

ECRWSS  
PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
JOURNAL, LLC  
8 HIGH ST  
LUDLOW, VT 05149-1008  
Postal Patron

# THE MESSAGE

## OF THE WEEK

DECEMBER 10, 2025 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM PUBLISHED BY THE VERMONT JOURNAL VOLUME 01, ISSUE 23

## Claremont school board confirms tax rate increase

BY PAULA BENSON  
*The Message*

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont School Board met on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center, where board members heard from Claremont resident Don Lavalette. Lavalette had previously been considered for a seat on the school board, but when the vote between him and another candidate ended in a tie, the board reappointed former member Frank Sprague to fill the vacancy. At Wednesday's meeting, Lavalette presented the board with a suggestion to promote volunteerism by offering his time as a volunteer coordinator for the school district at no cost. Lavalette said he would create a system to train and

manage a group of volunteers to serve the school district, and act as the contact person for the program. He told the board that he had already received several inquiries from residents who wanted to donate their time to the schools. Additionally, Lavalette pledged that he and his wife would pay for the cost of background checks for the first five people to apply to volunteer. School Board Chair Heather Whitney asked Lavalette to contact her directly, and said she would take steps to put the item on a future agenda and potentially organize a citizens advisory committee. Regarding the tax rate set for the City of Claremont, Senior Comptroller Matt Angell reported that the schools' combined portion of the tax rate would

total \$17.45 per \$1,000 of assessed value between the local and state share, an increase of 8.25%. Angell told the board that, after speaking with the State of New Hampshire's Department of Education, he made the decision to increase the estimate for special education aid to \$700,000. Angell shared some good news regarding the anticipated cost to prepare an estimated enrollment report, which he had previously expected would likely be as much as \$20,000. "However," Angell announced, "it was free when we paid our dues to NESDEC, which is [the] New England School Development Council. The membership fee to NESDEC was \$2,585." The school district had

posted several vacant positions within the administration, and the meeting offered updates on the current status of those positions. Jason Bonneville, former system administrator for the district, accepted the position of technology director. The searches for student services director and attendance officer continue. Compensation packages, which are public information, are to be released any day, and include salary, as well as the district's contributions to health insurance premiums, retirement funds, FICA, and workers' compensation. Looking ahead, the school board's next meeting will be held on Dec. 17, with the first meeting of the new year scheduled for Jan. 7, 2026.



## Fast Lane Diner ribbon cutting

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Ashley Ayotte cuts the ribbon at the Fast Lane Diner in Claremont on Friday, Dec. 5. PHOTO PROVIDED

## Savings Bank of Walpole named Best Bank to Work For

WALPOLE, N.H. – For the ninth consecutive year, Savings Bank of Walpole (SBW) has been recognized by American Banker magazine as one of the Best Banks to Work For in the United States. In the 2025 rankings, SBW earned the No. 44 spot overall, and was ranked No. 25 among banks with assets under \$3 billion. "We're honored to once again be included on this list, especially because it reflects the voices and engagement of our employees," said Mark Bodin, president of Savings Bank of Walpole. "Being recognized nine years in a row is a testament to the work-

place culture we've built, one rooted in trust, collaboration, and a shared commitment to our community. I'm incredibly proud to lead a team that continues to make SBW such a rewarding place to work." The Best Banks to Work For program, launched in 2013 by American Banker and the Best Companies Group, identifies and honors U.S. banks for outstanding employee satisfaction, workplace culture, and benefits. Rankings are based on a thorough evaluation of workplace policies and practices, as well as employee surveys. SBW is one of only two



Savings Bank of Walpole employees. PHOTO PROVIDED

New Hampshire-based banks to make this year's list, continuing to stand out for its consistent performance and deep-rooted community focus.

The full results of the 2025 rankings are available online at [www.americanbanker.com](http://www.americanbanker.com), and in the November issue of American Banker magazine.



## Shop With a Cop

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Kiwanis recently partnered with the Claremont Police Department to host Shop With a Cop, giving local children the chance to experience the joy of the holiday season. Officers spent the evening alongside amazing kids, helping them pick out gifts, sharing laughs, and creating memories that will last far beyond the holidays. Events like this remind us all what community is really about: kindness, connection, and showing up for one another. A huge thank-you to Walmart, the generous donors, and the dedicated volunteers who helped make this experience possible. The Kiwanis are grateful for everyone who came together to make this night unforgettable. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CLAREMONT KIWANIS

### INDEX

Opinion..... 4  
Obituaries & Services..... 5  
Calendar ..... 6  
Classifieds ..... 7  
Legal Notices ..... 6-7  
Outdoor ..... 8  
Real Estate..... 9

### OUR OFFICE

**OFFICE ADDRESS:**  
8 High Street • PO Box 228 • Ludlow, VT  
**BILLING ADDRESS:**  
PO Box 116 • Rutland, VT 05702  
**PHONE NUMBER:**  
802-228-3600  
**WEBSITE:**  
[www.VermontJournal.com](http://www.VermontJournal.com)

### CONTACT US

**SHAWN TAE WEBB**  
[publisher@vermontjournal.com](mailto:publisher@vermontjournal.com)  
[ads@vermontjournal.com](mailto:ads@vermontjournal.com)  
**NICK GIBERTI**  
[editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com)  
[calendar@vermontjournal.com](mailto:calendar@vermontjournal.com)  
**JOE MCCAFFREY**  
[sales@vermontjournal.com](mailto:sales@vermontjournal.com)  
**LISA STICKNEY**  
[messagesales@vermontjournal.com](mailto:messagesales@vermontjournal.com)  
**PAULA BENSON**  
[billing@vermontjournal.com](mailto:billing@vermontjournal.com)

### DEADLINES

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

**EMAIL YOUR SHORT, 2-3 SENTENCE CALENDAR EVENTS**  
[calendar@vermontjournal.com](mailto:calendar@vermontjournal.com)

**EMAIL YOUR DISPLAY ADS AND CLASSIFIED LISTINGS**  
[ads@vermontjournal.com](mailto:ads@vermontjournal.com)

**EMAIL YOUR PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES, AND PHOTOS**  
[editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com)

# Kurn Hattin Home honors local veterans

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children welcomed local veterans to campus on the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 11, for its annual Veterans Day celebration, an event filled with heartfelt tributes, uplifting music, and meaningful connections across generations.

The celebration featured a performance by the Kurn Hattin Band and Chorus, who presented a spirited lineup of patriotic songs. The audience was invited to join in a joyful singalong to close out the program. Children and staff also offered thoughtful readings and presentations, honoring the values of service, sacrifice, and gratitude.

Adding a personal touch, students lined the campus road with colorful handmade signs, and delivered custom cards to each veteran in attendance, small gestures that made a big impression.

Guest speaker Vermont State Rep. Mike Mrowicki offered reflections on citizenship, unity, and the importance of giving back. Following the program,

veterans were invited to enjoy a special lunch with the children and staff, a warm and lively gathering that sparked laughter and conversations.

“This event is always one of the most meaningful of the year,” said Sue Kessler, executive director of Kurn Hattin. “It gives our children a chance to express gratitude, learn from the experiences of others, and connect with the values that shape strong communities.”

One staff member summed it up best, saying, “Today was beautiful. Guests were moved by the ceremony, and by the warmth of our students. I felt so proud to be part of this community.”

Kurn Hattin extends heartfelt thanks to all who have served, and to everyone who helped make this day of remembrance and appreciation so special.

# “A Libertarian Walks Into a Bear” at BF library

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – What happens when libertarians take over a small New Hampshire town, eliminating virtually all local government just as the local bear population is exploding? What happens when the American medical system is supplanted by people who believe zombies are real? What happens when paranormal investigators attempt to harness the scientific method to prove the existence of ghosts?

Pulitzer Prize-nominated author Matthew Hongoltz-Hetling is fascinated by such questions, and his three contemporary nonfiction books, “A Libertarian Walks Into a Bear,” “If It Sounds Like a Quack,” and “The Ghost Lab,” delve deep into the results. His writing is at once very funny, extremely thought-provoking, and deeply unsettling.

Hongoltz-Hetling will be appearing at the Rockingham Free Public Library on Friday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m., reading from and discussing his work. The host is Bellows Falls artist and event presenter Charlie Hunter. The event is free and open to the public. Books will be available from Village Square Booksellers at the event.

Hongoltz-Hetling got his start as a reporter at Valley News, the daily newspaper serving the Upper Valley region of New Hampshire and Vermont. His beat included Grafton, N.H., and he covered the events that became “A Libertarian Walks Into a Bear”

Once upon a time, a group of libertarians got together and hatched the Free Town Project, a plan to take over an American town and completely eliminate its government. In 2004, they set their sights on Grafton, N.H., a barely populated settlement with one paved road. When they descended on Grafton, public funding for pretty much everything shrank – the fire department, the library, the schoolhouse, etc. State and federal laws became meek suggestions, scarcely heard in the town’s thick wilderness.

The anything-goes atmosphere soon caught the attention of Grafton’s neighbors, the bears. Freedom-loving citizens ignored hunting laws and regulations on food disposal. They built a tent city in an effort to get off the grid. The bears smelled food and opportunity.

“A Libertarian Walks Into a Bear” is the sometimes funny, sometimes terrifying tale of what happens when a government disappears into the woods. Complete with gunplay, adventure, and backstabbing politicians, this is the ultimate story of a quintessential American experiment – to live free or die, perhaps from a bear.

