need to download software https://zoom.us/
- **By smartphone, tablet, or other device:** Download and open the https://zoom.us/ app. You may have to create a free account or sign into your existing account. Select the option to join meeting and enter the Meeting ID. One-tap mobile device click here: +13052241968
- **By telephone:** Dial +1 305 224 1968 and when prompted enter the Meeting ID. Note that long distance rates may apply. Dial-in participants use *9 to raise/lower hand and *6 to mute/unmute.
- **Meeting link** can also be accessed on the home page of the Town of Springfield website
- **Watch live** on SAPA TV or stream it from Sapatv.org

ARTICLE 1: To elect the following Town Officers and Town School District Officers for the ensuing year:		
Cemetery Commissioner	School Directors	Town School
District Moderator	Selectboard	Library Trustees
Trustee of Public Funds	Town Moderator	

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Town vote a salary of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50.00) per meeting for the Town Moderator for the ensuing year?

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to pay each Selectperson the sum of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving the Town in that office?

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIFTEEN MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO THOUSAND, FORTY-NINE and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$15,872,049.00) for the budget of the Town for salaries, incidental and necessary Town expenses, including highways, and for the purposes for which the law requires appropriations, and for which a Town may legally vote?

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of ONE MILLION and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00) for repaving, road construction, gravel road improvements, and ancillary professional services for the projects specified in the Road Surface Management System Report dated December 2021 or other duly warranted sidewalk improvements?

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town authorize the assessment of a one percent (1%) local option tax on rooms and meals pursuant to 24 V.S.A. section 138, the proceeds of which shall be applied as General Fund revenue to reduce the municipal tax rate?

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to offset Springfield Area Public Access TV's operating costs to record, broadcast, archive, and promote up to 25 Selectboard meetings, up to 25 School Board meetings, the annual Town Meeting, and the outreach work it does to promote government transparency, media literacy, and community connection in our community?

ARTICLE 8: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve a payment of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50.00) per meeting for the Town School District Moderator for the ensuing year, the funds for which are included in the school budget?

ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the payment to each School Board member of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving in that office, the funds for which are included in the school budget?

ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District authorize the Town Treasurer, subject to the direction and approval of the School Board, to borrow money in anticipation of taxes needed to meet the requirements of the Town School District for the ensuing year?

ARTICLE 11: Shall the voters of Springfield Town School District approve a contribution of \$800,000 from the district's FY24 surplus to the district's capital fund for the purpose of paying capital expenses as identified in the capital plan approved by the board?

ARTICLE 12: Shall the voters of Springfield Town School District approve a contribution of \$800,000 from the district's FY24 surplus to the district's operating expense reserve fund for the purpose of paying unexpected operational expenses?

ARTICLE 13: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the School Board to spend FORTY MILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-TWO THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$40,742,326.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if

approved, will result in education spending of \$13,918 per pupil. This projected spending per pupil is 3.98% higher than spending for the current year.

ARTICLE 13A: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District authorize the School Board to convey the 0.9 plus or minus acre parcel of land located off Southridge Street in Springfield, Vermont bearing Parcel ID 29-2-73 to the Springfield Housing Authority for use in connection with developing market rate housing to grow the grand list and ameliorate the housing shortage?

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) to the Springfield Community Band for eight (8) concerts?

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,000.00) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Springfield in responding to the emergency needs of the community and to provide all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need?

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$63,500.00) to help support the high-quality home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH? Care is provided regardless of ability to pay.

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of EIGHT THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$8,500.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home?

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) to help support the Valley Health Connections (formerly Precision Valley Free Clinic) to help the uninsured access health care?

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWELVE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$12,500.00) for the support of the MOOver f/n/a the Current operated by Southeast Vermont Transit, Inc., to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Springfield?

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Springfield through volunteer service?

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to assist with the cost of operating the Meals on Wheels Program of Greater Springfield that provides daily hot & cold congregate and home delivered meals and other nutritional needs to the qualified residents of Springfield?

ARTICLE 22: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$3,000.00) to Windsor County Partners d/b/a Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to the children of Windsor County?

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) to the Springfield Supported Housing to assist families and individuals find permanent housing and provide in home case management services for 6 months to two years after placement?

