

**Our
Friend
Ron**
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Center Week**

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OLD HOME DAYS**
AUGUST 2, 2025

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VOLUME 64, ISSUE 31

Locals take medals in decathlon

REGION – Charlestown, N.H., native Brian Lashway claimed the top spot at the Southern Vermont Decathlon for the fourth time in six years, holding off Weathersfield’s Shane Mas by the smallest margin of victory in the 15 years of the competition.

Lashway trailed Mas for most of the two-day battle before overtaking him on the final event by cruising to victory in the one-mile run.

Despite claiming victory in six of the 10 events, Mas fell a mere 22 points short of securing his first title. Lashway’s championship was fueled by nine top-three finishes and four event victories in the 400-meter dash, one-mile run, discus, and keg toss.

On the women’s side, Springfield’s Jess Curtis matched Lashway by earning her fourth overall title. Curtis was dominant in all four throwing events, and set the record in keg toss with a



Back row, left to right: Shane Mas, Brian Lashway, and Landon Mas. Front: Jess Curtis.

PHOTO PROVIDED

distance of 16 feet, 10.5 inches.

Several other athletes earned top-three event finishes, including Landon Mas in the 110-meter hurdles, 400-meter dash, one-mile run, long jump, and vertical jump; Josh

Welburn in shot put, discus, and keg toss; Dan Barile in the football throw and one-mile run; John Barton in the 100-meter dash; and Meranda Johnson in the long jump.

Springfield green space completed

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – “It feels like a hug” is a comment heard from a visitor to the green space at 77 Main Street in Springfield, Vt. The grass circle has been completed with the addition of new plants and shrubs. The large maple tree provides shade for morning coffee at the picnic table. It is open to all to use and enjoy. The green space, located beside the Congregational Church, was a dream that began more than two years ago. It was funded through a matching grant from Better Places, through the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, and through donations from area businesses, organizations, and individuals living in the Springfield area. It is a place built by the community for the community. The mission statement of the Congregational Church, UCC

lives out the dream: “We are a community in Christ, called to act with love toward our neighbors.” We would love for you to drop in and enjoy the “hug.”

The only guidelines are to treat the space with respect, because others will use this space when you have gone. Carry in and carry out any trash. No alcohol in the green space. Consider contributing food to the pantry, the green cupboard next



The green space at 77 Main Street in Springfield.

PHOTO PROVIDED

to the sidewalk, for others who need it. We live in a small state with a big heart. We are grateful to be in Springfield, where neighbors care for neighbors.

Community Closet summer bag sale

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Vermont Journal

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Now you can beat the heat and grab a bag and a bargain this month at the Community Closet, located at the Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church Street in Bellows Falls. To make room for fall clothing, the shop is holding a bag sale for the entire month of August.

“Shoppers can fill a bag with any combination of summer wear: cropped pants, breezy dresses, shorts and tops, bathing suits, and cool accessories,” Nancy McAuliffe said in a recent interview. McAuliffe is the senior warden of the vestry at Immanuel Episcopal

Church.

“Whether preparing for next summer, or wrapping up this summer in style, now is the perfect time to browse the racks and save. Come visit and support a great cause, and stock up on summer essentials before they’re all gone.”

Founded by and located at the Immanuel Episcopal Church, the Community Closet offers adult clothing and other essentials to those in need throughout our community. Originally they offered all types of clothing, and accepted anything and everything.

However, while temporarily closed during the Covid pandemic, they decided to redirect their focus on accepting and offering clean, lightly used adult clothing only. In the transition,

all children’s clothing was donated to Busy Bees Children’s Clothing Hive, located at 17 Rockingham Street in downtown Bellows Falls.

All the proceeds from the Community Closet go back into our community at year’s end, and SEVCA vouchers are gladly accepted. Only gently used, clean, adult clothing donations are accepted during open hours.

The Community Closet is located at the Episcopal Church, and can also be accessed via the driveway/parking lot around the corner from the church at 9 School Street. They are open on Wednesday and Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Contact by phone at 802-463-3100, by mail at P. O. Box 64 in Bellows Falls, or by email at immanuelepiscope@gmail.com.

MOOVer brings microtransit system to Springfield

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Southeast Vermont Transit (SEVT) CEO Randy Schoonmaker attended the Monday, July 21, Springfield Selectboard meeting, to share the news that SEVT, also known as the MOOVer, will soon operate a microtransit public transportation system in Springfield. The In-Town bus route will begin offering pickup and dropoff services via MOOVer’s lift-equipped small buses in early fall.

Available Monday-Friday, from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m., the system is free to anyone traveling within the boundaries of Springfield and North Springfield. A software program similar to what Uber employs will be used to schedule rides and ride shares. Schoonmaker said Springfield will be the sixth community to join the MOOVer microtransit sys-

tem.

Two public meetings have been scheduled “to provide information on what microtransit is, how it will work in Springfield, answer questions, and receive public input.” Both meetings will have the same agenda, with one held on Tuesday, July 29, at 5:30 p.m., and the other scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 7, at 12 p.m. Both meetings will be at the Springfield Public Library, in the Flinn Room. Information is available by calling SEVT at 888-869-6287, or visiting www.moover.com/springfield-microtransit.

The board approved an event permit request from Springfield on the Move (SOM) to hold a Friday night concert series during the month of August, at Comtu Cascade Park. “These concerts have been popular the past few years,” town manager Jeff Mobus reported, “and we haven’t had any issues.” All concerts are scheduled to start at 6 p.m.

Mobus reported on the latest meeting of the long-term

capital planning committee and a discussion on how best to spend \$70,000 budgeted for economic development. Mobus said that a subgroup of the committee, which included himself, Mike Martin, and Heather Frahm, met with Bob Flint from Springfield Regional Development Committee, and Vanessa Rebentisch of SOM to discuss options. Mobus presented the board with a summary of the Main Street Revitalization Program they are proposing, which utilizes \$50,000 of that fund, to be reimbursed by a revitalization grant.

Mobus outlined four project objectives: support new businesses with financial reimbursements for essential assets and resources, encourage popup shops to attract visitors and stimulate community engagement, enhance signage to highlight local businesses and events, and foster community engagement and inclusion. The

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CONTACT US

OFFICE ADDRESS:
8 High Street • PO Box 228 • Ludlow, VT

BILLING ADDRESS:
PO Box 116 • Rutland, VT 05702

PHONE NUMBER:
802-228-3600

WEBSITE:
www.VermontJournal.com

SHAWN TAE WEBB
publisher@vermontjournal.com

NICK GIBERTI
editor@vermontjournal.com

JOE MCCAFFREY
sales@vermontjournal.com

PAULA BENSON
billing@vermontjournal.com

DEADLINES

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

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Crepe Night to benefit Miss Bellows Falls

DUMMERSTON, Vt. – On Wednesday, Aug. 6, Scott Farm and Rockingham for Progress are partnering for a delicious, fun-filled Crepe Night to raise funds that support the ongoing restoration of the historic Miss Bellows Falls Diner. Crepe Nights are family-friendly gatherings held at the Scott Farm, 707 Kipling Road, Dummerston, Vt., from May-August.

