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# THE **Vermont** Journal

OCTOBER 22, 2025 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 43

## The Boot Pro brings mountain bikes to elementary students

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Boot Pro is proud to announce a successful partnership with local elementary schools to introduce mountain biking programs for students. Thanks to federal grant funding and the support of local physical education teachers, nearly 100 new specialized bikes and helmets are now owned by Mount Holly School, Ludlow Elementary School, and Rutland Northwest Primary School.

For many of these children, this marks the first time they've ever had the chance to ride a bike. Through their physical education classes and after-school programs, students are now learning the basics of cycling, bike safety, and trail riding, opening the door to a lifelong love of outdoor recreation.

"This program is about more than just bikes," said Alex Racicot, of The Boot Pro. "It's about giving kids the opportunity to try some-

thing new, get outside, and be part of Vermont's incredible outdoor community. With mountain biking trails expanding across the state, it's important that our youth have the opportunity to experience this amazing resource early on."

The initiative underscores The Boot Pro's commitment to supporting local youth and encouraging healthy, active lifestyles in the outdoors. By combining federal grant funding with The Boot Pro's

access to bike and ski equipment at wholesale prices, the program ensures that all children, regardless of background or experience, can participate and discover the joy of biking. Over the years, The Boot Pro has also helped elementary schools in the same way to obtain ski equipment.

The Boot Pro is already planning to expand this program to additional schools in the coming years.

Those interested in sup-



Students at Rutland Northwest Primary School with their mountain bikes, provided by The Boot Pro in Ludlow. PHOTO PROVIDED

porting or funding the effort can contact Alex Racicot at alex@thebootpro.net to learn more about getting involved.

## McNamara resigns as Ludlow town manager

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Selectboard met for their first regular meeting since August on Monday, Oct. 6, beginning by hearing updates from Tree Warden Phil Carter regarding the recently created Ludlow Tree Advisory Board's efforts.

Carter told the selectboard that the tree board

is "up and running," and will begin to map ash trees within the Town of Ludlow in the near future. The mapping is intended to help the board deal with the threat of emerald ash borer, an invasive insect which kills ash trees. The dead trees can become hazardous if they overhang roadways, powerlines, or structures.

"As you know," Carter told the board, "the emerald ash borer has been found in

Ludlow, specifically in the state forest and the Butter-milk Falls area." Carter said the tree board has compiled a list of companies which offer tree-related services, including inoculation against the emerald ash borer for those who would like to protect ash trees on their property. While the inoculation process will keep the invasive insect from killing ash trees, it must be repeated every two years, Carter

explained.

Carter continued by saying that the tree board will begin marking ash trees on town property for removal in the spring, focusing on those trees which pose a threat to structures or infrastructure. Ash trees "are going to die," Carter lamented. "It sucks, but that's the way it is." He did, however, note that those trees which are not infected when they are removed can be sold as lumber.

The board then inaugurated a discussion, introduced by town manager Brendan McNamara, concerning the replacement of Ludlow's municipal safety building on West Hill Road, which currently houses the Ludlow Police Department and ambulance service. McNamara described this building as "a 10-year building, [built] 15 years ago," noting also that the Ludlow fire station is aging as well, and is liable to be cut off from town in the event of a flood emergency, as happened in July of 2023. The main question, McNamara said, was where the new building could be placed.

"I think it is wise to have a public steering committee," McNamara continued, saying he already had spoken

with several people who were willing to serve on any such committee. Board members Brett Sanderson, Scott Baitz, and George Tucker also volunteered for the committee. McNamara said he would set up the committee's first meeting in the immediate future.

Moving on, the board heard from representatives of the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC) concerning a housing study the organization had conducted in Ludlow. Erin Ladd spoke first, telling the board that the study concluded that 43% of renters and 36% of homeowners in Ludlow are considered "housing cost burdened," meaning that they pay, as she put it, "well over" 30% of their income to housing costs, including rent, mortgage, and property tax. Ladd also said that the prevalence of short-term rental units is contributing to the lack of housing in Ludlow, as well as the increasing costs, a point on which she was questioned by Vice Chair Justin Hyjek, who asked how such a conclusion has been reached. "If you've lived here long enough," Ladd responded, "it's pretty evident."

McNamara also noted

that Ladd is Ludlow's new director of planning and zoning, though she worked with MARC while the study was being conducted.

Next, Jason Rasmussen, executive director of MARC, explained what he believed is Ludlow's best option for increasing housing stock within the village, Tier 1B designation. While Ludlow missed the opportunity to designate a Neighborhood Development Area, Rasmussen said that designation as a Tier 1B town could still allow some Act 250 exemptions, specifically for housing projects of up to 50 units on 10 acres or fewer. This is intended to promote development in areas of town that are connected to municipal services such as water and sewer. Rasmussen noted that Ludlow has already met most of the requirements for the designation.

Board member Noah Schmidt asked if the exemption is "specifically for residential housing," questioning whether it would allow a developer to come in with a stated goal of building "20 luxury condos for second homeowners," and still bypass Act 250. Ladd

See **LUDLOW** on Page 2

### First annual Oktoberfest in the books

LUDLOW, Vt. – Our first annual Oktoberfest was an amazing success. With the proceeds raised, we were able to provide much-needed

funding for Okemo Valley TV. Looking forward to seeing you all next year.

PHOTOS PROVIDED



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# Fletcher Memorial Library thanks Friends of the Library

LUDLOW, Vt. – Fletcher Memorial Library gets by with a lot of help from our friends.

Oct. 20-25 is the 20th annual National Friends of Libraries Week, and it is the perfect opportunity for the staff and trustees of Fletcher Memorial Library to give the Friends of the Fletcher Memorial Library a big shout-out for all they do to make a positive impact on us every single day.

The Friends of the Library group supports the library by increasing public awareness and encouraging the use of the library, its services, and its resources. Our Friends also provide finan-

cial support by assisting in purchasing passes to many Vermont parks and historic sites, such as Billings Farm and Museum, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, and Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home. These funds are raised with a membership campaign and an annual August book sale.

But money isn't the only thing the Friends contribute; the Friends also offer community programs throughout the year, and quarterly Friends of the Library book discussions. The Friends' most important function is to assist in getting the word out about the wonderful services

Fletcher Memorial Library provides. We know the Friends are always looking for new members and volunteers. They have so much fun while working to make our community better. Joining is easy, visit [www.fmlnews.org](http://www.fmlnews.org), email [friendsfml17@gmail.com](mailto:friendsfml17@gmail.com), or give the library a call at 802-228-8921.

Joining the Friends of the Library is a terrific way to make new friends of your own, give back to our community, and make the library even better. Fletcher Memorial Library is located at 88 Main Street, Ludlow, Vt.

# Ludlow Rotary Chili Cook-off a major success

LUDLOW, Vt. – The 34th annual Ludlow Rotary Club Chili Cook-off this past holiday weekend was a major success. The weather was perfect, hundreds of tasters were treated to a large variety of chilis, and the many chili providers were happy with the reception of their unique brands of chili. Additionally, the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) gained resources to continue providing assistance to local projects.

"We had over 20 chilis to taste and be judged by well over 700 eager customers," commented Kevin Barnes, LRC president. "There was everything from Thai chili, venison, vegetar-

ian, and even white bean and chicken to sample. At times, the line to get into the chili tent circled around the block and down Main Street." Barnes noted that "every kind of chili you can imagine was offered at the cook-off from very hot, veggie, and everything in between. It truly was a chili-lover's festival."

Kathy Burns, one of the chili providers, noted, "It was so fun to participate. Thanks for the push in all the years I added this great fun-filled event to my checklist. Very nicely done."

"Some of the winners of the tasters' voting were no strangers to winning at the cook-off," Barnes noted. As a result of the voting by the many taste-testers, the recipients of the People's Choice Awards were: first place, Chili Con Carlos, Carlos Iglesias; second place, Birds Nest, Shelli Steinfeld; third place, Contractor Approved, Contractor for Christ; and honorable mention, Saylor Family Chili, Chris Saylor.

The judges for the following awards were three area educational leaders. They are Ema Vastola, Cavendish Elementary principal; Lisa Marks, Ludlow fourth grade teacher; and Zoe Trimboli, Green Mountain Union High School paraprofessional/after-school program, who

decided the following winners in these categories: Best in Show, Thai Curry, Stemwinder; Team Spirit, Singleton's Best, Singleton's Store; Spiciest, Saylor Family Chili, Chris Saylor.

Barnes expressed the club's thanks to the many businesses and folks who made the cook-off possible. They were: Cayenne level – William Raveis Vermont Properties, Mary W. Davis Realtor and Associates, Master Plumbing and Heating, Servpro-Ryder Restorations, Cota & Cota Plumbing and Heating, Green Mountain Fire-side Specialties, Main and Mountain, Jeff Milligan Builders, Wright Constuction, Belmont Septic, and High Country Contractors; Chili Pepper level – Ted Stryhas Builders, Black River Mechanical, HB Plumbing and Heating, Burns and Associates, Sue Star-Adams, Diamond Point Wealth Partners, and James Young Attorney at Law; Jalapeno level – Wine and Cheese Depot, and Gassetts Group Builders; in kind – Benson's Chevrolet, Shaw's Supermarket, Wilcox Dairy, Ralph Pace, Okemo Mountain Resort, The Castle Inn, DJ's Restaurant, Frank Ellison, and The Hatchery.

The proceeds from the cook-off will be used by the LRC to continue its programs of aiding local groups and schools.

