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2025 year in review

JAN. 2 – Chester adopts rural development by-laws

CHESTER, Vt. – On Thursday, Jan. 2, the Chester Selectboard met to revisit their discussion of the long-running, and lately controversial, project to revise the town’s Unified Development Bylaws. The board voted 4-1 in favor of the proposed bylaw changes, which included the reduced setbacks that had been controversial at the previous meeting. Board member Peter Hudkins cast the lone “nay” vote.

By Nick Giberti

JAN. 13 – Edgar May re-mediation and expansion project moves ahead

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The removal of PCBs and other chemicals from 140 Clinton Street is Phase 1 of a three-phase project that also includes the construction of a 13,000-square-foot addition that will connect the recreation center to the foundry building. When all phases are complete, the recreation center will be expanded by 31,000 square feet, with an indoor walking track and turf field.

By Paula Benson

FEB. 1 – R4R brings in

\$20,000 for cancer and diabetes research

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Saturday, the first day of February, temperatures hit the single digits, but that did not stop more than 50 racers from turning out at Okemo Mountain as part of the annual fundraiser and competition Runs for Research (R4R). Currently in its eighth year, the event raises money for cancer and diabetes research, and was founded by two ski-racing sisters from Ludlow, Cami Blount, 16, and Chloe Blount, 14.

By Paula Benson

FEB. 3 – Plymouth discusses pending lawsuit

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – At their Feb. 3 meeting, the Plymouth Selectboard discussed a pending lawsuit against the town pertaining to the educational property tax exemption for Bethany Birches Camp. Board Chair Jay Kullman announced that on Jan. 22, Pepper Tepperman filed the lawsuit with attorney Kevin Gustafson, regarding the educational property tax exemption granted to Bethany Birches Camp.

By Shawntae Webb

FEB. 5 – The Killarney celebrates 20 years

LUDLOW, Vt. – One of Ludlow’s longstanding establishments, a favorite of both locals and visitors alike, The Killarney, is still going strong, and preparing to celebrate their 20th anniversary. The Killarney is a convenient après ski stop, but also has the feel of a neighborhood hangout. Mark and Judy Verespy began the work to reopen the fine dining restaurant as an Irish pub in late 2004, and first welcomed customers on Feb. 5, 2005.

By Paula Benson

MARCH 5 – Rockingham fire departments to merge

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Rockingham residents voted 191-102 in favor of consolidating the Bellows Falls, Rockingham, and Saxtons River fire departments. The decision to merge the three fire stations will allow for quicker response times because firefighters will now be a part of the fire department where they also reside, eliminating the need for responders to drive past a fire station with “town owned” equipment they are not authorized to use.

By Joe Milliken

MARCH 17 – Londonderry’s goals follow exit interviews

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – At the March 17 meeting, Londonderry Selectboard member James Ameden gave a report on exit interviews, which were held recently after multiple resignations from public bodies. Common themes or factors consisted of the relationship between the selectboard, and committees and commissions, the impact on the town and selectboard operations with a history of money and grants not being fully utilized, management of information in the public sphere, and overall meeting management.

By Shawntae Webb

MARCH 18 – Rockingham Selectboard authorizes Bellows Falls Train Station purchase

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – After more than three years of planning, testing, and fundraising, the Rockingham Selectboard approved the purchase of the historic 1923 Bellows Falls Train Station, located on Depot Street, at the Island District in Bellows Falls. Currently owned by the Vermont Rail System, the

purchase of the Bellows Falls Train Station has been a long and involved process for the town.

By Joe Milliken

MARCH 26 – Peter Burrows named Springfield School District superintendent

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Wednesday, March 26, the Springfield School District announced the appointment of Peter Burrows as superintendent, effective July 1, for a term of one year. Burrows brings more than 30 years of experience in public education to the role, including 10 years as the superintendent of the Addison Central School District in Vermont, and the past 20 months as school superintendent for Milton Public Schools in Massachusetts.

By Paula Benson

APRIL 7 – Former teacher returns to Union Street as principal

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield School Board met on Monday, April 7, to appoint a list of new and returning staff members at area schools. Lyndsie Perkins was named as the new principal of Union Street Elementary School. Perkins is an alum of the

Springfield School District, and was a classroom teacher at the Union Street School for nine years.

By Paula Benson

APRIL 7 – 100 River Street renovation project in Phase 1

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The multiphased project will ultimately include a 162-unit senior living community and assisted care facility planned for 5 Pearl Street. Additional housing for residents of all ages is also part of the plan, with the goal of addressing at least a small fraction of the town’s affordable housing shortage.

