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THE **Vermont** Journal

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Londonderry approves North Village wastewater connections —

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB
The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – At their Dec. 15 meeting, the Lonodonderry Selectboard approved the village wastewater committee recommendations for the North Village. The properties start with main connections on North Main Street, and thereafter, spaces will be filled starting from the top of the list and working to the bottom as remaining capacity is available within the system.

The list includes properties on Middletown Road, Edge Hill Road, then additional connections on Middletown and Edge Hill roads, Hells Peak Road, High Street, and Pond Street. Gary Hedman, chair of the village wastewater committee, reported that the list is prioritized to best benefit the town, with cost-effectiveness in mind as well. Complete addresses can be found on Page 22 of the meeting packet.

Town administrator Ai-

leen Tulloch announced that none of the three Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-DR) applications were approved for funding.

The board then needed to determine if the town highway department would take on the snow removal of the parks, in addition to the town hall and town office buildings. Board member Taylor Prouty explained that there was previously a contract for the parks, which the town allowed to lapse. Furthermore, after the renovations and upgrades at the town office, snow removal from that lot is more complex than it had previously been.

Road foreman Josh Dryden confirmed that the highway department could plow the town buildings, after prioritizing the roads. Dryden added that they could plow the parks, but they do not have a sander on the small pickup truck, so the lots could become slippery, and therefore a liability.

Parks and recreation director Liam Elio reported that the recreation department already voted to close the parks, and the gates have been closed for the season. Elio added that the parks can still be used, but the parking area is not currently being cleared or available.

The board determined that, since the parks are closed and the town does not have a way to ensure a safe lot, they would not remove snow from the parks.

Tulloch then proposed that each committee be responsible for properly posting and warning their own meetings. “I feel strongly that it is the responsibility of the committees themselves to abide by open meeting law...and to make sure their meetings are properly warned.” She added that herself, town clerk Allison Marino, and treasurer Tina Labeau are the only three paid staff at the town office, and each have their own tasks that need to be done. “We don’t have the capac-

ity” to make sure everyone’s agendas and minutes are posted properly.

She further expressed that, at times, the committees are not giving her enough time to perform the tasks, or that some of the information is not accurate and needs to be updated multiple times, and it has become a tedious task for her to continue.

Tulloch said agendas need to be posted at the Londonderry Post Office, South Londonderry Post Office, and town office, as well as on the town’s website. She also felt that one person posting to all of the physical locations seems more consistent. Labeau added that the copy room is available for everyone to use, and she would be happy to make copies.

Board member Martha Dale recognized that these individuals are volunteering their time, and felt this task may be a big step for them to have to do. Prouty agreed in the sense that, “The harder we make it for

Coffee Crawl winners

REGION – The West River Coffee Barn, in Londonderry, Vt., was voted the best coffee shop by our readership. Voters appreciate the atmosphere, as well as the friendly service and great staff. Customers enjoy the fantastic coffee, delicious chai lattes, traditional espressos, and otherwise great selection of drinks.

Drawing from all of our ballots, the Heberts family, of Londonderry, won the \$20 gift certificate to West River Coffee Barn.

Congratulations Heberts and West River Coffee Barn!



people to volunteer, the less volunteerism will survive.” Board Chair Tom Cavanagh reminded the board that open meeting laws fall on the committees, not the town.

The board agreed that if they were to hire another paid staff member in the future, assisting the town’s committees might be a beneficial task to the town. They will use this feedback and information to deliber-

ate on how to proceed with open meeting law posting requirements for all of the town committees.

Labeau had some final edits to make to the fiscal year 2027 budget, which will be discussed and approved at the next meeting on Monday, Jan. 5, at 6 p.m. Following, the board moved their next regularly scheduled meeting to Tuesday, Jan. 20, in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

More tax talk in Chester —

BY NICK GIBERTI
The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – Chester citizens once again came out on Wednesday, Dec. 17, to address the selectboard about a proposed 1% local options tax on rooms, meals, and on-premises alcohol sales, with the funds generated to be earmarked for use by the Chester Housing Commission, to fund necessary studies and other housing development-related projects. Recently, the town sent letters to business owners in Chester whose businesses would be required to collect the tax.

Prior to the discussion with citizens, Board Chair Lee Gustafson expressed that he would prefer to investigate all other possible sources of funding for the housing commission, such as the Cypress Mineral Funds and economic development fund. Gustafson requested that town manager Julie Hance bring to the board a list of available funds at their next meeting in January, which Hance agreed to do.

Chester resident Damon Tyler wondered if Hance could provide a list of businesses in Chester which are not required to charge the tax. Hance replied that,

because Chester does not maintain a business registry, this would be “cumbersome for me to try to do.” Tyler said that he would furnish Hance with a list of Chester businesses, saying he possessed a nearly comprehensive list, to which Hance was receptive.

Tyler also expressed some concerns about the proposed tax, including the fact that an extra 1% on top of the current tax rate of more than 9% on rooms, meals, and alcohol would bring the total tax rate to double digits, causing it to be perceived as significantly higher than surrounding areas which do not charge

the tax. He also echoed a sentiment expressed by Stone Hearth Inn co-operator Conner Eklund at the previous meeting, saying he felt that the businesses which would have to charge the tax are less likely to benefit from increased housing for local workers than those the board is excluding from charging the tax – namely, retail establishments.

In response, board member Tim Roper explained the logic for restricting the tax to rooms, meals and alcohol, saying, “One of the benefits of keeping it to rooms and meals is it would bring in much of that revenue from out of state, from

people who are visiting, versus a retail tax...which would hit everybody in town who shops here.”