ARTICLE 24: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$65,000.00) to the Springfield Family Center to assist with the cost of providing free meals, a free food shelf, and other services related to hunger as well as make referrals to partner social-service organizations in the community?

ARTICLE 25: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town?

ARTICLE 26: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,500.00) to the Springfield Art and Historical Society to assist in preserving, maintaining, and displaying, for the public, the history and art of the Town of Springfield, Vermont?

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,000.00) to Turning Point Recovery Center Drop-In Center and Transition House to help with the everyday cost of providing recovery services and housing for men and that are in recovery from alcohol, substance abuse and co-occurring disorders?

ARTICLE 28: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc.?

ARTICLE 29: Shall the Town of Springfield, VT appropriate the sum of FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) to the Springfield Area Parent Child Center to provide wrap-around services for young children and their families, including but not limited to: diaper & formula bank, developmental screenings and early intervention therapy, community workshops & trainings, family case management, activity bags, high quality preschool & childcare center, welcome baby bags, and fun community events like the Family Festival, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

Dated this 20 day of January, 2025 at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont.

Kristi C. Morris, Chair
Tara Chase
Heather Frahm
Michael E. Martin
Michael Schmitt

Dated this 27 day of January, 2025 at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont.

Troy Palmer, Chair
Jessica Austin
Jessica Cady Burlew
Denise Hunter
Stephen Karaffa

community news

Fletcher Memorial Community Toy Swap —

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher Memorial Library, located at 88 Main Street, Ludlow, Vt., is excited to announce its upcoming Community Toy Swap event, scheduled for Saturday, March 1, from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This event aims to bring the community to-

gether in a fun and engaging way, while promoting the concept of reusing and sharing toys and games. Participants are encouraged to bring up to three toys or games they no longer need or play with, and swap them for new-to-them items. This is a fantastic op-

portunity for families to refresh their collection of toys and games without spending any money, all while fostering a sense of community and sustainability.

For those who wish to contribute but do not want to participate in the swap, the library is accepting donations of clean, like-new or gently used toys. Donations can be dropped off at the youth library until Friday, Feb. 28. These donated items will be available for swapping during the event, ensuring a wide variety of choices for all participants.

The Fletcher Memorial Library invites all local families to join in this exciting event, and make the most of the toy swap experience. For more information, please contact the library at 802-228-3517, or visit their website at www.fmlnew.org.

Magris Talc offers college scholarships —

REGION – Magris Talc is now accepting college scholarship applications for the 2025-2026 academic year. Two \$2,500 scholarships are available for students of the greater Ludlow area (Springfield, Chester, Andover, Mount Holly, etc.) in their last year of home school or high school, choosing to pursue either a four-year bachelor’s program de-

gree or two-year technical/trade program. To qualify, students must be entering a field of study that would qualify in one of the following disciplines: earth or natural sciences, mining, engineering, environmental studies or management, health and safety, or the industrial trades such as mechanical, electrical, welding, HVAC, and plumbing. Applicants must submit an essay describing their interest in the field they are entering, how that interest developed, and what their plans are for the future. Essays must be accompanied with a cover letter with all contact information, and submitted to Magris Talc, c/o Scholarship Committee, 73 East Hill Road, Ludlow, VT 05149. The application deadline is April 11.

Southern Vermont Writers’ Conference registration —

MANCHESTER, Vt. – The Southern Vermont Writers’ Conference, a new yearly destination for writers of all levels and genres, will be held in the historic Equinox Resort and Spa, from March 30 – April 4. Cofounded by local writers Kim Place-Gateau and Caren McVicker, the conference is sponsored by Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning, and will feature daily workshops with lead instructors Justen Ahren, Sari Botton, and Chris Wells. In addition to the workshops, conference attendees will gather for craft talks and other special events, including a bookseller recommendation event at Northshire Bookstore, and a reading by Vermont author, essayist, and climate journalist Megan Mayhew Bergman. “It’s important to us that this conference feels like an intimate, supportive space where writers can really dig into their work. The workshop and craft talks are integral to this, but the space we’ve left in the schedule for writing time and creative connection is equally important,” says Place-Gateau. “We also hope that the writers who join us will discover a new writing cohort while they’re here, and that they will take this new community with them when the conference is over.” In addition to the full conference, tickets are also available to the three afternoon craft talks, presented by two workshop instructors and one special guest, Vermont novelist, journalist, and teacher Thomas Henry Pope. Lunch is included with the craft talks. Topics will be: “A Writer is

Born and a Family Trembles” with Sari Botton, “Doubt, Commitment, Endurance” with Chris Wells, and “First Page Master Class” with Thomas Henry Pope. Craft talk details and tickets can be found at the conference website at www.southernvermontwritersconference.org. Register for the conference at this same website, before March 1.