# ESBR Festival of Wreaths

LUDLOW, Vt. – Calling all area businesses and interested community members, to help make this season extra festive. The Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR) is excited to announce its Festival of Wreaths fundraiser, in which local businesses and/or individuals

are invited to decorate a holiday wreath to donate for a silent auction, to be held on Saturday, Nov. 29, from 1-4 p.m., at the Ludlow Community Center. All are welcome to attend the event and bid on these one-of-kind wreaths, as well as other exciting silent auction gifts

for this holiday season. All proceeds will benefit local education, as ESBR continues to serve the community with a unique and accessible learning experience. Now in its sixth year of operation based on the Expeditionary Model, ESBR students learn through many hands-

on, project-based activities, to complement their regular curriculum. Fundraising assists in assuring students have as many resources as possible to reach these learning goals. We hope all will join in this fun and festive way to support the students. Please reach out to Board Chair Patrick Pullinen at [ppullinen@esblackriver.org](mailto:ppullinen@esblackriver.org), or Board Secretary Marissa Selleck at [mselleck@esblackriver.org](mailto:mselleck@esblackriver.org) for further information.

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## LUDLOW

From Page 1

responded, "[The exemption] is for mixed-income housing, and they have a very specific statutory definition of that." Board member George Tucker also interjected that the development review board (DRB) could still exercise local control over what projects are permitted, regardless of state-level Act 250 exemptions.

The selectboard told Rasmussen that they were generally in favor of pursuing the Tier 1B designation.

Finally, McNamara spoke to the board regarding his submission to them of a letter of resignation, effective Dec. 5. By way of explanation, McNamara said, "[My resignation] has more to do with a self-reflection and career change, it has nothing to with the town and village of Ludlow, which I do, and still do, care very deeply about." This was met

with a round of applause from those present.

McNamara also gave several minor updates, noting that paving along main street was "coming to a close," and that work on the aging Jewell Brook dam sites, which had generated concern in the wake of the floods of July 2023, was progressing.

The Ludlow Selectboard meets on the first Monday of every month, at 6 p.m., in the Heald Auditorium at Ludlow Town Hall.

Every quarter, Lundgren Subaru contributes a sizeable donation to a charitable organization in our community.

This quarter, we ask that our community donate to our very own, **Todd**, who is battling stage 3 throat cancer.

Find Todd's GoFundMe page and hear his story at [www.lundgrensubaruofclaremont.com](http://www.lundgrensubaruofclaremont.com)

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# “Vermont Wildlife” at Springfield OLLI

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Michael Clough, executive director of the Vermont Museum of Natural History, will present the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) program “Vermont Wildlife” on Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center, next to St. Mary’s Church, on Pleasant Street in Springfield.

Clough will have examples of and artifacts representing Vermont’s natural wildlife, to help us encounter the wild side of the Northeast. He will discuss how the animals navigate incredible challenges to survive in our forests, fields, and wetlands. We’ll be able to touch furs, examine skulls, and investigate unique artifacts that re-

veal the hidden lives of these remarkable creatures. This engaging program will spark your curiosity and deepen your connection to the natural world right outside your door.

Sponsored by the University of Vermont, OLLI is run by local volunteer members, and is geared mainly towards seniors who are 50 years of age and older. Anyone who would be interested in this type of program, regardless of their age, is welcome.

You may view the entire semester’s programs by visiting [www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield](http://www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield). Preregistration can be done at this website with a credit card. You may also register over the phone, using your credit

card, by calling 802-656-8407 during regular office hours, Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. There is a membership series fee. Nonmembers are welcome and encouraged to attend individual programs for a single program fee. You may preregister for single programs through the above process.

If there are weather-related changes to the schedule, you can check the above website on the morning of the program.

The next program is on Nov. 11, with Bobby Farlice-Rubio, who will present “The Outer Limits: Exploring the Extremes of Astronomy.”

# Whiting Library hosts telescope how-to sessions

CHESTER, Vt. – Whiting Library and members of the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group (SoVerA) invite community members to a two-part miniseries on the basics of astronomy and telescopes. Presenters will answer participants’ questions and, weather permitting, offer the chance to use binoculars and telescopes to observe celestial objects in Vermont’s night sky.

On Thursday, Oct. 23, at 6 p.m., SoVerA members will present “Astronomy Basics: Telescopes.” The session will include a simple review of how telescope optics work, what to consider when pur-

chasing backyard telescopes or binoculars, and a look at massive new research telescopes being commissioned in the world’s deserts – developments that may transform our understanding of the universe. This hands-on demonstration and discussion is open to anyone, especially those interested in using their own telescope or Whiting Library’s telescope, which can be checked out for free. No prior experience is required.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, at 6 p.m., members will present “Astronomy Basics: The Sky.” Participants will learn how to locate objects in the night sky, and when to view them during different seasons and times. The session

will also highlight the best online sources for accurate, up-to-date sky information, and background resources for those who want to explore further.

These presentations are free and open to the public. To register, call 802-875-2277, or email [info@whitinglibrary.org](mailto:info@whitinglibrary.org).

Whiting Library is committed to making its services accessible to everyone. Persons requiring special assistance are encouraged to discuss their needs with the director. For more information about this or other programs, visit [www.whitinglibrary.org](http://www.whitinglibrary.org), call 802-875-2277, or stop by the library at 117 Main Street, Chester.

# The 38 Fastest Kids in Town at the Vermont Apple Festival

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Saturday, Oct. 11, the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center and Springfield Hospital continued their tradition of determining the Fastest Kids in Town, as part of the Vermont Apple Festival at Riverside Middle School. Each year, this fun, free race is held for youth

ages 5-12 throughout our region, to promote movement and exercise.

This year, 38 runners tested their abilities and speed in a 100- or 200-yard dash. The top finishers were Seamus Joyce and Madeline Badore, in the 5-6 years age group; Jackson Tomberg and Brinley Patch, for 7-8



Runners cross the finish line of the Fastest Kid in Town race. PHOTO PROVIDED

years; Evan Keefe and Aoife Joyce, for 9-10 years; and Arthur Wang and Eva Levy, for 11-12 years.

The first-place winners in each category received a medal for their achievement, and all registered runners received a T-shirt.

Thank you to the Springfield High School cross-country team volunteers for their invaluable help during the event.

For more information, call 802-885-2568, email [info@edgarmay.org](mailto:info@edgarmay.org), or visit [www.edgarmay.org](http://www.edgarmay.org).

# Women Making a Difference Luncheon

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, Vt. – The cochairs of the Women Making a Difference Committee, Vermont State Sens. Alison Clark and Rebecca White, announce awards for extraordinary service.

Sponsored by the Windsor County Democratic

Committee, the Women Making a Difference Luncheon is a biannual celebration of the efforts of local women who have made substantial contributions to their communities. Honorees for this year’s event, on Sunday, Nov. 2, at 12 p.m., at Thyme restaurant in White

River Junction, include Cindy Metcalf, of Bethel; Char Osterlund, of Springfield; and Donna Sweaney, of Windsor. Keynote speakers include U.S. Congressional Rep. Becca Balint, and new Vermont Democratic Party executive director May Hanlon. Join us in honoring

these women, whose tremendous accomplishments both inspire the next generation to serve, and model our democracy.

This biannual event generally sells out. Purchase your tickets or sponsor the event at [secure.actblue.com/donate/wmad](http://secure.actblue.com/donate/wmad).

# BRAM Festival of Lights fundraiser

LUDLOW, Vt. – Black River Academy Museum (BRAM) is seeking additional businesses, organizations, or individuals to join our Festival of Lights fundraiser event. Participants will sponsor a tree, which involves decorating an artificial tree of 5 feet or taller, with your own decorations and theme of your choice.

Lights must be battery-operated. We want everyone to have fun, be creative, and help us celebrate the season.

The Festival of Lights event will take place four Saturdays in a row: Nov. 22, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, and Dec. 13, when festivalgoers will view beautifully decorated trees at the museum. Purchased raffle tickets will be

placed inside a box next to each themed tree that they would like to win. A celebration and drawing of the winners of each tree will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

All proceeds will benefit the museum. BRAM is located at 14 High Street, Ludlow, Vt.

For more information,

or to sign up to sponsor a tree, please email Georgia Brehm at [gbrehm@tds.net](mailto:gbrehm@tds.net), or Heidi Baitz at [baitzgang6@gmail.com](mailto:baitzgang6@gmail.com).



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# health

## Ludlow Rotary celebrates World Polio Day

### Day

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) will join the thousands of other Rotary Clubs worldwide on Oct. 23, to celebrate World Polio Day.

Rotary International (RI), the parent organization for all Rotary Clubs, has supported the elimination of polio throughout the world. Each of its individual clubs, more than 4,000 of them, receives donations from its members to contribute to RI's global funding of a variety of assistance programs aimed at the total eradication of polio.

This effort consists of supplying the medically proven drugs to prevent polio, as well as user education.



A young boy receives oral vaccination against polio.

PHOTO PROVIDED

While most of the world has seen polio virtually totally reduced, there still are countries where polio is still prevalent. RI is aiming to eliminate these pockets of disease.

The LRC is asking each of its members to contribute to this drive. Thus far, the club has always sought 100% of membership to financially aid RI. This has been true each year since RI requested such contributions many years ago.

LRC Treasurer Kim Lambert noted that individuals and organizations not associated with LRC may still contribute to this effort. The LRC website, [www.portal.clubrunner.ca/2939](http://www.portal.clubrunner.ca/2939), will provide a link that may be used to donate to this polio eradication fund. The Polio Eradication Foundation may also be used for such donations, at [www.polioeradication.org/donate](http://www.polioeradication.org/donate).

## Springfield Hospital welcomes Tonia Fleming

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Hospital is pleased to welcome Tonia Fleming as director of marketing and planning, effective Oct. 6.

