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THE **Vermont** Journal

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Down To The Roots lights up Ludlow, holiday drives

BY PAULA BENSON
The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – Meredith Milliken, Andrea “Andi” Goldman, and Scott Blair, co-owners of Down To The Roots (DTTR) dispensary in Chester, have made serving their community as much of a priority as their commitment to operating a high-quality retail cannabis establishment.

Since DTTR first opened in September 2023, they have emphasized wellness and education. The DTTR team hosted family-friendly events throughout the summer, held outside the store, that featured live music, food trucks, giveaways, and lawn games. The shop sponsored an adult softball league, local festivals, and distributed school supplies

to area students, among other community and charitable causes. Goldman reported that DTTR has been able to donate thousands of dollars each year to organizations and charities that service Chester, Ludlow, and Springfield.

This month, DTTR is sponsoring two charity drives that will run through Dec. 21.

Benefitting the Chester-Andover Family Center and Black River Good Neighbor Services in Ludlow, a food drive is underway, with DTTR collecting nonexpired, nonperishable food items. For each item donated, DTTR will give away one Barn Buck, an in-store credit of \$1, up to \$5 per day.

Additionally, DTTR is supporting Windham County’s Toys for Tots campaign by



Locals helping locals with food and toy drives at DTTR.
PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

hosting an in-store toy collection. Customers can earn one Barn Buck for each new, unwrapped gift dropped off at the store, a maximum of

five Barn Bucks per day. You must be at least 21 years old to enter the dispensary.

DTTR is also joining the sponsors of the Okemo

Valley Holiday Express. A magical train riding experience that will feature holiday music, and a visit from Santa Claus and his elves. The train departs from the Chester Depot Train Station five times each day on Dec. 20 and 21. DTTR is the proud sponsor of the Vixen car. Information and tickets can be found at www.yourplaceinvermont.com/more-info.

Another festivity to mark in your calendar is DTTR’s Light Up Ludlow event. The event is scheduled for Dec. 20, starting at 5 p.m., at Veterans Memorial Park, on High Street in Ludlow. Using solar lights, DTTR will decorate the bridges and lampposts along Main Street in the downtown area, to highlight the kickoff of the holiday and the holiday and

ski season. Goldman said the idea is to create a more warm and welcoming experience for visitors who come to town to celebrate winter, and for local every day.

Goldman and Milliken live in Ludlow, and are avid skiers. They each wanted to bring something fun to the resort town, while encouraging a spirit of community connection. Folks are invited to the park for cider and donuts before visiting Ludlow’s shops and restaurants along the Main Street corridor. Participants are urged to “take a selfie stroll” through downtown after the ceremony.

Information on all events can be found at DTTR’s website, www.downtotherootsvt.com/eventsnews.html. You must be 21 or older to visit the website.

Ludlow grapples with snowmobile concerns

BY NICK GIBERTI
The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Monday, Dec. 1, Ludlow Selectboard meeting marked the first meeting for Ludlow’s new town manager Penny Wu. Board member Noah Schmidt welcomed Wu to her new position, saying that the board is “very excited, very happy to have [Wu].” Wu thanked the board, and said she is “excited to be here.”

The first major item on the agenda was to approve a bid for riparian replanting at the former site of the Timber Inn. The buildings on the site were demolished in July of 2024, a year after flooding for a third time, as a condition of a FEMA buy-out.

The town had previously had a site plan engineered by Stone Environmental, and was now seeking a contractor to carry out the plan in the spring. After some

confusion about whether the funds expended on the project would be reimbursed by FEMA, outgoing town manager Brendan McNamara confirmed that the federal agency would, in fact, reimburse the expenditure, though the town would be responsible for paying the costs upfront.

Approval of a bid was complicated by the fact that the low bid, provided by Norris Landscaping and coming in nearly \$15,000 lower than the next-highest bid, did not include removal of material from the site. The board elected to table the issue until their next meeting, to further investigate what removal would cost if handled separately, and whether the savings would justify the added step in the process.