Okemo Women’s Club meeting –

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Greater Federation of Women’s Clubs Okemo Valley Women’s Club (OVWC) met Monday, Feb. 10, at the Black River Valley Senior Center in Ludlow. Despite the cold, 21 members were in attendance, with several attending by Zoom as well. The program for the meeting was presented by Lori Wright, a certified massage therapist working in Ludlow. Wright has lived in Ludlow since 1990, and has been a yoga instructor for 15 years. She is a highly certified massage therapist, trainer, and wellness coach, with extensive expertise in massage therapy, yoga, personal training, and health coaching. Wright brings a holistic approach to her students and clients. Her extensive fitness background in group fitness, personal training, and yoga is complemented by her interest and skill at facilitating mindfulness-based classes, such as guided and visualization meditations, and mindful movement. Offering Swedish, deep tissue, and sports massage therapy at 10 High Street in Ludlow, Vt., Wright’s studio is easily

See **CLUB** on Page 9

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
TO BROWNFIELDS REUSE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
LIABILITY LIMITATION ACT PROGRAM

Please take notice that Flying Under Radar, LLC whose mailing address is PO Box 653, Bellows Falls, Vermont 05101, is applying to the Vermont Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Program (10 V.S.A. §6641 et seq.) in connection with the redevelopment of property known as Ross’ Garage, 30 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls. A copy of the application, which contains a preliminary environmental assessment and a description of the proposed redevelopment project is available for public review at the Rockingham Clerk’s Office and at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation offices in Montpelier. Comments concerning the application and/or the above referenced documents may be directed to Rob Farley, Site Manager at 802-622-4162 or at Rob.Farley@vermont.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management Division, 1 National Life Drive – Davis 1, Montpelier, VT 05620; attention: Rob Farley, Site Manager.

TOWN OFFICE OPENING
CAVENDISH, VERMONT

The Town of Cavendish has an immediate opening for a part-time office staff member. The applicant should be well organized and detail oriented. The goal of this position is to administratively assist the Town Clerk and Assessor in maintaining an accurate annual Grand List for the Town. Duties would include the processing of property transfers, homestead declarations and all property tax exemptions. This is a part-time position with flexible hours. Pay is negotiable and dependent on the experience of the right applicant. Experience in municipal government and NEMRC software is preferred but not required.

Applications, resumes and inquiries should be directed to: Town Manager
Town of Cavendish Municipal Building
37 High Street, P.O. Box 126
Cavendish, Vermont 05142
(802) 226-7291
Cavendish is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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!

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Positions Available:
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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

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STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT

WINDSOR

Unit

PROBATE DIVISION

Docket No.: 25-PR-00384

In re ESTATE of:

Daniel Churchill

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of:

Daniel Churchill

late of

Cavendish, Vermont

Decedent

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:

Feb 21, 2025

Signature of Fiduciary

B. Churchill

Executor/Administrator

Centura Churchill

Phone Number

239-340-5154

Email

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 43

City, State, Zip

Cavendish, Vermont 05142

Name of Publication:

Vermont Journal

Publication Date:

February 26, 2025

Name of Probate Court:

Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Unit, Probate Division

Address of Probate Court:

12 The Green, Woodstock, Vermont 05091

community news

Springfield Hospital welcomes new director of rehabilitation services

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Hospital is pleased to welcome Anna Hinman, PT, DPT, as director of rehabilitation services, effective Feb. 10.

Hinman is a highly skilled physical therapist with extensive experience in both outpatient and home health care. She graduated from the University of New England in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in exercise science, and earned her doctorate in physical therapy from Sacred Heart University in 2013.