By Paula Benson

APRIL 16 – Julian Quarry issues continue in Chester

CHESTER, Vt. – The board invited residents living near the quarry owned and operated by Julian Materials LLC, located in Gassets along Route 10 and Dean Brook Road and commonly known as the Julian Quarry, to speak about what they said were recently observed violations committed by the operators of the quarry. Multiple residents detailed

See **REVIEW** on Page 2

CSB announces retirement of Carol Vivian

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Claremont Savings Bank (CSB) announced the retirement of Carol Vivian after 40 dedicated years of service to the bank. Vivian’s leadership over these past 40 years has left a lasting mark on the bank, our staff, and most importantly our customers. Her wisdom will continue to guide us long after she is gone.

Vivian began her career with Claremont Savings Bank in 1985, as a teller,

and spent the next 40 years working her way to executive vice president – chief customer experience officer. She has been the head of both retail and business lending, human resources, and retail banking, which oversaw all retail branches, customer service, customer care, and consumer lending, in addition to loan operations and deposit operations.

In addition, as a member of the executive team, Viv-

ian collaborated with fellow executives to establish and oversee the bank’s policies, long-term objectives, and the strategic direction of the bank. This included shaping the organization’s vision, operational efficiency, and franchise growth, making high-level decisions that heavily influenced customer experience. Their collective leadership set the tone for the bank’s culture, and positioned it to adapt to evolving market

conditions and technological advancements.

Vivian had great institutional memory and knowledge that will be missed. Vivian was an advocate for providing training and opportunities for advancement at CSB, and has a knack for recognizing talent and strong work ethic in CSB employees.

“You’ve built a legacy of excellence here. May your retirement be filled with everything you love,” stated

David Finnerly, president and CEO of Claremont Savings Bank. “It’s been an honor working with you. Your commitment has left an incredible mark on CSB and on me. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement.”



Carol Vivian is retiring after 40 years.
PHOTO PROVIDED

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REVIEW

From Page 1

activities they had witnessed at the quarry, alleging that there has possibly been unpermitted drilling and blasting aimed at facilitating rock extraction below grade level, as well as noise violations, and deliberate pollution of nearby Dean Brook with wastewater from the quarrying operation.

By Nick Giberti
APRIL 11 – Longtime

WNESU educator Kate Kane named Central Elementary principal BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Kate Kane, a local, longtime educator in the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union school district, was recently named the new principal at Central Elementary School. A 1984 Bellows Falls Union High School graduate and valedictorian, Kane grew up in nearby Cambridgeport, and after high school earned a bachelor's degree, majoring in English and Clas-

sics, from Tufts University in 1988.
By Paula Benson
APRIL 21 – Londonderry adopts amended STR ordinance LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Short-term rental (STR) administrator Andy Dahlstrom reviewed some of the proposed amendments to the STR ordinance. Some changes include requiring a Knox Box for units that have an automatic fire alarm system; having a second means of escape, or egress, in every sleeping space of each registered unit; and each STR owner is responsible for removal or recycling, trash, ash and

coals from grills and fire pits, and all other waste. The selectboard unanimously voted to adopt the amended ordinance, and has warned the adoption for public review.
By Shawntae Webb
MAY 19 – Plymouth's Bridge 9 to close for 42 days in summer PLYMOUTH, Vt. – Bridge 9, located on Route 100A, approximately 3.7 miles north of Route 100, is slated for construction this season. Preliminary work began on May 12, and the bridge was reduced to one lane on May 20, with a full 42-day closure scheduled from July 7 – Aug. 15. VTrans re-

ported the whole project will be complete in September.
By Shawntae Webb
MAY 19 – Ludlow establishes tree committee LUDLOW, Vt. – The board heard from Tree Warden Phil Carter, who had requested that the board create a tree advisory committee, in order to proactively combat the threat of emerald ash borer (EAB) and other tree blights, diseases, and infestations. Carter felt that the arrival of the EAB is inevitable, and that other towns in the state and in the region were already ahead of Ludlow in preparing for their arrival.
By Nick Giberti
MAY 23 – Chester hears school board controversy CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Selectboard heard several comments from citizens pertaining to the events of the previous meeting on May 7. At that meeting, the selectboard had been presented with two candidates to fill a vacancy on the Green Mountain Unified School District Board. One of the candidates, John Keller, had recently pled guilty to domestic assault. The board declined to recommend a candidate at the meeting, and only Vice Chair Arne Jonynas openly expressed disapproval

of Keller.
By Nick Giberti
JUNE 5 – Bellows Falls youth softballers win fourth consecutive championship BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls entered the playoffs as the No. 3 seed, and traveled to rival Springfield, where they won 31-17 in a three-and-a-half-hour game. In the championship game, the following night on the same field, Bellows Falls defeated Chester 13-3 to claim their fourth consecutive VYSU championship, dating back to 2022. During this four-year stretch, Bostwick's teams have posted an almost unbelievable record of 42-2.
By Joe Milliken
JUNE 25 – Springfield welcomes Kinney Drugs to the Plaza SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On June 25, regional drugstore chain Kinney Drugs posted the news Springfield residents were waiting for – Kinney Drugs will be taking over the Springfield Plaza location beginning the first full week of August, after acquiring the pharmacy from Rite Aid.
By Paula Benson
The year in review will be continued in next week's Jan. 7 paper.