Resident Carl Henshaw, who also serves on the planning commission, said he is concerned that new housing will be “gobbled up by second homeowners,” rather than by people who intend to be full-time residents of the town. Henshaw noted that 30% of Chester’s houses are second homes, many of which are vacant for significant portions of the year. Gustafson responded that there are also buildings which have sat vacant for other reasons, such as their owners’ deaths, and

wondered, “Is there any way that we as a town can encourage people to sell at a reasonable price that people can afford?” Gustafson acknowledged the necessity of new housing construction, but also observed that more housing is remaining on the market for longer, and that home prices are, as a result, decreasing, though they are still out of reach for most average homebuyers.

The board will continue the local options tax discussion in future meetings. The Chester Selectboard meets the first and third Wednesday of every month, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.

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Third generation owners of GMSH learn from the best

BY PAULA BENSON
The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – In March of 1985, Ann and Doug Rose took over the Green Mountain Sugar House (GMSH), located at 820 Vermont Route 100, from Ann’s parents Marjorie and David Harlow. Ann recalled that she and Doug signed the papers while they were at the store, boiling sugar for maple syrup.

Ann and her siblings grew up working at the Sugar House, and Ann was running the gift shop for her parents by 1974, when she was 19 years old. “They both had other jobs,” Ann explained with a shrug.

The Rose’s store and sugar house has become a favorite

destination for visitors to the Okemo Valley, as well as a local institution, and, as Doug said, “the only agricultural business left in Ludlow.” Their customers return year after year for freshly tapped Vermont maple syrup, homemade maple candy treats, maple creemee ice cream, and lovingly curated Vermont products. Over the past 40 years, Ann and Doug raised three children, and expanded both the scope and footprint of GMSH, which sits on the peaceful shores of Lake Rescue.

Now, at 70 years of age, Ann and Doug feel it is time to pass the business on to the third generation – their son Josh, his wife Jamie, and their three sons: 6-year-old

Smith, 3-year-old Vaughn, and Zeland, 18 months.

Josh grew up working “the woods” with his dad, meaning he learned firsthand how to maintain the more-than-180 tap lines owned and operated by GMSH. Josh still remembers the first time he asked his father to allow him to drill a tap.

“They were old gas tappers called Tanakas,” Josh recalled. “I remember following Doug for a long time, and finally I asked, ‘Do you mind if I drill a hole?’”

Doug asked Josh if he was sure he felt ready, and Josh said he was. “So, I picked a good spot, I drilled a nice hole, then I [realized] the drill was kind of heavy, so I went to hand it back to Doug... ‘No, that’s yours,’ Doug said. ‘That’s yours now.’”

“Summers at the lake, summers in the woods,” Josh reminisced. He looks forward to his boys having the same memories of their childhood. Just like their father and grandfather, the Rose boys enjoy learning about and helping with the tapping process.

“I love it when Josh takes

the boys to the woods,” Jamie remarked. “Smith will come back and tell me, ‘I fixed three lines this time, Mom, three lines!’”

It was three years ago when Josh became operations manager of the woods, allowing Doug to step away from that part of the process, which is more involved, and more technical, than one might imagine. The current technology used to track the tap lines works via an application accessed by cell phone or smart television, allowing the monitoring of lines without having to physically inspect each one. If there is a problem detected, the system will pinpoint the exact location, which is a huge labor and time saver.

The mountainous terrain of the two tapping locations in South Reading can be difficult to traverse, and the family has given names to different sections, such as Death Mountain, Upper Death Mountain, and The Lost Valley.

Josh and Jamie are preparing to step in as of January 2026, and will slowly transition into full ownership. “We’re going to work for



Left to right: Doug, Ann, Jamie, and Josh Rose.
PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

them on a part-time basis,” Ann said.

The mechanics of managing such a large agricultural business are complicated, and Josh and Jamie will need more time for on-the-job training. For instance, the reverse osmosis process adopted by Ann’s parents in the 1970s requires a machine that now only Doug knows how to operate.

Ann has developed the candy-making business completely on her own, so she will be sharing her secret recipes with Jamie beginning next year.

“There is no recipe book,” Jamie said, laughing. “There is nothing written down, it’s all word of mouth. But,” she added with a sweet nod to her mother-in-law, “I will be learning from the best.”

“When I met Josh,” Jamie commented, “I knew I was

marrying the Sugar House.” However, Jamie also said that when the couple first met, there was “no retirement in sight for Ann and Doug, and they seemed like people who may never retire.” Jamie feels a duty to maintain the traditions of quality and customer service that has been established at GMSH.

Ann said that once she and Doug are finally able to walk away, knowing they are leaving their business in capable and caring hands, they would like to travel. She relayed that her parents had visited all 50 U.S. states, and even though her father was a “true Vermonter” who loved winter sports like skiing and snowmobiling, “his most favorite state to visit was Hawaii. That’s what we hope to do this coming year, take a trip to Hawaii.”



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Tri-Mountain Lions recognize Pat Glabach

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Pictured here is Pat Glabach, center left, celebrating with her family after receiving The Melvin Jones Award. This award is given to Lions Club members who go above and beyond within the club. Glabach has been doing an outstanding job as Tri-Mountain Lions Club secretary. She also attends and works at our fundraising events. Congratulations, Pat.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ESBR shares updates

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR) started this year with 22 students, which was quite a jump in numbers. The school receives tuition money from the state for students from choice towns, such as Ludlow, Mount Holly, Weathersfield, and Grafton. Families of students from other towns pay tuition to attend, and have a variety of reasons for wanting to attend our unique small school in Ludlow.

Head of School Mike Kell continues to do a wonderful job of helping to grow and lead our school. His vast experience has been invaluable. The students have begun a student government, and several students attended a school fair presentation recently to assist Kell in sharing ESBR's opportunities. There is even a parent group which has also started this year. Furthermore, please visit ESBR's website at www.esblackriver.org, where you will meet the staff and see the new student local news show. This production takes a crew of students to write, direct, produce, act, and edit. It is well worth the watch.