Fleming brings more than 25 years of experience in marketing and nonprofit management to this role, with a strong track record of organizational branding and advertising, building relationships, and increasing philanthropic revenue. She holds a bachelor's degree in French and economics from Wellesley College, and earned her Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago



Tonia Fleming.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Booth School of Business. She is a certified fundraising executive.

Fleming joins Springfield Hospital from Vermont Academy, where she served as director of advancement.

In that role, she led the school's development and engagement program, oversaw major giving initiatives, and helped guide its strategic direction. This position marks a return to Springfield Hospital for Fleming, who previously worked in the development office. During her earlier tenure, from 2011-2019, she played a key role in fundraising, grant writing, and event management.

Fleming lives in Chester, and is deeply committed to community service, having served on the boards of several local nonprofit organizations. She can be reached at [tfleming@springfieldhospital.org](mailto:tfleming@springfieldhospital.org) or 802-885-7621.

## Mount Ascutney Hospital names chief medical officer

WINDSOR, Vt. – Mount Ascutney Hospital and Health Center (MAHHC), a member of Dartmouth Health, has announced the appointment of Dr. Catherine A. Schneider as chief medical officer. Schneider has been the section chief of surgical services at MAHHC since 2016, and of anesthesia services since 2021. She previously served as the chief medical officer of MAHHC from 2011-2014, and she first joined MAHHC as a general surgeon in 2008.

"Dr. Schneider has long been a trusted physician leader at MAHHC, and I am delighted to continue working alongside her in her new role," said Dr. Matthew R. Foster, CEO and president of MAHHC and Valley Regional Hospital. "Her leadership and deep commitment to our patients and staff make her an invaluable part of our team."

Schneider has also



Catherine A. Schneider.

PHOTO PROVIDED

worked as a general surgeon at Dartmouth Health members New London Hospital, Valley Regional Hospital, and Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital (APD). From 2005-2007, she served as the medical staff president at APD.

Schneider received her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, where she also served as a research fellow, general surgery resident, and admin-

istrative chief surgical resident. She later completed a fellowship at the Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery, and earned a Master of Science in management from New England College.

In addition, Schneider is a fellow and Vermont chapter treasurer for the American College of Surgeons and the Vermont delegate to the American Medical Association. She is also a member of the Vermont Medical Society and the New England Surgical Society.

"I am very excited about my new role at Mount Ascutney Hospital. Since joining the medical staff in 2008, I have witnessed many changes in health care," said Schneider. "As CMO, I will work with my colleagues at Mount Ascutney and within Dartmouth Health to continue to provide outstanding care to our patients. I am looking forward to a close working relationship with Valley Regional Hospital, and their CMO Dr. Juliann Barrett."

## "Online Shopping for Seniors" at Ludlow Community Center

LUDLOW, Vt. – Can't find it in the store? Come

learn about shopping online. This lecture will provide a general introduction to shopping online using popular websites. Join us on Friday, Nov. 7, from 1-2 p.m., at the Ludlow Community Center. You'll learn how to search for products, make comparisons, and add items to an online shopping cart.

Senior Planet, a program of Older Adults Technology Services from AARP, empowers older adults to use technology so they can learn, work, create, and thrive in the digital age.

Its mission is built on the philosophy of "aging with attitude."

This is brought to you by Black River Good Neighbor Services and Fletcher Memorial Library, with support from the Godnick Adult Center and the Vermont Community Foundation. This program is free and accessible. For additional information about this and other Senior Planet workshops, call the library at 802-228-8921, or Black River Good Neighbor Services at 802-228-3663.



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# CHURCH SERVICES

# obituaries

## Isabel MacCauley, 1928-2025

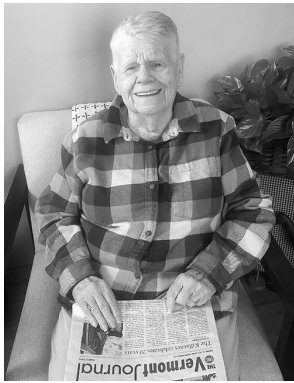
CHESTER, Vt. – Isabel (Fielder-Miller) MacCauley, 97, passed away on Oct. 14, 2025, at the Gill Odd Fellows Home, after a short illness. Born on Aug. 25, 1928, in Danby, Vt., she was the sixth of 10 children born to Robert and Ruby (Russett) Fielder.

Her marriage to Douglas MacCauley moved her to various towns in New York. Upon his death, she moved back to Vermont. She had an apartment in Chester, Vt., senior housing, living across the hall from her sister Arlene Lavallee. Both women drove, and they took many adventures together, visiting various families throughout Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and Vermont. They were quite the two-some.

She worked at Becton Dickinson in Canaan, Conn., for many years, maintaining those friendships through life. She never met anyone she couldn't carry on a conversation with. She was full of love, which she gave and received.

To Isabel, family was everything, and there were many of us. With nine siblings and their respective families, we were well over 200.

She is survived by her son Roger (Marianne) Miller, of Germantown, N.Y.; daughter Terry (Wilhelm) Rand and her husband Jim, of Chester, Vt.; grandchildren Melanie (Darren) Hoffman, Adam Miller (Ashlei Bauer), Laura Kalinen-Lober, Cole Wilhelm, Carter Wilhelm, Ron (Beth) Burmester, Lori Burmester, Paul (Melissa) Rand, and Megan Rand Giombetti; great-grand-



Isabel MacCauley, 1928-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

children Madison, Mason, and Maddox Miller, Mariah (Jake) Ficca, Paige Lopez, Jake, Emma, and Jed Lober, Jacqueline and Sebastian Burmester, Kyle Leuffen, MacKenzie Rand, and Garrett, Julianna, and Zachary Giombetti; and sister-in-law Janice Fielder; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

She is predeceased by her parents; husband Douglas MacCauley; former husband Edward Miller; in-laws Clyde and Lillian MacCauley; son-in-law Tom Wilhelm; siblings Leola (Guy) Russell, Gerald (Alice) Fielder, Joyce (Vern) Charles, Roberta (Maurice) Stoddard, Francis (Muriel) Fielder, Arlene (Joe) Lavallee, Dorothy (Arnold) Lauren, Harold (Edith) Fielder, and Milford Fielder; sister-in-law Martha Miller; and grandson Chad Miller.

There will be a private burial at Pleasant View Cemetery in Chester, Vt. A Celebration of Life will be held June 27, 2026, at the Andover Town Hall in Andover, Vt.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

## John M. Norton, 1937-2025

LUDLOW, Vt. – John M. Norton passed away peacefully in his sleep on Oct. 16, 2025, at the age of 88. He was born on July 9, 1937, the son of Bernard Norton and Eleanor Norton (Wheeler).

He married Maureen T. Norton, the love of his life, on Dec. 10, 1956, in Tyson, Vt. They celebrated 68 loving and devoted years together before Maureen's passing on Jan. 31, 2024.

John was extremely proud of having worked his first dump truck hauling loads of materials (gravel, etc.) for the State of Vermont while helping to build Interstate 91 from the Massachusetts border to just south of Brattleboro. This work led him to begin his own business, Norton Excavating Inc. He rebuilt several bridges for the State of Vermont in the Orwell and Middlebury, Vt., area. He was quite busy and very experienced in doing excavation and landscaping jobs for various primary and second homeowners, as well as flood damage repairs and other jobs for local towns. He constructed two sports fields for the Town of Ludlow, one at BRHS, and one at the complex on Pond Street.

John had a lifelong dream of driving a tractor-trailer over the road. He realized his dream a bit later in life, driving for C&S Wholesale for several years out of Brattleboro, delivering loads of groceries to grocery stores throughout southern New England. He loved driving and doing mechanical work on his equipment and cars. He continued doing excavating jobs until just a few years before his passing, when he lovingly became full-time at-home caregiver for Maureen.

John had a passion for going on long walks, and was most often seen along Route 100 in Tyson, beside lakes Echo and Amherst, in good weather or bad. Family was very important to John.



John Norton, 1937-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

In addition to his wife, John was predeceased by Maureen's parents Harvey and Hattie Gray, his parents Bernard Norton and Eleanor Norton, stepfather Clifford Wheeler (Eleanor), brothers John Wheeler and Arnold Norton, and sisters Ruth Kendall and Carole Blaise.

John is survived by a daughter Deborah Hyjek (Eugene), of Browns Summit, N.C.; two sons David Norton (Debra), of Proctorsville, Vt., and Darrin Norton (Hector), of North Springfield, Vt.; grandchildren Jeremy Hyjek (Monica), Christopher Norton (Kimberly), and Jonathan Norton (Michelle); great-grandchildren Kaylee Norton, Lena Hyjek, Lyndsee Norton, and Isabella White; his sister-in-law Marcia Manner (Kendall), of Ludlow; brothers David "Jack" Norton (Irene), of Salisbury, N.C., Everett Norton (Rose), of Ludlow, Vt., and Dennis Norton (Carol), of Ascutney, Vt.; sisters Charmaine Bidgood (Robert), of North Springfield, Vt., Colleen Johnson, of Newport, N.H., and Shirley Billings, of Rutland, Vt.; and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service for family members and friends will be held on Oct. 23, at 1 p.m., at Pleasant View Cemetery in Ludlow, Vt. Per John's wishes, no other services are planned.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting the family with the arrangements.

## Annette L. Couture, 1966-2025

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – Annette Lynn Couture, aka Lynn Esty, 59, passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 13, 2025, at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. She was born on July 15, 1966, in Springfield, Vt., the daughter of Robert and Beverly (Bradish) Howe.

Lynn was a librarian in Ascutney and Brownsville, Vt., for several years, and most recently was employed with Whelen Engineering in Charlestown, N.H.