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Mount Ascutney Hospital recognized for American Hospital Association membership—

WINDSOR, Vt. – On Tuesday, Dec. 16, the American Hospital Association (AHA) recognized two Dartmouth Health member hospitals for their longtime AHA memberships. The AHA honored Mount Ascutney Hospital and Health Center (MAHHC) for 75 years of participation, and Valley Regional Hospital (Valley) for 100 years of participation. The award acknowledges the hospitals’ longstanding dedication to improving health in their communities.

“We are grateful to the American Hospital Association for recognizing the enduring dedication to our



Mount Ascutney Hospital and Health Center leadership. PHOTO PROVIDED

patients, employees, and communities we serve,” said Matthew Foster, CEO and president of MAHHC and Valley. “This milestone honors the history and ongoing commitment

of our teams to advancing high-quality, compassionate care close to home.”

HCRS new hires —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont’s community mental health agency, is pleased to welcome seven new professionals who joined the agency during the month of November. These new hires will strengthen HCRS’ services across Windham and Windsor counties as the organization continues to evolve and respond to growing community needs.

With more than 550 staff working across more than 20 locations, HCRS brings on new team members each month to ensure continued access to high-quality care across the region. The latest additions reflect the agency’s broad reach across southeastern Vermont, and its commitment to providing essential mental health, substance use, and developmental services to more than 4,000 people each year.

HCRS welcomes the following new employees: Jay Brandon, stabilization specialist, Bellows Falls; Amber Allen, DSP community, Windsor; Sarah Legasse, public safety service coordinator, Springfield; Lacey Dix, assistant area manager, Brattleboro; Amy Wilson, DSP community, Springfield; Allyson Handy, DSP employment, Springfield; and Nikki

Ekenstierna, case manager, Brattleboro.

These professionals bring unique talents and energy to their roles, and HCRS is proud to have them join the team.

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MOOOver welcomes two new board members —

REGION – Southeast Vermont Transit (SEVT aka the MOOOver) announces the addition of two new members to its board of directors.

Trisha Paradis joins the board as the executive director of the Springfield Family Center. She has 18 years’ experience in the medical and human services fields. The Family Center provides community meals and food distribution throughout the Town of Springfield.

Erin Ladd is the director of planning and zoning for the Town of Ludlow. She was a program manager for the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission and the director of planning and development for Brizaga Inc., of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She



Erin Ladd. PHOTO PROVIDED



Trisha Paradis. PHOTO PROVIDED

also teaches skiing at Okeemo Mountain Resort.

Erin and Trisha complete the SEVT Board’s nine-member roster. The board meets on the third Tuesday of the month, at 10 a.m., via Zoom.

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REGION – In this year’s Zillow Zeitgeist, millions of home searches from 2025 reveal what people were actually looking for in their next home. All those searches tell a story.

The ideal home isn’t one-size-fits-all for shoppers, but a few trending themes rose to the top across the country. A full map of all states and their corresponding top home search features can be viewed at www.tinyurl.com/2025homefeatures.

Let’s go swimming

Whether it’s for the view or activities, water-related searches made a splash for nearly every state – even inland markets.

Search terms included “beach,” “dock,” “lake,” “ocean,” “pond,” “pool,” “river,” and “waterfront.” Top states for these searches were Alabama, Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina,

Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

Living together

The multiuse home trend spans coast to coast. It’s about adaptability – homes built for hosting, housing parents, or renting side hustles.

Related search terms were “ADU,” “casita,” “duplex,” “guest house,” “in-law suite,” and “mother-daughter.” Top states for these searches were Connecticut, Idaho, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Rural living

The rural renaissance is real. From “horse property” to “barndominiums,” Americans are searching for land with a purpose.

Search terms related to rural life included “acreage,” “barn,” “barndominium,” “farm,” “fenced yard,” “horse property,” and “ranch.” Top states in this category were Arkansas, Colorado, In-

diana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.