Lastly, over the years we have had a number of stu-



ESBR students at a recent school fair for prospective students. PHOTO PROVIDED

dents take part in Springfield's River Valley Technical Center (RVRTC) programs. This year, we have two students who are finishing their second year in the health science program and the criminal justice program. The students take classes in the morning at ESBR, and then travel to RVTC in Springfield to take their programs. This partnership is another valuable educational opportunity for our ESBR students. These seniors are both looking to pursue further education in those areas.

The board of directors continues to meet monthly, usually the second Thursday of each month, at 6 p.m., and visitors are welcome. If you have any questions, or would like to attend a meeting, please feel free to reach out to Board Chair Patrick Pullinen at ppullinen@esblackriver.org.

If you have questions, or would like more information for a student looking to attend ESBR, please contact Kell at mkell@esblackriver.org.

OMS raises record amount at Ski and Snowboard Swap

LUDLOW, Vt. – The 2025 Okemo Mountain School (OMS) Ski and Snowboard Swap, which took place at the Okemo Mountain Resort from Nov. 21-23, raised over \$40,000 for OMS, more than \$2,500 over our previous record amount. The swap proceeds are used to help keep OMS' tuition as affordable as possible for all students. 2025 swap attendees found outstanding

deals on new and used winter outdoor gear, including race and recreational skis, bindings, and boots, snowboards and snowboard equipment, winter clothing, helmets, goggles, gloves, snowshoes, and more.

"OMS gratefully acknowledges the many volunteers who generously donated their time, as well as the Okemo resort staff who went above and beyond

their regular duties to support this event," said Mariel Meringolo, Head of School at OMS. "This swap plays a vital role in helping us keep OMS' tuition as affordable as possible, and its success would not have been possible without this incredible community effort. Our entire school community deeply appreciates everyone's hard work and support."

SEVCA welcomes new members to board of directors

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) is pleased to welcome the appointment of three new members to its board of directors: Gary Stroud, Mimi Yahn, and Jessica Ucci as the Head Start Policy Council representative for the board.

Their addition strengthens SEVCA's ongoing commitment to ensuring that its leadership reflects the perspectives and voices of the communities it serves.

As a tripartite board, SEVCA's governance structure includes representatives from the public, private, and client sectors, ensuring that the organization remains responsive, inclusive, and

community driven. The new members are joining the client sector, which represents the interests of individuals and families with low incomes – the very people SEVCA exists to empower and support. And one is joining the private sector, which represents the communities that support our work.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jess, Gary, and Mimi to SEVCA's board," said Josh Davis, SEVCA's executive director. "Their expertise, insight, and dedication to community action will be invaluable as we continue our mission to eliminate poverty and create opportunities for all in southeastern Vermont."

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is a 60-year-old nonprofit serving Windham and Windsor counties by helping families overcome hardship and build stability. This past year, SEVCA supported 3,500 people in 2,000 households with more than 7,500 services. From housing and fuel assistance, to financial coaching, early childhood education, microbusiness support, tax prep, home repair, and weatherization, we are here to help create thriving communities.

If you're interested in learning more about SEVCA or its programs, visit www.sevca.org, call 802-722-4575, or email hello@sevca.org.

VTel donates \$5,000 to local food pantries

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – VTel has donated \$5,000 this December to 10 local food pantries across southern Vermont, supporting community food programs during the busy holiday season. The donation was distributed evenly among 10 organizations, with each food pantry receiving \$500.

December's recipients include Black River Good Neighbor Services in Ludlow, Chester-Andover Family Center, Danby Town Office Food Bank, Grafton Community Church Food Pantry, Hartland Community Food Shelf, Our Place Community Food Center in Rockingham, Pawlet Community Church Food Pantry, Springfield Family Center, Wallingford Town Hall Food Cupboard, and Woodstock Community Food Shelf.

The donation reflects VTel's focus on supporting its local communities, and follows the company's annual free Thanksgiving dinner event, which served nearly 800 seniors in Springfield and Pawlet.

For more information about VTel, visit www.vermontel.com/about-us.



VTel presents \$500 to the Chester-Andover Family Center. PHOTO PROVIDED



VTel donates to the Grafton Community Church Food Pantry. PHOTO PROVIDED



VTel presents \$500 to the Springfield Family Center Food Pantry. PHOTO PROVIDED

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



opinion

HEALTH

To Our Community Neighbors,

As 2025 comes to a close, we share our mission’s core focus, “neighbors helping neighbors.” Fighting hunger and poverty since 1964, Black River Good Neighbor Services continues on a daily basis to be an active community resource. For many, we are the initial point of contact when hardship strikes and folks are struggling to get back to their normal. We are here, this is what we do!

Serving the community in many ways, our priority and an overwhelming need

includes food insecurity. Twice monthly we provide close to 100 bags of food to community residents, and serve free community meals, feeding more than 200 folks. While the meals are nourishing, and especially helpful for those who can’t quite make ends meet, we have learned that many also come to make connections with friends and neighbors.

In keeping with those needs, our food shelf is a critical resource, and while recent significant increases have occurred,

we consistently work hard to ensure that every family and individual receives a well-balanced, healthy amount of food. All of this occurs with grateful support from our community, and thrift store and furniture store sales.

Important to share is an amazing volunteer force, who provide critical assistance including community meals, memory cafes, rummage sales, Meals on Wheels deliveries, furniture and trash pickup, music group, Senior Planet, and service on the board

of directors. So many community services!

Trusting in and valuing our work enables Black River Good Neighbor Services to effectively serve those needing help, and for that we are truly grateful. With appreciation and best holiday wishes to all of our community neighbors.