For more information about this and other programs, call 802-463-4270, visit [www.rockinghamlibrary.org](http://www.rockinghamlibrary.org), or stop by the library at 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

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

**BILL STANKEVICH**  
Building & Remodeling  
Full Service Care Taking

173 Baltimore Road  
Perkinsville, VT 05151

802-263-9374  
Fax 802-263-5129

ONE STOP FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING NEEDS  
**DEPOT HOME CENTER**

HELP WANTED  
Part-Time & Full-Time, Inside and Out

WINTER SUPPLIES AVAILABLE:  
ROOF RAKES, KEROSENE, HEAT TAPES, SLEDS,  
PROPANE & ELECTRIC HEATER, ICE MELTS,  
PLUMBING SUPPLIES, WOOD PELLETS

Reg & Jan Bailey, Owners  
Box 390, 56 Depot St. • Charlestown, NH 03603  
Tel: 603-826-3251 • Fax: 603-826-5336  
Open 7 Days a Week

**WB Wragg Brothers**  
Well Drilling  
Family Operated Since 1956 • Serving NH - VT - MA

HELP WANTED IMMEDIATELY  
CDL B DRIVERS & LABORERS

Corey Wragg  
office@wraggbrothers.com  
802-674-5890  
P.O. Box 110, Ascutney, VT  
www.wraggbrothers.com

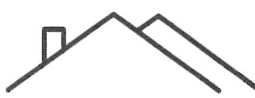
FIBER INSULATION • ELECTRIC SUPPLIES

**LAMBERT**  
SUPPLY CO. INC.  
YOUR ONE STOP  
BUILDING &  
MODERNIZING  
CENTER

HELP WANTED  
Call the Store Today!  
603-542-5111

North & Main Streets • 603-542-5111  
CLAREMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03743  
LOU@LAMBERTSUPPLY.COM

PLUMBING & HEATING  
MASONRY PRODUCTS

  
NEW CONSTRUCTION  
AND REMODELING

**WoodWright Contracting**  
JOHN WRIGHT

PO Box 914, Chester, VT 05143  
woodwrightvt@gmail.com  
802/236.1627

**You May Qualify For A Discount On Your TDS Communication Services**

If you think you can't afford service, think again. You may qualify for a discount on your service through a low-income government program called Lifeline. Lifeline reduces monthly services for qualifying voice, internet, or bundled services.

You may be eligible if you participate in a qualifying assistance program such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, or if you have a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Go to <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/do-i-qualify/> for a full list of qualifying programs.

In addition, survivors of domestic violence facing financial hardship may receive the Lifeline benefit for up to six months under the Safe Connections Act (SCA).

For more information on the Lifeline program possible discount amounts, or how to apply, visit the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) website at <https://www.lifelinesupport.org>. Call USAC at 1-800-234-9473 for specific Lifeline questions.

Call TDS at 888-CALL-TDS or visit [www.tdstelecom.com/lifeline.html](http://www.tdstelecom.com/lifeline.html) with questions regarding program eligibility or general Lifeline questions.

Lifeline is a government assistance program and is non-transferable. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. There is a limit of one discount per household. Lifeline discounts on internet service are only available where minimum supported broadband service is available. If the household becomes ineligible for Lifeline, the household will be subject to TDS' regular rates, terms, and conditions.



213182VT/10-25/12780

**CHAVES EXCAVATING**

ALL MATERIALS FOR COMPLETE SITE WORK  
**Sand • Gravel • Stone  
Shurpac • Topsoil • Fill**



5,000 lb. Hydraulic Hammer for Ledge & Rock Splitting  
Portable On-Site Crushing & Screening Equipment  
**802-824-3140 Londonderry, VT**

**Aqua-Aid Systems**  
WATER CONDITIONING & FILTRATION

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

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

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

  
What's In Your Water?™

ON SITE, NO CHARGE, TESTING AND ESTIMATES

**800-252-8484**

# COFFEE

## Crawl

try them all  
**VOTE** for  
your favorite

you'll be entered for a chance to win a \$20 gift certificate to the best-voted business!

Maebelline's  
Breakfast  
& Lunch

802-591-4311

12 Clinton Street  
Springfield, VT

## JOHNNY'S

COFFEE • BAR • CAFÉ

802-228-2400 • 126 MAIN STREET • LUDLOW, VT  
TUES-THURS 8AM-3PM, FRI-SAT 8AM-9PM

## WEST RIVER COFFEE BARN

LONDONDERRY, VT  
43°13'38"N 72°48'29"W

Located on The Green  
at 94 The Common  
in Historic Chester  
Vermont

(802)875-PIES (7437)  
TheSouthernPieCo@gmail.com  
www.TheSouthernPieCompany.com

# COFFEE

## Crawl

try  
them all

## VOTE for your favorite

### The Rules

Participants should try each coffee shop or participating business, then vote for your favorite by mailing this page to The Vermont Journal, PO Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149. Submissions must be received by Friday, Dec. 19, 2025. One submission per person.

The business with the most votes will be announced as best coffee shop in our region in the following paper.

All participants/voters will be entered into a drawing for a \$20 gift certificate to the best-voted coffee shop.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAVORITE COFFEE SHOP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELL US WHY: \_\_\_\_\_

# RIVERSIDE

## RESTAURANT

802-885-2161  
244 River Street, Springfield

## PURRMONT CAT CAFE

Sip\*Savour\*Snuggle

3 Main Street, Springfield, VT  
802-591-6022 • purrmontcatcafe@gmail.com

## COUNTRY GIRL

— diner —

46 Route. 103 South, Chester, Vt.

cgdiner@gmail.com 802-875-1003  
countrygirldiner.com

(603) 863-0043 • info@thebigspoon-nh.com  
www.thebigspoon-nh.com  
29 Main St., Newport, NH 03773

(802) 824-9652  
Route 11  
Londonderry, VT

Open 7 Days a Week For Breakfast & Lunch!

BEST PRICES IN TOWN!

• Meats • Cold Cuts •  
• Cold Beer • Ice • Movie Rentals •  
& More!

(802) 824-8100  
Route 11, Londonderry, VT

(802) 875-5555 (802) 228-8662  
60 Main St, Chester, VT 224 Main Street, Ludlow, VT

(802) 463-3895 (802) 387-2234  
809 Rockingham Rd, Bellows Falls, VT 2536 US-5, Putney, VT

## ELECTRIC MAYHEM

Home of

IN THE MOMENT RECORDS RUSTY DOOR RECORDING

vintage vinyl coffee bar unique gifts music gear studio

RUSTYDOORRECORDING@GMAIL.COM 5700 VT RT 100, LONDONDERRY, VT

# Jelley's DELI

PIZZA BEER WINE

2102 North Main St, Londonderry

VERMONT 802  
LIQUOR STORE Spirits

# opinion

Dear Editor,

It has been my privilege to work closely with departing Rockingham municipal manager Scott Pickup for almost the entirety of his five-year tenure. He will be leaving us in January, to take a similar role in neighboring Springfield, Vt.

It's hard to say goodbye to such a hardworking, capable, and enjoyable colleague. His steady hand on the tiller has steered our town safely through many a storm. And no matter how difficult the problem or personalities we faced, he never lost his temper or sense of humor. Scott has provided strong leadership for our politically complex and rapidly evolving town. Reporting to two

boards is one of the distinct challenges of the job. But he quickly earned and has maintained the confidence of both the Rockingham Selectboard and Bellows Falls Trustees.

Scott is the kind of guy you want to have next to you in a stressful, unpredictable, and unavoidably adversarial situation, such as the merger of our three fiercely independent fire departments. He has remained unfailingly polite and respectful amidst the vitriol. Though there are still kinks to be worked out, Scott and Selectboard Chair Peter Golec have ably and patiently managed the long, complicated, and deeply contentious process after a proposal to consolidate the departments was decisively approved by Rockingham's

voters at our 2025 Town Meeting.

Today's municipal managers are confronted by dozens of pressing problems every day. The natural response is to become completely reactive. But as Stephen Covey points out in his "7 Habits of Highly Effective People," the urgent often drives out the important. Immediate, time-sensitive tasks easily distract us from long-term goals. Scott's management style deftly balances the reactive and proactive. When responding to an emergency, he always seeks a longer-term fix or whole new approach. And he never loses sight of the bigger picture.

Scott shone in many other areas as well, supporting and advising his staff members and volunteer commit-

tees as they made significant progress in zoning, public works, quality of life projects, housing, and the town's crucial interactions with the state agencies that fund and regulate so much of what we do. From cemeteries, to sidewalks, to the failing roof of the town hall, our physical assets are getting the attention they deserve.

For Scott, serving as manager was more than just a job. He has become a member of our community, getting to know all kinds of folks around town, renting an apartment in Bellows Falls, and being an active and much-appreciated volunteer in the Rotary Club. He even takes to the stage in that organization's Bellows Follies fundraisers at the opera house.

This selectboard member wishes Scott every success as he moves on to new challenges in a bigger town. We're lucky that he will remain our neighbor!

Sincerely,  
Rick Cowan  
Rockingham Selectboard Member

Dear Editor,

Many initiatives, both small and large, individual and collective, ramped up across the state and the country to combat the sudden hunger crisis caused by the loss of SNAP benefits at the start of November.

Here in Athens, Krista Gay and her husband Christian Rogerson started their own free food pantry at the bottom of their driveway. Athens doesn't have a food pantry, and Krista knew that many of her neighbors who are struggling with food insecurity would also have a difficult time getting to the food pantries in neighboring towns. Having seen all the news about food benefits being cut off due to the government shutdown, and being a progressive Christian, Krista searched for a way they could care for neighbors who were struggling. Learning about a simple method using totes gave them a plan they could immediately put into action. Incorporating an ethos of "take what you need, leave what you can," the free food pantry offers food and dignity to those making use of it.

Krista shared their efforts on social media, creating a TikTok about their #little-freepanty adventures, with

lots of great tips on managing and restocking their pantry. Her page went viral, gaining more than 4 million views and bringing national media attention from Newsweek, NBC, and People magazine. Krista's free food pantry initiative has helped to inspire others across the country to start their own little food pantries. They also have neighbors wanting to know how they can contribute and expand the pantry. Our town has now approved relocating it near the town garage, and Krista and Christian are working on a more durable design as winter approaches.

While the 3SquareVT/ SNAP benefits have resumed for now, harmful cuts and changes from HR 1, passed on July 4, are already impacting our neighbors, meaning many people in our town, our state, and across the country have already lost or seen significant cuts to their food benefits.

Bravo to Krista for stepping up and showing how we can all lend a hand to care for our neighbors.

Sincerely,  
Sherry Maher and Tim Stevenson  
Athens, Vt.



### FOOD SHELF

**BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES**

37B Main St, Ludlow, VT 05149  
Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 AM-3 PM  
Phone: 802-228-3663  
www.brngn.org

*"We are here to help"*

Serving Ludlow, Mt. Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville & Plymouth

### Free Hearing Test

#### Servicing All Brands of Hearing Aids

Repairs and Cleanings



Discounts for Veterans  
AARP and Seniors.