Hinman began her career as an outpatient physical therapist in the Upper Valley, where she specialized in

sports injuries, vertigo and concussion management, TMJ, and prenatal and postnatal care. She played a key role in the development of an occupational health program, becoming a certified ergonomic specialist and health coach.

In 2019, Hinman transitioned to home health care, where she quickly advanced to the role of clinical manager and subsequently quality manager. In her leadership roles, she managed and supervised clinicians across various disciplines, and provided oversight of care plans for patients in many underserved communities. As quality manager, she was

responsible for data collection and presentation to leadership and the board of directors, QAPI implementation, and outcome assessment and improvement.

Outside of her professional life, Hinman is equally busy and dedicated. She lives with her husband, three children, and their corgi Willow. She enjoys coaching her children's soccer teams, and actively participates in the parent teacher organization.

HCRS launches new client portal

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's nonprofit community mental health agency, is thrilled to announce the launch of their new client portal, designed to make managing care and well-being easier than ever. This innovative platform offers a seamless and secure way for clients to access information, receive secure messages from their care team, and play a more active role in their wellness journey.

"At HCRS, we're committed to providing person-centered care," said

George Karabakakis, CEO. "The new client portal is an exciting step forward in further empowering our clients with the tools they need to take charge of their wellness."

Through this platform, clients can easily view upcoming appointments, connect to their care information, and access a personalized dashboard tailored to them. Not only does the portal offer all these resources in one convenient place, but it is available for clients any time of the day or night.

HCRS is dedicated to ongoing innovation and client support. As part of this

commitment, the organization will continue to roll out new features and updates to enhance the portal's functionality and user experience.

The launch reflects HCRS' broader mission to provide accessible, inclusive, and high-quality care for all. The client portal is another way HCRS is helping clients feel as connected and empowered on their wellness journey as possible.

Karabakakis concludes, "Clients who are interested in learning more about the portal can reach out to their HCRS provider for more information, or visit our website at www.hcrs.org."

CLUB

From Page 8

accessible, with convenient parking and an elevator to the second floor. In addition to in-person services, Wright also offers at-home massage and private yoga sessions for individuals or groups.

Wright led the club women through a chair yoga session designed to provide each member with calm relaxation, gentle stretching, and mindful movement.

Thoroughly relaxed, the

club women held a business meeting to discuss past, future, and imminent club projects, community volunteerism, and the year ahead. The Trees of Remembrance fundraising campaign is about to close for the 2024-2025 season, and was again a great success. Holiday trees are lit at Svec Green in Proctorsville, and Veteran's Park in Ludlow, to memorialize and honor friends, family, and loved ones.

Also held in February was the OVWC club's annual bake sale fundraising event.

Again this year, the club was thankful to be able to hold their sale at Singleton's Store in Proctorsville, where they again met success despite the cold weather. Thanks to the generosity of the public, the proceeds will benefit the club's many community programs, including a local high school scholarship, a statewide scholarship for displaced women wishing to return to the work field through education, a local elementary school monthly magazine program, and an annual food drive to benefit

local folks in need. Thank you to Singleton's Store for hosting this event, and for the hot cider to warm the volunteers.

The Okemo Valley Women's Club meets monthly, September-May, on the second Monday of the month. The next meeting will be Monday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center. Anyone wishing to attend may contact President Sally Scarp at 407-242-0901, Membership Chair Suzanne Garvey at 802-236-4341, or any member.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

\$150 for 13 Weeks • \$250 for 26 Weeks • \$400 for 52 Weeks
Prices are based on a 20 word listing. An additional 50 cents for each word thereafter.

