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# THE MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

JANUARY 28, 2026 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

PUBLISHED BY THE VERMONT JOURNAL

VOLUME 01, ISSUE 30

## Claremont School Board rejects proposed budget increase, approves aligned model

BY PAULA BENSON

*The Message*

**CLAREMONT, N.H.** – The public debate surrounding the Claremont School District (aka SAU6) budget proposals has continued into 2026. After their first regular meeting of the year, held on Jan. 7, the board convened a public hearing on Jan. 20, before meeting a second time the following evening, Jan. 21. The effort would determine which budget the board would present to voters in March.

Two options were still on the table, each representing a four-school model. Op-

tion A proposed to align grades across the two elementary schools, and Option B would maintain the current district configuration. Comptroller Matt Angell reviewed the two models, reminding the board of the respective totals: \$44,844,373 for Option A, and \$47,800,535 for Option B.

Angell stated, “I want to make sure that the public understands that these budget models that we proposed tonight [do] not include funding any of the deficit.” He added, “Basically, I am trying to make up the deficit through current-year operations.”

At the Jan. 21 meeting, some board members referred to comments expressed by citizens at the public hearing the previous night. Vice Chair Michael Petrin said he felt the people had “spoken loud and clear,” and that raising the tax rate was not an option.

School Board Chair Heather Whitney told her colleagues that she had really listened to what was said at the public hearing, and found herself “really struggling with how to preserve the integrity of our academics without destroying our extracurricular activities in the process.” Whitney worried that, in trying

to find a compromise, she was not being true to the board’s ideals.

“After we had moved to the two-school models, aligned and unaligned, I was concerned about that,” Whitney further remarked. “I was looking for ways to economize and find efficiencies within the budget.”

Whitney and Angell discussed the absence of funding for sports programs in either budget model. Whitney refused to put the question to the voters, calling it “putting a gun to their heads,” and instead called upon the board and the administration to collaborate further, make cuts

as necessary, and cover the \$863,100 total cost for athletics.

Ultimately, Whitney presented what she felt was the best course of action, which was, she said, “to continue to look for additional efficiencies in the main budget, as the amendment is presented, of roughly \$42,957,713, and deal with the default budget as it stands, and be accountable for what we’re doing.”

“We don’t have to attach this number to a model,” Whitney stated. “We can tell the administration what our value system is, and allow them to determine how to execute those values.”

Whitney made a motion to “amend the bottom line for the aligned model to the number which I had put forth.” Should the amendment be defeated, the default budget total would be that of Option A.

With a majority, 4-3 vote, the board authorized Whitney’s motion to move forward with the amended, aligned model.

Several school board positions will be on the ballot this March 10. Candidate filing began Jan. 21, and will end on Jan. 30. Forms may be obtained at the SAU6 offices, 165 Broad Street, Claremont, N.H., during hours of operations.

## Monadnock Farm Share Program returns

**WALPOLE, N.H.** – The Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD) is excited to announce the continuation of the Monadnock Farm Share Program for its eighth year in 2026. Six community-supported agriculture (CSA) produce farms in the Monadnock Region have come together to ensure that farm-fresh CSA vegetable shares are available and affordable for all interested community members in 2026.

The farm share program provides limited-income Monadnock Region residents with the opportunity to support their local CSA farmer and receive reliable, high-quality produce on a regular basis all season long. CSA share prices are discounted through an innovative cost-share model. Through the program, participating families and individuals receive a discounted weekly vegetable share.

Farmers raise funds to cover 15% of the program cost, and 50% of the program cost is provided by the The Center for Population Health at Cheshire Medical Center through the Healthy Monadnock Alliance. The customer is responsible to pay 35% of the total share cost.

Applications will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis, and funding is limited. The CCCD will accept applications until March 10, or until available shares have been awarded.

Community members choose from a listing of participating farms throughout the region. This program was developed for limited-income residents of the Monadnock Region. This program is made available for households who, without the program, would be unable to participate in a local community-supported agriculture program.

This program is available

to Monadnock Region residents who live at or below 250% of the federal poverty income limit, or have other reasons for needing assistance in participating in a farm share program.

Apply early to ensure you can participate in this exciting program. More information, applications, participating farms, and program eligibility information is available at [www.cheshireconservation.org/farmshare](http://www.cheshireconservation.org/farmshare).

For assistance in completing your application, or to complete your application over the phone, call 603-904-3011. Interested applicants can also contact [info@cheshireconservation.org](mailto:info@cheshireconservation.org) for additional information or assistance.

The Monadnock Farm Share Program is administered by the Cheshire County Conservation District, and made possible through the support of private donors, farmers, and

Cheshire Medical Center. If you would like to make a donation to support future funding of this program, please do so at [www.cheshireconservation.org/](http://www.cheshireconservation.org/)

donate.

Donations to the fund may also be made by mail. Checks can be made payable to CCCD, and addressed to 11 Industrial

Park Drive, Walpole, NH 03608. Please include “farm share” in the memo line. Contributions of any amount are greatly appreciated and make a difference.