Call Jason Udeen at **Low Cost Hearing** for Appointment.  
(802) 689-0357. 1856 Quechee Main Street. Quechee, VT.



## Memory Trees

Contact Shawntae  
802-228-3600  
ads@vermontjournal.com

# \$25 each

DUE:  
Wednesday, Dec. 17

RUNS:  
Dec. 24 Edition

**Last Call**  
to remember your loved one

PLEASE MAIL & REMIT PAYMENT TO:  
VERMONT JOURNAL  
PO Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149

Call 802-228-3600  
Email ads@vermontjournal.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Loved One(s) (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return by Dec. 17*  
**ALL MEMORY SPOTS PAYABLE IN ADVANCE**

☐ Check Enclosed  
☐ Credit Card Below (3.5% Service Fee Applicable)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_\_

45 TAYLOR HILL  
ATHENS, VT 05143

FULLY INSURED  
FREE ESTIMATES

## TAYLOR EXCAVATING LLP

TRUCKING & EXCAVATING  
SEPTIC SYSTEMS, LAND CLEARINGS, DRIVEWAYS  
COMPLETE HOUSE SITES  
LANDSCAPING, WALL BUILDING  
LAWN MOWING, SNOWPLOWING AND SANDING

802-869-2905 802-289-1508  
DAN



## Calm Moments Massage Studio

101 Main Street, Ludlow, VT

Give the Gift of Massage Therapy  
**Gift Certificates Available**  
Call or Purchase Online

802.228.7772  
www.calmmomentsmassage.com

PICTURE PERFECT, NOW

## WAIT UNTIL YOU TASTE IT



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

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

**8 FREE Omaha Steaks Burgers (4 oz.)**

78237XDS separately \$999.99  
**SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$129.99**

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

Scan Now To Order



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

# obituaries

## Laura Bennett Caravatt, 1922-2025

LUDLOW, Vt. – Oftentimes in recent years, when Laura (Bennett) Caravatt explained where she lived on Andover Road in Ludlow, the person asking would exclaim, “Ah, yes, the house with the beautiful gardens.” Indeed, the blooms were eye-catching. They also offered a perfect picture of how Laura lived her life – with energy, beauty, and grace, plus hard work and determination. She found joy in her garden, and she brought joy to others by sharing its bounty.

On Monday, Nov. 24, surrounded by her loving family, Laura peacefully passed from this Earth to be with the Lord. Just shy of 103, Laura enjoyed a remarkably long and healthy life, maintaining a positive outlook and undying zest for life right up to her final days.

The youngest of four children, Laura was born on Dec. 16, 1922, to Minnie (McMahon) and George Bennett. She grew up in Ludlow, and graduated from Black River Academy in 1940. Laura often spoke fondly of her childhood and teen years, recounting how, on cold winter nights, she and her friends would ride a traverse sled from the top of Terrible Mountain all the way to the village, reaching thrilling breakneck speeds.

Her mother instilled in her a great appreciation of nature, and they would take frequent walks along wooded trails, admiring and identifying various trees and wildflowers, searching for the first signs of trailing arbutus or lady slippers in the spring, collecting butternuts and wintergreen berries in the fall. She loved the mountains and crisp, clean air of Vermont, and was always proud to trace her roots to the Green Mountain State.

After graduating from Rutland Business College, Laura was hired to work in the business office of Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover, N.H. As the country entered World War II, Hanover was transformed from a college town to a training center for naval officers, and Laura found herself in the midst of a turbulent but exciting time in U.S. history. As the students began to return from military duty, she met her future husband Paul Caravatt while attending the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, and the two were wed on June 22, 1946.

After graduating from Dartmouth and its Tuck School of Business, Paul accepted a traveling sales job with the Vermont Dairy Association, and the two spent a year traveling through every state east of the Mississippi with a trailer in tow. In later years, the family was often re-



Laura Bennett Caravatt, 1922-2025.

PHOTO PROVIDED

galed with tales of their adventures on the road. They settled down in Bayside, N.Y., where Paul embarked on a career in advertising, and Laura worked as the film librarian in the national headquarters of Girl Scouts of America in New York City.

In 1952, their first child, Cynthia Diane, was born. The family moved to Norwalk, Conn., in 1954, and here, as they welcomed their second child Suzanne Laura, Laura embraced raising her family, caring for her aging mother, and creating her first perennial gardens. She also served in a variety of positions at the First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk. In 1962, the young family moved to nearby Wilton, Conn., where, as a member of the Wilton Garden Club, she became an award-winning flower arranger.

Laura had a huge heart for others, as was evident in her role as a deaconess at the Wilton Congregational Church. She often visited those who were ill or shut in, offering cheerful conversation, homemade cookies, and a bouquet of flowers to brighten their day. As a homemaker, Laura clearly had the gift of hospitality, making people feel welcome and at ease, and treating overnight guests to delicious breakfasts of warm blueberry muffins. In the late 1960s, Paul and Laura renovated Laura’s childhood home in Ludlow into a family ski house, and here Laura generously welcomed many of her daughters’ high school and college friends to enjoy memorable ski weekends with wonderful, lively conversations around the dinner table. She enjoyed many years of both downhill and cross-country skiing with her family, even getting out on her cross-country skis at the age of 100.

Laura was also known for her sense of style, always looking elegant and well put together, whatever the occasion. Over the years, she had the opportunity to travel extensively with her husband and family. She enjoyed reading and learning about U.S. history, and always supported

the historical societies in both Wilton and Ludlow. After selling their home in Wilton in 2005, Laura and Paul split their time between Ludlow and Southbury, Conn., where their daughter Cyndie lived. In Ludlow, they were warmly welcomed into the United Church of Ludlow, and here Laura once again graced the church altar with her lovely floral arrangements.

When Paul passed away in 2009, the couple had enjoyed 63 years of marriage. Although her eyesight was failing due to macular degeneration, Laura continued to plant and plan gardens throughout her 90s. Over the last few years of her life, she was lovingly cared for by her daughter Cyndie in East Wallingford. Having passed on a love of gardening and bird watching to both of her daughters, here Laura was able to enjoy the beautiful gardens surrounding Cyndie’s home, and to enjoy the constant activity at numerous bird feeders. She also had a lifelong love of music, enjoying a variety of genres, and took much joy in listening to her favorite hymns, big band music, choral music, and more.

Laura is survived by her daughters Cyndie Holden and Suzy Andrews (Kevin), six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her son-in-law Richard Holden.

A service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 27, at 1 p.m., at the United Church of Ludlow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the United Church of Ludlow, 48 Pleasant Street, Ludlow VT 04149.

The Tossing Funeral Home is assisting the family 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 by Monday at 12 p.m.

## Peter Chamberlain, 1935-2025



AMELIA ISLAND, Fla. – Peter B. Chamberlain was born Aug. 30, 1935, in Hartford, Conn., to Theodore Franklin Chamberlain and Hazel Baird Chamberlain. His family soon relocated to Westminster, Vt., where he was brought up, graduating from Bellows Falls High School and Clark University in Worcester, Mass., where he met his wife of 63 years, Merrilee Jackson Chamberlain.

Following graduation, he served his country in the Air Force, Air National Guard of Massachusetts, and Air National Guard of New York. He began a 36-year career with Travelers Insurance Company in Worcester, Mass., working in nine different locations, in positions of increasing responsibility, concluding his career as president of Bankers & Shippers Insurance Company (a Travelers subsidiary) in Burlington, N.C., from 1988-1994.

He and his wife retired to Amelia Island, Fla., in 1994, after having vacationed there since 1982. They always wel-

comed visiting family and friends with open arms.

He was predeceased by his parents and wife. He is survived by his two sons Kirk Chamberlain (Ginnie), of Columbus, Ga., and Tod Chamberlain (Nancy), of Suffield, Conn.; grandchildren Kristin Chamberlain, of Columbus, Ga., Michele Kaufman (Justin), of Wilmington, Mass., Holly Rigby (Joseph), of Sudbury, Mass., Mandy Chamberlain, of Suffield, Conn., and Keith Chamberlain, of Melrose, Mass.; and six great-grandchildren Benjamin, Sophia, and Emelia Kaufman, and William, Chase, and Brooke Rigby.

The family will celebrate his life at a later date.

The family would like to thank the staffs at Baptist Medical Center Nassau, River City Nursing & Rehab Center, UF North Hospital and Home Care, Concierge Care, and Community Hospice for their caring support.



Peter Chamberlain, 1935-2025.

PHOTO PROVIDED

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Nassau County, Roberts Learning and Achievement Center, 1175 Lime Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034; or the Nassau County Humane Society, 639 Airport Road, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034, may be made in his memory.

Please share your memories and condolences at [www.oxleyheard.com](http://www.oxleyheard.com).

## Larry Crainich, 1942-2025

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Larry Crainich passed away, with his wife Dianne at his side, on Nov. 26, 2025. The staff at the Applewood Center Nursing Home are applauded for their wonderful, extremely attentive, and thoughtful care for Larry during his time there.

Larry was born in Yugoslavia (now Slovenia), near the Italian border, in 1942. He emigrated from war-torn Europe to the U.S.A. at the age of 8 with his family. Tragically, his mother Stefania died when Larry was 3 years old. His father Joseph and older siblings, brother Robert and sister Brigida, along with his stepmother Maria and her children, immigrated to Bridgeport, Conn. They were immigrant displaced persons looking to make a new life in the U.S.A.

Larry graduated from Bulard Havens Technical School in Bridgeport, Conn., in 1961, and his concentration of study was tool and die. He went on to work and support the tool-making trades at various manufacturers (Fairfield Tool & Die, Bridgeport Tool & Die, and Lacey Manufacturing) in Bridgeport, and found his passion in tool design/drafting. Larry considered education integral to success, and was a voracious reader, continually learning all his life.

In 1971, Larry founded Design Standards Corporation (DSC). DSC initially designed tools for metal stampings. In 1980, Larry acquired Vicon Tool, which allowed DSC to design and build tools for metal stampings, which led to production manufacturing. The trifecta of design, development, and manufacturing allowed for a more complete service offering. Design Standards Corporation became a reliable vendor

and service provider to the medical device industry. Larry Crainich, leading DSC, followed and was an integral part of the evolution and technological innovations of the medical device industry from general open procedure instrumentation, the advent of laparoscopic (minimally invasive) surgeries, to wristed/steerable devices, and ultimately instrumentation utilized in conjunction with surgical robotic platforms.

