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THE **Vermont** Journal

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Londonderry approves amended STR ordinance

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB

The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – At the July 21 meeting, Selectboard Chair Tom Cavanagh announced that, at the special meeting held on Saturday, July 19, they elected Marge Fish as lister, for the remainder of a three-year term, which will expire on Town Meeting Day, March 3, 2026.

Furthermore, Cavanagh announced that, “The petition to disapprove the short-term rental (STR) ordinance amendments failed by a vote of 66 to 25,” which was voted on the floor at the special town meeting. With this vote, the town approved the amended STR ordinance, and it is now in effect.

The petition was filed by Jessica Citera, who was most concerned about the one-year waiting period for a new property owner to be able to register their property as an STR, and the limit of 50 rentable nights for an unhosted STR.

STR coordinator Andy Dahlstrom later confirmed during the July 21 meeting that the amendments were adopted on April 21, so a house newly transferred after April 21 will not be eligible for STR enroll-

ment until April of 2026. Dahlstrom added that he clarified this date with the town’s attorney, who specified that the date of the vote to adopt the amendments was the start date for them to take effect.

Dahlstrom further clarified that he made suggestions to those purchasing homes regarding the upcoming amendments, and recommended that they register the property right away if they thought they may want to rent it out, in order to be grandfathered into the ordinance before the 50-night limit. Therefore, a property registered before April 21, but transferred after April 21, would have to wait the year grace period before renting, but would not have a 50-night limit.

The board then heard a legislative update from State Rep. Chris Morrow, and approved the Green Mountain Power agreement for Under the Mountain Road. They moved to approve the Spring Hill Road bank stabilization work, which was an urgent matter, and had already been completed in a matter of days by Hunter Excavating, for \$35,000. The guardrail work proposal from Lafayette Highway Specialties,

for \$6,500, came in under budget and was approved, and the town highway structures grants for 2026 were also reviewed and approved. These documents can all be found within the July 21 meeting packet on the town’s website, www.londonderryvt.org.

The board also discussed the Windham County Animal Control Officer program, which was submitted to the town by Sheriff Mark Anderson. The program helps respond to animal control complaints that could otherwise result in a burden on selectboards, town managers, and administrators, such as issues with vicious animals, dogs at large, registration and rabies violations, animal quarantines and removals, and animal abuse or neglect. Given this is a regional program, the board questioned the response time, but overall agreed it was a good idea and modern approach to support the current animal control officer Patrick Salo.

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

Chester looks at sidewalk options

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Selectboard held their only meeting of July on Wednesday, July 16, first moving to adopt the fire department reimbursement ordinance which has been under review for the past several meetings. Minimal corrections were made to the text of the document prior to adoption.

Board Chair Lee Gustafson commented on the passing of Chester native and eminent local historian Ron Patch, saying that the town “suffered a severe loss.” Several board members echoed Gustafson’s comments, with Tim Roper describing Patch an “encyclopedia of Chester history.”

Town manager Julie Hance then informed the board that temporary changes to the Chester Green will be made between Aug. 29 and Sept. 11, as a trial run for permanent proposed changes intended to calm traffic in the area. A survey will be circulated for feedback from residents after the trial period.

The board then heard from Alyssa Gurney, of

Dufresne Group, concerning options for a sidewalk along Route 103, from the bridge at the Route 11 intersection to Green Mountain Union High School (GMUHS). Currently, there is no sidewalk in this area, creating a safety issue for students who use the roadside to walk to and from school.

Gurney laid out three options, each of which included the possibility of either a curbed sidewalk, or a grass edge zone between the sidewalk and road. The curbed options would necessitate the installation of storm drains, while the grass edge zone would call for more substantial permanent easements. Options considered ran along the north or south side of Route 103, with the south side option requiring a crossing at the bridge over the Williams River. Another option also considered was a paved path south along the river, over what is currently a sewer easement. Evidence suggests that students are already using this path to walk to school, as it leads directly to the GMUHS athletic fields.

Cost estimates for the various options ranged from \$735,000 on the low end, to \$1.6 million on the high end, depending on the chosen parameters. The board intends to make a decision on the issue at their Aug. 20 meeting.

The board then heard from Liz Carey, of Senior Solutions, who wanted to inform area seniors and residents that the organization operates in the town, and has various programs intended to help keep seniors in their homes. Carey said she frequently hears that people are unaware of Senior Solutions, and she would like more people to take advantage of the programs they offer.

The board was then once again presented with candidates for the GMUSD School Board, in a continuation of what had been a contentious issue several months prior.

Previously, board members had declined to endorse a candidate, which sparked controversy when it was learned that one of the candidates, John Keller, had recently pled guilty to domestic assault. Keller has since withdrawn his name from contention.

Gustafson again declined to endorse a candidate. Vice Chair Arne Jonynas, however, while noting that all three candidates appeared qualified, did choose to endorse Patricia “Penny” Benelli, “because of the perseverance that she’s had through this whole process.” Roper did the same, while board member Arianna Knapp spoke in support of candidate Jerry Uchi, who she said was the only one of the three who she knew personally.

Finally, the board elected to move all police officers and the town’s fire chief position to Group D retirement, allowing them to retire after 20 years. Current officers will be given the option to stay in their current Group C, or move to Group D effective Jan. 1, 2026. All future officers hired after that date will automatically be enrolled in Group D. Hance explained that the reason for this change is primarily for recruitment, as Chester’s police department is currently understaffed, and most of the nearby departments offer Group D retirement benefits. “If [police officers] come to Chester,” Hance explained, “they are taking a five-year step back in their retirement.” Hance estimated that the impact on the municipal budget would be roughly \$30,000 per year, though she noted that the expense can be minimized in other areas. The board accepted the proposed change.