The celebration is picnic-style, and music will be provided by the Vermont Moonlighters, www.vermontmoonlighters.com. Outdoor and indoor tables and chairs are provided, as well as a sprawling grassy hillside



Scott Farm Crepe Night to benefit Miss Bellows Falls Diner. PHOTO PROVIDED

ripe for picnic blankets and folding lawn chairs. In the event of inclement weather, the event moves indoors. Please leave dogs at home.

The evening runs from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are discounted for children under 12. Each ticket comes with two offerings – a savory supper crepe (galette), sweet dessert crepe, and side salad. Drinks are available for purchase at Pip-pin's Cafe: hard cider, beer, and wine. Tickets are limited, and advance purchase is recommended. Tickets can be reserved at www.scottfarmvermont.com/upcoming-events-1/mbfd.

Additional information at www.scottfarmvermont.com/crepe-night. More information about the Miss Bellows Falls Diner can be found at www.missbellowsfalls.com.

Springfield Rotary hears from SHS track coach

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – At a recent meeting of the Springfield Rotary Club, Springfield High School (SHS) track coach Jim Fog shared an inspiring update on the SHS track team. Before the Covid pandemic, the team consisted of just 12 athletes participating as a track club. This year, the program has grown into a full varsity team with 55 members.

One of the season's standout moments was



Jim Fog. PHOTO PROVIDED

the performance of senior Cameron Williams, who not only anchored the SHS State Champion 4x400-meter relay team, but also set a new school record in the 400-meter dash. Williams is now preparing to serve our country in the U.S. Army.

The Springfield Rotary Club meets every Tuesday, at 12 p.m., at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center. For more information, visit www.springfieldvtrotary.org.

Rotarians hear about new library director's vision

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – At a recent meeting of the Springfield Rotary Club, members welcomed Christine Edwins, the newly appointed director of the Springfield Town Library, who shared her vision for the future of the library. She highlighted plans to expand community outreach, modernize library services, and strengthen partnerships with local organizations. Rotarians were especially interested in her ideas for making the library a more

inclusive and dynamic space for all ages. Her enthusiasm and commitment to fostering lifelong learning in Springfield were warmly received. To learn more about all the services offered at the Springfield Town Library, visit www.springfield-townlibrary.org.

The Springfield Rotary Club meets every Tuesday, at 12 p.m., at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center. For more information, visit www.springfieldvtrotary.org.



Christine Edwins. PHOTO PROVIDED

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TOWN

From Page 1

targeted outcome is to expand business diversity, increase foot traffic, improve the aesthetic appeal of the downtown area, and stimulate economic growth.

The project will establish a committee consisting of representatives from the town and SOM, local business owners, and community stakeholders to review applications and make funding decisions. The board approved the proposal, and requested Mobus follow up at a future meeting to present the results of the revitalization effort.

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REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND RON PATCH

Unfortunately for me, my acquaintance with Ron Patch goes back only a short two-and-a-half years. I first encountered Ron soon after becoming the editor of this paper, in late March of 2023.

When I heard that Ron would be dropping by for a visit, I'm sure I felt a little intimidated. Ron had been writing for the Journal since before I graduated high school, not to mention having lived in the area most of his life. Who was I to be scrutinizing his work? I'd lived here a grand total of nine months at the time, and, at 31 years old, was less than half his age.

However, I soon found my trepidation was unnecessary; something about Ron's presence quickly put me at ease. He asked me about my life, where I came from, and how I liked it here, but I never felt like he was putting me under a microscope – this was just the genuine curiosity Ron brought to his work and, indeed, to many aspects of his life.

Two things, I think, worked in my favor. First, Ron and I were both historians at heart, and held a similar approach to historiography. This shared mindset was immensely helpful in editing his work for publication on a weekly basis. On more than one occasion, Ron expressed his gratitude that he did not need to explicitly tell me to leave incorrect spellings, bad punctuation, or archaic letter forms in quotes from primary sources. These

During my time as the editor of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper, it was Ron's weekly article that I always looked forward to. I almost never knew what to expect. The content of his articles could be anything – from the finer points of antique photography and ephemera, to the livelihood of those who lived and died at the Chester Town Farm, to the delicacy that is salmon pea wiggle.

Ron had a way of bringing the past to the present. He could find long-lost voices who deserved to be heard and whose stories resonated with so many who had grown up in Vermont, and even those of us who didn't.

I recall one of my favorite

peculiarities, we both felt, lend important context to a historical document, telling us something about the writer or the circumstances under which it was written. I looked forward to reading and editing his articles every Monday; I always learned something new.

Second, and perhaps equally if not more importantly, we were both anglers.

Fishing became the topic on which Ron and I connected the most. Any time he visited the Journal during my tenure, his first stop was the extra chair in my office. We would exchange pleasantries, and sometimes we'd talk about his most recent article, but inevitably the conversation would turn to what we had been catching lately.

And not just what, but often where. As most people know, this is a rare topic for an angler to discuss even in general, much less in specific terms. But Ron gave me directions to several spots, both on ice and open water, where he said there were fish to be found.

Fishing holes are explored and mapped over a lifetime of trial and error, but can be ruined in an instant with only a few words to the wrong person. To be freely let in on such hard-won local intel felt like a stamp of approval, and a testament to Ron's evenhandedness. He didn't care that I grew up somewhere else, that my accent and his were different, or anything like that. We saw eye to eye, and that was enough for him. Maybe if we'd had more

time, we could have hit the water together some day.

My conversations with Ron over the years made me feel that we were in some ways kindred spirits – separated by generations, having led very different lives, but both eager to understand our past and how it shapes the present, and drawn to the same places and experiences in search of the big one. I think most feel this way about only a handful of other people in their lifetime; certainly, that is the case for me. I will dearly miss his visits.

Several times, Ron told me of his conviction that a monster brook trout, a holdover from seasons upon seasons of stocking, had to be living in a certain small local body of water. Most stocked trout die when the water gets too warm over the summer, but Ron posited that one lucky one must have survived over several years, growing fat – a real big fish in a small pond. He had yet to prove it, but he was sure. As far as I know, he never did prove it.

I don't typically attribute occurrences to the supernatural, but if I should ever happen upon this mythical trout, I'll know who sent it my way.

Nick Giberti
Editor, The Vermont Journal

three books with Ron.

When I had learned of Ron's passing, it was the article I longed to read again (and it can be found in "Local History, Volume 2"). Followed by Frost's poem: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep / But I have promises to keep / And miles to go before I sleep / And miles to go before I sleep."

Ron's words and legacy will live on for many, many more miles.