Sincerely,
Krey Kellington, Executive Director
Black River Good Neighbor Services

Ludlow American Legion donates to Black River Valley Senior Center



Left to right: John Taylor Jr., Sons commander; Jean Strong, Auxiliary member; Frank Provance, Black River Valley Senior Center Board member; and Ned Bowen, Post 36 commander. PHOTO PROVIDED

Dear Editor,

We are living in a time and a place where it is easier to blame our neighbor rather than work with them, to use drones to drop explosives rather than food, to look the other way rather than help. But that is not what we are

called to do.

Our faiths remind us that “you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18) and “you shall also love the stranger” (Deuteronomy 10:19). If a neighbor or a stranger has been turned into an enemy, which is happening all over the country and world, then we are told to “love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44).

Imagine how much better this country and world would be if we could lead

with love rather than hate? Love makes us pause when we feel wronged, to try to find the reason why, and maybe consider if we had any part in the problem. Love encourages us to be patient and to forgive. Love makes us work harder to find common ground, and to compromise. Love makes us speak with respect and kindness, even when we disagree. Love allows us to see from another person’s perspective.

If the love bar is too high, maybe we could start by remembering some of Robert Fulghum’s lessons in his iconic essay “All I ever needed to know I learned in Kindergarten.” “Share everything. Play fair. Don’t hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your

own mess. Don’t take things that aren’t yours. Say you are sorry when you hurt somebody.”

We each have a part to play in making this country and world a more peaceful and cooperative place where everyone has at least the basics they need to survive. There are enough resources on this beautiful planet to support all who live on it. It begins by recognizing and respecting the dignity of each person, thinking of everyone as our neighbor despite our differences, and working towards peace and wholeness one neighborhood at a time.

Sincerely,
Rutland Area Interfaith Council

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ballard Hobart Post 36 American Legion Family recently presented checks in support of the Black River Valley Senior Center and its Meals on Wheels program. Volunteers deliver nutritious meals to seniors, veterans, and others who rely on this service for food, safety, and a human connection. Last year, the program provided more than 5,000 free home-delivered meals.

The senior center, at 10 High Street, also offers Bone Builders, yoga, tai chi, Pilates, community meals, games, and supportive services that promote health and social connection. Volunteers are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

HCRS Mobile Crisis holiday reminder

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont’s nonprofit community mental health agency, is reminding community members that the holiday season can bring more than celebration. For many, it also brings pressure – packed schedules, family obligations, financial stress, and increased exposure to alcohol and other substances. Over time, that pressure can build, making the season feel heavy and harder to navigate.

As the holidays approach, HCRS is highlighting its Mobile Crisis program and an existing video series that shows what Mobile Crisis support actually looks like – grounded, compassionate, and available before mental health challenges or substance use begin to feel unmanageable.

“The holidays can create heavy expectations to hold everything together,” said Mark Young, statewide director of Mobile Crisis at HCRS. “Mobile Crisis is here to help relieve some of that weight by offering calm, compassionate support when things start to feel like too much.”

HCRS’ Mobile Crisis teams provide free, confidential, in-person mental health and substance use support for people of all ages across Windham and Windsor counties. Available 24/7, the program focuses on stabilization, grounding, and connection – meeting people where they are, whether they are facing an immediate crisis, or simply feeling overwhelmed.

The Mobile Crisis video series, originally released earlier this year, highlights moments many people recognize: stress that builds quietly, substances that feel more present or harder to avoid, and the difficulty of trying to cope alone. The videos emphasize that Mobile Crisis is not only for emergencies, it is a resource for early support, conversation, and connection.

“Asking for help doesn’t mean you’re ‘failing’ the season,” says Young. “It means you’re paying attention to the obstacles you’re facing, and choosing support.”

HCRS encourages community members to check in with themselves and with one another during the holidays, and to remember that support can be simple, immediate, and available, even during the busiest time of year.

Mobile Crisis services are available 24/7 by calling 988 or 800-622-4235. To learn more from HCRS’ Mobile Crisis video series, visit www.tinyurl.com/h8m-c3rab.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Subject to space. May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication. Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper.

POLITICAL LETTERS

Due to the volume of political letters we receive during elections, and the increased cost of adding pages to the paper to print them all, political letters are charged at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. Political letters include endorsing, electioneering, or campaigning for, or against, a septic candidate or party.

CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Open Bible Baptist Church, 168 Cemetery Rd.
Sunday services are being held in the church. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m., Sunday morning service is 11 a.m., and the afternoon service is 1:30 p.m. Wednesday evening service is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at 802-674-2266 or visit www.obbvt.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church St.
Traditional Baptist Services held Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Handicap accessible. 802-463-3220.

CAVENDISH, VT.

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.
Please join us Sundays, at 8:45 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/stjamesumcproctorsville.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St.
Sunday service starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 603-826-3335.

Charlestown Bible Church, 37 Hammond Rd.
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7 p.m. To hear a sermon or learn more go to www.charlestownbiblechurch.org. Call 603-826-5121 for more info or to request a personal Bible study.

CHESTER, VT.

First Universalist Parish of Chester, Route 103 North
Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. in person. Sunday services run from September to early June. Contact chestervtuu@gmail.com for a Zoom link for the service.

Holy Family Parish, St. Joseph's Church, 148 South Main St.
Saturday confessions at 3 p.m., Mass at 4 p.m. Wednesday Mass at 9 a.m. For more information, contact stmarys05156@gmail.com, call 802-885-3400, or visit www.holyfamilyvermont.com.

CLAREMONT, N.H.

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 99 Sullivan St.
Worship is Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday and Saturday at 5 p.m. in person. For more information, go to www.hroc.org.