The board then heard from several residents of Godfrey Road, who were concerned about the proposal by the Ludlow snowmobile club –

the Side Hill Cronchers – to utilize a portion of Godfrey Road and South Hill Road as part of the network of Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) trails during the coming snowmobiling season. The residents were concerned that the snowmobiles would create an excessive noise disturbance, passing very near to at least one house which abuts the road, as well as a possible safety hazard for drivers on the roads.

John Murphy, president of the Side Hill Cronchers, explained that the proposed use of the road was due to a last-minute change of heart by a landowner who had previously given the club permission to utilize her property, only to rescind it on short notice. “I believe it will be just for this

See **LUDLOW** on Page 2

Londonderry North Village wastewater recommendations

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB
The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – At the Dec. 1 Londonderry Selectboard meeting, Gary Hedman, chair of the village wastewater committee, spoke to the board about the committee’s prioritized list of recommendations for the North Village wastewater connections.

Hedman said that, of the 6,480-gallon system, the committee is looking to reserve 10% of the capacity. This would allow for a potential restaurant to open at the old mill site.

Hedman continued to report that there were two restaurant applicants, which would exceed the capacity of the North Village system. The committee has informed those applicants, and both owners “have

been receptive to reduce seats,” both for the open restaurant and speculative restaurant. He expressed that redevelopment of the old mill property has been desirable, and the wastewater committee recognized that reserving that capacity for that building or for commercial establishments would be “beneficial to the initiative.”

When asked about the reserved capacity, Hedman reported, “We feel strongly that the owner will connect to system.”

Part of the discussion over the last few months was how to balance the system. Though a few properties elected not to hook into the system, there is greater interest than there is capacity, he explained, “which is what the whole conversation is about, to prioritize properties based on proximity, and their ability to replace their own leach field in event of a failure.”

Board member Taylor Prouty asked if the board can make changes to the committee’s list later in the process if they felt it necessary. Hedman confirmed there would be some flexibility, as long as changes were not made after properties were already established connections. Since Prouty is applying for one of the connections, he is abstaining from the vote to approve the committee’s recommended priority list. The board will further discuss the properties at the next meeting.

The detailed document with the list of prioritized properties can be found in the meeting packet on the town’s updated website, www.londonderryvt.gov.

A special meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 15, at 4:30 p.m., to discuss the proposed fiscal year 2027 budget. The regular selectboard meeting will follow, beginning at 6 p.m.

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Okemo Forest Management

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is revising the long range management plan (LRMP) for the Okemo State Forest. The public is invited to participate in the planning process, and share input on the future use and conservation of these state lands. An in-person public scoping meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 16, beginning a month-long opportunity for the public to learn about the property and submit comments. The comment period will remain open until Jan. 23, 2026.

Situated in the southern Green Mountains, Okemo State Forest covers an area of 7,983 acres spanning the towns of Andover, Ludlow, Mount Holly, and Weston. It features large blocks of contiguous forests, important recreation opportunities (Healdville Trail, Butter-milk Falls), and the Okemo Mountain Resort. The forest also provides a critical wildlife corridor, serving as the only substantial north-south connection between the Coolidge State Forest and the Green Mountain National Forest, and as an east-west link between forest blocks in Grafton and Athens, and the main spine of the Green Mountains.

Long range management plans guide land management on state-owned lands for a 20-year period, balancing ecological, recreational, cultural, and economic val-

ues. Public scoping is an early and important step in the process, giving Vermonters the opportunity to share how they use and value these lands. Public input at this stage helps shape the plan, which will be shared for further public comment before a final draft is adopted.

The public scoping meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 16, from 6-8 p.m., at the Ludlow Town Hall, 37 South Depot Street in Ludlow.

A backup date of Dec. 18 has been reserved in case of inclement weather, and updates about the final meeting date will be posted online prior to the event.