Cozy comforts

From log cabins to fireplaces, this year’s home searches revealed a desire to feel cozy over flashy.

Related searches included “cabin,” “cottage,” “fireplace,” “log cabin,” and “ski,” in the states of Alaska, Colorado, Maryland, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont, and West Virginia.

Sunlight and everyday escape

Americans searched for the joys of indoor-outdoor living, not through resort-like amenities, but through simple pleasures that offer fresh air or connection with nature.

Search terms for such amenities included “balcony,” “golf,” “patio,” “pool,” “solar,” and “view.” Top states included Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, and

Nevada.

Local charm

Across the country, people embraced classic styles and historic architecture unique to where they live, such as “adobe,” “brick,” “Cape Cod,” “cottage,” “historic,” and “Victorian.” Top states: Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, New Mexico, and Virginia.

Homes that hold our whole lives

In 2025, demand for flexible living surged, as people consider how their homes can evolve to meet changing needs and work harder for them.

Whether it’s creating space for aging parents, a rental unit for extra income, or a studio for passion projects, 2025’s home searches reflect a simple truth: We’re building homes that evolve with us. These are homes that hold our families, our work, and our dreams, all under one roof.

*Written by Ian Shuler.
Provided by Zillow Group.*



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COMMUNITY

opinion

Write to Sen. Ruth Ward opposing Acuity

Dear Editor,

Last week, our State Sen. Ruth Ward, R-Stoddard, stole Claremont's Christmas. In a letter to the New Hampshire Waste Management Council, Sen. Ward endorsed a deal Acuity Management Inc. has been trying to put over on Claremont since 2017. Acuity, based in Methuen, Mass., wants to bring as much as 500-600 tons of construction and demolition waste into a residential neighborhood in West Claremont, six days a week, 52 weeks a year. This waste would come from a wide region to be dumped on a small patch of land near our thriving Amtrak station at Claremont Junction. The waste may contain lead, asbestos, mercury, PFAS, and many other toxic materials.

A quick look at the post-

age stamp-sized parcel of land reveals that nothing other than plowing waste into piles can happen before this waste is transferred to Ohio. In her letter, Ward claims, "The company has shown a willingness to work with the community and the state." In fact, Acuity is suing Claremont and the Claremont Zoning Board, and appealing the state's decision to deny permits. Sen. Ward goes on to state that the area has little traffic, when actually hundreds of families live in proximity and the Amtrak station close by has a higher number of passengers every year. Claremont Junction needs a hotel, not a toxic waste dump.

Additionally, our senator states the project "will support jobs," when no new

jobs are required, other than a few equipment operators. She says Acuity "will manage materials responsibly." How is that possible, when the lot is just over one acre (60 feet by 660 feet), and the materials are impossible to identify and sort without testing. Lastly, she says Acuity will provide "needed services." Needed services as determined by whom? Certainly not the nearby homeowners, and the staff and students at the schools on Maple Avenue. This is the wrong project in the wrong place.

Acuity needs to walk away. Sen. Ward needs to come to Claremont and meet with residents who would be directly affected by a major toxic waste operation in their neighborhood.

This project will jeopardize property values; threaten the health of our children and residents; destroy our roads; and harm our region by impacting roads, air quality, and our children's health. How is it possible that Sen. Ward is willing to jeopardize our property values, our children, our health, our roads, our city, and our region? Could this be about greed and money? Everyone who cares and who can should take time to write New Hampshire State Sen. Ward to express their displeasure. Remember her when you vote on Nov. 3, 2026.

Sincerely,
James M. Contois, A
Better Claremont
Claremont, N.H.

BRAM thanks Festival of Lights participants

Dear Editor,

We are grateful for everyone's support of our Festival of Lights fundraiser. We wish to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the community of Ludlow, and the following businesses and individuals for their help in making our fundraiser a success. We could not have done it without all of you.

Thanks to Eugene Dean, Aggie Sheldon, John Lampert, Mary Davis Realty, William Raveis, Ludlow Insurance, M&T Bank, Berkshire Bank, Book Nook, Engel & Volkers, Boot

Pro, Green Mountain Fireside, Ludlow Rotary Club, Magris Talc, Wine & Cheese Depot, Ace Hardware, New England Cider Donuts, Beth Burlamachi, Geri Baitz, Cindy Tuomisto, Master Plumbing and Heating, Okemo Mountain School, Big Pops Sandwich Shop, Diamond Realty, You're Grounded Coffee, LaValley's Building Supply, Nick Baitz Painting & Property Management, Noah Schmidt, and Darn Tough Socks.