She was very active in the Town of Weathersfield, holding many positions over the years, including constable, and working with the listers office and the fire commission.

Lynn loved animals, and fostered hundreds of animals, from horses to guinea pigs, but mostly dogs, working with several area rescue groups over the years.

Her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren any chance she could. She loved going to the beach in Maine. You would always see her crocheting anywhere she went, making blankets for her loved ones. She enjoyed riding and taking care of her horses. In her mid- to late-20s, she lived in Alaska, and was looking forward to visiting again.

She is survived by her daughters Ashley Smith (Patrick), of Weathersfield,



Annette Couture, 1966-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

Mikala Rein (Gregory), of Litchfield, Conn., and Emma McGuirk (Cole), of Springfield; her mother Beverly Howe-Fluette, of Weathersfield; her sisters Cathy Pollard, of Springfield, Sue Cox, of Baltimore, and Janet Howe, of Springfield; and five grandchildren Regan, Morgan, Evelyn, Mason, and Gregory Jr. She is also survived by the father of their three children Mike Esty, and by many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Lynn was predeceased by her father Robert Howe.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Perkinsville 1879 School House, 1862 Vermont Route 106, Weathersfield, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to or volunteer for your local humane society, or adopt a pet if you are able.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting with arrangements.

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

## CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

### North Charlestown United Methodist Church

Worship is Sundays at 9 a.m., with pastor Carolyn Greenwood. Holy communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month. Call 603-477-6985, or visit [www.facebook.com/UMCOofNorthCharlestown](http://www.facebook.com/UMCOofNorthCharlestown) for more information.

## LONDONDERRY, VT.

### Second Congregational Church of Londonderry

Worship service is at 9:30 a.m. in person or online. Fill out a form at [www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org](http://www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org) to be sent a link to the live stream.

## LUDLOW, VT.

### Annunciation Catholic Church

Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 9 a.m. For further information, see our website at [churchoftheannunciation.org](http://churchoftheannunciation.org), or call us at 802-228-3451.

## SPRINGFIELD, VT.

### First Congregational Church

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in person. Singing is encouraged! For more information, call 802-885-5728, email [fccucc@vermontel.net](mailto:fccucc@vermontel.net), or go to [www.firstchurchspringfield.org](http://www.firstchurchspringfield.org).

### North Springfield Baptist Church

All are welcome and invited to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. For more information, please email the church office at [office@nsbcvt.org](mailto:office@nsbcvt.org), or call 802-886-8107. We are handicap accessible.

**CHURCH SERVICES:** We run Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at [www.VermontJournal.com](http://www.VermontJournal.com).

## CHAVES EXCAVATING

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Londonderry, VT**



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

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# calendar

## LEGAL NOTICES

**OCT. 24 –**  
LONDONDERRY, Vt. – There will be an open house at the Londonderry Town Office building, 100 Old School Street, on Friday, Oct. 24, from 3-6 p.m. Meet and mingle with members of the town's renovation team, committees and board members, State Rep. Chris Morrow, and more.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Join us for an unforgettable night at The Barn at Fox Run in Ludlow, on Friday, Oct. 24, from 6-10 p.m. Step onto the dance floor, enjoy delicious food, and celebrate community spirit, all while supporting Senior Solutions, the area agency on aging for southeastern Vermont.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Hand and Foot card games will be held at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, on Friday, Oct. 24, at 1 p.m. For more information, contact

executive director Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

**OCT. 25 –**  
READING, Vt. – The Reading Greenhouse Arts & Crafts Fair will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25, and Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days, at the Reading Greenhouse, 786 Route 106 in Reading, Vt. The fair will feature more than 40 vendors, a musician jam, a food truck, cider pressing, demonstrations, tastings, tarot card readings, farm animals, and a small quilt exhibit. A vendor preview can be found at the Reading Greenhouse Facebook and Instagram pages. For more information, call 802-484-7272.

**NOV. 1 –**  
CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will host a Big Band Dance Night featuring Gerry Grimo and

the East Bay Dance Combo on Saturday, Nov. 1, 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.

READING, Vt. – The Reading Greenhouse Arts & Crafts Fair will be held on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., at the Reading Greenhouse, 786 Route 106 in Reading, Vt. The fair will feature more than 40 vendors, a musician jam, a food truck, cider pressing, demonstrations, tastings, tarot card readings, farm animals, and a small quilt exhibit. A vendor preview can be found at the Reading Greenhouse Facebook and Instagram pages. For more information, call 802-484-7272.

**SUNDAYS –**  
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness Airport in Springfield. The Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force tasked with the mission of supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. Cadets as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of volunteers.

**MONDAYS –**  
PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Mondays at 6:15 p.m., join Mikayla for a yoga class. Email mikayla@mikaylasmantra.net to register. Visit www.

dgbodysworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Zumba classes, Mondays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Aquatic Aerobics, Mondays at 10:35 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

**TUESDAYS –**  
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, will hold drop-in corn hole games every Tuesday, at 1 p.m. For more information, contact executive director Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Strengthen your core, improve posture, and enhance your overall mobility with a Pilates/yoga fusion class at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, every Tuesday, from 8-9 a.m. All levels welcome. Contact Lori Wright to register at 603-401-8123, or email loriwright163@gmail.com.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, will host an infant and toddler playgroup every Tuesday, from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., through Nov. 18. Best suited for ages 5 and younger. Playgroup is a great opportunity for kids and families to get together and enjoy interactive time together. Whether it's playing with cars, cooking up a meal in the play kitchen, or sharing a story, there are plenty of activities

available to choose from.

**WEDNESDAYS –**  
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Knitting Together, every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m., at Village Square Booksellers, knitting hats and mittens for our school kids. We provide yarn, some direction, and an enjoyable visit. Acrylic yarn donations are always welcome. For more information, contact Caroline at 802-463-4653.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Cardio & Sculpt, Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Aqua Sculpt, Wednesdays at 10:35 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

**THURSDAYS –**  
WALPOLE, N.H. – Alcoholics Anonymous women's meeting, a 12-step recovery program for women who have a desire to stop drinking, is happening every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of Westminster and Elm streets in Walpole, N.H. For more information, call Viva at 802-732-8330.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard will be at the Rockingham Library on Thursdays, from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. Both beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome.

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

LUDLOW, Vt. – Certified instructor Helena Wu will teach tai chi classes every

Thursday, from 9-10 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street in Ludlow. Classes are free, and are limited to 10 participants. Registration is required. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 802-228-7421, or Helena Wu at 802-289-7369.

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

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

**DAILY –**  
WINDHAM, Vt. – "Solidarity: Fabric, Thread & Needle," a textile art exhibition exploring cohesion and interconnectedness, will be on display at the Fourth Corner Foundation, 578 Hitchcock Hill Road, Windham, Vt., through Dec. 5. The gallery is open Monday-Thursday, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday by appointment. For more information, visit www.thefourthcornerfoundation.org, or email info@4cfoundation.org.

### TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN NH We're Hiring! Join Our Team Today!

Looking for a career with great Pay & Benefits?  
Look no further!

Come work for the Town of Charlestown!

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

#### Positions Available:

Highway Dept. Driver/Equipment Operator/Laborer - FT  
Water/Waste Water Licensed Superintendent - FT  
FT Police Officers  
Building Inspector - PT/On Call

Don't miss out! Start your career with us today. Apply now and take the first step toward a brighter tomorrow!

For more information Visit Charlestown-nh.gov, click on Volunteer & Employment.

Application available on the website or come in to the Town Office at 233 Main St. Charlestown NH

### TOWN OF OF CAVENDISH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION

A public hearing before the Planning Commission for the town of Cavendish will be held at the Cavendish Town Hall On November 5th 2025 at 6:00 PM. to consider a conditional use application regarding the proposed improvements at 67 Mill St, Cavendish. A site visit to the property will be on November 5, 2025 at the above address at 4:00 PM.

**Appellant:** Adam Sebastian  
**Property Location:** 67 Mill St  
Cavendish, VT

**Reason For Hearing:** Proposed improvements are within the Floodway Fringe as defined in the Cavendish Flood Hazard Regulations which require a Conditional Use Hearing with the Cavendish Planning Commission.

The above application is available for inspection at the Cavendish Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing to the Planning Commission. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Cavendish Planning Commission PO Box 126 Cavendish VT 05412 either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Tim Calabrese  
Chair, Cavendish Planning Commission  
10/16/25

### TOWN OF CHESTER DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING FOR APPEAL OF DENIAL OF REQUEST TO ISSUE NOTICES OF VIOLATION

Leslie Thorsen and Scott Kilgus have filed an appeal of the denial of their request that the Town of Chester issue Notices of Violation against Allstone Properties (Julian Materials) regarding the quarry and property located at 137 Chandler Road in Chester, Vermont.

The Town of Chester Development Review Board will hold a hearing on this appeal at 6:00 PM on Monday, November 10, 2025, at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester. The appeal and related information may be viewed on the Town of Chester website home page at www.chestervt.gov.

Participation in this hearing in person, via Zoom videoconference, or in writing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

A link to participate in this hearing via Zoom videoconference may be found on the Town of Chester website home page at www.chestervt.gov.

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 17th day of October 2025.

Hugh Quinn  
Zoning Administrator  
(802) 875-2173  
zoning@chestervt.gov

### Town of Chester 556 Elm Street, Chester VT, 05143 Seeking bids for Cleaning Services - Available for site inspections

Chester Town Hall is seeking proposals from qualified and experienced cleaning service providers to offer janitorial and commercial cleaning services for our facilities located at 556 Elm Street, Chester Vermont.