Union-St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 133 Old Church Rd.
Weekly service of morning prayer or Holy Communion held on Sunday, at 9:30 a.m.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S. Londonderry
Worship service is Sunday at 10 a.m. at the church. Services will still be live streamed at www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html. For more information, visit www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org or call 802-856-7266.

LUDLOW, VT.

United Church of Ludlow (UCC and Methodist), 48 Pleasant St.
Sunday services are held in person and streamed online at 10 a.m. Email unitedchurch@tds.net for more information. Visit www.unitedchurch.us to receive updates on services and meetings.

Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green, 99 Main St.
Weekly worship services are in-person. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for all ages, and Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday's prayer meeting is at 6:30 p.m. For more information,

go to www.LudlowBaptist.org.

MOUNT HOLLY, VT.

Village Baptist Church, 32 Church St.
We welcome all to come and worship with us Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-259-2440.

PERKINSVILLE, VT.

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5, Weathersfield Bow
Sunday services are 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study and prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-546-4902.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Church of Christ, Rt. 11, 972 Chester Rd.
Sunday Bible Study for all ages at 10 a.m.; Worship Service at 11 a.m. includes a group meeting for children. Live or past services can be viewed on Facebook at SpringfieldVTChurchofChrist. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., adult class on different topics meets in the Fellowship Hall, accessed by parking in the back of the church. For more information, call Jamie Kurpiel, Evangelist, at 870-615-0452 or email jckurpiel@yahoo.com. If no answer, call 802-886-2670.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33 Fairground Rd.
Sunday Services 8:30 a.m. - Holy Days as announced. Services alternate between Clergy Officiated, Traditional Rite I and Contemporary Rite II, Holy Eucharist, and Licensed Lay Led Rites I and II Morning Prayer. All are invited regardless of religious affiliation. Call David at 802-885-2972 with questions.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, 10 Pleasant St.
Sunday mass is at 9 a.m., followed by coffee hour as well as weekday services. To watch the live streams, go to www.youtube.com and search Holy Family Parish Springfield Vermont. Streaming is available five minutes before the service starts. For more information, go to www.stmaryjoseph.com.

Holy Family Parish, St. Mary's Church, 10 Pleasant St.
Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. Weekday Mass Monday and Friday, at 9 a.m.; and Tuesday, at 5:30 p.m. Confessions at 6 p.m. For more information, contact stmarys05156@gmail.com, call 802-885-3400, or visit www.holyfamilyvermont.com.

WALPOLE, N.H.

First Congregational Church of Walpole UCC, 15 Washington Sq.
Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, or via Zoom. For Zoom links, please call 603-756-4075. For more information, go to www.walpolenhucc.org or www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH.

WESTMINSTER, VT.

First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 U.S. Route 5
Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in our historic church and on Zoom. We have a children's message each Sunday and following church is a time of fellowship in the Hall with coffee and snacks. For more information, call 802-518-0321, email us at westminstercongoline@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057.

Barbara Frappiea, 1931-2025

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Barbara Vosburgh Frappiea passed away peacefully at Maplewood Nursing Home, on Dec. 15, 2025. She was born on Sept. 6, 1931, in Bellows Falls, Vt. She graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1949, a Terrier fan until the end. She married George F. Frappiea in June 1963.

She worked in the food industry at Rockingham Hospital, Westminster Restaurant, Windham College, Saxtons River Inn, and Westminster Center School. She received her LNA certification in the late 1970s, and interned at Maplewood Nursing Home. She was a member of Pierce Lawton Unit 37 American Legion Auxiliary for 74 years, and held all Auxiliary offices over the years. She was a dedicated member of the Bellows Falls community.

She is survived by her six children Alan (Margie) Riendeau, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Kenneth (Christine) Riendeau, of Saxtons River, Vt.; Judith Smith, of Bellows Falls; Timothy Riendeau, of Bellows Falls; Carol Smith, of Westminster; and Gail Foster, of Bellows Falls. She is also survived by her 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

She was predeceased by her husband George F.



Barbara Frappiea, 1931-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

Frappiea in 1990, her parents T. Harold and Clara Vosburgh, her brother and sister-in-law Charles and Marion Vosburgh, her sons-in-law George A. Smith and William "TJ" Smith, and grandson Daniel Riendeau.

Calling hours were held on Sunday, Dec. 21, from 1-2 p.m., with a service to follow at 2 p.m., at Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt. Burial will be held at Oak Hill Cemetery immediately following the service. Memorial contributions may be made to Pierce Lawton Unit 37 American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship Fund, c/o Alicia Roberts, 42 Rockingham Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home.

Bernadette J. Luxton, 1947-2025

PORT ORCHARD, Wash. – Bernadette J. (Nooks) Luxton was born on July 1, 1947, in Bellows Falls, Vt., to Anthony Nooks and Eula (McQueen) Nooks. She graduated from Bellows Falls High School. She served in the U.S. Army on active duty from 1965-1968, and was stationed in Germany. After the Army, she had a career in the United States Postal Service, and retired as a postmaster. She married John D. Luxton at St. Peter Church in North Walpole, N.H., and had two sons, David D. Luxton and Matthew A. Luxton. They moved many times in New Hampshire and Maine, and most recently resided in Washington state.

She was predeceased by her parents, brother Joseph Nooks, and sister Joyce Nooks. She leaves her husband and sons; sister Jeane



Bernadette Luxton, 1947-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

nette Richardson; cousin Carol McQueen; grandson Ethan D. Luxton; nieces and nephews Mylinda, Toni, Phillip, Brittney, and Emma; and great-nieces and great-nephews Logan, Lincoln, Lena, Lucas, Landon, Atlas, Eleonora, and Maebey.