Art Crafts Gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Student Art Show until Feb. 28
Kim Yeo Watercolors 2/12-4/4

Art, Crafts, Gifts, Exhibits & Workshops
68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111
OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. til 7
Register for Workshops & Shop Online at www.galleryvault.org

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

Paint the Spring Landscape in watercolor
with Rob O'Brien 4/3 \$85
(04/16/25 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

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6 Andover St. Ludlow, VT
802-461-3573
dcj@dciconcepts.com
(11/05/25 - 52)

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Follow us on Instagram @nedthehammer
(11/19/25 - 52)

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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.
(05/14/25 - 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)

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All work done by the person you are paying
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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

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kjelectric63@gmail.com
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(01/28/26 - 52)

Masonry

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(05/21/25 - 13)

MOORE MASONRY

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(07/09/25 - 26)

Tools

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

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

events & outdoor

“I Love Dahlias,” presented by GMG

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Green Mountain Gardeners announce their March program, “I Love Dahlias,” presented by Michele Dauphinais, of the Rutland Garden Club. Open to the public, this lively and informative hour-long talk will be held on March 3, at 11 a.m., at the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad building, 6068 Vermont Route 100, and will be followed by a light lunch. The program is free, but registration is required by emailing ldasaarnijoki@gmail.com. With thousands of varieties, dahlias are popular

garden flowers that provide both brilliant color to the garden landscape, and long-lived cut flowers for the summer table. Due to freezing winter temperatures in Vermont, dahlia tubers must be dug up and replanted each year, but the labor of cultivating them is rewarded by spectacular blooms in a variety of sizes, from “dinner plate” dahlias to mini pompoms, and in many colors, from deepest reds through the spectrum to brilliant whites, both pure and variegated. Our speaker will talk about how to plant tubers in the ground or in pots, nur-

ture them through the growing season, and store them over the cold months – soup to nuts about dahlias. Dauphinais has given lively and entertaining talks about her passion for dahlias to garden clubs and other organizations throughout central Vermont and eastern New York. This will be a fun opportunity to learn more about this resilient garden mainstay. The Green Mountain Gardeners foster horticulture, beautification, and conservation in the Mountain Towns of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, and Weston. In addition, the group also serves their communities through beautification and service projects. Visit their website, www.greenmountaingardeners.net, to learn more, or to join the organization.

“How to Love a Forest” with Ethan Tapper

WESTMINSTER WEST Vt. – On Wednesday, March 5, from 6-8 p.m., at the Westminster West Congregational Church, the Living Earth Action Group has invited forester and author, Ethan Tapper to give a presentation on his book “How to Love a Forest.” What does it mean to love a forest? In this talk, Tapper, a forester, author and content creator from Vermont, will draw from his work as a forester and his bestselling book “How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World” to discuss what it means to care for forests and other ecosystems at this moment in time. How do we respond to the harmful legacies of the past? How do we use our species’ incredible power to heal rather than to harm? How do



Ethan Tapper. PHOTO PROVIDED

we reach towards a better future? In a time in which many believe that “protecting” ecosystems means protecting them from ourselves, Tapper argues that humans must take action to help ecosystems heal and to move into a more abundant future. Tapper’s message is at once compassionate and pragmatic, clear-eyed and hopeful, sobering and inspiring, a powerful new idea for how we can build a world that works for all of its ecosystems and all of its people. Donations will be appreciated.

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Weston Rod & Gun Club events

WESTON, Vt. – Get your spring calendars ready. The Weston Rod & Gun Club is hopping with news, and several events you won’t want to miss.

Our first annual Spring Poker Tournament will be held Sunday, March 2. Details to follow on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/WestonRodandGun-](http://www.facebook.com/WestonRodandGunClub)

Club. Beginner line dancing continues on Friday, March 7, and Friday, March 21, from 7-8:15 p.m. Bring a friend and get your blood flowing. All levels of experience welcome. Boots or comfy shoes and a hydrating beverage are suggested. There is a discount if you RSVP prior to arrival by calling or texting Anna at 802-379-3161.

Archery Club has restarted, indoors now with plans for outdoors when weather allows. Open shooting is on Sunday, from 12-9 p.m., and Wednesday, from 6-9 p.m. To join, call or text Anna at the number above. Our annual fishing derby is scheduled for Saturday, June 7. We’re happy to announce, due to your support, we’re able to sponsor five kids for the Green Mountain Conservation Camp this summer. And, yes, Monday Nite Bingo continues with our diehard crew. Doors open by 6:30 p.m., play starts promptly at 7 p.m. Follow our Facebook page for updates on all events. The Weston Rod & Gun Club is located at 982 Route 100, one mile north of Weston. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, at 7 p.m. Come be a part of your community tradition. All are welcome.