- Weekly/Monthly services: Offices & Conference Room (Day and Time, to be discussed. Cleaning only when offices are closed)
- Weekly/Monthly services: HALL Upstairs
- Number of Restrooms: 3 (2 downstairs 1 upstairs)
- Number of Offices/Rooms: 8 Offices downstairs, 1 Hall

#### Questions & Proposals

All questions and proposals regarding this ad must be submitted in writing by November 21, 2025, to Town of Chester, P.O. Box 370, Chester VT, 05143, or email sam.vertefeulle@chestervt.gov, Assistant Town Clerk.

# LEGAL NOTICES

# classifieds

## BUYING/SELLING

BUYING-SELLING Coins, Paper \$\$, Vintage Sports Postcards, Comics. See our displays at antique centers in Chester and Quechee. Open 7 Days. 802-379-2353. House calls available.

repairing gravel driveways. Serving Springfield, Vt. area. Call/text 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

## FIREWOOD

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Firewood for sale, free delivery within 15 mile radius of Cavendish. Starting at \$325 per cord. Contact 802-376-8638.

## CLEAN OUTS + MORE

EZ-Dump Enterprises has a 15-yard dump trailer available. We're also here for heating equipment, appliance removal, home/storage unit clean outs, stump grinding, and refinishing/

## SNOW PLOWING

LUDLOW, Vt. – Snowplowing and sanding, Ludlow area, residential only. Reasonable rates. Contact SK Logging at 802-384-0313.

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

**DIRECTORY LISTING**  
Start at \$150 for 13 weeks,  
for approximately a 20-word listing.  
Starting at \$250 for 26 weeks or \$400 for 52 weeks.  
*Email ads@vermontjournal.com with your listing today*

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Weathersfield Fire Department**

The Weathersfield Fire Department has identified the need for a First Responder Service to operate in Weathersfield, VT within the Town of Weathersfield within the existing coverage area for West Weathersfield and Ascutney and is applying for licensure by the Vermont Department of Health. This service proposes to be in operation on November 1, 2025, within the geographic boundaries of Weathersfield in its entirety. In accordance with 24 V.S.A. Emergency Medical Services Statute, public comments are invited and must be received by the Department no later than 14 days from October 22, 2025.

Comments may be sent to:  
Vermont Department of Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness and EMS, PO Box 7, Burlington, VT 05402-0070

**TOWN & VILLAGE OF LUDLOW DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/96035517223?pwd=aW1JUDRSTWNCMDIGd1Q4M1ZxS1JHdz09>  
**Meeting ID 960 3551 7223**  
**Passcode 153190**

A public hearing before the Ludlow Development Review Board will be held on Monday November 10, 2025 at 6:00 P.M., in the Howard Barton Jr. Conference Room, at the Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot Street, and via Zoom, to hear the following applications:

- Winterplace at Okemo Condominium Owners Association application #081-94-PRD, Amendment No.21 to partition the lower floor of Unit R2 to create a bonus room.
- Okemo Trailside Community Association application #128-98-PUD, Amendment No.71 and #496-23-Act250, Amendment No.3 to reconstruct Building #7 at 60 Trailside Extension following a fire in October 2024. The meeting Agenda will be available on Ludlow's Web page, [www.ludlow.vt.us](http://www.ludlow.vt.us) with the Zoom ID and the URL link.

Additional information about this application is available in the Planning and Zoning office at the Town Hall.

Erin Ladd  
Director of Planning & Zoning

**Town & Village of Ludlow, Vermont Municipal Manager's Position Available**

The Town & Village of Ludlow is seeking a highly motivated and experienced individual to serve as its full-time Town & Village Municipal Manager. This critical position is responsible for overseeing all functions of the Town & Village and its departments, ensuring compliance with local ordinances and State/Federal statutes. The successful candidate will possess a strong understanding of local government, and community development, with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

**Minimum Qualifications**  
A Bachelor's degree in public administration or relevant field with at least five years of municipal government experience is desired (Master's preferred). Senior management experience of other government or business organizations may be substituted.

Must hold a valid US driver's license.

Salary Range is \$115,000.00 - \$130,000.00 and will commensurate with experience/knowledge of this position.

**Interested candidates should send their resume to:**  
Town & Village of Ludlow  
Attn: Brett Sanderson  
P.O. Box 359  
Ludlow, Vermont 05149  
**Or**  
Email directly to Brett Sanderson, Select Board Chair: [bsanderson@ludlow.vt.us](mailto:bsanderson@ludlow.vt.us)

An in-depth job description for this position can be found on our website: [www.ludlow.vt.us](http://www.ludlow.vt.us)

If you have any questions, you may contact our Municipal Office at 802-228-2841, who would be happy to assist you.

**Water/Wastewater Assistant Operator**

The Village of Ludlow Water and Sewer Department is seeking a professional, highly motivated and responsible person to join our team.

The successful candidate must be eager to learn, have a professional attitude and have a strong work ethic. He/She must have the ability to work with tools, replace pumps and motors, perform routine lab work and input data into a computer. Therefore, knowledge of Microsoft Word/Excel along with strong math skills are a plus. In addition, the successful candidate will follow established procedures to assure that the water and wastewater treatment plants continue to run at high standards while following all Town/Village safety policies.

Reliable attendance with sound work performance and strong communication skills are required along with the ability to listen, understand and carry out written and oral instructions. The successful candidate will need to provide on-call coverage as assigned including rotating weekends and possible nights and holidays during emergencies.

Water and Wastewater treatment experience is preferred, along Vermont Water and Wastewater Certifications would be ideal. The ability to obtain Vermont Class 3 Water, Class D Water and Grade 3 Wastewater Certifications WITHIN TWO YEARS of employment is required.

Room for advancement is available and is based on work performance and professionalism. Must work with the public concerning water and sewer issues with a strong commitment to customer service.

Benefits include no-cost health insurance, VLCT pension plan, dental insurance and life insurance. Also paid sick time, personal days and holidays. Pay range is \$28.00 - \$34.00/hour, based on Class Level.

**Required:**  
High school diploma or equivalent  
Driver's license  
Effective communication skills  
Basic math and computer skills  
Reliable transportation  
Must live within 30 minutes of Ludlow, VT

**To Apply:**  
Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to:  
Brendan McNamara Municipal Manager Town of Ludlow  
PO Box 359  
Ludlow, VT 05149  
Or via email to: [bmcnamara@ludlow.vt.us](mailto:bmcnamara@ludlow.vt.us)  
The Village of Ludlow is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**TOWN OF LUDLOW**

The Town of Ludlow is accepting applications for a full-time Paramedic. Full-time staff work two (2) 24-hour shifts per week, with overtime after 40 hours.

We are seeking a skilled and motivated Paramedic who demonstrates a strong work ethic, attention to detail, and a passion for community well-being and departmental growth.

**Responsibilities include:**

- Providing emergency medical services and emergency transport
- Responding to technical rescue incidents
- Covering special events
- Performing additional duties as assigned

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Current National Registry and/or Vermont Paramedic certification
- Valid ACLS & PALS
- Valid BLS CPR certification
- High school diploma or GED
- Valid driver's license

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- FP-C or CCP-C certification
- Current Vermont Pro-Board FFI/FFII certification
- AHA CPR/First Aid Instructor certification

**Selection Process:**  
Candidates must successfully complete an oral board interview, practical exam, MMPI, and a full background check (motor vehicle and criminal record review).

**Compensation & Benefits:**

- Pay commensurate with certification level and experience: Wage Range \$28.12/hr. - \$40.92/hr.
- Comprehensive benefits package, including:
  - o 100% Town-paid dental, health, life, and disability insurance
  - o Retirement plan through Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System – Plan D (employee/employer contributions)

**To Apply:**  
Please send a cover letter and résumé to:  
Ludlow Ambulance Service  
ATTN: Ben Whalen, Fire Chief  
PO Box 359  
Ludlow, VT 05149  
Phone: (802) 228-2211  
Email: [bwhalen@ludlow.vt.us](mailto:bwhalen@ludlow.vt.us)

**TOWN OF LUDLOW**

The Town of Ludlow, VT is accepting applications for Part-Time Paramedics, A-EMTs, and EMTs. Part-time personnel work an average of 24 hours per week, scheduled in 12- or 24-hour shifts.

We are seeking skilled and motivated Paramedics, AEMT's, and EMTs who demonstrate a strong work ethic, attention to detail, and a passion for community well-being and departmental growth.

**Responsibilities include:**

- Providing emergency medical services and emergency transport
- Responding to technical rescue incidents
- Covering special events
- Performing additional duties as assigned

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Current National Registry and/or Vermont certification
- Valid ACLS & PALS
- Valid BLS CPR certification
- High school diploma or GED
- Valid driver's license

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- FP-C or CCP-C certification
- Current Vermont Pro-Board FFI/FFII certification
- AHA CPR/First Aid Instructor certification

**Selection Process:**  
Candidates must successfully complete an oral board interview, practical exam, MMPI, and a full background check (motor vehicle and criminal record review).

**Compensation & Benefits:**

- Pay commensurate with certification level and experience. Wage Range: \$20.55/hr. - \$28.96/hr.
- Holiday Pay
- Accrued Sick Leave

**To Apply:**  
Please send a cover letter and résumé to:  
Ludlow Ambulance Service  
ATTN: Ben Whalen, Fire Chief  
PO Box 359  
Ludlow, VT 05149  
Phone: (802) 228-2211  
Email: [bwhalen@ludlow.vt.us](mailto:bwhalen@ludlow.vt.us)

# history

## LEGAL NOTICES

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## SAHS Annual Meeting

### Town of Plymouth, Vermont Part-Time Assessor

An assessor is a local government official responsible for determining the market value of all real property within a town, by conducting physical inspections, analyzing market data, and maintaining property records, ultimately creating the basis for property tax calculations within the municipality; their primary duty is to ensure fair and equitable property tax assessments for all residents by accurately valuing each property according to established guidelines.