Larry Crainich, as an inventor, contributed to 163 U.S. patents, and also authored 131 articles, “Metal Stampings by Design,” for the industry publication Metal Forming, from 1989-2000. He was also sought out as an industry expert for speaking engagements across the U.S.A., and invited to Singapore and Bangkok. Larry was featured in an article for the Harvard Business Review in April 2004, “A Network of Invention.”

Larry was a force of nature, and had an intensity about him. He was purposeful about his vocation, solving technical problems, contributing to society, and helping people. In his office, he had a handwritten motto: “Achievement is the purpose of life. Without purpose there is no life.”

Recreationally, Larry skied, cycled, and played tennis. He loved alpine skiing, and raced in Pat’s Peak’s (Henniker, N.H.) proverbial “beer league” from 2007, at age 64, until 2016, age 73. His second-favorite sport was tennis, and he played at TSV in Charlestown, N.H. He thoroughly enjoyed the competition, camaraderie, and personal



Larry Crainich, 1942-2025.

PHOTO PROVIDED

challenge of these athletic endeavors. Lastly, if you really knew him, you know that he hated golf.

As a father, guardian, and loving husband, Larry was responsible for raising two sons, and his niece and nephew. Twenty years of devoted responsibility is what he stated raising children entailed. His first stint started at age 26, his second stint came at age 54. The man went above and beyond, and was a fantastic father figure.

Larry is survived by Dianne Crainich, his wife of 29 years; his sons Eric and Paul (their mother Annemarie), and their spouses Andrea and Janet; his grandchildren Nadia, Olivia, Hugo, Aoife, Oscar, and Oliver; his nephew Thomas Jeliffe, fiancée Nika, and son Charlie; his niece Mary and her children; his sister Brigida, and her children Stefan and Heidi; and his brother Robert’s children Jim, Matt, Stefania, Michael, and Jason. He is predeceased by his stepbrother Luciano, and stepsisters Adelle and Josephine.

Larry’s wishes were not to have a funeral or wake. Instead, a Celebration of his Life will be planned for a time yet to be determined, in the spring of 2026.

# calendar

## LEGAL NOTICES

**DEC. 12-13 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –** Liberty Food Fest will take place on Friday, Dec. 12, and Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Bellows Falls Opera House, featuring guest speakers and a small holiday market. For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit [www.libertyfoodfest.com/schedule](http://www.libertyfoodfest.com/schedule).

**DEC. 12 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –** Card games at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, will be on Friday, Dec. 12, at 1 p.m. For more information, contact executive director Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or [lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com](mailto:lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com).

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The next session of Claremont Senior Center fundraiser bingo will be on Friday, Dec. 12, at the senior center, 5 Acer Heights. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., games start at 6 p.m. Open to the public, must be 18 years of age to play. Concessions are available through intermission. Bring family and friends for an evening of fun. The senior center wants to thank all who have come out and support this event. If you are interested in helping with future events, please call Cheryl at 603-543-5998.

**DEC. 13 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –** Soupsgiving will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 5-7 p.m., at the Bellows Falls Family Center, 59 Westminster Street, during the Bellows Falls Parade of Lights. Bring a soup to share if you are able, a bowl and spoon, your appetite, and your friendship. This is a gathering for people to enjoy good company and good soup. You may want to bring a container in case there are leftovers.

Donations welcome to benefit our local food bank.

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS, Vt. – Bingo at the Bridgewater Grange, 129 Route 100A, will be held Saturday, Dec. 13. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the game begins at 6:15 p.m. Concessions will be available.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Academy Museum Festival of Lights will be open for tree viewing, and to purchase raffle tickets, on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 4-7 p.m.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Side Hill Cronchers snowmobile club will hold a free snowmobile safety course on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street. Vermont law requires that anyone born after July 1, 1983, who is 12 years old or older, complete a snowmobile safety course to legally drive a snowmobile on a VAST trail. Register online at [www.ludlowsidehillcronchers.com/events](http://www.ludlowsidehillcronchers.com/events). This class is limited to 25 participants. For more information, email [ludlowshc@gmail.com](mailto:ludlowshc@gmail.com), or call Tina at 802-228-2110. Free lunch will be provided by the Side Hill Cronchers.

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – Children 18 and under and their caregivers are invited to join Plymouth Emergency Services for the third annual Season of Giving Holiday Party on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., at the Plymouth Town Office, 68 Town Office Road. There will be activities, raffles, refreshments, and a gift for each child.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Looking for some inexpensive gifts for your children? Springfield Friends of the Town Library (FOSTL) will be holding a children’s book sale on Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Springfield on the Move Winter Market, inside the Great Hall, 100 River Street, from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. FOSTL is a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization. Our purpose is to maintain an association of community members interested in good library service, to foster closer relations between the Springfield Town Library and town residents, and to support the programs and outreach efforts of the library. A strong group of friends can make a good library great.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley Street, is having a bake sale during the farmers market on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. We look forward to seeing you; everyone is welcome.

Christmas lunch on Monday, Dec. 15, at 12 p.m. The menu will be DJ’s roast beef and Christmas cupcakes. There will also be a surprise visit from Santa. All are welcome. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. Free cash bingo will follow.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Monday, Dec. 15, from 12-5 p.m. Please call 800-RED-CROSS to schedule an appointment.

**DEC. 17 – LUDLOW, Vt. –** The raffle drawing for the Black River Academy Museum’s Festival of Lights will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m., with a snow date of Dec. 18. A holiday celebration will follow.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Songsters will perform a Christmas concert at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 1 p.m. For more information, contact executive director Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or [lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com](mailto:lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com).

**DEC. 18 – PERKINSVILLE, Vt. –** Join us on Dec. 18, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., at the Perkinsville Community Church, 35 Church Street, for a festive evening of classical Christmas music with pianist Jacob McLaughlin. The concert will conclude with a singalong of “Silent Night.”

This is a free event, but donations will be accepted to go towards a local charity.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Women to Women group will meet on Thursday, Dec. 18, from 1-3 p.m., in the Mozden Room at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights. This is an opportunity for women to get together and talk and share life stories. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

**DEC. 19 – CLAREMONT, N.H. –** The next Quilting Bee at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will be held Friday, Dec. 19, at 10 a.m. Come tell your story with the quilting skills you want to share with other quilters. You don’t have to be a quilter to attend. Bring your own project. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

**DEC. 20 – CLAREMONT, N.H. –** On Saturday, Dec. 20, a turkey dinner will be served at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights. The menu will be turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, squash, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, and cherry pie. Please call 603-678-0433 to order a meal any time until 3:30 p.m. the day of the dinner, and specify whether dine-in or takeout. Dining in will begin at 4:30 p.m., and takeout meals will be available at 5 p.m. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

**Ludlow Planning Commission**  
**Monday – January 5th, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Public Hearing Notice**  
**Hybrid Meeting - Heald Auditorium/Zoom**

Proposed Amendments to the Town of Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulation Bylaws.  
Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4441 and §4444, notice is hereby given of a public hearing by Ludlow’s Planning Commission to hear comments regarding proposed amendment to the Town of Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulations. The public hearing will take place on Monday, January 5th, beginning at 5:30 pm.

You may attend the Public Hearing in-person at the following address:  
Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot Street, Ludlow, Vermont 05149

Or via Zoom Link:  
<https://zoom.us/j/93573170397?pwd=nrSF3cOvFoYgQNSIBw70kKbIdsW00c.1>  
Meeting ID: 935 7317 0397  
Passcode: 515056

Available at our town’s website: [ludlow.vt.us/agendas](http://ludlow.vt.us/agendas)

Comments may be submitted verbally at the Public Hearing. Written comments may also be submitted via email to Penny Wu, Ludlow’s Town Manager at [pwu@ludlow.vt.us](mailto:pwu@ludlow.vt.us) or Terry Carter, Ludlow’s Planning Commission Chair at [tmgcarter@gmail.com](mailto:tmgcarter@gmail.com).

Statement of purpose:  
The purpose of the proposed amendment to the Town of Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulations is to:  
• Replace the Town of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulations, Article 6 with a new stand-alone Flood Hazard and River Corridor Bylaw for the Town of Ludlow.  
• Please see the Planning Commission’s report on the amendment for more detailed information on the town website.  
• Remove all references to Article 6 in the Town of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulations.

Geographic areas affected:  
Portions of this amendment apply to all areas of the Town.

List of section headings affected:  
In addition, amendments are proposed which modify the following sections of the Town of Ludlow Zoning & Flood Hazard Regulations:  
The current Article 6 in the Town of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulations will be deleted, and new separate zoning document will be created titled “Town of Ludlow Flood Hazard Regulations and River Corridor Bylaws”. The full text of the amendments to the new Town of Ludlow Flood Hazard Regulations and River Corridor Bylaws, and the Planning Commission’s report, are available online at <https://www.ludlow.vt.us> The proposed amendments and report can also be reviewed in hard copy format in the Town Clerk’s Office in the Ludlow Town Hall located at 37 Depot Street, Ludlow, VT 05149.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Capital Budget Proposal**  
**TOWN OF GRAFTON, VERMONT**

DATE: Monday, December 15, 2025  
TIME: 5:45 PM  
LOCATION: Grafton Town Hall upstairs and via Zoom

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/8028432552?omn=91420084324>

To discuss the proposed Capital Budget for fiscal year 2026-2027.

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

Please take notice that Great Falls Phoenix, LLC, whose mailing address is 108 Rockingham Street, Bellows Falls VT 05101, is applying to the Vermont Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Program (10 V.S.A.#6641 et seq.) in connection with the redevelopment of property known as 108 Rockingham St in the town of Bellows Falls, VT. A copy of the application, which contains a preliminary environmental assessment and a description of the proposed redevelopment project is available for public review at the Rockingham Town Clerk’s Office and at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation offices in Montpelier.

Comments concerning the application and/or the above referenced documents may be directed to Great Falls Phoenix, LLC at 108 Rockingham St or at 802-289-7111. Comments may also be submitted by mail to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management Division, 1 National Life Drive-Davis 1 Montpelier VT.