She passed away peacefully at the Veteran's Home in Port Orchard, Wash. Per her request, there will be no funeral.

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:

We run Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at www.VermontJournal.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

DAILY –
REGION – If you want to drink that's your business, but if you want to stop, that's ours. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at www.aavt.org or call your local hotline at 802-802-2288 and join a meeting.

Name of Probate Court: Windsor Superior Court
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green
Woodstock, VT 05091

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

BUYING/SELLING

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



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FOR SALE

GRAFTON, Vt. – 2005 GMC Serria, 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.

SNOW PLOWING

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

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

The Town of Londonderry, Vermont is accepting bids for tree removal for the South Village Wastewater project. Bids are due by 1/5/2026 by 12:00pm. Please contact Aileen Tulloch, Town Administrator via email townadmin@londonderryvt.org or 802-824-3356 ext. 5 for more information or visit our Request for Proposals page at www.londonderryvt.gov.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

The Town of Londonderry is seeking a qualified contractor to remove trees and stumps at Pingree Park. Should potential bidders wish to view trees and site with a Town representative prior to bidding, please contact Liam Elio, Mountain Towns Recreation Director, at 802-824-3356, ext.8. or email recdirector@londonderryvt.org. The full bid document is here:https://www.londonderryvt.gov/Documents/Departments/Town%20Administrator/RFPS/RFP%202025-13%20-%20Pingree%20Park%20Tree%20Removal.pdf?t=202512161409000 Bids are due January 9, 2026 at 2:00 PM.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

The Town of Londonderry, Vermont, is soliciting Construction Inspection Services for the Spring Hill Road Culvert Replacement Project. Construction includes, but is not limited to, the following: replacement of an existing 72-inch culvert on Spring Hill Road (TH #41) at Eddy Brook with a new 20-foot box culvert and all related site work. Bids are due January 16, 2026 at 4:00 pm. Contact: Matt Bachler, Municipal Project Manager (Windham Regional Commission), #802-257-4547 ext. 112, mbachler@windhamregional.org. All questions related to this request for proposal shall be addressed to this individual no later than January 7, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. For the full bid document, please visit our Request for Proposals page at www.londonderryvt.gov.

Job Opening - Londonderry Transfer Station

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

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

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

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

PROJECT LISTING

SPRINGFIELD, VT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Project: VCT Flooring Replacement – Springfield High School

Location: Springfield High School, 303 South St., Springfield, VT.

Description: Install VCT Flooring & Cove Base

Specifications available from Martha Tarbell, 802-885-5120

Proposal Due Date/Time: Monday, January 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., submitted to owner (below) in a sealed envelope marked “SHS Tile Project” on the outside of the envelope.

Mandatory site inspection and walk through must be scheduled through Tim Bixby, 802.282.3434 no later than Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

Documents Required: Proof of Insurance, Details per Specifications

Owner/Contact:
Springfield School District
Richard Pembroke
301 South Street Springfield, VT. 05156
Telephone: (802) 885-5120
rpembroke@ssdvt.org

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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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 & VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing before the Ludlow Development Review Board will be held on Monday January 12, 2025 at 6:00 P.M., in the Howard Barton Jr. Conference Room, at the Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot Street, and via Zoom, to hear the following applications:

- Vincent and Lucinda West application 502-24-SITE Amendment #1, and 506-24-FHR Amendment #1 for a Flood Hazard Review and elevation of home substantially damaged by the flood of July 10th 2023.
- Donuts of Rutland appeal 117-98-AP, Amendment #1, for the Notice of Violation dated October 30, 2025 regarding sign violations.
- Jonathan Dubinski application SUB26-001 to subdivide one +/- 2.45 Acre parcel into three (3) parcels, 0.61, 0.62, and 1.24 Acres.
- Aaroods Corp., LLC application 509-25-FHR for a Flood Hazard Review due to the flood of July 10th 2023. The meeting Agenda will be available on Ludlow's Web page, www.ludlow.vt.us with the Zoom ID and the URL link. Additional information about this application is available in the Planning and Zoning office at the Town Hall.

Erin Ladd
Director of Planning & Zoning

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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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outdoor/history

PROS TO KNOW

Okemo Innkeepers Race Series returns

LUDLOW, Vt. – Okemo’s Innkeepers Race Series is back for its 45th year. With age categories for both skiers and snowboarders, we race Mondays, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., on the Wardance slope. The series runs for eight races, starting on Jan. 5 and continuing into March. There are both teams and individual racers, ranging from 18 to 80 years of age, with various skill levels from intermediate through accomplished racers. Teams consisting of up to seven skiers or snowboarders, along with individuals, compete in what

we have designed to be a fun yet competitive league, with awards and trophies presented at the end of the season. There is an apres gathering for racers on Monday evenings, from 5-7 p.m., at local restaurants and bars.

This year we have arranged for very special pricing for both teams and individuals who do not have an Epic pass to join us on Mondays. For more information, contact Ken at oke-moracing@gmail.com.