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Charlie Nardozzi comes to town

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Garden Club wishes to invite the public to a talk by renowned plantsman Charlie Nardozzi. It will be held at on Wednesday, March 12, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center, 38 Pleasant Street in Springfield. His talk is entitled “Ecological

arts & entertainment

Wild Goose Players “Matilda the Musical”

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – “Matilda” is the multiple-award-winning musical inspired by the classic novel by Roald Dahl. With book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, “Matilda the Musical” describes how some circumstances necessitate rebellion. Directed by David Stern and Hallie Flower, this production is a must-see for all ages. Winner of over 100 international awards, Matilda is the sto-

ry of an extraordinary girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny. Although the novel may have been written for children, this production is sure to enthrall young and old alike. Performances of “Matilda the Musical” will be from April 4 – April 12, Thursdays and Fridays, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sun-

days, at 2 p.m. Shows will take place at the Bellows Falls Opera House, Bellows Falls, Vt. The running time of Matilda is approximately two hours and 10 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission. For more information, call 802-376-4761, or go to www.wildgooseplayers.com. Tickets can be purchased at www.bellows-fallsoperahouse.com/special-event-matilda25.

Songbird Soundbath at Stage 33

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — The Songbird Soundbath is a deep-relaxation musical meditation immersion blending live acoustic performance with the soothing tones of singing bowls, chimes, and a metal tongue drum to create an atmosphere of relaxation and inner connection.

Led by musician and sound bath facilitator Melissa D, the experience begins with gentle original songs to ease participants into a peaceful state. Then, following a guided breathwork and meditation session, the event transitions into a full sound bath, where resonant, healing sounds encourage deep rest and rejuvenation. Attendees are encouraged to bring a yoga mat, blanket, and pillows for added comfort. Chairs will also be available for those who prefer to sit.

Limited to 15 participants, reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve, email melissad@melissad-music.com, or call 802-342-1046. There is a suggested donation at the door. If cost is a concern, please reach out – no one will be turned away as long as space is available.

Please note that this Songbird Soundbath will be recorded and filmed to create a booking reel for retreats, community and yoga centers, and wellness festivals considering hosting a future event. Filming will focus on wide shots capturing the overall experience, not lingering close ups. Melissa deeply respects the personal nature of sound

baths – privacy and sensitivity will be honored both in the room and in the final documentation. Relax, recharge, and experience the benefits of sound and music in a welcoming, community-centered space, on Sunday, March 9, at 3 p.m., at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

GARDEN

From Page 10

Gardening and Companion Planting,” and is free. Come and learn how to improve your garden’s ecosystem and production while protecting birds, insects, and animals.



Charlie Nardozzi.
PHOTO PROVIDED

River Artisans Cooperative calls for artists

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – There is a great opportunity for local artist to sell work locally. The River Artisans Cooperative (RAC) is one of the oldest cooperative shops in Vermont. In the shop on the vibrant Town Square in Bellows Falls, you can find a wide variety of locally created art and crafts items, each unique and made with skillful care. This past season has seen substantial growth in both local and area visitors coming to the shop.

The RAC welcomes new artists and craftspeople to join the cooperative, and to sell their work in the shop. In addition, a benefit of membership means joining a wide variety of craftspeople and artists who support one another and work together in a flourishing and creative community.

Coming together from a wide level of experiences and backgrounds gives members unique opportunities to learn from one another. It’s a way to stay inspired by what each member is doing with fresh new ideas. Members all share in decision making, in running the shop, and in



Arts and crafts for sale at the River Artisans Cooperative.
PHOTO PROVIDED

working on projects with other organizations and businesses in the Bellows Falls community. For shoppers looking for gifts and items made in Vermont, we’re the place to come. And, if you are interested in becoming a member and joining with

fellow artisans and artists, we’d love to meet you. The shop is located at 28 Village Square in Bellows Falls, and in the winter is open Thursday-Monday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.riverartisanscooperative.com, or call 802-591-2085.

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Costs of selling a home

REGION – While there is no set cost to sell a house, you will want to prepare for a range of 10-15% of the sale price. Home-selling costs include home preparations, vacating the home, seller concessions, closing costs for sellers, and real estate fees.