Amanda Wedegis
Former Editor, The Vermont Journal

Twenty years ago, in the local antique scene, my mom Angelica Dierks and I became friends with Ron Patch. As time meandered, "Patch" deemed me his "adopted daughter" when I was 10. With gratitude for everyone at The Journal/ Shopper for giving the community space to honor him, I wanted to contribute my own perspective on some of his impact. In an effort to condense my sentiments, and with consideration for all the old phrases and little poems which amused us so much, I thought my own meandering poetic form might be appropriate.

We met amidst history,
Our differences a vast mystery
We shared stories from the past
In a shared effort to make them last

Main street's cannon ball

bowling alley
(busted by a rusted out car)
A wooden foot bridge burned into memory
Like the sound of the school house turned "hysterical" society bell

A true friend he was
Through many phases we trudged.
As time and life enlarged the frame
Our thread remained the same.

He was a simple, natural teacher.
To me he was kind, but not a preacher.
He had a unique and powerful moral compass,
And a humor so self-assured it often caused a rumpus.

Away from the people, in the woods, by the pond,
Was the quiet flourishing serenity bond
We encouraged each other's writing: two different coaches
Reciprocal but separate ap-

proaches.

When we ran out of our own words, we shifted to sounds.
Expanding our hearts with what music abounds.
A shared favorite, Dylan's Blood on the Tracks remains
Along with his story of listening to it in the brick house first thing every day
the year following the day it was made.

On one of our walks, he brought me to the cemetery where his parents lay.
He told me some day, his rock would be there, saying 'If you can't laugh, die' and some young couple would walk by and chuckle, saying "Well, he isn't laughing anymore"

I've laughed about this for years, but now that it hits a little truer, I hope and imagine that for all his earthly wisdom, he had one thing wrong...carry on laughing, Ron Patch.

Gisele Dierks

The Town of Windham Historical Society is saddened by Ron's passing. He was so encouraging to us this past year as we started collecting the history of our town. He attended our first slideshow featuring

Harry Chapman's postcards. A few weeks before he died, he brought us a notebook saved by Danny Clemmons on the purchase of our Windham fire truck. While he was there he gave us a copy of his last book. We will miss his weekly arti-

cles, and his extensive knowledge of history and his great desire to preserve it for future generations.

Windham Historical Society



Friends Dooly, Buddy, Ron, and Stephen.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY STEPHEN BOWLER

A few photos of Ron were sent to us by Stephen Bowler, who said: "Sad to hear of Ron's passing. Fine old childhood friend. One of many friends and formative years of my childhood Chester years."

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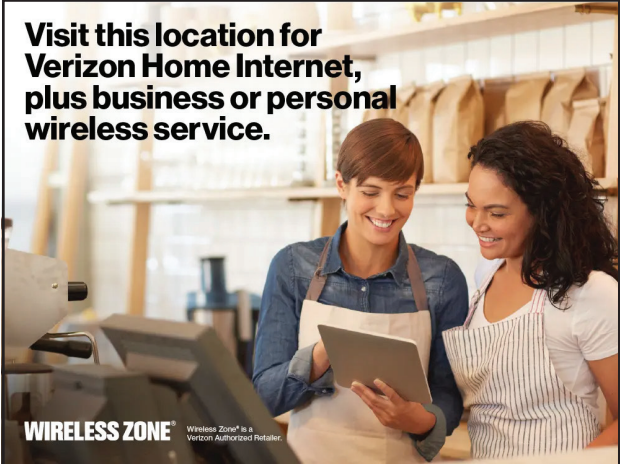
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Technical support – We help Vermonters improve their en-

ergy efficiency with unbiased advice and technical expertise. We also help you understand how your home can save energy through a free Virtual Home Energy Visit.

Training our clean energy workforce – We support Vermont's contractors; weatherization technicians; and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) installers through regular training, certifications, and education on the latest in building science.

Working with supply chain partners on efficient products – We make sure efficient heating systems and appliances are available and can perform well in Vermont's cold climate.

Over the last 25 years, we have invested in energy efficiency for Vermont's homes

and businesses. Over the lifetime of those investments, Vermonters will save \$3.54 billion, conserve 23 billion kWh of electricity, and reduce thermal energy use by 37 million MMBtus. That's enough electricity to power 175,000 homes – and enough thermal energy to heat 22,000 homes – for 20 years. To continue these savings, we're updating our plans and programs, as we do every three years, for the 2027-2029 planning period.

These new plans will continue to help Vermonters save energy and reduce costs. They will also help Vermont achieve other goals, like reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reaching Vermonters in all 14 counties, and supporting low-income households. We collect these updated plans in a single document called a De-



Scan the QR code to take the survey now.

PHOTO PROVIDED

mand Resource Plan (DRP). The Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC) oversees Efficiency Vermont's DRP, and approves the programs to ensure we achieve our savings goals.

Our rebates, technical support, and other incentives are primarily funded by the Energy Efficiency Charge (EEC). The EEC appears on the monthly electric bills of all Vermonters – renters, homeowners, businesses, and other organizations. The EEC provides funding for Efficiency Vermont's programs that help keep electric bills affordable while delivering programs and services that help all Vermonters save money, reduce energy use, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Every \$1 Vermont invests in energy efficiency yields more than \$2 in savings.



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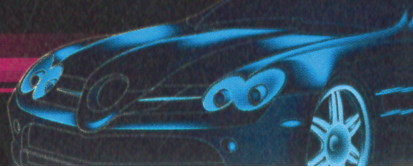
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obituaries

Ramon E. Harrington, 1937-2025

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Ramon Eugene “Ray” Harrington, 87, of Charlestown, N.H., passed away on June 8, due to complications from a fall.

Ramon was born in North Westminster, Vt., on June 30, 1937, the son of William Hubbard Harrington Sr. and Margaret “Peg” (Ferguson) Harrington, the youngest of four children. He grew up in North Westminster (Gageville) for a few years before the family moved to Cambridgeport, Vt., where they owned and operated a dairy farm.

Ramon graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1956, and joined the Vermont National Guard, where he trained in Fort Dix, N.J. In 1959, he married Carole Marie Merriam and had three children. The marriage ended in divorce after 28 years, in 1987. In 1988, he married Bonnie (Lovell) Flood and helped raise her two children.

Ramon worked a few odd jobs after high school, but found his lifelong calling when he was hired by Ken Cota and went on to work for nearly 40 years at Cota & Cota Plumbing and Heating in Bellows Falls as a furnace repairman, before retiring in 1999.

He was an avid baseball player and fan, and was involved for many years umpiring and coaching his sons’ Little League and American Legion teams. As a player, he was a member of the Grafton, Vt., town team that won the New England Championship in 1957, qualifying the team for the National Baseball Congress World Series in Wichita, Kan., but travel constraints made it impossible for the team to attend. Ramon led the entire State of Vermont in batting with a .357 batting average that summer, and was named to the All-State team after the West River Valley League champions won the state title.