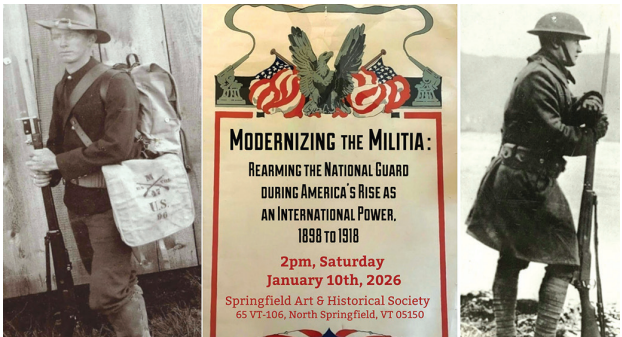
Hike into the new year at VT State Parks

REGION – Start off the new year on the right foot with Vermont State Parks’ First Day Hikes. On Jan. 1, everyone is invited to join free, guided hikes taking place at state parks, state forests, and other public lands

across Vermont. Hikes are led by knowledgeable guides eager to share their love of Vermont’s outdoors. From Allis State Park to Willoughby State Forest, a First Day Hike is happening somewhere near you. Learn

“Modernizing the Militia”

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Art and Historical Society will present “Modernizing the Militia: Rearing the National Guard During America’s Rise as an International Power, 1898-1918” on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, at 2 p.m., at the historical society building, 65 Vermont



Historical photographs of U.S. servicemen from the late 19th and early 20th century. PHOTO PROVIDED

in Vermont, a state park or state forest is always close by. Admission is free on New Year’s Day and all winter long. You’ll discover a whole new world in winter.

Route 106 in North Springfield. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 802-886-7935, or email sahs@vermontel.net.

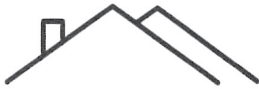
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Efficiency Vermont winter resources

REGION – As 2025 draws to a close, many Vermonters are facing uncertainty and rising costs. When budgets are tight, projects that improve comfort and reduce energy bills may feel out of reach. Recognizing that households and businesses are feeling stretched, Efficiency Vermont has gathered a collection of free resources, practical tools, and affordable projects that can help Vermonters begin to improve their homes and get more from their energy budget.

Do you want to understand what's driving your electricity costs? Try our electricity usage calculator to see how your energy bill adds up with your appliances, lighting, and other needs, and see where you can save.

Do you need to diagnose the cause of high energy bills? Call Efficiency Vermont's energy advisors to see how your home is using

energy, understand what equipment could be wasting money, and learn about services and rebates that can help you reduce costs.

Looking for a deep dive into ways your home can save energy? Schedule a free virtual home energy visit, and take a virtual tour of your home with an Efficiency Vermont energy consultant. Get personalized advice for using less energy at home, plus a customized list of next steps tailored to your needs and priorities.

Get \$100 back for a do-it-yourself (DIY) weatherization project. Use our \$100 DIY weatherization rebate to get cash back for completing simple projects like air sealing windows or adding weather stripping.

Businesses, nonprofits, and other commercial operations can also take advantage of helpful resources and rebates, such as those listed below.

Free business energy consultations – Understand where your business is losing energy, and what you can do to fix it, through a business energy consultation. Our energy advisors can help you identify cost-effective opportunities, find efficient equipment, and connect you with our Efficiency Excellence Network of contractors.

Up to \$25,000 in bonus rebates for custom projects – Businesses can double their incentive, up to \$25,000, for custom projects tailored to an operation's specific needs. These bonuses are available for businesses, nonprofits, farm operations, and institutions that complete projects by November 2026.

Increased incentives for preapproved lighting projects – Businesses that switch to energy-saving LED lamps can get up to 100% of the product costs covered when they replace existing linear

fluorescent lamps. Agricultural businesses upgrading to LEDs in livestock or sugaring facilities can get up to 100% of project costs covered.

Efficiency Vermont's 2025 holiday gift guide also offers inspiration for sustainable, local, and fun holiday shopping. The guide has a collection of thoughtful gifts and experiences, including ways to donate previously used items, implement energy savings, give the gift of rebate-eligible appliances, and support local businesses.

Federal home energy tax credits expire at the end of December, but Efficiency Vermont's rebates and programs will remain available in 2026 and beyond. Whether you're just starting to think about energy efficiency, or you're ready to begin a project, visit www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates to find ways to meet your energy goals.

TRORC receives grant to assist buyouts —

REGION – The Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) has been awarded a \$3 million grant from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development. These are disaster recovery funds that come through the state from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds will be used to help towns as they buy out flood-damaged properties from the 2023 floods. Most of this work will be concentrated in Lamoille and Washington counties, but will also take place around the state where floods hit hard. Kevin Gei-

ger, TRORC's chief planner, will lead this effort. Geiger was instrumental in managing HUD funds for the state after Tropical Storm Irene. Ann Karlene Kroll, the federal programs director at the department, expressed confidence in the regional planning commission, noting that, "We have worked together with TRORC a long time, and have a strong relationship with a history of successful outcomes."

As part of purchasing a site from an owner whose property was damaged, towns need to also ensure they are not unwittingly buying any soil contamination they will

need to clean up. Sites with known or suspected contamination are called brownfields. TRORC has decades of managing brownfields assessment and remediation on sites. Where needed, these new HUD CDBG-DR funds will also support any clean-up that has to occur. Peter Gregory, TRORC's executive

director, stated, "By looking at sites and doing any needed testing, we can help buyouts not get hung up because of concerns about what is in the ground. Devastated owners want to be able to move on."

For information on this grant, contact Geiger at 802-457-3188, Ext. 3003, or at kgeiger@trorc.org.

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BFWC spreads holiday cheer

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Woman’s Club (BFWC) members brought holiday cheer to the residents of Sterling House and Morning Glory Manor, elder care facilities in the community, by presenting individualized gifts.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Adam Strauss returns to Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts is thrilled to welcome back award-winning comedian and storyteller Adam Strauss for a special two-night engagement, featuring two of his acclaimed solo shows: “The Mushroom Cure” on Friday, Jan. 9; and “Before I Forget” on Saturday, Jan. 10.

Tickets and details are available at www.nextstagearts.org.