Dec 1 2025

**Job Opening - Londonderry Transfer Station**

The Town of Londonderry, Vermont is accepting applications for part-time (5 hours per week) Transfer Station Attendant to work on weekends. Backhoe experience preferred.

Applicants are asked to submit a required Employment Application, which can be found in the Employment section of the Town web site: <https://www.londonderryvt.gov/employment>.

Submit via email to [townadmin@londonderryvt.org](mailto:townadmin@londonderryvt.org) or mail to: Town of Londonderry, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155.

Position opened until filled. The Town of Londonderry is an equal opportunity employer.

**MUNICIPAL MANAGER**  
**Town of Rockingham & Village of Bellows Falls**

The Town of Rockingham and the Village of Bellows Falls seek a Municipal Manager to oversee day-to-day operations and support policy set by the Selectboard and Village Trustees. Ideal candidates will have strong experience in statutory and regulatory compliance and municipal administration. The position oversees public works, public safety, utilities, and community services; ensures accurate budgeting and financial reporting; manages personnel and collective bargaining matters, including negotiations; represents the municipality with residents, businesses, and partner agencies; and supports economic development and community engagement initiatives.

Salary and benefits are negotiable, commensurate with experience.

The Town of Rockingham is an EEOE. Send letter of interest and résumé to: Heather Hitchcock, Personnel Resource Manager, Town of Rockingham, PO Box 370, Bellows Falls, VT 05101. Or by email: [resourcemanager@rockbf.org](mailto:resourcemanager@rockbf.org).

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.

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/repairing gravel driveways. Serv-

ing Springfield, Vt. area. Call/text 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

FOR RENT

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Retired gentleman with vision loss looking to share mobile home at the end of private lane. Private room/private bathroom available. Dogs welcome. Would love help with cooking, occasional errands. \$200/month. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW, Vt. – Okemo Valley TV

/ WLUD is searching for its next Executive Director to lead the organization into its next chapter. We are a small but vibrant community-based multimedia organization, headquartered in Ludlow. With the recent addition of community radio we are evolving to serve and engage with the community in different ways. To learn more about the position and how to apply, please visit the station's website at okemovalley.tv.

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 a 20-word listing.

Email ads@vermontjournal.com with your listing today

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT

Windham

Unit

PROBATE DIVISION

Docket No.: 25-PR-06052

In re ESTATE of :

John B. Willard, a/k/a John B. Willard, Jr.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of:

John B. Willard, a/k/a John B. Willard, Jr.

Decedent

late of

Wilmington

Decedent's Town of Residence

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated:

11/18/25

11/25/2025

Signature of Fiduciary

ADW

JBW

John B. Willard Jr

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

Name of Publication:

Vermont Journal

Publication Date:

December 10, 2025

Name of Probate Court:

Vermont Superior Court, Windham Unit Probate Division

Address of Probate Court:

30 Putney Road, 2nd Floor

Brattleboro, VT 05301



Town of Westminster  
P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158  
Tel. 802-722- 4524 Fax 802-722-9816

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB)

WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL  
Westminster, Vermont

Legal Notice

The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:00 pm on Monday, January 5, 2026 to consider the following:

Application # 26-15 Michael & Mellany Harrington (Owners) property located at 333 US Route 5. The Applicant is requesting a Change of Use – from a barn to a transmission business. This Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review, Section 446 Residential District Zone and Section 215 Zoning Permit Procedures of the 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Participation in the proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeals.

The application is available for review in the Westminster Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5 Westminster, Vermont 05158, Monday – Friday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.

Town of Plymouth, Vermont  
Part-Time Treasurer

Job Description

Directs and performs duties involving the daily operations of the Treasurer office; develops office procedures and documents, reviews, prepares and administers departmental budget and works with Town Clerk.

Maintains effective working relationships with Town officials, staff, and members of the community. Meets and speaks with taxpayers, the public, municipal or other business associates to provide answers, address complaints and requests, deal with errors or other job-related issues.

Manages the bills and collects all monies for the Town including real estate property, fees, charges, bills, and revenues committed to the Treasurer.

Works with the Delinquent Tax Collector to prepare municipal lien certificates, delinquency notifications and all other documents as required in the collection of taxes.

Works with Delinquent Tax Collector and Town Attorney to assist with Tax Sales.

Works with the Town Clerk to oversee the collection, deposit and reconciles bank statements for all Town accounts; prepare reports for Town's annual audit; and balance cash, receivables, and debt monthly.

Manages debt including the borrowing of funds for the Town, compliance with all reporting requirements, timely payment of debt obligations, preparation of all financial documents including continuing disclosure.

Back-up to the Town Clerk to manage payroll, ensures that employees are properly enrolled in the system; maintains earnings records for all employees. Prepares and files W-2 information and all other third-party required reports.

Perform other duties as required by the Select Board or as the situation dictates.

Additional Duties

Financial liaison: Communicate financial information clearly to board members.

Risk management: Identify and work to minimize financial risks.

Cost reduction: Find strategies to reduce organizational costs and improve efficiency.

Recommended Qualifications

Degree in business administration, finance, accounting, or related field preferred; at least two years of experience in business or financial management preferably in a municipal Treasurer and/or Collectors office; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

The compensation range for this role is \$25.00 –\$30.00 per hour, dependent on experience, education level, and specific skill sets.

Please mail 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.

The Town of Plymouth is an equal opportunity employer.

Art Crafts Gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Art, Crafts, Gifts, Exhibits & Workshops  
Holiday Shopping at its best!  
Give handmade scarves, mittens, mugs, ornaments, woodenware, glass, craft kits, bags, cards & prints

OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. till 7!

68 Main St., Springfield VT 802-885-7111  
galleryvault.org/workshops

Joyful Moments – Open Wall Show  
(01/14/26 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267.  
(02/11/26 - 13)

ROSE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT

Booking for winter 2025 and spring 2026 projects. 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. Cavendish, Vt.  
(05/06/26 - 26)

Campground

CATON PLACE CAMPGROUND

2419 EAST ROAD, CAVENDISH VERMONT  
SEASONAL SITES AVAILABLE FOR 2026! REASONABLE RATES!  
802-226-7767, Catonplacecamp@gmail.com.

Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites!  
(02/25/26 - 13)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

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)

Electrician

KJ ELECTRIC LLC

802-428-6224  
kjelectric63@gmail.com  
Chester, VT  
Licensed and Insured  
Quality installation and service since 2005  
"Wiring is not a hobby! Call a professional!"  
(01/28/26 - 52)

Masonry

DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 37 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com.  
(02/18/26 - 13)

MOORE MASONRY

Fireplaces, chimneys and liners, chimney sweeps, patios, walls, steps, restoration and repairs. Fully insured, free estimates. Contact Gary Moore at 802-824-5710 mooremasonry802@gmail.com.  
(04/08/26 - 26)

Tools

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

PLANES , AXES, STANLEY ITEMS, ETC.  
802-579-5891  
(12/17/25 - 13)

outdoor

PROS TO KNOW

Firewood moisture meters

REGION – With the home heating season here, you may be wondering if your firewood is dry and ready to burn. Vermonters can check out a moisture meter for free from one of 63 public libraries. This is thanks to a statewide loan program from the Departments of Libraries and Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Using this small, hand-held device, you can make sure your firewood is dry (20% moisture or less) before burning. Dry, seasoned

wood burns hotter and cleaner than wet wood, saving both money and energy while making less smoke. During the wintertime, residential wood smoke is a main contributor to fine particle pollution, and is responsible for poor air quality days, especially on calm, clear, and cold winter nights.

Fine particle pollution consists of particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, also known as PM2.5. Fine particles are so

small they can be inhaled and cause serious health problems. Fine particles are also the main cause of reduced visibility (haze) in scenic areas.

“To prevent poor air quality and safeguard public health, it is key to follow proper wood burning practices,” said DEC Commissioner Misty Sinsigalli. “Using dry, seasoned wood reduces smoke, cuts air emissions, and protects our families, neighbors, and the environment.”

You can find more information about the moisture meter loan program, and a list of participating libraries, online at [www.dec.vermont.gov/node/18261/firewood-moisture-meter-loan-program](http://www.dec.vermont.gov/node/18261/firewood-moisture-meter-loan-program). To learn how to use a moisture meter, check out the EPA’s video or fact sheet at [www.epa.gov/burnwise](http://www.epa.gov/burnwise).

Nature Museum expansion

GRAFTON, Vt. – Things may look a bit messy behind the museum right now, but we couldn’t be more excited about the next phase of our outdoor expansion project. Thanks to the successful capital campaign, the Danforth Pavilion opened this summer as our new outdoor classroom space, and now we’re recreating the landscape around it with an eye toward both conservation and community.

A creative design by Terrigenous Landscape Architecture supports a restored native pollinator garden combined with nooks for gathering – perfect for our workshops and camps. The new design is centered on accessibility, with more space for education, exploration, and play, and a welcoming spot where



A render of the expanded Nature Museum, showing the new Danforth Pavillion at the left.

PHOTO PROVIDED

families and the community can gather.

By next spring, pollinator plants both new and old will emerge from the pollinator garden, and will continue to grow over the years. The native plants in the restored meadow and new pond will continue to provide habitat for everything from dragonflies to songbirds, offering

our community living classrooms to explore.

This vision and steady progress is possible because of community support. Through the end of the year, we’d be honored if you’d consider supporting The Nature Museum. Thank you for helping us make 2025 an incredible year of growth, exploration, and play.

### Helie’s Carpets, LLC

FOR ALL YOUR FLOORING NEEDS

*Let us Floor You - Our Prices Won't!*

603-542-9979

[www.heliescarpetnh.com](http://www.heliescarpetnh.com)

281 Washington Street, Claremont, NH



DIAMOND POINT WEALTH PARTNERS

Formerly Huntley Financial Services

Derek Karner

802-228-5774

[www.diamondpointwealthpartners.com](http://www.diamondpointwealthpartners.com)

101 Main Street, Second Floor, Ludlow, VT

Securities and investment advisory services offered through Osaic Wealth, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC. Osaic Wealth is separately owned and other entities and/or marketing names, products or services referenced here are independent of Osaic Wealth.

### The Bottle Guys

Buying, Selling, Digging

Call Ben

603-547-5094



[kingfryday33@yahoo.com](mailto:kingfryday33@yahoo.com)

### GENERAL



AUTO SALVAGE Co., INC

New Hampshire and Vermont's Largest Auto Recycler!!!