Ramon was extremely active in the Bellows Falls community, and dedicated more than 20 years to umpiring and coaching his sons’ Little League and American Legion baseball teams and their Pee Wee football team. He was umpire-in-chief for the Bellows Falls Junior League while his sons played, and later coached the Polish American team to its first-ever league title in 1976. After that, he moved on to coach the Bellows Falls Post 37 American Legion team in the early 1980s, making it as far as the state championship game during his final season. In 2016, Post 37 honored him for his dedicated service to the baseball program.

Mr. Harrington was an avid outdoorsman, developing a lifelong love for hunting and fishing while growing up on the Old Hill Farm in Cambridgeport. He enjoyed his time in the woods with his brother Paul, as both were well-respected and well-known in the area for their hunting prowess, bringing



Ramon Harrington, 1937-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

home countless bucks over the years.

His love of fishing carried him across international borders, as for many years he enjoyed an annual fishing trip to the remote lakes of northern Quebec and Ontario with his “cop buddies,” Mike Paquette and Dave Hewes.

He enjoyed snowmobiling, and was a founding member and first president of the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) in 1967, which is still active today.

Ramon was a son, brother, husband, father, grandpa, pops, and friend to all. He spent 87 years being independent, strong-willed, a fixer of just about everything, and was often in his workshop building things with his bare hands. He often said, “If you want a job done, then you just need to do it.” He took it upon himself to keep the grounds around Ponderosa Park, where he lived in Charlestown, clean and tidy, freshly mowed, and litter free, and at one time served as the president of the park’s co-op.

He also enjoyed feeding all the animals and birds that frequented his backyard, especially the chipmunks, who would climb up and take peanuts right out of his mouth. He was very patient, a great listener, and always offered the best advice. Ray was passionate about his family, and loved all his children tremendously, especially his 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. He was humble, righteous, honest to a fault, and touched so many lives.

Survivors include his sons Garry Harrington, of Grand Junction, Colo., Bryon Harrington (Lynn), of Alpine, Calif., and Scott Harrington (Sam), of Westminster, Vt. In addition to Bonnie, his wife of 38 years, he is survived by her children Raymond Flood (Cassie) of Claremont, N.H., and Tammy Vartuli (Jeff), of Lebanon, N.H.

He is also survived by a brother Paul Harrington (Shirley), of Bellows Falls. He was predeceased by two siblings Marjorie Fjeld, of Tempe, Ariz., and William Harrington Jr., of Bellows Falls.

Graveside services will be held at Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt., on Saturday, Aug. 9, at 11 a.m., followed by a Celebration of Life reception at American Legion Post 37 in Bellows Falls, at 1 p.m.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls.

Maurice P. Karmen, 1954-2025

WALPOLE, N.H. – Maurice P. Karmen, 71, passed away peacefully at UMass Hospital on July 9, 2025, after suffering a serious stroke while residing at the Bear Mountain Skilled Nursing Facility in Worcester, Mass. He was surrounded by his family at the time of his death.

Maurice was born in Bellows Falls, Vt., on Jan. 18, 1954, and resided at 18 Green Road, North Walpole, N.H., his entire life. He attended Fall Mountain Regional High School. In 1974, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as sergeant first class, stationed in Germany along the East/West border for six years.

After his honorable discharge in 1980, Maurice returned to his childhood home. He earned his GED and attended CCV, taking computer and technical courses. He spent his more than 35-year-long career as shipping manager for Whitney Blake Company in Bellows Falls, Vt., until his retirement in 2015.

Maurice was a 44-year member of the Elks Lodge No.1619 in Bellows Falls, Vt., and served as Lodge chaplain in 1982-1983, 2002-2003, and 2014-2017. He became a life member in January 2019.

For anyone who knew our brother, he was a simple and kind soul. He took such delight in life’s simple pleasures – fishing and boating alongside our brother Charlie, taking his dogs for a ride in his truck, lounging in his backyard, reading the Bible or newspaper and feeding the birds, dinner and holiday celebrations with his family, etc. He was known by many for taking his beloved Queenie or Princess for daily walks through the village. He was an awesome brother, uncle, mentor, friend, animal lover, and no matter how little he had, he always said there were others worse off. He had a very strong faith in God which supported him throughout his life.

Maurice was predeceased by his parents Eugene and Halina



Maurice Karmen, 1954-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

Karmen, his brother Charles G. Karmen, his niece Jenifer Karmen, and his grandmother Anelia Karpinski. Maurice leaves behind three siblings Edward (Donna) Karmen, of Walpole, N.H.; Judy Barbera (Dan), of Springfield, Vt.; and Bernadette Whitcomb (Kenneth), of Highgate, Vt. Maurice also leaves behind his niece Carisa Ledoux (Gordon) and children, of Swanton, Vt.; and his nephews Robert Barbera Jr., of Rio Ranchos, N.M., Jacob Karmen (Sonja) and children, of North Walpole, N.H., Jay Whitcomb (Kiley) and children, of Swanton, Vt., and Neal Whitcomb (Katrina Tallman), of Cambridgeport, Vt.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Charles Church, Bellows Falls, Vt., on Saturday, Aug. 9, at 11 a.m., with burial to follow at the Sacred Heart Cemetery. A reception immediately following the burial will be held at St. Charles Social Center next to the St. Charles Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family gratefully requests donations to Silver Towers Camp, a charitable project of the Vermont Elks Associations. This residential summer camp serves those with mental and physical challenges. Donations can be mailed to Silver Towers, Attn: Patty Ristau, Treasurer, P.O. Box 756, Williamstown, VT 05679-0756.

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

Memorial events for former Gov. Thomas P. Salmon

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – A memorial service and Celebration of Life for former Vermont Gov. Thomas P. Salmon, who died Jan. 14, at age 92, are set for August.

A funeral Mass is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 16, at 10 a.m., at St. Charles Catholic Church in Bellows Falls. It will be followed by burial at St. Charles Cemetery, and a Celebration of Life at the Bellows Falls Country Club.

Earlier, calling hours will take place at Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, on Friday, Aug. 15, from 4-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Thomas P. Salmon Scholarship Fund, UVM Foundation, 411 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401.

Irene M. Toussaint, 1928-2025

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Irene May Toussaint passed peacefully on July 11, 2025. She was born in Nashua, N.H., to Agnes and Dana Robbins, on March 17, 1928, and raised by her beloved grandparents Anthony and Agata Nauceder, in Bellows Falls, Vt. Upon graduating from Bellows Falls High School in 1946, she married her high school sweetheart Gordon Toussaint. They made their home on Burt Street in Bellows Falls, raising their family of nine children.

Irene was a homemaker for most of her adult life, caring for her family like only she knew how. Family was the most important part of her life, devoting her time and energy to them. One of her greatest pleasures was having home parties with her family, no matter what the occasion.