Key responsibilities of a town assessor include:

- Conducting field inspections of properties to assess their condition, size, and features to determine market value.
- Researching comparable sales data, market trends, and property appraisal techniques to support valuation decisions.
- Maintaining a comprehensive list of all taxable properties within the town, including property descriptions and assessed values.
- Reviewing and approving property tax exemptions for qualified individuals or properties.
- Responding to property owner inquiries regarding assessments, explaining valuation methodologies, and addressing concerns.
- Staying updated on local and state property assessment laws and regulations.
- Participating in periodic revaluation projects to ensure assessments reflect current market conditions.
- Generating reports on assessment activity, maintaining detailed property records, and complying with data reporting requirements.
- All other duties as assigned.

Required skills and qualifications:

- Thorough understanding of real estate appraisal principles, market trends, and property valuation methodologies.
- Ability to analyze complex data, draw accurate conclusions, and make sound valuation judgments.
- Meticulous recordkeeping and accuracy in data entry to ensure proper property assessment calculations.
- The job requires interaction with the public, so a professional demeanor, good public relation skills and interpersonal skills are a must.
- Experience with assessment software (NEMRC, CAMA, Proval, VTPIE) is desirable.
- Assessor Level Certification is preferred.

Please submit your resume and/or a completed application to the Plymouth Town Clerk's Office at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont 05056 or email [clerk@plymouthvt.org](mailto:clerk@plymouthvt.org). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Plymouth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Art and Historical Society (SAHS) will be holding its Annual Meeting at on Oct. 25, at 1 p.m., at 65 Route 106, North Springfield. The public is invited to the meeting and program, but only members can vote at the meeting. There will be a short business meeting at 1 p.m., and the program “A Photographic Trip Through Time” by Rosanne “Bunni” Putnam will begin at 2 p.m.

Putnam, former president of SAHS, will present another of her interesting historical Springfield programs using the society's photograph collection. This

program will take you around town, showing places that have changed, and some of the history about the change. It will include items like the fire stations in North Springfield and Springfield, covered bridges, and the ice house, to name a few. Springfield is more than the machine tool business. So, come and hear about these many changes you may not know of, or may have forgotten about.

This program is free and open to all. For more information, email [sahs@vermontel.net](mailto:sahs@vermontel.net), or call 802-



Archival photo of Clinton Street in Springfield.

PHOTO PROVIDED

886-7935. Please note, new padded chairs are available for your comfort, and the

new Springfield puzzle will be for sale – a great Christmas gift idea.

## Autumn Pilgrimage Open House at the Rockingham Meeting House

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Celebrate the season and your community's heritage at the Autumn Pilgrimage Open House, on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., at the historic Rockingham Meeting House.

Enjoy a full day of his-

tory, learning, and fall fun. Discover plans for the preservation project, kicking off construction in spring 2026, and hear the latest updates on the building's restoration plans.

At 11 a.m., join us for “A Conservation Conversa-

tion,” a lively talk and Q&A session about the future of the meeting house, and how the community can get involved.

All day long, explore exhibits and tours highlighting building and site archaeology, the history of Old Rockingham Village, and the graveyard and old town tomb. Warm up with mulled

cider and donuts, and enter to win door prizes that will sweeten your day. The meeting house is not heated, so bring along an extra sweater.

Admission is free; everyone is welcome to take part in this celebration of local history, community spirit, and autumn charm.

For details, visit [www.rockinghamvt.org/rmh](http://www.rockinghamvt.org/rmh).

### SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT Springfield, VT REQUEST FOR PLOWING BIDS

The Springfield Board of School Directors will receive bids for the plowing, sanding, and salting at Springfield High School and Riverside Middle School for the winters of 2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028. For bid specifications or to request a site review call (802) 885-5120. The site review will lay out the areas to be cleared and to be used for dumping snow. Said bids shall be received until and no later than 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 30, 2025.

The Board of School Directors reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to accept the bid that in the opinion of the board serves the best interest of the District, and to waive any informality in the bidding.

The Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District will be holding two public hearings to receive comments on its draft Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP). The public hearings will be hybrid meetings, held in person at Mount Ascutney Regional Planning Commission office at 38 Ascutney Park Rd in Ascutney, VT and via Zoom. The public hearings will be on Nov. 6, 2025, and Jan 22, 2026; both meetings will be held at 1:00 p.m.

To view a copy of the draft SWIP, find the Zoom links and copies of agendas, go to [www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org](http://www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org).

### Art Crafts Gifts

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**Workshops-** See <https://galleryvault.org/workshops/>  
Doodle Art - Yoga for the Brain with Antje Ruppert Oct. 24 2-4  
Raku Pottery with Andrew Berends, Nov. 1 & 8  
Paint New England Barns in Watercolor w/ Rob O'Brien, Nov. 15

Handpainted silk scarf show- *Faces & Flowers* by Terri Flowers

**Open Wall Show - Stepping into Nature**  
(01/14/26 - TFN - 13)

### Builders/Contractors

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(11/05/25 - 52)

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(11/19/25 - 52)

#### PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

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(11/12/25 - 13)

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(11/12/25 - 13)

#### ROSE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT

New in 2025-2026, offering weekly or monthly house checks. Booking for fall & winter 2025 projects. Also offer carpentry, remodeling, interior & exterior painting, window & door replacements, vinyl siding washing, pressure washing, drywall repairs, and odd jobs. Call 802-591-0019 or email [billr2808@gmail.com](mailto:billr2808@gmail.com). Cavendish, VT.

(11/08/25 - 26)

#### THE SEMI RETIRED PAINTER

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(12/05/25 - 13)

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(11/26/25 - 13)

### Chiropractor

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Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
(08/12/26 - TFN - 52)

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(01/28/26 - 52)

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(11/19/25 - 13)

#### MOORE MASONRY

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(04/08/26 - 26)

### Tools

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(12/17/25 - 13)

# PROS TO KNOW

# real estate

## VAR names Katie Gilbert recipient of the 2025 Good Neighbor Award

**REGION** – The Vermont Association of Realtors (VAR) is proud to announce Katie L. Gilbert, of the Windsor County Board of Realtors, as the 2025 Good Neighbor Award recipient. The award honors Realtors who make extraordinary contributions to their communities through volunteerism, service, and advocacy.



Katie Gilbert.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY WWW.KW.COM

Gilbert's commitment is seen year-round through monthly gift baskets for teachers at eight schools, care baskets for veterans

and first responders, and Thanksgiving fruit bread deliveries to nine nursing

homes. She leads annual fundraisers for The Haven, David's House, and

Listen, while her charitable silent auction generates significant support for local causes.

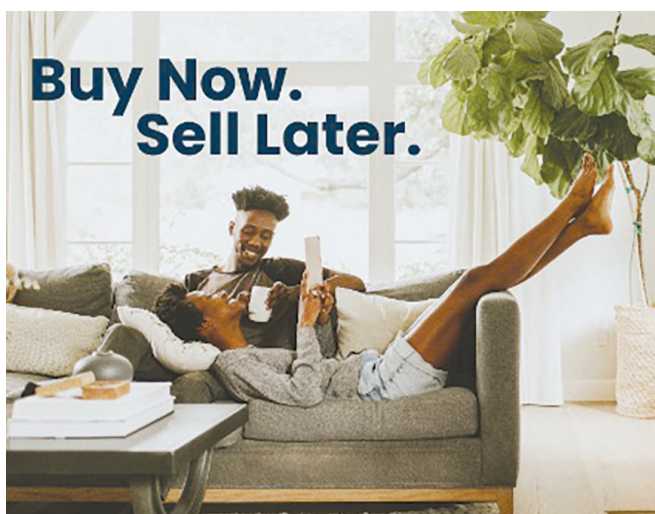
In addition to her direct outreach, Gilbert serves on the boards of the Rotary Club of Windsor, the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, and the Windsor Improvement Corp., and is a Copper Sponsor of The Prouty, benefiting cancer research. Her dedication to affordable housing, animal welfare, education, and community service exemplifies the Realtor spirit.

## Buy your next home without waiting to sell

**REGION** – Picture this: You find the perfect home, the one that checks every box, but your cash is tied up in your current house. Or worse, your offer has to be contingent on selling first, so the seller picks someone else. This happens all the time, and it's exactly why the Prime Lending Home Transition Loan exists.

This short-term loan lets you tap into your equity before your current home sells. That means you can buy first, sell later, and do it all on your terms. Here's how it can work for you.

Access your equity now so you can make a competitive down payment without waiting for closing day. For example, a couple with \$180,000 in equity used part of it to buy their next home right away, then sold their old one two months later for full market value.



Buy your next home without waiting to sell your current one.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Make a stronger, non-contingent offer that gets noticed; in a competitive market, this can be the difference between winning and losing the house you want.

Avoid rushed sales or temporary housing by buying first, then taking the time to sell for the best

price. For example, one family avoided moving twice and storage costs because they could buy their new home before listing their old one.

The loan gives you short-term flexibility, with 6-12 month options designed to bridge the gap between buying and selling, and no

monthly payments in most cases, with interest deferred until your current home sells. The loan is typically repaid from the sale proceeds, so there's no long-term debt to worry about.

Whether you're moving up, relocating, or downsizing, the Prime Lending Home Transition Loan can take the pressure off and put you in a stronger buying position.

Provided by Victoria Blodgett, Prime Lending, Ludlow, Vt.