**WE BUY USED CARS & TRUCKS!**

Complete – Delivered. Will pay \$300 and up for 2014 or newer

800-562-3845 – 603-542-9595 – [sales@generalautosalvage.com](mailto:sales@generalautosalvage.com)

239 Old Newport Road, Claremont, NH 03743



### MORNINGSIDE Service Station

- Custom Exhaust with Warranty
- Full Service Repair Facility

 Veteran Owned & Operated 

(603) 543-3166

16 Morningside Lane, Charlestown, NH

### COMPLETE SEPTIC SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

BIG OR SMALL WE PUMP IT ALL!



## BEST SEPTIC SERVICE

FOR ALL OF YOUR SEPTIC NEEDS

Tank Locating - Cleaning - Pumping - Inspections

Repairs - Pipe Thawing - Jetting - Snaking

Portable Toilets • Handwashing Stations

Restaurant Grease Traps and Line Clearing

Happy Holidays!

802-463-9444

Westminster, VT • [www.bestsepticvt.net](http://www.bestsepticvt.net)





### Kitchen Fire Suppression Systems Extinguisher Sales & Service

On-Site Maintenance & Service

Residential & Commercial

Over 20 Years Experience

Your Local Extinguisher Company

802-779-1928 | [business@marblevalleyfire.com](mailto:business@marblevalleyfire.com)

PO Box 1609, Rutland, VT 05701

11 Bowen St., Claremont (Next to Walmart)

## One Stop Postal Shop

Full Service Pack and Ship Store

Authorized shipping with



Get Your Mail Here 24 Hour Access

Mailboxes as Low as \$15 per Month

Your One Stop Shop for:

**Boxes - Packing - Shipping - Shredding**

**Passport Photos - Notary - Faxing - Printing - Laminating**

**Document Scanning**

Visit Us Online



Amazon returns accepted with a label

Call or visit us online for help printing carrier return label through Amazon

[onestoppostalshop.com](http://onestoppostalshop.com) - 603-420-2262

Visit Us Online



## Winter has Arrived!

### Call us for Today's Fuel Prices.

Fuel Oil \* Propane

Wood Stoves \* Plumbing

Heat Pumps

Electrical Service



### HB ENERGY SOLUTIONS

802-885-2300

[www.hbenergy.com](http://www.hbenergy.com)



Like us on Facebook

@VermontJournal



### BARR'S BUILDERS, INC.

802-226-7561

Proctorsville, VT

[www.barrsbuilders.com](http://www.barrsbuilders.com)

General Contracting

Construction

Excavating

# home sweet home

## Low- and no-down-payment loans

**REGION** – The biggest surprise for many home-buyers isn't the monthly mortgage payment, it's the amount of cash they think they need up front. The good news? That may not always be the case. With the Federal Reserve's September rate cut potentially leading to lower mortgage rates, now could be a good time to explore mortgage programs that offer low or even zero down payments.

Saving up 20% down can take years, but today's loan programs are designed to

help you get into a home with less cash up front. By reducing or eliminating the down payment requirement, you may be able to move into a home sooner, and still take advantage of the lower rates we're seeing after the Fed's decision. That could mean more flexibility for your budget, and more opportunities to begin building equity once you own your home.

Several types of mortgage are designed to make homebuying more accessible, explained below.

**FHA Loans** – Low-down-payment options with flexible credit and income guidelines.

**VA Loans** – For eligible service members and spouses, these loans may require no down payment and no private mortgage insurance. Instead, there is an up-front funding fee that takes the place of mortgage insurance.

**Conventional 97 & HomeReady** – Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac programs that allow a low down payment, with added flexibility for

multigenerational households.

**Why now could be the right time to look**

The Fed's September rate cut is a signal that borrowing costs may shift. Pairing that with a low- or no-down-payment option could make it easier to buy with less cash up front, and may provide more manageable monthly payments depending on your situation.

*Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, Prime Lending, Ludlow, Vt.*



Learn about low- and no-down payment loan options, which could help make homebuying possible for you. STOCK PHOTO

## Let's get festive —

BY LISA STICKNEY

**REGION** – New beginnings are happening all around us. It's that time of year again. The temperature drops. Fields that were once green are now replaced with a fresh blanket of snow. The first snowfall of the year, and the transition to a feeling of peace and tranquility, as we shift into winter mode.

Snow is a signal to get into the holiday spirit. We busy ourselves with tasks in preparation for upcoming celebrations, and to gather with family and friends. We purchase a tree to decorate, gifts to wrap, food to enjoy, and more. And, with this change in season, we make our home a more festive

place.

Go beyond the traditional decorations this year; write a holiday greeting on the windows in your home. This festive message is written on the entrance door glass.

Start by cleaning the glass before you apply paint, to ensure adhesion. Use acrylic paint pens, or use acrylic paint applied with a paintbrush. Sketch the basic composition of your window mural onto the glass. If you want to use multiple paint colors, plan out the color application. If you choose to paint the glass from the inside for display from the outer glass, you will want to work your colors in reverse.

The possibilities are end-



A festive message painted on the glass of a home's entrance. PHOTO BY LISA STICKNEY

less, and you can personalize your message. Get creative and use your imagination. Scrape the paint

off with a razor blade to remove your window mural at the end of the season, then clean the window.



## Hometown APPLIANCE

*"No Wait, Always in Stock!"*

**All major brands**  
**Financing Available**  
**Delivery Available**  
**New appliances**  
**New Furniture**

958 John Stark Highway  
Newport, NH 03773

**603-543-4111**

[www.crazy-eds.com](http://www.crazy-eds.com)



## MARY W DAVIS

REALTOR & ASSOCIATES

HELPING YOU MAKE MEMORIES SINCE 1958

802.228.8811  
[info@davisandcompany.com](mailto:info@davisandcompany.com)  
[www.okemorealestate.com](http://www.okemorealestate.com)



## PrimeLending

Purchase | Refinance | Renovation

### VICTORIA BLODGETT

PRODUCTION MANAGER | NMLS: 179656

[vbprimelending.com](http://vbprimelending.com) | [vbloodgett@primelending.com](mailto:vbloodgett@primelending.com)

**802-683-8697**

126 Main St #1C | Ludlow, VT 05149

Home Loans Made Simple.

©2025 PrimeLending, a PlainsCapital Company (PrimeLending). (NMLS 13649) Equal Housing Lender. PrimeLending, a PlainsCapital Company, PrimeLending VT lender lic no. 6127 and broker lic no. 0964 MB, V062323



## Buffum Realty

**Julie Buffum**  
Broker/Owner

802-885-3000 Office  
802-376-4339 Cell  
[BuffumRealtyVT.com](http://BuffumRealtyVT.com)



## please SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!



## BARRETT & VALLEY

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

**HOUSE OF THE WEEK**

**SPRINGFIELD, VT - \$249,000**

**GREAT PROPERTY W/CENTRAL LOCATION!**

[www.barrettandvalley.com](http://www.barrettandvalley.com) 802-885-8282



**OPEN HOUSE | SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH 11AM-1PM**  
**188 STATION ROAD | MOUNT HOLLY**  
**Fully Furnished four bedroom Retreat....5 minutes from Jackson Gore!**

**Text Listing Agent Alex Eatmon**  
at 802-345-7886 for more information

**Kelley Real Estate**  
Contact Us for a Free Market Evaluation  
[www.KelleyRealEstate.com](http://www.KelleyRealEstate.com)  
**802-228-5333**



## David Chaves EXCAVATING


*Family Owned & Operated Since 1980*

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

**Specializing In**  
Equine Land Development & Ponds

**802-824-3140**  
**Londonderry, VT**

*Sculpting your piece of Vermont to fit your Dreams!*





Connecticut River Valley and Vermont's Green Mountain Views - \$850,000  
[info@century21highview.com](mailto:info@century21highview.com)

## CENTURY 21 Highview Realty

42 Summer Street  
Claremont, NH 03743

# holiday happenings

## Okemo Valley Holiday Train

CHESTER, Vt. – The Okemo Valley Holiday Train is once again bringing joy, connection, and holiday magic to the community in the Okemo Valley and beyond, on Saturday, Dec. 20, and Sunday, Dec. 21. Special thanks to the dedication of nearly 50 volunteers, and the generosity of nine Reindeer Sponsors. Together, they are making this cherished tradition a beacon of kindness during the season of giving.

From festive decorations to warm smiles, volunteers are the heart of the holiday train. Their commitment to serving others creates unforgettable experiences for riders, and ensures that every journey is filled with cheer. This year, their efforts are especially meaningful, as the train hosts Secret Santa rides, offering families and individuals in need a chance

to celebrate the holidays with wonder and delight.

The Reindeer Sponsors – Magris Talc, Mary W. Davis, Down To The Roots, Diamond Point Wealth Partners, The Vermont Country Store, Heritage Family Credit Union, HB Energy Solutions, Okemo Mountain Resort, and Green Mountain Sign & Graphics – underwrote the Secret Santa train rides, ensuring that the magic of the season reaches those who need it most. Their generosity demonstrates the power of community partnerships and the spirit of giving that defines the Okemo Valley.

Special thanks are also extended to the Chester-Andover Family Center and Black River Good Neighbor Services, whose collaboration has been essential in identifying families and individuals who benefit from



Visit with Santa on the Okemo Valley Holiday Train.

PHOTO PROVIDED

the Secret Santa rides. Together, these organizations embody the true meaning of the holidays: compassion, community, and care for one another.

“Our volunteers and sponsors embody the true spirit of the season – giving selflessly for the joy it brings to others,” said Carol Light-hall, Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce executive director. “With the support

of our Reindeer Sponsors and community partners, we are able to extend that joy to those who need it most.”

Limited tickets remain available for Sunday’s holiday train rides. Community members are encouraged to reserve their seats soon to be part of this festive tradition.

Volunteers are still being recruited as train elves on Sunday, especially for the afternoon runs, and the final cleanup at 6 p.m. Those interested in spreading holiday cheer and lending a hand are warmly invited to join the team.