She had a love for music, and sang in the St. Charles Church choir for several years, as well as the local theater choir. She enjoyed gardening, berry picking, and going to plays, taking family and friends along.

When her family was grown, she and Gordon traveled to different parts of the country. They also camped with family for many years. She worked in the family paint store on weekends in Bellows Falls until it was sold.

She was cared for by her daughters and sons-in-law after Gordon’s passing. She became a resident of the Gill Home in 2024, where she was loved by all the caretakers for her kindred spirit and gratefulness.

Our mother was a loving,



Irene Toussaint, 1928-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

thoughtful, and very caring person to all. She knew that the most important things in life weren’t things, but kindness to others, and spending time together. Until her last day on Earth, she was the peaceful person that we were so grateful to have for many years. Her heart was larger than life, and is dearly missed by all.

She was predeceased by her husband of 71 years, her parents, her daughter Virginia, brothers Buster and Paul, and two grandchildren. She is survived by family, including sons Nelson (Kathye), Norman, Barry, Mark, and Tim (Robin); daughters Peggy, Linda (Ralph), and Maryann (Dan); several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; and nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A graveside service will be held Aug. 8, at 11 a.m., at St. Charles Cemetery in Bellows Falls, Vt. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Fall, VT 05101.

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OBITUARIES: A 200-word obituary is \$75, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. A photo is an additional \$10. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m. CHURCH SERVICES: Run on an alternating schedule. Subject to space.

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LEGAL NOTICES

AUG. 1 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church Street, will host a burgers and hot dogs barbecue on Friday, Aug. 1, at 5 p.m., serving until 6:30 p.m. The menu includes burgers and hot dogs, corn on the cob, green salad, chips, dessert, and a beverage. This will raise funds for Window Dressers, an organization that provides energy efficient window inserts to the local area and beyond. There is a small suggested donation.

AUG. 2 – WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – Weathersfield Parks & Recreation is pleased to announce our second annual Recreation Festival, on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., with the Quarry Cruiser 5k Fun Run at 8 a.m. Both the festival and fun run are free events. Vendors and crafters interested in renting a booth, and businesses interested in sponsoring the event to raise money for our Hoisington Field Project, can email parksrecreation@weathersfield.org for an application either way. We hope to see you there.

AUG. 3 – PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – On Sunday, Aug. 3, from 4-5:30 p.m., Ali T will play at the Perkinsville Community Church. The music events are free to attend, but donations are collected each month to be sent to local charities in the area.

AUG. 4 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, will hold a potluck on Monday, Aug 4, at 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact executive director Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

AUG. 7 – CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Summer Music Festival continues Thursday, July 17, from 6:30-8 p.m., on the Academy Lawn, 230 Main Street, Chester, Vt., with The Green Sisters. The rain venue is the Chester Town Hall, 556 Elm Street. Sprouting from a small farm in rural Massachusetts, the

3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

a Big Band Dance Night featuring Gerry Grimo and the 11-Piece East Bay Jazz Ensemble, on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 7-9 p.m. Cover charge is paid at the door. Snacks will be provided, BYOB. Come dance, socialize, or just listen. Please wear clean soles on the dance floor.

Green Sisters have had a deep love of music from birth. It’s hard not to smile when treated with their tight harmonies and high-energy tunes; their loving but wry sibling banter makes every live show enjoyable. The four gals get together to play as often as they can. They revel in each other’s company, and jump easily from bluegrass, to barbershop, to blues, to originals of all styles. You don’t want to miss this show.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Road, North Charlestown, N.H., will be serving a buffet-style blueberry supper on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Call 603-826-3044 for takeout, or message us through our Facebook page.

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, or to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to churchperkinsville@gmail.com.

MONDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Free Tobacco Quit class led by Sarah Doyle, Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls. Dinner included. Call or

text Sarah at 802-289-0045 or email sdoyle@springfieldmed.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Overeaters Anonymous 12-Step Recovery Program is Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension in Bellows Falls. The program is free. For more information go to www.oa.org.

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

WEDNESDAYS – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will host Cribbage games every Wednesday, at 1 p.m. Join us to learn how to play, refresh your skills, set up a regular game schedule, or beat the champ. Bring your board and cards if you have them, and your enthusiasm. For more information, call 802-228-7421.

LUDLOW, Vt. – A gentle yoga flow class with strength building with bands and body to reconnect to your center, build strength, and invite ease into your body and mind will be held Wednesdays, from 10-11 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street. All levels welcome. Mats and blocks available. Contact Lori Wright at loriwright163@gmail.com or 603-401-

8123 to register, or with any questions.

THURSDAYS – month, at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 313 Main Street, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The memory cafe is free to attend, snacks included, and offers a safe and comfortable space where caregivers and their loved ones living with dementia or Alzheimer’s can socialize, listen to music, play games, and enjoy other appropriate activities. For questions, please call 802-885-2669 or 866-673-8376, or email memorycafe@seniorsolutionsvt.org.

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.

FRIDAYS – PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Precision Valley Fish & Game invites you to join us every Friday, at 5:30 p.m., for trap shooting. Weather permitting. Open to the public. 2879 Route 106, Perkinsville, Vt.

SATURDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – St. Mark’s Church, on Fairground Road, in Springfield, is offering free yard sale setup, every Saturday during the summer, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bring your own set up and remove what is left. The church restroom will be open for use. If you have questions, call Marianne 802-885-2783.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Chester Ambulance Service has identified the need for a Paramedic Ambulance Service to operate in Chester and Andover and is applying for a licensure by the Vermont Department of Health. This service proposes to begin operation on (September 1st, 2025) within the geographic boundaries of Chester/Andover area. In accordance with 24 V.S.A. Emergency Medical Services Statute, public comments are invited to be received by the department by (August 15, 2025).

Address comments to:
Chief Scott Richardson
Chester Fire Department
PO Box 370
Chester, VT 05143-0370

Or:
Vermont Department of Health Office of Public Health Preparedness and EMS
PO Box 70
Burlington, VT 05402-0070

TOWN OF CHESTER, VERMONT
www.chestervt.gov

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF FIRE SERVICE REIMBURSEMENT ORDINANCE

On July 16, 2025, the Selectboard of the Town of Chester, Vermont, will be reviewing for adoption an “Ordinance for Fire Service Reimbursement”. This notice is published pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1972 to inform the public of the adoption of this ordinance and of the citizens’ right to petition for a vote to disapprove the adoption of this ordinance.

CONCISE SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE
The purpose of the Ordinance is to allow the Town of Chester to seek reimbursement for consumables used during a fire which are covered by insurance, as well as to seek reimbursement for negligent or nuisance incidents.

The full text of the ordinance may be examined at the Chester Town office at 556 Elm Street in Chester, Vermont, and may be examined during regular office hours.