“The Mushroom Cure” is a hilarious and moving true story of psychedelics, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), and finding hope. “The Mushroom Cure” follows Strauss’ real-life attempt to treat his debilitating OCD with psychedelics. The New York Times praised it for “mining a great deal of laughter

from disabling pain.” The Chicago Tribune called it “arrestingly honest and howlingly funny.” Bestselling author Michael Pollan described it as “brilliant, hilarious, and moving.” Time Out New York named it a Critics’ Pick, hailing it as “a true-life tour de force.”

In “Before I Forget,” Strauss takes audiences on a wildly inventive odyssey through memory, mortality, and meaning, tackling everything from ancient Greece to artificial intelligence, Alzheimer’s to open relationships. It’s a ferociously funny meditation on what it means to remember, what it means to forget, and the impossibility of getting life right. Warning: May contain mushrooms, existential



Adam Strauss on stage.

PHOTO PROVIDED

dread, and trace amounts of hope.

Strauss is an award-winning comedian and storyteller whose work has been praised for its honesty, humor, and originality. He won the New York Fringe Festival’s Overall Excel-

lence Award for Solo Performance, the Eddy Award for Best Solo Show in San Francisco, and the Leffe Beer Craft Your Character Storytelling Competition. Strauss performs regularly at many of New York City’s top comedy clubs.



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“Story Songs of the 70s” at BFOH

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Tom DiMenna leads “Story Songs of the 70s,” a night of unforgettable storytelling, and a thoughtful tribute to Gordon Lightfoot, Harry Chapin, and Cat Stevens, channeling the spirit of the 1970s one song at a time,

on Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Bellows Falls Opera House. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Backed by his talented accompanists, he moves easily between the haunting pull of “Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald,” the quiet ache

in “Father and Son,” and the soft glow of “Moonshadow.”

“Story Songs of the 70s” is a seasonal concert series by Maine-based singer-songwriter DiMenna, and features songs by three legendary songwriters of the vinyl era: Gordon Lightfoot, Cat Stevens, and Harry Chapin. This folk-rock act blends lush vocals, intricate guitar playing, and iconic story songs into a sound that’s both intimate and powerful. While rooted in the folk tradition, the rotating set list has toe-tapping rhythms, sing-along choruses, and

a fully amplified presence that has charmed audiences all over New England. It’s a carefully crafted presentation of the timeless songs that shaped a generation performed with heart, humor, and resonance.

In addition, DiMenna is now officially endorsed by Gibson Guitars and John Pearse Strings, legendary names in acoustic tone.

For more information on DiMenna, visit www.tomdimennamusic.com. To purchase tickets, visit www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com/special-events.



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holiday & events

Rotary brings Christmas spirit to Kurn Hattin —

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Members of the Rotary Club of Springfield, Vt., and the Bellows Falls Rotary Club helped bring the spirit of Christmas to the children of Kurn Hattin Homes for Children in Westminster, Vt., on Dec. 17.

Founded in 1894, Kurn Hattin is a year-round charitable residential and day program serving children ages 5-15 from across the Northeast. For more than two decades, local Rotary Clubs have continued a cherished tradition of collecting donations and purchasing individual gifts for each child – often the only Christmas



Springfield Rotary members deliver presents to students at Kurn Hattin.

PHOTO PROVIDED

presents they receive. Following the gift distribution, Rotary members joined children and staff for pizza in each cottage, sharing an evening of warmth, celebration, and community.

Tap ensemble Subject:Matter

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts is thrilled to welcome acclaimed Boston-based tap dance ensemble Subject:Matter as artists-in-residence this January, featuring two exciting public events that invite the community to engage with the company's creative process through participation and performance.

On Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m., Subject:Matter hosts a community tap jam at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. This free, open-level event invites dancers and musicians of all backgrounds to step into the rhythm and explore tap dance in a relaxed, class-style jam with live music. Whether you're new to tap, or looking to sharpen your skills, all are welcome to learn, play, and move at their own pace. Musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments and join the improvisation. RSVP at www.nextstagearts.org.

The residency culminates in a performance on Sunday, Jan. 11, at 2 p.m. (doors open at 1:15 p.m.), as Subject:Matter shares a dynamic concert showcasing the work developed during their time at Next Stage. The program blends brand-new material with selections from the company's first two celebrated albums, "With Far Hand" and "Songbook," offering audiences an inventive, high-energy fusion of live music and tap dance. Tickets are discounted for students, and available at www.nextstagearts.org.

Together, these events offer a rare opportunity to experience Subject:Matter's collaborative, rhythm-driven artistry – from an open, community-centered jam, to a polished performance that bridges the company's past, present, and emerging work.

This residency is supported by South Arts' Jazz

Road Creative Residency award.



Subject:Matter performing.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Yosemite Firehouse gets its wreath —

CHESTER, Vt. – The last town-owned public building in Chester to be decorated for the Christmas holiday season this year is the historic Fire District No. 2, known as the Yosemite Firehouse, on Depot Street. For years, Chester Townscape has decorated the town's public buildings and central locations with a variety of greens, berries, and cheery red bows to welcome in the holiday season. At last, the Yosemite Firehouse now sports a beautiful big wreath between its south-facing windows, as well as a greens-filled barrel beside its sliding doors, to testify to the importance of the building.

These decorations continue Chester Townscape's efforts to beautify the town for residents, businesses, and visitors. They also signify the ongoing efforts of the town to care for its resources, and the efforts of the town and Friends of the Yosemite Firehouse Museum to rehabilitate the historic building into a future fire museum to honor Chester's history,

its firefighters, and their place in Chester's thriving community.

For information on Chester Townscape's volunteer efforts, please contact Lynn Russell at 802-875-2707 or chestertownscape@gmail.com. For information on Friends of Yosemite Firehouse Museum, please contact Lillian Willis at 802-



Assistant Chester Fire Chief Mark Verespy hangs the wreath high above the sliding doors of the Yosemite Firehouse Museum.

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875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.

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