As the train rolls through the valley, it carries more than passengers – it carries hope, gratitude, and the reminder that giving is the greatest gift of all. To reserve tickets, visit [www.yourplaceinvermont.com/okemo-valley-holiday-express](http://www.yourplaceinvermont.com/okemo-valley-holiday-express).

For more information, visit [www.yourplaceinvermont.com](http://www.yourplaceinvermont.com), or call 802-228-5830.

## Springfield Community Band Holiday Concert

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Band has been working hard, busily preparing for its third annual holiday concert. The concert will take place on Friday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m., in the auditorium of Riverside Middle School, 13 Fair-ground Road, Springfield, Vt.

This will be a fast-paced and fun evening, featuring new and exciting selections. Several are based on traditional holiday music, but with unexpected twists to keep the familiar music interesting and current.

There will be choral music, too. For this joy-

ful music, the band will be joined by members of the Riverside Middle School Chorus.

And there’s more: Members of the Riverside Middle School Band will come on stage with the Springfield Community Band to create a big sound, particularly in the surprising “Metal Bell Carol,” an updated version of the “Ukrainian Bell Carol.”

Experience the haunting and beautiful “Minor Alterations,” and come see what “A Not-So-Silent Night” is all about.

The collaboration of the Springfield Community Band with these young singers and budding musicians will make this evening special, an uplifting night to remember.

## Acworth Village Store Holiday Open House

S. ACWORTH, N.H. – The Acworth Village Store is delighted to announce its holiday open house on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 1-4 p.m., at 1068 New Hampshire Route 123A, South Acworth, N.H. This cherished annual tradition brings neighbors and friends together for an afternoon of festive cheer.

Guests are invited to enjoy mulled cider, hot cocoa, and an assortment of homemade baked treats fresh from our community’s kitchens. A holiday



Join the holiday open house.

PHOTO PROVIDED

bake sale will offer even more seasonal goodies for purchase – perfect for gifting or savoring at home.

A highlight of the afternoon will be a special visit from Santa Claus, who will be on hand for photos with kids of all ages. Whether it’s a classic Christmas portrait, or a fun holiday selfie, Santa is ready for the camera.

In addition to the festivities, the village store is pleased to offer Christmas trees for sale, helping families bring home the perfect touch of holiday spirit.

The holiday open house is a joyful and welcoming community gathering, and we hope you’ll join us as we celebrate the season together.

For more information, please contact the Acworth Village Store at [acworthvillagestore@gmail.com](mailto:acworthvillagestore@gmail.com), or call 603-835-6547.

Come share the warmth, wonder, and joy of the holidays with us.

JOIN THE HOLIDAY EVENTS



Like BFDDA on FB [bellowsfallsvt.org](http://bellowsfallsvt.org)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Ladies Night + Winter Market, 4-6pm

Celebrate the season with fresh, local produce, handmade goods, and artisanal treats at the Flat Iron Cooperative – plus downtown shops open late for Ladies Night. Pick up your Holiday Bingo Card while you’re out enjoying the town.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Parade of Lights, 5pm

Watch the dazzling parade light up The Square with floats, groups, and fun for one of the most magical nights. Find the Our Place food drive float and bring non-perishable items to donate. Last day to return your Holiday Bingo Card for a chance to win local prizes!



You’re Invited: Join Us!

LIGHT UP LUDLOW Event: 12/20, 5pm

Down To The Roots is lighting up the lampposts & bridges along Main St! Cider & donuts will be served. Take a “selfie stroll” thru downtown after the ceremony on Ludlow’s Green.

Help Us Help Local Families & Earn Up to \$5 Barn Bucks/Day through 12/21



LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Receive \$1 Barn Buck (in-store credit) for each non-expired canned or non-perishable food item.



TOYS FOR TOTS

Receive \$1 Barn Buck (in-store credit) for each new, unwrapped gift you donate in our store.

\*Check our Website for Details\*

Donations go to: Black River Good Neighbor Services, Chester Andover Family Center & Windham County’s Toys for Tots

7 Pineview Drive, Chester • 802-875-WEED

[DownToTheRootsVT.com](http://DownToTheRootsVT.com) • ORDER AHEAD ONLINE

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

Mitch’s Maples

Pure Vermont Maple Products

Sugar House Open Daily 802-952-9570

In Chester, take Route 11 East for 1/2 Mile. Take Right onto Green Mtn. Turnpike. We’re the first house on the left!

Our Own Maple Syrup

Member VMSMA

The Perfect Gift!

Beaver Pond FARM



Store open daily 9-5:30

Beaver Pond Farm

1047 John Stark Hwy, Newport, NH

603-543-1107

Find us on Facebook & Instagram

Fresh-Cut NH Christmas Trees

Handmade Balsam Wreaths

“Tasteful” Gifts: Jam, Maple, Honey

Our Grass-Fed Beef & Local Meats

Lots of locally produced foods

Gift Certificates

CHRISTMAS

Hanukkah

Omisoka

Saint Nicholas Day

Bodhi Day

Day of the Virgin Guadalupe

Saint Lucy’s Day

Yule

Kwanzaa

Los Posadas

Boxing Day

Saint Stephen’s Day



Whatever you celebrate, from our family at Lundgren Subaru of Claremont, we wish you the best of health and happiness



LUNDGREN Subaru of Claremont

A family run business since 1964

603-542-9966

152 Charlestown Rd, Claremont, NH 03743

[www.lundgrensubaruofclaremont.com](http://www.lundgrensubaruofclaremont.com)

# holiday happenings

## Holiday songs and storytelling

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Let Gypsy Reel bring you home for the holidays, with a special wassail evening at Ludlow’s town hall, on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m.

There’ll be something for everyone on your list when the area’s favorite Celtic band, featuring Camille Parker on mandolin and bodhran, Claudine Languille on banjo and octave

mandolin, Graham Parker on fiddle, and special guest Jon Clinch on guitar, starts up this centuries-spanning celebration of festive music. You’ll enjoy wassails, beloved carols, Christmas favorites, traditional Celtic instrumentals, and a few unexpected surprises, too. In between, Clinch will share a favorite passage or two from Charles Dickens’

“A Christmas Carol” and his award-winning companion novel “Marley.” Mark your calendar now, and don’t miss this chance to tune up your Christmas spirit. Sponsored by Friends of Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA), the event is free, and doors will open at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 802-228-3238.

## River Singers Community Chorus Holiday Concerts —

**WESTMINSTER WEST, Vt.** – The River Singers Community Chorus, led by Mary Cay Brass with Andy Davis, is celebrating its 35th anniversary of joyous singing together with two special holiday concerts, on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 4 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m., at the Westminster West Church.

The 70-voice River Sing-

ers Chorus is a multigenerational chorus known for its eclectic mix of community-based music from many cultural and musical traditions. You’ll hear thrilling, soulful songs from Bosnia, South Africa, Macedonia, and Belarus, rousing African American gospel, social justice songs, and more. Choir member Andy Davis will lead songs from the local Nowell Sing We Clear tra-

dition, and one of his own compositions based on a text from “The Wind in the Willows.” The choir will also sing a memorial song arranged by and honoring Peter Amidon. Several songs will be accompanied by the choir’s amazing Balkan Band, with Laurie Rabut on fiddle, Addie Rose Holland on clarinet, Richie Davis on percussion, and Andrew Fries on trombone.

Throughout the years, the River Singers have hosted many international choirs: The Boys Choir of Kenya, The Christminster Singers, and Big Sky Chorus from the U.K.; The Zedashe Ensemble from the Republic of Georgia; the Bulgarian Pauni Trio; and Kitka, the San Francisco-based women’s Balkan ensemble. Internationally renowned choral leaders from South Africa, Georgia, Ghana, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Russia, and Albania, to name a few, have done residencies and workshops with the choir – a unique repertoire of authentic, lively, earthy sounds.

The admission fee will be donated to local organizations working in community food support.

For more information, contact [mcbrass@vermontel.net](mailto:mcbrass@vermontel.net), and visit [www.marycaybrass.com](http://www.marycaybrass.com).

## “The Continuing Adventures of King Wenceslas”

**PUTNEY, Vt.** – Next Stage Arts proudly presents the return of Vermont Suitcase Company with “The Continuing Adventures of King Wenceslas and His Page Edith” on Friday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:15 p.m.), at Next Stage Arts, 15

Kimball Hill, Putney, Vt. The evening will open with festive songs by vocal ensemble Heedless of the Gale, setting a warm seasonal tone before the performance.

Back by popular demand, King Wenceslas and his loyal page Edith once again

take to the snowy roads of imagination. Full of humor, heart, and holiday spirit, this year’s adventure promises new escapades, fresh laughs, and the signature whimsy that audiences have come to love from Vermont Suitcase Company. Paired with the

evocative seasonal harmonies of Heedless of the Gale, the event offers a joyful, family-friendly celebration of community and storytelling.

“Bring your friends and family and celebrate with laughter and song,” say the creators, who are thrilled to

return to Putney for this holiday tradition.

Tickets are discounted for youth 18 and under, and available at [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org).

For more information, visit the website above, or contact Next Stage Arts.

## Holiday kids’ art programs

**REGION** – Art teacher Casey Junker Bailey invites children of all ages to make their own presents for holiday giving at art workshops coming up in December. On Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Wilder Library in Weston, children will make old-fashioned apple-head St. Nicholas dolls, with red robes and bags full of surprises. The workshop, which starts at 10:30 a.m., will be held at the library’s temporary location at the Old Parish Church, 100

Main Street in Weston. Be aware that space is limited.

On the following Saturday, Dec. 20, there will be a family celebration of solstice and the joy of giving at the South Londonderry Free Library. The fun begins at 10:30 a.m. Families can visit maker stations throughout the library to make snowy villages, wooden elves, thumbprint reindeer, moonlight-in-Vermont cards, tin ornaments, pinecone Christmas trees, and more.

There will be refreshments as well as music, and each family will receive a copy of the delightful book “Snow.”

As always, these workshops are fun, free of charge, and appropriate for all ages. You may contact the libraries for more information.



Handmade holiday cards.