CITIZENS’ RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE
Title 24 V.S.A. § 1973 grants citizens the right to petition for a vote at a special or annual Town Meeting to disapprove the adoption of the ordinance by the Selectboard. To exercise this right, citizens must present to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk a petition for a vote on the question of disapproving the adoption of the ordinance signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the Town’s qualified voters. The petition must be presented within forty-four (44) days following the date of the adoption of the ordinance. Unless a petition requesting a vote is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973, the adopted “Fire Service Reimbursement Ordinance” shall become effective sixty (60) days from the date of said adoption.

PERSON TO CONTACT
Additional information pertaining to this ordinance may be obtained by contacting Julie Hance, Town Manager at 556 Elm Street, P.O. Box 370, Chester, VT 05143 or by calling (802) 875-2173 during regular office hours.

CHESTER SELECT BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT BYLAWS

The Chester Select Board will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Town of Chester Unified Development Bylaws on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester, Vermont. This public notice is given pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 4444.

The purpose of the proposed bylaws amendment is to implement changes required to enable reduced Act 250 regulation and take advantage of additional funding sources for housing projects in areas served by municipal water and sewer. Changes include updates to dimensional standards and subdivision standards.

The proposed amendment will primarily affect areas serviced by municipal water and sewer. The amended Sections of the Bylaws include 2.3 Village Center, 2.3.1 Village Green, 2.4 Village Mixed Use, 2.6 Stone Village, 2.7 Neighborhood, 5.2 Road Design and 5.3 Utility Design

The full text of the proposed amendment to the Town of Chester Unified Development Bylaws may be viewed at the Town Clerk’s office and on the home page of the Town’s website at www.chestervt.gov.

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 25th day of July 2025.
Julie Hance, Town Manager

Chester Public Safety
Full-time Firefighter/Paramedic

Chester Public Safety is excited to announce a new full-time Firefighter AEMT/Paramedic position. The ideal candidate will be a Firefighter/Paramedic. The minimum qualifications are a Firefighter/AEMT. The candidate would have the ability to achieve their Paramedic License within two years. Candidates will also have a strong passion for community-oriented health care.

Candidate should possess the following knowledge and skills:

1. Possess a valid Vermont AEMT/Paramedic license.
2. Possess a current Pro-Board Firefighter I/II
3. Possess a Highschool diploma or GED.
4. Ability to pass a background check.
5. US Citizen, 18 Years of age or older.
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Emailed: michael.randzio@chestervt.gov

CLASSIFIEDS

community

Crown Point Road markers tour

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Saturday, Aug. 9, Crown Point Road Association (CPRA) and Springfield Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a driving tour to view CPRA Markers 4-14, and, as an option at the end, Markers 1-3. The tour will begin at the

Eureka School House, 470 Vermont Route 11, at 10 a.m. Join CPRA members and local historians to hear about the beginnings of the 1759 military road and Eureka Village. The driving tour will be approximately two hours

long. The option of viewing Markers 1 and 2, and a 15-minute walk to Marker 3 (Old Settlers Cemetery) will take another hour. Barry Griffith (802-492-3573) and Lonnie Lisai (lonnielisai@gmail.com) will be hosting this event.

Northeast Men’s Summer Chorus concerts

REGION – The Northeast Men’s Summer Chorus is pleased to announce its sixth Annual Performance Tour at local churches in West Brattleboro, Walpole, and Grafton, during from Aug. 7-9.

The chorus sings a variety of numbers in glee-club style in the tradition of the Yankee Male Chorus, which sang in southern Vermont and New Hampshire for 65 years. Selections are taken from musical theater, vintage pop, rock, country, spirituals, hymns, and patriotic genres. This year we’ll be singing “God Bless America,” “My Special Angel,” “Oklahoma,” and “Sweet Caroline” (with audience participation), among others. It will be a very enjoyable evening.

The chorus eagerly accepts local singers to join their group. They offer a program for high school and college singers to earn a stipend/

scholarship for their participation, starting at \$250 for first-year singers with choral experience. Youth are accepted right up to and including the first concert day. Practice occurs at 1 p.m. on the first day, Aug. 7. Community members and youth are encouraged to look into this opportunity, as commitment is small and rewards are great.

The chorus is conducted and accompanied by Kate Butterfield, a retired middle school choral director from Keene, N.H., and Paul Scatenato, conductor of the Mendelssohn Club of Kingston, N.Y. Singers hail from Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and South Carolina.

All concerts are free and open to the public. On Thursday, Aug. 7, the first performance will be presented at the First Congregational Church,

880 Western Avenue, West Brattleboro. Friday and Saturday night concerts will be at the First Congregational Church, 15 Washington Street, Walpole, N.H.; and the Grafton Community Church, 55 Main Street, Grafton, Vt., respectively. All concerts begin at 7 p.m. There is no admission charge. A free-will offering to defray the costs of the hosting church will be collected.

For further information, visit the chorus website at www.singingvacation.org, or Facebook page, @ttbbnortheast. You may also email lambert323@gmail.com, or call 802-233-1875.

No puzzles. Please check back next week!

CEDS and Regional Priority Project submissions open

REGION – The Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) and Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) are jointly announcing the 2025 call for project submissions for inclusion in the Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and Regional Priority Project (RPP) lists. The project intake portal opened Monday, July 21, with an initial submission deadline of Sept. 5 for CEDS project consideration. Projects seeking RPP designation must provide additional documentation by Thursday, Sept. 19.

As part of a streamlined process, all RPP proj-

ects must first be submitted through the CEDS portal. Every RPP submission will automatically be considered for inclusion in the CEDS. Project sponsors are asked to provide core project information by Sept. 5. Those seeking RPP designation will then have until Sept. 19 to submit additional materials, including financial documentation and implementation details.

The CEDS is a federally recognized economic development strategy that supports long-term regional planning and alignment with funding opportunities. CEDS projects help to implement the CEDS objectives. RPPs are implementation-ready projects prioritized for state and federal funding consideration,

including support from the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). BDCC and BCRC strongly encourage dual submissions when appropriate.

An informational webinar will be held on Wednesday, July 30, featuring representatives from BDCC and BCRC. The webinar will provide an overview of submission guidelines, timelines, and tips for preparing strong proposals.

The submission form and full instructions are available at www.sovermontzone.com/ceds-rpp-project-submission. Municipalities, nonprofits, educational institutions, and private businesses are encouraged to submit projects that contribute to Southern Vermont’s economic future.

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areas. Call/text 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

YARD SALE

BALTIMORE, Vt. – Town Wide Yard Sale Saturday, Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Rain or Shine. Follow on Facebook: www.facebook.com/events/2153079338450552.

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AUG. 3-9

national health

Why annual hearing checks matter

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Most of us keep up with annual physicals, dental cleanings, and eye exams to stay ahead of health concerns. But hearing health is often left out of that routine, even though it plays a vital role in how we connect with others and maintain our wellbeing.