The Chester Selectboard will hold a meeting on Aug. 20, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall. Hance noted that she would announce in advance if a second meeting was necessary on the first Wednesday of August as well.

LAHS Art Show seeks entries

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Londonderry Art and Historical Society (LAHS) is pleased to announce the annual Local Art Show, starting on Aug. 21, and going through Columbus Day weekend. We will be showcasing amazing art created by our local community. The show will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

If you are an artist who would like to display your work, please contact Bev Foster at 802-558-1211 or missbev1958@gmail.com, or Valerie Johnson at 802-875-3865 or valjean43@vermontel.net for more information.



A piece depicting a brook trout from a previous show.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Please bring your framed art, or other types of art, ready to hang. We prefer wire on the back, if possible. Please put the name of your piece, medium,

and your information (name, address, phone number, and email) on the back of your piece.

The requirement is 30 inches

by 30 inches maximum size. We will also accept needlework, jewelry, cards, and matted prints.

Receiving dates will be Aug. 12, 13, 16, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.; and Aug. 15, from 2-4 p.m.

This year’s show will be done in conjunction with Art in Bloom, sponsored by the Green Mountain Gardeners. For the Art in Bloom show, gardeners choose several of the submitted pieces and create floral arrangements to enhance the art. They are then shown together, making a wonderful display.

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editor@vermontjournal.com



Streetscapes raffle winner

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Rebecca Parker, winner of the Cavendish Streetscapes fundraiser raffle, won \$100 cash and a fistful of lottery tickets. Cavendish Streetscapes Chairperson Doris Eddy delivered the prizes, and thanks Becky and everyone else who bought a raffle ticket. All sales directly support the displays of flags, flowers, and seasonal displays, and the work of the many volunteers of Cavendish Streetscapes.

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American Legion, Legion Auxiliary leaders elected —

Two local residents were elected to leadership positions.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The American Legion Department of Vermont convened its Annual Department Convention on June 20 and 21, at Hampton by Hilton in Colchester. Officers were elected and installed to lead the organizations for the year 2025-2026.

Fred Wilson, Post 36, Ludlow, was elected senior vice commander; and Lewis Graham, Post 36, Ludlow, was elected Fifth District commander.

Springfield Edward Jones branch office school supply drive

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Amy Duffy, an Edward Jones financial advisor in Springfield, is supporting Union Street and Elm Hill Schools by serving as a dropoff location for a school supply drive.

Items needed for the school supply drive include lunch boxes, glue sticks, pocket folders, tissues, pencil cases, backpacks, art supplies, water bottles, etc.

Local residents and businesses may help others in the community by bringing in items to the Edward Jones branch office during regular business hours, from July 21 – Aug. 22.

Kim Ray at Pop Up Art at Custer Sharp —

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Londonderry Arts and Historical Society is delighted to announce that artist Kim Ray will be on hand for our final two weeks of Pop Up Art at Custer Sharp. Ray invites all ages to stop in and have fun playing with clay. The workshops are free of charge, and appropriate for both kids and adults. Stop in on Saturday, Aug. 2 and 9, from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., for some creative fun. The program is free of charge, and is a wonderful opportunity for kids and adults to make art together.

The Cluster Sharp House is located at 2461 Middletown Road, Londonderry, Vt.



Create works in clay at Custer Sharp.
PHOTO PROVIDED

The branch address is 41 Chester Road, Suite 1, Springfield, Vt.

Please note that monetary donations cannot be accepted.

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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

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."

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

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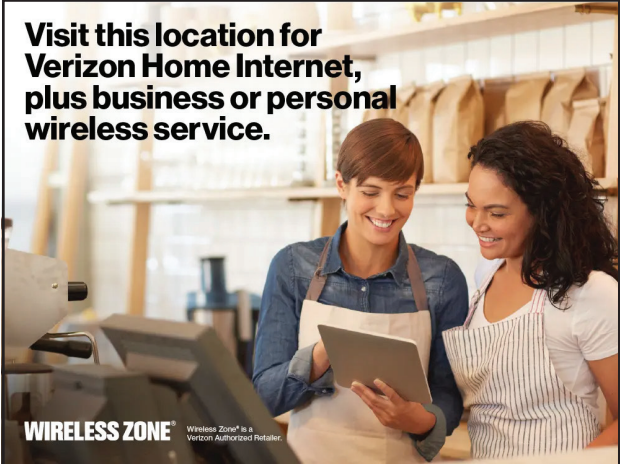
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Over the last 25 years, we have invested in energy efficiency for Vermont's homes

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.

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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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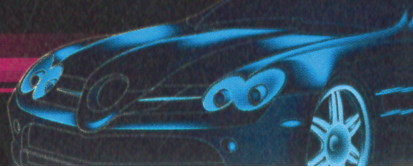
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obituaries

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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calendar

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. 5 – 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

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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:

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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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(11/08/25 - 26)

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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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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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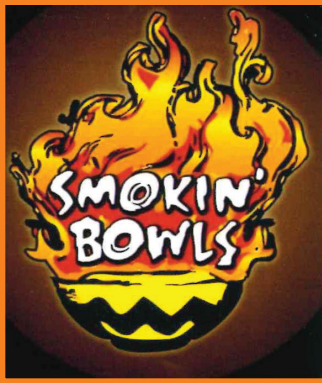
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AUG. 2 & 3

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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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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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