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# halloween events

## Trunk-or-Treats and Halloween events

**OCT. 25 –**

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –** Join the third annual trunk-or-treat on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 4:30-7:30 p.m., with Twin Falls Training Center, 9B Spencer Drive. Admission by donation. This year will be bigger and better than ever, featuring creative trunks, music, craft table, food trucks, bounce house and carnival-style games, prizes for Best Family Costume and Best Decorated Trunk. Open gym tickets can be purchased online or at the door; age 5 and under, 4:30-5:30 p.m.; ages 6-13, 5:30-6:30; mixed ages, 6:30-7:30 p.m.



**Don't miss your local Halloween festivities!**  
PHOTO PROVIDED BY BENSON'S CHEVROLET

donuts, ice cream, wagon rides, and the petting zoo.

**OCT. 29 –**

**CLAREMONT, N.H. –** On Wednesday, Oct. 29, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., join the Riverbank Church, 75 Winter Street, for a family-friendly trunk-or-treat. Bring your family, in costume of course, to experience the 50-car trunk-or-treat, as well as additional special touches to make this a memorable night.

**OCT. 26 –**

**WALPOLE, N.H. –** Join us for another trunk-or-treat car show at Alyson's Orchard, 57 Alyson's Lane, on Sunday, Oct. 26, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Trunk-or-treat begins at 1 p.m. Dress in your best, and come enjoy some fresh apple cider

**LUDLOW, Vt. –** The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will host a Halloween costume party on Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m. All ages are welcome. There will be a \$50 cash prize for the best costume. Refreshments will be served. Free cash bingo will follow.

**OCT. 30 –**

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –** Join the All4One Trunk-or-Treats, on Thursday, Oct. 30, from 5-7 p.m., at Elm Hill School, 10 Hoover Street, and Union Street School, 43 Union Street.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –** On Thursday, Oct. 30, at 1 p.m., come help decorate treats for the Springfield Senior Center Halloween Party. The center is located at 139 Main Street. For more information, contact executive director Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

**OCT. 31 –**

**CLAREMONT, N.H. –** On Friday, Oct. 31, trick-or-Treat at the Claremont History Museum, 26 Mulberry Street, from 6:30-8 p.m. Just treats, no tricks.

**LUDLOW, Vt. –** Join the Benson's Chevrolet annual Trunk-or-Treat on Friday, Oct. 21, from 5-7 p.m., at 25 Pond Street. Fun for all ages and friendly pets.

**LUDLOW, Vt. –** Calling all ghouls, goblins, and Halloween revelers. On Friday, Oct. 31, the Ludlow Health Center, 1 Elm Street, will host a spooktacular trunk-or-treat, from 5-8 p.m., in the health center parking lot. Our dedicated staff will be there with trunks decked out and ready to hand out treats, no tricks. Bring your costumes, candy buckets, and Halloween spirit. This family-friendly event is free, fun, and open to the community.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –** There will be a Halloween party at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, on Friday, Oct. 31, at 1 p.m. Mickey Dopp will provide the music for this spooky event. Wear your favorite costume. For more information, contact executive director Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

## Bellows Falls Haunted House

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –** Halloween is coming. Are you ready to tour the scariest place in Bellows Falls?

For one night only, enter if you dare the hallowed halls and catacombs beneath the opera house, and help us raise funds for the town hall lower theater renovation project. Sponsored by the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance, the haunted house will take place Thursday, Oct. 30, from 5-9 p.m.

There will be two options: low scare, from 5-6 p.m., and full scare from 6:30-9 p.m.

Admission is by sug-

gested donation. All profits will go toward the lower theater renovation project, to include electrical and plumbing upgrades, with a commercial kitchen available for community use. The town has applied for a T-Mobile Hometown Grant, and donations raised will support that match.

Help us raise funds for the Rockingham Town Hall, while we entertain you until you scream.

Sponsor the event or donate online at See My Legacy, the BFDDA online fundraising platform, app. [seemylegacy.com/community/1206/campaign/1360/overview](http://seemylegacy.com/community/1206/campaign/1360/overview).

## Pasture Pals Halloween at VINE Sanctuary

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –** Get ready for a spooktacularly kind celebration on Saturday, Nov. 1, at 11 a.m., at VINE Sanctuary's Pasture Pals: Halloween Edition. Kids and families are invited to join us for a morning of pumpkin-filled fun, where creativity, compassion, and animals come together.

The festivities will include a pumpkin art party. Paint, decorate, and personalize your very own pumpkin masterpiece. We provide nontoxic supplies. When

we're done, we'll share the fun with our animal friends, feeding the decorated pumpkins to the goats, cows, and chickens who call the sanctuary home.

Costumes are encouraged. Come dressed for Halloween magic; please, no scary masks or toy weapons.

This is a perfect event for families who love animals, nature, and seasonal fun. Space is limited, so grab your spot today and join us for a morning of laughter, learning, and love.

Let's make Halloween a little more compassionate this year, one pumpkin at a time.

Reserve your spot at [www.bit.ly/pasturepals](http://www.bit.ly/pasturepals).

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Thursday Irish Session with Gypsy Reel at 6:30pm

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# arts & entertainment

## Community Art Garden children's programs

CHESTER, Vt. – Community Art Garden in Chester, Vt., has a fun lineup of classes for children of all ages this fall.

ArtCrew is a program for ages 5-10 that meets twice a month, on Mondays, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Playfully creative, this class spends as much time outside exploring the natural world as it does inside, and offers traditional and nontraditional art experiences. From painting, to collage, to the “inspiration art” that comes from dramatic play, this is a sweet spot in our schedule.

For children who are interested in learning more about the healing herbs around them, Little Herbalists runs for four sessions October-May, on Fridays, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., starting Oct. 24. Over the course of the year, each class will spotlight a simple Vermont backyard

plant, exploring its look, feel, and traditional uses in an age-appropriate way (e.g., tea, salve, compress). As they discover these plants, children will also create their own mini-field guide, adding pages each week with drawings, notes, and pressed samples. By the end of the program, every participant will carry home a handmade plant guide.

After School ART will run the second and third Tuesdays of the month, for ages 5-12, from 3-4:30 p.m. Ages 4 and under may attend with a caregiver. This twice-a-month class will be a chance to explore art materials and projects with a seasonal theme. November will feature leaves and pinecones, with invitations to create pinecone pets and leaf spin art, as well as explore the studio, including the popular sensory play

kitchen and curated art stations.

For the teens and tweens, Wildflower Atelier is a new program which runs after school on Fridays, from 4-5:30 p.m., once a month, starting Oct. 24, and is for children ages 11-18. In the first session, “Wildflower Wardrobe,” the class will transform everyday clothing into one-of-a-kind statement pieces, using techniques like bedazzling, needle felting, and embroidery.

Community Art Garden is located at 287 Main Street, right next to Six Loose Ladies, and has been offering hands-on creative experiences in Chester, Vt., since 2013. Find more details or registration information at [www.communityartgarden.com](http://www.communityartgarden.com).

## Open Wall submissions, Raku workshop

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – You are invited to show your work at Gallery at the VAULT, in our Open Wall show. This is a chance to display your work in a nonjuried show. There is no fee. It is great for artists who would like to get their work out there for the first time, as well as for seasoned artists.

The next show's theme is “Moments of Joy,” which will be on display from Oct. 29 – Dec. 26. You can bring in two works if they are 18 inches by 20 inches or smaller, or one if it is larger. Sculpture, pottery, etc., are appreciated just as much as wall art. The work needs to be suitable for viewing by all ages. Wire on the back of wall art is needed for our hanging system. The time to bring in your

creation is Wednesday, Oct. 22 – Saturday, Oct. 25, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Gallery at the VAULT is also excited to offer a raku pottery workshop with Andrew Berends on two consecutive Saturdays, Nov. 1 and Nov. 8, from 1-5 p.m. each day. Register by Saturday, Oct. 25.

Berends will be teaching the exciting Japanese firing technique known as raku. The firings take about an hour, and you get a finished piece at the end. Raku is a fun, exciting technique, where pots are fired to 1,840 degrees, pulled out of the hot kiln, and manipulated with sawdust and water to change the look of the glazes.

The class will include wheel-throwing, slab-making, and extruding instruction. The first day will include making all types of clay work, and the second day will be glazing and firing all the pots in the raku tradition. Emphasis will be on being creative, and learning the basics of pottery. The class is geared towards teens through adults, and limited to four students.

Berends has been a master potter for over 30 years, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from

the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, as well as a Master of Fine Arts from Montana State University. He worked with a Spanish folk potter for a year, and was also a guest artist-in-residence at Anderson Ranch in Snowmass, Colo. Upon moving to Vermont in 1988, he became a professional production/art potter, and has exhibited internationally, as well as being represented by over 180 galleries nationally.

The cost of the workshop is discounted for gallery members, and includes 25 pounds of clay, glazes, and firing costs in a gas-fired kiln. Wear old clothing, and bring pottery tools if you have them. Directions to Berends' studio in Springfield will be given at registration.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Fridays, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email [galleryvault@vermontel.net](mailto:galleryvault@vermontel.net), visit [www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org), or stop by the gallery. Gallery at the VAULT is handicapped accessible.

## Nordic Harmoni benefit concert

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Nordic Harmoni invites all to join us for a benefit concert on Oct. 24, at 5 p.m., at the Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, Vt. We are delighted to be singing together under the wonderful direction of Lorri Bond, and most of the free-will offering proceeds from this concert will be given to The Neighbors Pantry in Londonderry, Vt.

Recently, a memo from The Neighbors Pantry included the following information: “As you may know, The Neighbors Pantry, a not-for-profit organization in Londonderry, has been serving eight mountain community towns (Londonderry, South Lon-

donderry, Jamaica, Landgrove, Peru, Weston, Winhall, and Windham) since 1988. The Neighbors Pantry distributes food and other supplies to any community member in need residing in the above towns, with operating hours on the first and third Friday of each month, from 1-4 p.m. Emergency distributions are also available.