Hearing loss usually develops slowly, making it easy to overlook. You might notice the TV volume creeping up, conversations becoming harder to follow, or a need to ask others to repeat themselves more often. These subtle signs can build over time, and start to impact relationships, work, and even mental health.

That is why I recommend getting your hearing checked each year. Just like with other health screenings, early detection makes a big difference. A quick and simple screening can identify changes before they become more serious, and it gives you a baseline to monitor over time.

At AudioNova in Springfield, we offer free hearing screenings

to help our community stay on top of their hearing health. You do not need to be experiencing major hearing issues to benefit. In fact, many of the patients we see are surprised to learn they have already started to lose some hearing without realizing it.

Catching hearing loss early makes treatment much easier. Today's hearing aids and assistive technology are more advanced, comfortable, and discreet than ever. People who begin treatment early typically adjust more easily, and experience better results. Untreated hearing loss, on the other hand, has been linked to isolation, depression, and even cognitive decline.

If you are over 50, work in a noisy environment, or have a family history of hearing loss, annual screenings are especially important. Even if your results are normal, it gives you a helpful point of comparison for the future.

There is no downside to being proactive. Regular hearing checks are a simple way to protect your health, your independence, and your ability to stay connected to the people and experiences that matter most.

Call AudioNova today at 802-213-5398 to schedule your free hearing screening. We are located at 100 Springfield Plaza, Springfield, Vt., and we would be honored to take care of you.

Written Jason Udeen, hearing care professional, AudioNova, Springfield, Vt.

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Affordable health screenings coming to Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Residents living in and around Springfield, Vt., can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. The Springfield Elks Lodge, 49 Park Street, will host this community event on Aug. 15.

Screenings can check for the level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke, and overall vascular health; HDL and LDL cholesterol levels; diabetes risk; kidney and thyroid function; and more.

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

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AUG. 3-9

Springfield Hospital awards Lovell Scholarship

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Hospital and Southern Vermont Area Health Education Center (AHEC) are pleased to announce Tess Shook as the recipient of this year’s Dr. E. Sherburne Lovell Health Career Award. Shook is a resident of Springfield, Vt., and a 2025 graduate of Springfield High School. The Lovell Award contributes \$1,000 per year for four years toward a student’s academic pursuit of a career in health, and is funded by the proceeds from the annual Springfield Hospital Apple Blossom event and community donations.

Lovell was a longtime physician at Springfield Hospital, and his daughters Melissa Post and Elizabeth David said, “While he was a man who never sought recognition for his service in the medical field or in the community, we know he would be honored to have this award named in his memory. We hope recipients of

Neighborhood Connections screening talk

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – You are invited to a light luncheon at Neighborhood Connections, 5700 Mountain Marketplace, Londonderry, Vt., where the guest speaker is Dr. H. Gilbert Welch, of Brigham & Women’s Hospital, on Friday, Aug. 15, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

His talk is titled “Will More Screening Tests Really Make you more Healthy?” Welch believes medicine has overinvested in screening – particularly cancer screening – to the detriment of human health. He will explore why screening doesn’t work that well, and has so little effect, if any, on your longevity. Yet it does produce real harms: false alarms, cycles of more testing, and overdiagnosis, finding and treating abnormalities that were never going to bother you. Much of his work has focused on overdiagnosis in cancer screening, in particular screening for melanoma, thyroid, lung, breast, and prostate cancer.

Welch is a general internist who has worked for the U.S. Indian Health Service, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Dartmouth Medical School. For more than three decades, he has been asking hard questions about his profession. His arguments are frequently counterintuitive, even heretical, yet have regularly appeared in the country’s most prestigious medical journals – Annals of Internal Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, the New England Journal of Medicine, and the Journal of the National Cancer Institute – as well as in op-eds in the Los Angeles Times and the New York Times. His most recent book is “Less Medicine, More Health: 7 Assumptions that Drive Too Much Medical Care.” Please call 802 824-4343 to reserve a seat.



Left to right: Bob Adcock, Mary Perry, Tess Shook, and Alysia Straw.

PHOTO PROVIDED

the award will share the same sense of wonder and commitment to service in the world of medicine that he did.”

Shook attended the Southern Vermont AHEC’s MedQuest program at Springfield Hospital. “This experience helped me decide to pursue la-

bor and delivery nursing, and later furthering my degree as a midwife,” said Shook.

She will be attending Vermont State University, and she will be studying nursing. Vermont State University offers the 1+1+2 program that she will be following. The first-

year students earn a Practical Nursing Certificate. The second-year students earn an Associate of Science in Nursing degree, which makes them eligible for registered nurse (RN) licensure. The third- and fourth-year students complete their Bachelor of Science in Nursing online, allowing flexibility to work in the field of nursing while completing their degree. “My goal is to become a compassionate and competent nurse, dedicated to improving the health and lives of individuals and communities,” said Shook.

Alysia Straw, Southern Vermont AHEC director of health careers exploration, stated, “It’s inspiring to see future health professionals, like Tess, supported on their educational

journey. We love working with our community hospital and community members to encourage more Vermont youth to work towards a career in health.”

“We are delighted to support Tess’s education, and wish her much success with her studies,” said Bob Adcock, CEO of

Springfield Hospital.

To be eligible for the award, students must live in one of the towns served by Springfield Hospital, and complete Southern Vermont AHEC’s MedQuest program. For more information on the MedQuest program, call 802-885-2126, or go to www.svtahec.org.



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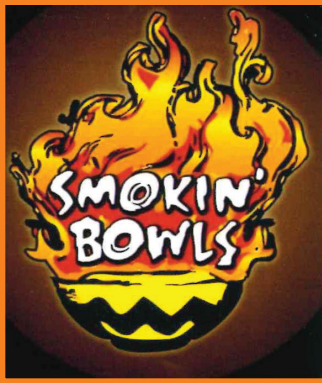
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AUG. 2 & 3

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Rockingham Old Home Days is back for the 48th year, on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 12-9:30 p.m., at the Waypoint Center in Bellows Falls.



Plenty of family fun at the Waypoint Center. PHOTO PROVIDED BY DEB COLLIER

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old home days

AUG. 2 & 3

up with MV-19 taking the stage at 5:30 p.m. The festival atmosphere will be alive with sound, laughter, and celebration.

Family activities

Festivalgoers can enjoy performances by circus artists, cheer on battling knights in armor, explore local craft vendors, and take part in interactive experiences like capoeira demonstrations, fish ladder tours, and a hands-on Touch-A-Truck exhibit. Bubble machines, games, and prize

giveaways will keep kids and families entertained all afternoon.

Fireworks

The event will finish off with a bang, with a fireworks display over the Connecticut River, at 9:30 p.m.

Pilgrimage

The day of festivities will be followed by a meaningful 119th pilgrimage to the historic Rockingham Meeting House on Sunday, Aug. 3, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Saturday's festivities end with a firework display.
PHOTO BY ELIJAH ZIMMER

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This is a weekend of tradition, community, and celebration. There is something for everyone; don't miss it. Admission is free, and all are welcome. For updates and full event details, visit www.gfrcc.org/events.

The Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce would

like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the many sponsors who make this event possible, including Best Septic Service, the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge, Great River Hydro, Athens Pizza, Springfield Hospital, Halladay's Harvest Barn, James Plumbing & Heating, 802 Credit Union, Springfield Area Parent Child Center,

Berkley & Veller, FACT TV, WOOL FM, and numerous local businesses and organizations who are lending their

time and talents to help make the 48th annual Rockingham Old Home Days a celebration to remember.

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Equinox Wind Quintet —

WESTON, Vt. – Join the Sundays on the Hill Concert Series, and experience an unforgettable afternoon of live music with the Equinox Wind Quintet. The one-hour concert will be held in the Old Parish Church, 144 Main Street, Weston, Vt., on Aug. 3, at 4 p.m. The doors open around 3:30 p.m., and there are no reserved seats, no advance tickets, and admission

is paid at the door. Please see www.sundaysonthehill.org for more information and updates. Equinox Wind Quintet members are flutist Laurel Ann Maurer, oboist Elise Conti, clarinetist Betsy LeBlanc, bassoonist Molly Finkel, and hornist Sel Yargici. Featuring music by August Klughardt, Darius Milhaud, Malcolm Arnold, Vincent Persichetti, and

György Ligeti, from the compositional whimsy of Arnold's "Three Shanties for Wind Quintet," to Milhaud's evocative score for the 1939 film "Calvalcade d'amour," to Ligeti's "Six Bagatelles," which shakes off the shackles of mid-20th-century Stalinism, the music of these composers displays the vast range of a wind quintet.

“Gruesome Playground Injuries”

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – “Gruesome Playground Injuries” is a brilliant dark comedy by Rajiv Joseph, a finalist for the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play “Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo,” and winner of an Obie Award for Best New American Play for his play “Describe the Night.” “Gruesome Playground Injuries” tells the story of Kayleen and Doug, two friends whose lives connect around a series

of injuries. Spanning ages 8-38, the play follows their relationship as they navigate life's challenges, often reaching for each other's support, and sometimes pulling away. Its nonchronological structure allows the audience to piece together their attraction, and experience how injuries can map a lifetime. Joseph highlights the complexity and messiness of life, reminding us that it becomes a bit easier with someone by our side.

Performances of “Gruesome Playground Injuries” will be from Aug. 1-10, with evening shows at 7:30 p.m., and matinees at 2 p.m. Shows will take place at the Wild Goose Storefront, 7 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt. Running time is roughly 1.5 hours, with no intermission. Tickets are available on the Wild Goose website, www.wildgooseplayers.com.

Mambo Jazz Party —

PUTNEY, Vt. – The Bandwagon Summer Series continues its 2025 season with a fiery celebration of Latin jazz, as Jonathan Powell's Mambo Jazz Party takes the stage on Saturday, Aug. 2, at 6 p.m., at Cooper Field, 41 Sand Hill Road, Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org, and kids under 12 are free.

Led by acclaimed trumpeter Powell, Mambo Jazz Party is a thrilling ensemble that fuses the infectious rhythms of salsa and mambo with the bold textures of modern electric jazz.

Inspired by a conversa-

tion with a bongocero during a masterclass, Powell built Mambo Jazz Party around music that's rooted in tradition, but driven by celebration and spontaneity.

This performance is also part of Next Stage Arts' 15th anniversary celebration, and will honor two of its Community Champions, Amelia Darow and Kat McGraw, whose support has helped shape the organization into a cornerstone of southern Vermont's cultural landscape.

This outdoor concert features food from Putney General Store, and the return of the ever-popular Barr Hill cocktails. A dedicated kids'

area ensures families can enjoy the music while little ones play. Audiences are encouraged to bring a blanket, folding chair, or picnic to enjoy the show comfortably.

The concert is presented with support from The Richards Group and through Jazz Road, a national initiative of South Arts, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, with additional support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Series sponsors include M&T Bank, The Peak, Lawson's Finest Liquids, Oak Meadow, Brattleboro Reformer, and Barr Hill.

For more information, contact info@nextstagearts.org.

Bear Mountain Boys to perform —

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – The Bear Mountain Boys, a lively group of local musicians known for their unique fusion of rock classics and contemporary music, will continue the Wednesday evening summer concert series at on Aug. 6, at 6 p.m., on the Svec Memorial Green in Proctorsville.

This dynamic group wins over audiences with spirited acoustic performances and infectious energy. Patrick Ross on guitar, Bob Kennedy on mandolin, and David Ladd on stand-up bass

all contribute vocal harmony to melt your face off with jams and classics.

Bring a picnic, visit with friends, or just sit back and listen to the music. Goodman's American Pie will be dishing up their great pizza, and Muddock's on the Green restaurant and Singleton's General Store offer takeout food options, and are located on or near the Green.

The Town of Cavendish and the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association are proud to deliver a summer of great music for the enjoyment

of local residents and visitors alike.

As always, the concerts are free and open to the public. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved to the Proctorsville Fire Hall, 513 Main Street. Please watch the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association's Facebook page for further announcements. For more information, email cavendishcommunityconservation@gmail.com.

This concert is sponsored by Sugar Maple Mountain Retreat and Ripley Design Co.

Pikes Falls Chamber Music Festival

REGION – Pikes Falls Chamber Music Festival (PFCM) is returning to celebrate the 2025 summer season with an admission-free concert series. Concerts begin on Tuesday, Aug. 5, and run through Saturday, Aug. 9.

In the summer of 2012, Susanna Loewy founded a summer festival emphasizing music and visual art. PFCM has performed 67 concerts in southern Vermont, commissioned 14 world premieres, and has shown 13 works of visual art. 2025 will add four concerts

and additional community events to celebrate 2025 in southern Vermont. The Pikes Falls Chamber Music Festival highlights musicians from the Grammy-nominated In-scape Chamber Orchestra in Washington, D.C., as well as musicians from in and around Vermont. As is PFCM's tradition, a piece by the festival's composer-in-residence will be performed at the concluding concert.

The 2025 season includes numerous events that are free and open to the public.

On Aug. 5, a children's program will be held in the morning, at the Jamaica Library; and a garden concert and celebration, at 3417 Vermont Route

30, in the evening. The festival's main performances will be held at the Jamaica Town Hall, on Aug. 7 and 10; and at the Grafton Community Church, on Aug. 8.

Throughout the week, PFCM will also perform private concerts for southern Vermont assisted living facilities in Manchester and Townshend.

For more information on the Pikes Falls Chamber Music Festival, visit us online at www.pikesfallschambermusicfestival.com, or email executive director Loewy at info@pikesfallschambermusicfestival.com or managing director Andy Sabol at andysabol@pikesfallschambermusicfestival.com.



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