Sincerely,
Black River Academy Museum

It's a new year; time to clean out your closets

BY LISA STICKNEY
www.facebook.com/LGMansfieldArtworks

REGION – Renewal is the focus for the new year. This time of year, we set new goals and set intentions. We plan for new possibilities. We make a conscious choice to let go of the old, which no longer serves us, and welcome the new and improved into our lives.

A great way to begin the new year is to simplify your life by removing unnecessary items. Clean out the clutter of personal belongings. This helps us mentally by creating a better flow, reducing anxiety, and increasing our daily flow and

productivity.

The result of decluttering is uplifting. It can be challenging to get started, but once you do so, you will find it to be motivating. Lighten your load and free yourself of unwanted items that you either do not want, need, or use.

It's a mindset. An organized space improves your ability to manage your daily activities with more efficiency. The hardest part of organizing your space is to get through all that clutter. First, go through and remove any items that are nonfunctional and in your way. Things that are broken or damaged in any way, items that you never use or

no longer fit, and belongings that you just don't like.

Now is the time to make positive change. Let go of what no longer serves you. Make room for your new and improved space. Set clear goals and intentions for yourself and for your improved home environment.

Start with one drawer at a time. It's much less overwhelming to begin by going through drawers in each room. Inspect expiration dates and toss expired medications, beauty products, and pantry/food items. Will you use these products and medications that remain? Of those items that are left, determine if there are any for which you have no

use. Donate any unopened products, and toss any that were used, or opened products that you don't wish to keep.

Next, go through every piece of clothing you own. For each item, ask yourself, "Have I worn this item within the last six months to a year, or will I want to wear it? Does it fit well? Is the color, fabric, and/or pattern complimentary?" If you answer "no" to any of these questions, place it in a donation box. Inspect your clothing for any stains or damage, and toss them into the trash, or you can save for use as rags. As you clear out your closet, you will free up space. This is so helpful in allowing you to much more easily find the clothes that you actually want to wear.

In other rooms, you may have a collection of books and magazines. Keep what you may need for reference, or if it has personal meaning; donate or recycle the rest. Documents, letters, receipts, and all the miscellaneous paperwork that clutters up your office space should be sorted through. Discard or recycle any paper that you don't need. Kitchen utensils, and odds and ends that you don't plan to use can be donated.

Go through your home and inspect what may be in need of repair. As you work through the process of decluttering your home,

consider listing items on Facebook Marketplace, or set items aside if you plan to have a yard sale in the spring. Toss stained or damaged items, and anything else can be recycled or donated.

Keep all sentimental items that hold meaning. Let go of the rest. Once you have finished decluttering your space, you will likely find that it makes your life easier, improves your mood, allows for better efficiency in completing tasks, and will save time. It also creates a space for new ideas, creativity, and a more relaxed environment.

Ludlow Rotary supports Chester Teen Center

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Rotary Club recently presented a check to Andrew Moore, creative arts director for Black River Action Community Coalition (BRACC), in support of the new Chester Teen Center. The center is spearheaded by Lauren Ingersoll, and is located at Green Mountain Church, 469 Main Street in Chester.

The Chester Teen Center provides a safe, welcoming space for youth ages 13 and older, offering a balance of fun and enrichment. The center is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 3-5:30 p.m., and features homework tutoring,

creative workshops, and opportunities for teens to socialize and build friendships.

Operating year-round, the teen center also offers seasonal activities, including mountain biking in the summer and skiing in the winter, helping teens stay active and engaged throughout the year.

For more information about the Chester Teen Center, visit www.braccvt.org.



Rotarian Brigid Sullivan presenting a donation for BRACC's Chester Teen Center to Andrew Moore. PHOTO PROVIDED

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

CHURCH SERVICES: All services are posted online at www.VermontJournal.com.

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

JAN. 5 – CLAREMONT, N.H. – Chair yoga at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will be held on Monday, Jan. 5, at 9:30 a.m. This class is free for members, with a small fee for nonmembers. Bring your own beverage and a snack if you need one. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

JAN. 8 – LUDLOW, Vt. – A book discussion about the Fletcher Memorial Library’s many fabulous cookbooks will be held on Thursday, Jan. 8, at 12 p.m., at the Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street. Find a new recipe, or make one of your favorites to share at the book discussion. Coffee and tea will be provided to ward off winter’s chill.

JAN. 9 – CLAREMONT, N.H. – Fundraiser bingo at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will be held on Friday, Jan. 9. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and the games begin at 6 p.m. This event is open to the public; you must be 18 or older to play. Concessions will be available through the intermission. If you are interested in helping with future events, please call Cheryl at 603-543-5998.