Home preparations

Before your first open house or showing, consider hiring a house cleaner to do a deep clean. Some homebuyers appreciate home staging. At a minimum, you should declutter, arrange furniture to make the most of the space, and remove personal belongings. Landscaping is also important for curb appeal. Add flowering plants, create a walkway, rake leaves, mow the lawn, or shovel snow in winter. Home improvements such as updates to repair or replace old systems, and upgrades like painting that add features, can also garner a higher sale price.

A preinspection is optional, but if you choose to do one before listing, you'll know ahead of time about any major issues that need to be addressed, which can save a lot of negotiating with potential buyers down the road. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates the cost for home inspections ranges from \$325-\$375.

Vacating the home

Another type of expense you'll need to budget for is moving – the costs related to vacating your home.

If you are selling one home and buying another, it's almost impossible to time the transactions perfectly so there are no additional housing costs. Most sellers leave their utilities on while their house is on the market for showings and open houses. But be sure to shut off utilities as of the date you vacate so you can avoid unnecessary costs.

Moving expenses can vary based on the size of your home, how many belongings you have, and how far you're moving. Whether you're doing a DIY move, using professionals from start to finish, or something in between, there are always expenses associated with moving, and they often have to be paid before closing.

Additionally, if your home is going to be vacant for any period of time, it's important to talk to your insurance agent about adding a rider policy to cover that period.

Seller concessions

It's rare that you receive the perfect offer and can close without making any concessions to the buyer, like the deal being contingent on the home passing an inspection. It's common for buyers to request repairs from sellers. As a result of an inspection report, sellers often either lower the sale price so the buyers can make the repairs themselves, or have the repairs completed as a condition of the deal.

Another concession buyers often request is that the seller cover all or part of the buyer's closing costs, which effectively minimizes the amount of cash a buyer needs to bring to the closing. For the seller, this cost comes out of the profit you'll make on the home on closing.

Seller closing costs

Average closing costs for sellers have historically ranged from 8% to 10% of the home's sale price, including both agent commission and seller fees.

The majority of your closing costs come from paying commission to real estate agents. Historically, agent commissions have been between 3%-6% of a home's sale price. It's also important to remember that commissions, and the types of services an agent offers, are negotiable.

A government transfer tax or title fee varies widely due to varying tax rates by state and the sale price of the home. In many markets, sellers also pay for a title insurance policy for buyers, which protects their interest in the home if there are issues with a disputed title or outstanding liens.

Settlement fees vary significantly by state, from \$200 to the seller, up to 0.5% of the purchase price split between the buyer and seller. This can also include extra line items related to documentation and money movement.

You are responsible for the property taxes on your home up until the day of closing, so once you close, you'll see a prorated charge on your final settlement statement.

If you use the services of an attorney in your transaction, you'll have to pay them at closing.

Real estate fees

Once the closing costs are settled, it's not all profit. If you're still paying a mortgage on the home, part of the closing process will include paying off the balance of your mortgage, prorated to the date of sale.

If you think you're going to be subject to capital gains taxes, either because you've profited more than the set amount, or because you've lived in the home for less than two years, ask your tax professional about subtracting the costs of preparing the home for sale from your profits.

Article provided by Zillow Group.



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Doubtfire or Dalloway
4 Pesky insect
8 Blaze
12 "Alley —"
13 Verdi heroine
14 Booty
15 Sugar suffix
16 Some online essays
18 Doppler device
20 "Diamonds" singer
21 Brzezinski of MSNBC
24 Group character
28 Coin that keeps turning up

DOWN

1 Heath
2 Activist Parks
3 Raced
4 Angel with a trumpet
5 Zero
6 Commotion

7 Labels
8 Parade attractions
9 Cyclades island
10 Decay
11 UFO engineers
17 Diner dessert
19 Sound booster
22 Handle
23 Poker payments
25 Medal earner
26 Actor Clive
27 Hitch
28 — Raton, Fla.

29 From the start
30 Lady of Spain
31 Belgian river
35 Stirrs up
38 "We hold these — to be ..."
40 Letter addenda, for short
42 Sixth sense
45 Top-notch
47 Beehive State
48 Get up
49 Tibetan herd
50 "Kapow!"
51 Before
52 Play segment
53 Where Lux. is
54 Ring decision



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