There are multiple ways to learn about the LRMP revision and provide input. The public can attend the scheduled in-person meeting, watch the recorded meeting, or explore the project StoryMap. Comments can be submitted at the meeting, by email to anr.state-landsplanning@vermont.gov, or through an online survey that will be posted after the public meeting.

Rescue Squad Annual Banquet

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS) Annual Banquet was held Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Landgrove Inn.

Hilary Dahlstrom presented the LVRS Community Award to Neighborhood Connections. Jeff DiStasio had the privilege to present the William Cobb Sr. Award to Doug Friant, of South Londonderry, LVRS training officer. Jon Mowrey, of Peru, was made a lifetime member, in honor of his 25 years of service. Dale Malekoff, of Londonderry, was made an honorary member for her invaluable computer and accounting work.

If you wish to volunteer, LVRS can train you as a driver. LVRS also holds certification and licensing courses for VEFR, EMR, EMT, and AEMT. Donations help fund medical supplies, equipment, fuel, and training materials.

For more information, visit www.londonderryrescuevt.org.

LUDLOW

From Page 1

year,” Murphy explained. “We don’t want to be on the road any more than the neighbors want us on the road.” Murphy said he will continue to work with adjacent landowners to find a way around using the road as soon as possible, but that the club was left with no other choice for the time being. “I’m hoping to have an alternative in the coming months, and I will come back to the board,” said Murphy. In the meantime, to mitigate some of the concerns, Murphy offered to place curfew signs on the road limiting use to before 10 p.m., and

said he would speak to the game warden about patrolling the area to ensure safe riding practices and compliance with VAST and state snowmobiling regulations.

In order to facilitate the club’s finding an alternative route, one of the concerned landowners, Kevin Kuntz, offered to allow the club to utilize his property to avoid the street. “If my property can be used again, I have no problem with it, but I am going to ask the town to deny the use of that road,” Kuntz said. Murphy said he appreciated the offer, and would consider it in future attempts to connect the trail across private land instead of on the public road.

The board, while sympathetic to the residents’ concerns, felt in general that not approving the request would “disrupt an entire industry,” as Board Vice Chair Justin Hyjek put it. “Without this trail, they’re literally shut down,” said board member Scott Baitz. The residents pushed back, saying that the club should utilize other trails to circumvent the area, but both Murphy and several members of the board, including Chair Brett Sanderson, insisted that there is no alternative route.

With sympathies to the residents, the board moved to approve the club’s use of the road, with Hyjek abstaining.

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

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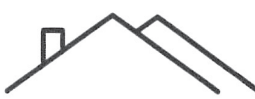
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Go to <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/do-i-qualify/> for a full list of qualifying programs.

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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.

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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.

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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.



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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.

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.

LEGAL NOTICES

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.

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.

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

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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.

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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

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

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.

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(05/06/26 - 26)

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(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. To learn how to use a moisture meter, check out the EPA’s video or fact sheet at 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.

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Low- and no-down-payment loans

REGION – The biggest surprise for many homebuyers 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 endless, 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.



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



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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.

For more information, visit 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.

JOIN THE HOLIDAY EVENTS



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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!

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Gift Certificates


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

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

TOYS FOR TOTS
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Check our Website for Details
Donations go to: Black River Good Neighbor Services, Chester Andover Family Center & Windham County’s Toys for Tots
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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, or call 603-835-6547.

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

CHRISTMAS
Hanukkah **Kwanzaa**
Omisoka **Los Posadas**
Saint Nicholas Day
Bodhi Day *Boxing Day*
Day of the Virgin Guadalupe
Saint Lucy’s Day *Yule* *Saint Stephen’s Day*



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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, 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, and visit 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.

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



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2025 HOLIDAY EVENTS

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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+

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Sunday, Dec. 21, 11AM
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Learn More



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Saturday, December 13th
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For more information, contact sfog@vermontel.net

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SATURDAY
13
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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.springfieldonthe-move.com/vendorisgnup. For any questions, feel free to email 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 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. 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, or call 802-875-8900.

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