ACT 250 NOTICE
APPLICATION 2W0157-7 AND HEARING
10 V.S.A. §§ 6000 - 6111

The Windham Foundation, Inc. submitted application 2W0157-7 for a project described as an amendment to a permit that currently allows a maximum of three events to a maximum of 24 outdoor events on the field located in front of the Grafton Trails & Outdoor Center.

The project is located at 783 Townshend Road in Grafton, Vermont.

The District 2 Environmental Commission will hold a site visit on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 9:30AM and a public hearing on Monday January 26, 2026, at 10:30AM. If there is inclement weather on January 26th then the site visit and hearing will be held on January 29, 2026, at the same times listed above. Email Stephanie.Gile@vermont.gov on Sunday, January 25, 2026 with questions about weather-related postponement.

The hearing will be conducted both in-person and via Microsoft Teams video conferencing software (Teams). To access the Teams meeting, click on the following link, or enter the meeting ID and passcode by clicking on the button in the upper right corner of your Teams calendar window that says “# Join with an ID.”

- Teams Meeting Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/join/26419441399323?p=W7cXGmPL9ojwglqdkb>
- Meeting ID: 264 194 413 993 23
- Passcode: Ve67f9KV

The public hearing will be held at the Grafton Town Office, 117 Main Street, Grafton, Vermont in the upstairs meeting room.

If you are unable to participate in person or by using Teams, you may still call in to the hearing:

- Dial: 802-828-7667
- Enter Conference ID: 841 363 863#
- To raise hand: Press *5
- To mute and un-mute: Press *6

This application can be viewed online by visiting the Act 250 Database (<https://anrweb.vt.gov/ANR/Act250/Details.aspx?Num=2W0157-7>). To request party status in advance of the hearing, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board’s website: <https://act250.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form>, and email it to the District 2 Office at: Act250.Springfield@vermont.gov and Stephanie.Gile@vermont.gov.

The Commission intends to narrow the scope of the hearing to Act 250 Rule 34(E); Criteria 1(B) (Wastewater), 5 (Traffic Issues), 8 (Aesthetics) unless that scope is expanded by the Commission at the hearing.

If you have a disability for which you need accommodation in order to participate in this process (including participating in the public hearing), please notify us as soon as possible, to allow us as much time as possible to accommodate your needs. For more information, contact Stephanie Gile, District 2 Coordinator, before the hearing date at Stephanie.Gile@vermont.gov.

Dated December 22, 2025

By: /s/ Stephanie Gile
Stephanie Gile
District Coordinator
100 Mineral Street, Suite # 305
Springfield, VT 05156-3168
Stephanie.Gile@vermont.gov

JAN. 12 – CLAREMONT, N.H. –The next senior men’s breakfast at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will be held on Monday, Jan. 12, at 8 a.m. There is a nominal fee, discounted for members. This is a great time to see and make new friends. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

JAN. 19 – CLAREMONT, N.H. – The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Monday, Jan. 19, from 12-5 p.m. Please call 800-RED-CROSS to schedule an appointment.

JAN. 24 – ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Join Vermont Vines Vineyard on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., for Jamelot, featuring wine in the vineyard and some great ‘70s and ‘80s dancing goodness. It may be chilly outside, but things will be hopping at Vermont Vines. Our tasting room opens at 12 p.m., so feel free to come early, sip some of our finest wines, and get ready for an unforgettable evening. Come for the wine, stay for the tunes. We can’t wait to see you there. Cover charge supports local farms and music.

SUNDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Loyal Order of Moose will be hosting a community breakfast on the first and third Sunday of every month, downstairs at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, from 8-10 a.m. All you can eat for a minimal cost.

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – The Perkinsville Community Church, 35 Church Street in Perkinsville, Vt., will be hosting live music every first Sunday, from 4-5:30 p.m. This is a free event, but donations will be accepted each month to go towards local charities. Please keep an eye out for upcoming shows, they will be posted each month on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PerkinsvilleChurch. Any questions, or to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to churchperkinsville@gmail.com.

MONDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Free Tobacco Quit class led by Sarah Doyle, Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls. Dinner included. Call or text Sarah at 802-289-0045 or email sdoyle@springfieldmed.org.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Mondays at 6:15 p.m., join Mikayla for a yoga class. Email mikayla@mikaylasmantra.net to register. Visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds line dancing every Monday night, at 7 p.m., with Dorianne Lescord. Free for members, small entry fee for nonmembers. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

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

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

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

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

LUDLOW, Vt. – A gentle flow yoga class for all levels to improve balance and flexibility, relieving tension from your day, will be held Thursdays, from 6-7 p.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street. Mats and blocks provided. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or loriwright163@gmail.com to register, or with any questions.