PHOTO PROVIDED



**HALLADAY'S**  
FLOWERS & GIFTS

CALL TO RESERVE  
**802-463-3331**

[halladaysflowers.com](http://halladaysflowers.com)

Late Night Shopping  
Friday, Dec. 19, open until 7PM

**2025 HOLIDAY EVENTS**

**Ladies Night**  
Friday, Dec. 12, 4-8PM  
A girls night out of shopping, wine tasting, chair massages, and more.

**Yule Log Decorating Class**  
Sunday, Dec. 14, 11AM  
Decorate a yule log with live greens, berries, cones, etc. Cost \$45+

**Fresh Christmas Centerpiece**  
Sunday, Dec. 21, 11AM  
Make a unique centerpiece for your holiday table. Cost \$35+

**FREE**  
Community Event

**Dec. 13**  
9:30-12:30  
611 Route 103 S  
Ludlow



Make a **mini masterpiece**

All ages welcome  
REGISTER or Drop-in  
[CreateTogetherVT.org/events](http://CreateTogetherVT.org/events)

**create TOGETHER**  
WHAT WILL YOU CREATE?

**Kids Christmas Party**



**Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:00 - 3:00 pm**

Open to All Children of the Community 12 & Younger

Snacks, Presents, Meet Santa at 1:30, and receive a new toy from Jolly ol' Santa Claus

**American Legion Post #37**  
42 Rockingham Street, Bellows Falls • 802-463-9700  
Cmdr. Mike Viveivos // Pub. Rel. Smokey Aumand

JOIN BUSINESSES IN  
CHESTER, VERMONT

Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 4-7pm

**Starry, Starry Night**

Follow the luminaries throughout town to 16 participating businesses offering refreshments and special events

Enjoy food and drink tastings -  
Browse, shop, and take part in special events and offerings from artists and makers

Learn More



The Springfield Farmers' 15th Annual  
**Christmas Farmers' Market**

**Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**from 10 am - 1 pm**

United Methodist Church  
On the Square, Springfield

Natural beef, pork, sausage, and kielbasa, artisan breads, free-range eggs, holiday pies and baked goods, custom-designed batik clothing and accessories, hand-crafted holiday notecards and stationary gifts, beeswax candles, a large array of fabric arts and kitchen accessories, delicately-crafted gifts from locally-sourced woods, jams and jellies, pickles and relishes, and a full range of local maple products.

For more information, contact [sfog@vermontel.net](mailto:sfog@vermontel.net)

NEIGHBORS TOGETHER PRESENTS

**HOLIDAY ARTISAN SHOW**





**SATURDAY**  
**13**  
**DECEMBER**  
**10AM - 5PM**

**LUDLOW COMMUNITY CENTER**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT PAULA AT 802-738-9227

# holiday & community

## Springfield Winter Market

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – New vendors are invited to show their amazing creations on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., at the Great Hall, 100 River Street, Springfield, Vt. This indoor market will highlight artisans, makers, and more from the Springfield area, making it a perfect spot for some last-minute holiday shopping.

Enjoy free activities for families, and free pictures with Santa from 12-2 p.m. Come celebrate the festive spirit and grab unique gifts

before Christmas. If you are interested in being a vendor, visit [www.springfieldonthemove.com/vendorisgnup](http://www.springfieldonthemove.com/vendorisgnup). For any questions, feel free to email [springfieldonthemove@gmail.com](mailto:springfieldonthemove@gmail.com).

## Benson's Chevrolet kicks off Toys for Tots Drive

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Benson's Chevrolet, a proud pillar of the Ludlow community, is excited to announce its partnership with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. The dealership is officially a drop-off location, and is challenging the community to help them fill the back of a pickup truck with new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages may be dropped off at Ben-

son's Chevrolet, 25 Pond Street, Ludlow, Vt., by Monday, Dec. 22. The mission is simple: to give the gift of love, hope, and joy to every child who might otherwise go without. Every donation helps bring a bright smile to a child's face, and strengthens the spirit of community giving. New, unwrapped toys need receive a gift this holiday season.

son's Chevrolet, 25 Pond Street, Ludlow, Vt., by Monday, Dec. 22. "The holidays are a time for giving, and we believe every child deserves to experience the magic of Christmas morning," said George Benson Jr., of Benson's Chevrolet. "We are thrilled to serve as a drop-off point, and look forward to seeing our community rally together to fill the truck. Let's make this the most successful collection yet, and give the gift of love to a child in need." Community members are encouraged to visit the dealership during business hours to drop off their donations. For more information, contact Kim Lampert at 802-228-4000.

## Christmas food festival

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – You are invited to a Christmas food festival on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the First Congregational Church, 77 Main Street in Springfield, Vt. The festival will feature local vendors with their award-winning specialties for sale. Food has been prepared and packaged for you and your family, or for gift giving.

It will be ready for your Christmas festivities, and give you a needed break as you prepare for the holidays. Vendors are still needed. Contact Polly at 802-299-6399 or [blaisp1@yahoo.com](mailto:blaisp1@yahoo.com). The vestry at the church is large, and can manage many tables and customers. Put your love of baking and preparing foods together with us for a food festival to remember.

## Sugar Bob's holiday concert

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Please join us on Friday, Dec. 19, at Sugar Bob's Finest Kind, 92 Vermont Route 11 in Chester, Vt., for a very special holiday concert featuring Ida Mae Specker, Mike Wheeler, Emily Burkland, and Mowgli Giannitti. Doors open at 5 p.m., and music begins at 5:30 p.m. This event is BYOB. Cash donations and nonperishable food items will be accepted as donations for the Chester Fam-

ily Center. The concert will feature Giannitti on the grand piano and upright bass, Specker on fiddle, Wheeler and Burkland on guitar, and soaring four-part harmonies. Enjoy holiday classics, experience Sugar Bob's gorgeous new space, and contribute to the local food shelf. Let's come together for a good cause, and lift each other up this holiday season.

## Davallia Gallery welcomes sculptor Sandy Graves

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Davallia Gallery is delighted to announce the addition of acclaimed bronze sculptor Sandy Graves to its roster of featured artists. With a career spanning more than two decades, Graves brings a powerful blend of emotion, movement, and artistic finesse to her work, making her a natural fit for our gallery's commitment to craftsmanship, creativity, and

accessibility. Born in Denver and raised in Nebraska, Graves earned her degree in fine art with a concentration in sculpture from Colorado State University in 1993. Since casting her first bronze piece in 1999, she has mastered both realistic and abstract forms, exploring the dynamic interplay of positive and negative space. Her signature statement, "Emotion, movement, and beautiful composition are the elements which I infuse into each of my sculptures," resonates in every piece. Graves' work has been exhibited in galleries across the United States and Canada, and her public commissions grace locations in Colorado, Washington, Nebraska, and Vermont. Through her distinctive approach to bronze – seeing it as "a friendly medium" that invites interaction – she encourages viewers to walk around, touch, and become part of the artistic expression. Davallia Gallery invites guests to experience fine art and furniture in a relaxed, home-like setting – a space where creativity feels accessible and welcoming. Their mission has always been to break the myth that art and beauty are only for a select few, and help others discover how to live more artfully every day. For more information on the gallery, located in the historic Chester Stone Village, visit [www.thedavallia.com](http://www.thedavallia.com), or call 802-875-8900.

### Taverne ON THE SQUARE



*Now Open for Lunch!*

**603-287-4416** RESERVATIONS PREFERRED  
2 PLEASANT STREET, CLAREMONT, NH  
[WWW.TAVERNEONTHESQUARE.COM](http://WWW.TAVERNEONTHESQUARE.COM)  
WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY 11-3, FOR LUNCH  
FRIDAY-SATURDAY 4-9, FOR DINNER



### HEAD QUARTERS

*"Springfield's best kept secret"*

**Walk-In Only Salon**  
Valari Freeborne  
Owner/Operator

**NEW HOURS**  
Tue & Fri, 9am-5pm  
Wednesday, 9am-12pm  
Saturday, 7:30am-12pm



Est. 1988

**802-885-9595**  
Springfield Shopping Plaza  
Springfield, VT

## VERMONT'S BEST BOOT FITTERS



LUDLOW, VT

FISCHER • ATOMIC • STÖCKLI • NORDICA

SALES • SERVICE • RENTALS • DEMOS • APPAREL • ACCESSORIES

**GEAR UP THE KIDDOS!**  
ALL KIDS CLOTHING & GEAR  
**30% OFF**  
December 19-21  
\*In-store only

VISIT US, SHOP ONLINE OR CALL THE PROS (802) 228.2776



## 10% OFF

MUST HAVE COUPON.  
LIMIT 1 PER PERSON, PER TRANSACTION.  
IN STORE ONLY  
VALID 10/1/25-12/31/25

**STORE HOURS: MON-SAT 10A-5P, SUN 11A-4P**  
**3607 CLAREMONT RD. CHARLESTOWN, NH**  
[www.franksbargaincenter.com](http://www.franksbargaincenter.com)



## Green Mountain fireside Specialties

GET COZY. GIFT LOCAL.  
Your one-stop shop for a perfect Vermont holiday.

- \* Vermont Flannel \*
- \* Vermont Teddy Bear \*
- \* Runamok Maple Syrup \*
- \* S'mores & Hot Cocoa Kits \*
- \* Vermont Made Candy & Treats \*
- \* Chandler 4 Corners Pillows & Rugs \*

*The Tradition of Vermont.  
The Comfort of Home.*

**2568 Route 103, Proctorsville VT 05153**  
Open Monday-Friday: 9AM- 5PM & Saturday: 10AM-2PM  
[www.gmfireplace.com](http://www.gmfireplace.com)

## SHOP LOCAL • FOR ALL YOUR • SHOOTING SUPPLIES



### NEED CASH???

WE BUY GOLD AND SILVER, COINS, JEWELRY, STERLING

**233 SOUTH MAIN ST • RUTLAND, VT**  
**802-342-0187** [blackdogshootingsupplies.com](http://blackdogshootingsupplies.com)

## JAMAICAN JEWELZ



**65 SQUARE, BELLOWS FALLS**

**Small Group Catering**  
Order Two Days Prior

**Whole Turkey & Ham Dinners**  
Available for Thanksgiving & Christmas  
Feed Families of 4, 8, or 12

**Celebrating 1 Year Anniversary**  
At Our Brick and Mortar Location

**802-376-9714**  
[jamaicanjewelz.com](http://jamaicanjewelz.com)

**Now Open 4 Days a Week**  
Thur 10am-6pm / Fri-Sat 10am-7:30pm / Sun 10am-5pm