“The Neighbors Pantry is an all-volunteer organization – no salaries, no benefits, and no overhead! We rely on contributions from community members to fund all expenses...

“From 2023-2024, the number of individual households served increased over 10%. We are

seeing similar increases and trends in 2025, and expect more individual households to seek our services given the budget cuts and regulatory changes (discussed below). As we are all experiencing, food costs are inflationary in general, resulting in increased costs to procure the food needed for the community.

“Significant budget cuts at the federal level earlier this year have reduced funding for state food banks and programs addressing food insecurity.”

Nordic Harmoni is the

only Swedish-American chorus in southern Vermont, which enjoys sharing Scandinavian heritage and traditions. We welcome all interested singers to join us for rehearsals at the Second Congregational Church in Londonderry, where we sing both in English (70%) and Swedish (30%). You do not need to know Swedish to join – we will help all with pronunciations. To learn more about us, visit [www.auss.org/nordic](http://www.auss.org/nordic) or the Nordic Harmoni Facebook page, or email Lorri Bond at [larelcy@gmail.com](mailto:larelcy@gmail.com).



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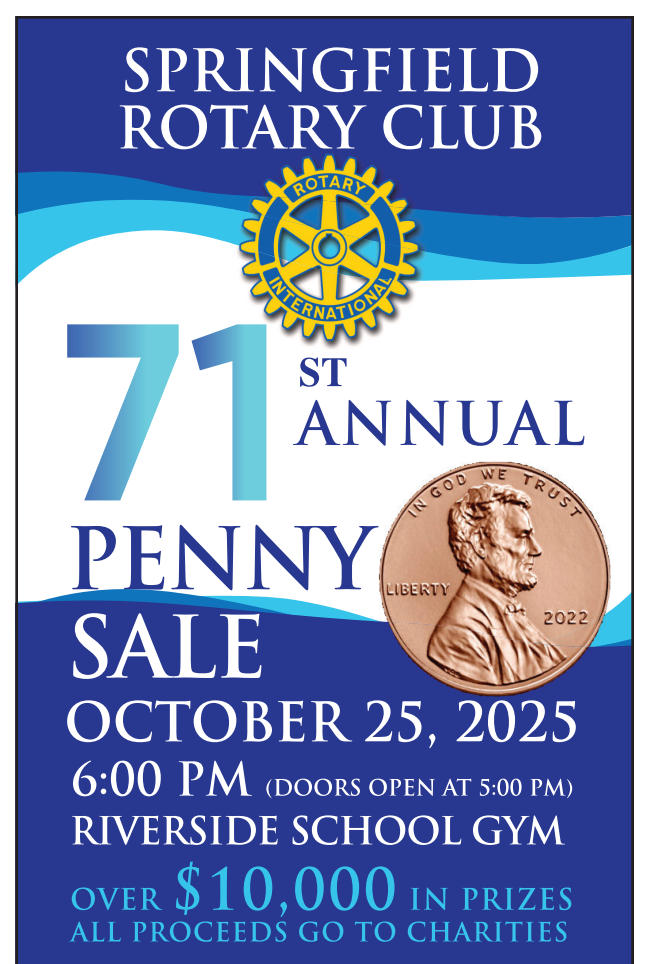
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# fall home improvement

## Identifying invasives in autumn

**REGION** – This week, we'll focus on specific shrubs that turn color after our native trees and shrubs, making them easy to find. Pictures of these invasive plants can be found at [www.vtinvasives.org](http://www.vtinvasives.org), or just Google them.

Plants pull energy into their roots in fall to prepare for winter, so cutting and dabbing is most effective then. However, learning to recognize their leaves means you can find them before they seed in late summer. Birds spread the seeds, and they can remain viable in soil for years, so you'll need to recheck sites. Should the branches you cut have seeds, you'll need to burn or "solarize" them, i.e., put them in a black plastic bag in the sun for several weeks, preferably on a hot driveway. Also, many aliens are allelopathic; their roots exude a chemical to inhibit the growth of other plants, enabling them to completely take over an area.

First up, burning bush

(*euonymus alata*), a landscaping favorite for its brilliant red fall foliage, which can escape and create a monoculture. Cambridgeport is a case study, as it is everywhere. Pull it if you can, use a weed wrench if you're strong and have time, otherwise cut and dab. Red chokeberry (*aronia arbutifolia*) or fothergilla are fine replacements.

Honeysuckle (*lonicera* sp.) has yellow fall foliage. There are several natives and several aliens, and you're most likely to find the latter. They are surprisingly easy to pull out. Try from all four directions; one will get it started, then continue from other directions. Hang or sit it upside down so the roots don't touch the soil. Cut and dab large ones.

Buckthorn – two invasive species: *rhamnus cathartica* and *frangula alnus*, but mostly you'll find the latter, the glossy buckthorn. It's greenish-yellow in fall, and it's also surprisingly easy to pull out. It's easy to confuse

with chokecherry (*prunus virginiana*), a great native shrub with tiny serrations on the leaf edge, whereas buckthorn is smooth.

Japanese barberry (*berberis thunbergii*), another landscape favorite, is orange, red, or purple in fall. Yes, it's got barbs, so wear gloves. Pull the smaller ones; for large ones, a hedgetrimmer will allow you to cut branches first to get close enough to cut and dab. Barberry can alter the pH and chemistry of the soil, plus mice and ticks seem to like it, so eradicating it helps in more ways than one.

Multiflora rose (*rose multiflora*) also has thorns, more dangerous than the barberry's, since they can infect your skin with a fungus, sporotrichosis, also called "rose picker's disease." Always wear long sleeves and gloves, and use a hedge trimmer. It grows fast, with long arching canes that will root where they touch the ground, facilitating its spread. With up to a mil-

lion seeds per plant, you will need to check the site multiple times a year.

Asiatic bittersweet (*celastrus orbiculatus*) is a vigorous vine that climbs and strangles trees. Since tiny root fragments resprout, spray small ones before they climb. Cut and dab older woody climbers to avoid collateral damage. Use triclopyr – glyphosate is often ineffective.

Lastly, Japanese knotweed. I said last month that it needs to be sprayed, ideally by a licensed applicator, because it spreads by underground rhizomes, and small pieces of stem or root can resprout. You can cut and dab, but with hollow stems, it's not as effective, and you must burn what you've cut. It's a real problem for road crews, since their excavators and mowing equipment should be cleaned before moving to another area to avoid spreading it. Small pieces will reroot or float down an adjacent stream and start a new population.

It's time-consuming and expensive, but the so-called "Godzilla plant" allows nothing else to survive; in a few decades, you'll have

nothing but knotweed – no insects, and no birds.

*Written by Will Danforth, board member, The Nature Museum.*

## Act 250 public engagement session

**WINDSOR, Vt.** – The Vermont Land Use Review Board (LURB) will host a public engagement session on Wednesday, Oct. 29, from 6-8 p.m., in the Windsor Selectboard meeting room, 29 Union Street, to hear public input on draft Tier 3 area rules and mapping. Meetings welcome both in-person and remote participation. Remote connection information is available on the meeting agenda, available online at [www.act250.vermont.gov/tier-3-rulemaking-and-report](http://www.act250.vermont.gov/tier-3-rulemaking-and-report).

Vermont's Act 250 development review system is undergoing significant changes following the passage of Act 181 of 2024. The legislature has tasked the LURB with developing rules and reviewing regional plans and maps to implement a new tiered framework of jurisdiction. While Act 250 jurisdiction is shrinking in downtown and village centers (Tier 1 areas),

it is expanding in critical natural resource areas (Tier 3 areas). The Tier 3 rules and mapping will determine what sorts of development require an Act 250 permit in these critical natural resource areas.

The goal of these meetings is to get public input before the LURB finalizes the Tier 3 rules. The LURB is also getting suggestions from a working group of stakeholders. An overview presentation, draft rules, map viewer, overall schedule, and various other details are available on the Tier 3 project webpage above.

Engagement will continue throughout the process, leading to proposed rules and a formal public hearing in May 2026. Act 250 jurisdiction in Tier 3 areas, pursuant to the adopted rules, will begin on Dec. 31, 2026. Questions and comments can be submitted to [act250.rulemaking@vermont.gov](mailto:act250.rulemaking@vermont.gov).



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## Fall yard cleanup tips

**REGION** – Fall means your lawn is going to need some extra care to stay healthy through winter.

"With the change in seasons, your lawn care routine is also going to change to include less mowing and more dealing with leaves and debris," says Nick Heiser, product manager at Exmark. "And if you've got a lot of debris and material to get up and off your lawn, you're go-

ing to want to do that by bagging when you mow."

Heiser explains that doing so might require switching out the type of blade you have on your mower. While most mowers come standard with high-lift notch blades, which are good for many cutting conditions, for heavy bagging, you should be using an extreme blade. This will do a few things for you: create an aggressive lift that creates the vacuum and suction needed to pull up debris; and evenly cut up, break down, and compact everything on your lawn to help the bagging system do its job more effectively.

Once you've cleared most of the debris, you should switch back to mulching for the last few cuts of the season to put nutrients back into the ground and allow the lawn to retain moisture. A micro mulch system provides an extra set of blades to break down clippings to a fine mulch, then directs the area of deposit, so you control where the mulch lands.

Finally, fall is the best time for aeration for cool-season grasses. Aeration is essential to ensuring that the roots of your lawn get plenty of air and nutrients before winter.

*Article provided by State-Point.*

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