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

TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM

The Town of Rockingham is seeking interested businesses to fill the south storefront at 7 The Square, Bellows Falls, VT 05101. This space is available on or before February 1, 2026 and consists of 1, 120 sft +/- on the first floor together with 750 sft. +/- in the basement for the term of an annual rent of \$12,159, or monthly rent of \$1,013.25 that includes heat, water, snow removal. The Town requests first/last and 1 month security deposit. The tenant is responsible for electric. To be considered for the Lease Contract, please submit the following items (only applications with the full list of requirements will be considered). 1. Business Plan to include intended use, hours of operation, 3-5 year pro-forma, any financial needs* 2. Credit Report 3. Financial Statements with latest tax filing. For the full list email Development Office. Staff will verify all candidates and make final recommendations to the Selectboard on January 20, 2026. * Town offers Business Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for businesses looking to relocate, start-up or expand in Rockingham.

Please submit to The Town of Rockingham, PO Box 370, Bellows Falls, VT 05101 or online to Betsy_Thurston_developmentassist@rockbf.org and Gary Fox development@rockbf.org

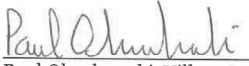
WARNING
SPECIAL VILLAGE MEETING
VILLAGE OF BELLOWS FALLS
January 12, 2026 & January 13, 2026

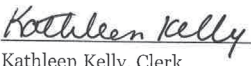
The legal voters of the Village of Bellows Falls are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall Lower Theater in said Village on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. for an informational meeting, and then to adjourn to the Bellows Falls Fire Department (170 Rockingham Street) in said Village from the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, to vote by Australian Ballot on Article 1 and Article 2 as set forth below.

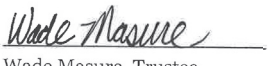
ARTICLE 1: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Village of Bellows Falls in an amount not to exceed Eight Hundred Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$812,500.00) be issued under Chapter 53 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated, payable from the Village’s water fund, derived from the revenue from the provision of water over a period not to exceed thirty years, and subject to reduction by available grants-in-aid or other funding sources, be issued to finance the Village’s cost of Kissel Hill and Colony Road Water Line Improvements (the Project)?

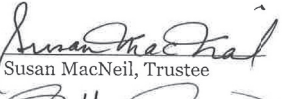
ARTICLE 2: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Village of Bellows Falls in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$300,000.00) be issued under Chapter 53 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated, payable from the Village’s sewer fund, derived from the revenue from billing for sewer service over a period not to exceed thirty years, and subject to reduction by available grants-in-aid or other funding sources, be issued to finance the Village’s cost of Laurel Avenue Sewer Improvements (the Project)?

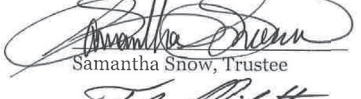
Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Trustees of the Village of Bellows Falls, duly called, noticed, and held on December 2, 2025.



Paul Obuchowski, Village President


Kathleen Kelly, Clerk


Wade Masure, Trustee


Susan MacNeil, Trustee


Samantha Snow, Trustee


Taylor Pichette, Trustee

ATTEST:
Kathleen Kelly, Town Clerk

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

Vermont Farm Show seeks director

REGION – As the Vermont Farm Show works to rebuild the organization, change its tax status, re-define how its board of directors works, and bring its beloved event back in 2027, it has launched a search for the organization’s first-ever director.

The Vermont Farm Show is looking for an individual who cares about the future of agriculture in Vermont. A strong candidate will understand the deep roots Vermont has in land-based enterprises, and that the working landscape is an essential part of the state’s character. Those who work with and on the land, at any scale, with or without animals, are key to Vermont’s agricultural future. The Vermont Farm Show seeks to serve them, while edu-

cating and engaging youth and the public during their event.

The Vermont Farm Show’s director will work with the board to build a strong organization, and to bring the return of a renewed farm show back to Vermont. To start, this is a remote, part-time position.

For more information about the director position, the organization’s new mission, and its history, visit www.vtfarmshow.com.

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GRAFTON, Vt. – 2005 GMC Sierra, SLE 2500HD DSL, 4dr/4wd, Inspected, good condition, \$8500. Call 802-732-8494.

GRAFTON, Vt. – 2020 GMC Sierra SLT 2500HD DSL. Loaded. 4dr/4wd, Fisher V-plow, 5th wheel set up, side tool boxes, \$38,000. Call 802-732-8494.

GRAFTON, Vt. – 2020 GMC Sierra SLT 2500HD DSL, Loaded. 4dr /4wd, 2025 Fisher V-plow w/2025 Fisher Sander, 5th wheel set up, \$48,000. Call 802-732-8494.

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

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

Town of Chester Highway Department Laborer/ Parks and Cemetery

The Town of Chester is seeking an energetic dependable individual to fill the role of Highway Department and Parks and Cemetery Laborer. In the winter, this role includes working with the Highway Department which includes operating heavy equipment for snow removal as assigned. This position performs a variety of unskilled and semi-skilled maintenance work, and operates a variety of equipment in the construction, operation, repair, maintenance and replacement of town roads and storm drain facilities and systems. In the summer, this job includes assisting with burials and grave location, mowing and trimming Town of Chester cemeteries and outdoor public areas.

The ideal candidate will have a high school diploma or GED, and two years of experience in a comparable position is required. The applicant must possess a CDL or be able to obtain a CDL within 6 months of hire. The Town of Chester offers competitive wages along with an excellent benefits package including health insurance, FSA, VMERS retirement, paid time off.

Interested parties should submit a resume to Town of Chester, P.O. Box 370, Chester, VT 05143.

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(12/9/26 - 52)

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Beginner Pysanky March 14 1-4:30 \$75.
(01/14/26 - TFN - 13)

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(05/06/26 - 26)

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(02/18/26 - 13)

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(03/18/26 - 13)

arts & entertainment

Electronic Synthfests at Stage 33 Live

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – There will be two electronic music performance concerts celebrating synthesizers, circuit-bending, and sound manipulation on Jan. 10 and Feb. 7, at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

Each session will open with a meet-and-greet at 6 p.m. Get up close to the gear (look but don't touch), talk with the performers, and settle into the space. Five 20-minute performances will follow, starting at 7 p.m.

Players will be in the center of the room, with

the audience in the round and encouraged to roam throughout the show. The performances will range from cinematic and lush, to computeresque and urgent, to tuneful and poppy. It will get loud.

This year's Synthfest was curated by Trevor Robinson, and features performers who have never played the room before.

Session 1 will primarily feature composed songs, often with voice, sometimes with additional instruments. On the schedule for Session 1 are Deep Seize, Dutch Experts, Holly Brew-

er, Snowglobe Almanac, and The Y Lie.

Session 2 will feature more freeform improvisations and compositions across a range of styles and moods. On the schedule for Session 2 are Belltonesuicide, Bob Familiar with Glenn Dickson, Bosey Joe, Dave Seidel, and Denny Kemps.

There is a suggested donation per event in advance or at the door, all proceeds benefit the performers. No one will be turned away for lack of money. Advance donations through www.stage33live.com guarantee entry if the session sells out. Admission is limited to 40. All performances will be recorded and filmed.

Recycled Percussion at Claremont Opera House

CLAREMONT, N.H. – After becoming famous on "America's Got Talent" and building one of the most successful acts on the Las Vegas Strip, Recycled Percussion has taken all their favorite on-stage antics and combined them into one epic show for you. From gut-busting comedy to blistering-fast drumming, and everything in between, this show has been called one of the most unique and entertaining shows in the world for good reason.

Maybe you are one of the few who have not had the opportunity to see this fantastic



Recycled Percussion.

PHOTO PROVIDED

show. Whether it is your first time or your tenth, a Recycled Percussion show always rocks. With a blank canvas to create, no two performances are the same – from interactive elements to jaw-dropping visual moments, it's a playground of creativity you won't find anywhere else.

Don't miss this show, packed full of surprises and crowd favorites in an

incredible turbocharged performance. Be part of a one-of-a-kind show that took these guys all the way to the entertainment capital of the world, Las Vegas.

Recycled Percussion will perform two shows on Saturday, Jan. 17, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit www.cohnh.org/event/recycled-percussion-25-26-winter-tour.

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U.S. Navy Band Northeast at Claremont Opera House

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The United States Navy Band Northeast Pops Ensemble comes to the Claremont Opera House on Sunday, March 22, 2026, at 2 p.m., for an inspiring afternoon of patriotic favorites, orchestral selections, and popular music. This family-friendly performance highlights the remarkable talent and precision of one of the Navy's premier musical units. The concert is free and open to the public, but seating is limited; online reservations are strongly recommended. Visit www.cohnh.org.

Navy Band Northeast supports official functions, military ceremonies, community outreach, recruiting, and public performances across a 10-state region. Its primary ensembles include the marching and ceremonial bands, the pops ensemble concert band, Rhode Island Sound popular music group, Jack Tar Brass Band, Trident Brass, Crosswinds Woodwind Quintet, and multiple protocol ensembles. Together, these groups perform a wide repertoire, ranging from patriotic and classical works, to big band swing and contemporary hits.

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