## Kiwanis celebrate 75 years

**CLAREMONT, N.H.** – Claremont Kiwanis Club celebrated 75 years of service to the children of Sullivan County at the annual President’s

Party recently. The event was a tremendous success, and a good time was had by all.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

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

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# Board game cafe at Rockingham Library

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Please join the Rockingham Free Public Library for a board game cafe – a fun game-gathering for all player levels.

The board game cafe is a fun community event for people of all ages and all game-playing experience. We welcome seasoned players, people interested in learning something new, and everyone in between. In addition to providing games and lots of space for game play, the Rockingham Free Public Library will serve refreshments, including hot chocolate for National Hot Chocolate Day.

The board game cafe will have adult games of all types, including party games, strategic and col-

laborative games, building games, classics, and more. Drop in for a fun, shorter game, or stay for a longer game. Games geared towards children and families will be available in the youth department.

This free program will take place at the Rockingham Free Public Library on Saturday, Jan. 31, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The board game cafe is part of Rockingham Free Public Library's Rockingham Gathers program, made possible by a 2025 AARP Vermont Winter Placemaking Grant. Rockingham Gathers is a series of programs and activities the Rockingham Library is organizing during winter 2025 to support "creative, inclusive programming

that fosters community connection and combats social isolation among older adults during the coldest months of the year." RFPL is one of eight organizations from across Vermont to receive this grant.

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

# Springfield Community Band seeks new members

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – After a very successful holiday concert, the Springfield Community Band is seeking new members for its summer concert season.

The band plays all varieties of music – movie music, jazz, show tunes, pop, and rock – as well as traditional concert band pieces, and music by contemporary composers.

Even if it has been years

# VRmont Studios provides virtual reality, STEAM

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Black River Innovation Campus (BRIC) is excited to announce the grand opening of VRmont Studios, a new hands-on STEAM and immersive technology hub in downtown Springfield. The public is invited to explore the space during a four-day grand opening open house, beginning Thursday, Jan. 29, at 23-25 Main Street. Dates and times for the grand opening open house are Thursday, Jan.

29, and Friday, Jan. 30, from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; and Saturday, Jan. 31, and Sunday, Feb. 1, from 12-8 p.m.

VRmont Studios is a 5,000-square-foot technology and learning space designed to engage learners of all ages through immersive experiences, creative problem-solving, and real-world career exploration. A project of BRIC, the studio blends education, workforce development, and entertainment to expand access to emerging technologies in rural Vermont.

The new space features virtual reality escape rooms that challenge teams to collaborate and solve puzzles in immersive digital environments; a drone soccer arena, introducing participants to drone piloting, robotics, and competitive gameplay; a game development studio supporting hands-on computer science learning; a makerspace equipped with 3D printers, a laser cutter, and a vinyl plotter; and tables for Lego robotics clubs and rotating STEAM activities.

"Think of it as a hands-on museum focused on technology, STEAM [science, technology, engineering, art, and math] education, and career pathways," said Chris Maggiolo, deputy director of BRIC. "VRmont Studios is a place where curiosity turns into skills, and where learning feels exciting, relevant,

and accessible."

In addition to on-site programming, VRmont Studios offers mobile VR and drone experiences that can be brought to schools, businesses, and community organizations across the region.

By establishing a year-round indoor destination on Main Street, VRmont Studios is also expected to increase foot traffic downtown, and support ongoing economic revitalization efforts in Springfield.

Operations at VRmont Studios are led by Josie Michaud, who brings extensive experience in makerspace management and STEAM education from her work at Fab Newport.

Even prior to opening its doors, VRmont Studios has supported Lego League clubs in Windsor and Windham counties, hosted STEAM in the Park events with the Upper Valley Nighthawks, and delivered virtual reality experiences for educators at Wardsboro Elementary School.

During the open house, visitors can tour the space, enjoy virtual reality demos, and book escape room experiences. All participants who book experiences occurring during the grand opening weekend will be entered into a raffle to win a free VR escape room session for up to five players.

Advance booking is encouraged to guarantee availability. Booking information is available at [www.vrmontstudios.com](http://www.vrmontstudios.com).

VRmont Studios is made possible through a combination of public investment, philanthropy, and community partnerships. BRIC welcomes additional corporate sponsors and local business partners to help expand access to STEAM education and immersive learning experiences for rural youth and communities.

"We're building something that belongs to the community," said Maggiolo. "Partnerships and sponsorships allow us to reach more learners, support educators, and grow career pathways that matter to Vermont's future."

BRIC extends its gratitude to White Mountains Capital for supporting the drone soccer arena; CSforAll, whose grant enabled the purchase of virtual reality arenas; Endless Foundation, for their continued support of summer camps and video game development programs; the M&T Charitable Foundation, VRmont Studios' first corporate sponsor; and to the Town of Springfield and Springfield on the Move, for their continued support.

For more information about VRmont Studios, booking experiences, or partnership opportunities, visit [www.vrmontstudios.com](http://www.vrmontstudios.com), or contact [VRmont-Studios@bricvt.org](mailto:VRmont-Studios@bricvt.org).



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# REAL ESTATE

# community

## “River Memories” at Rockingham Library

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – On Saturday, Feb. 7, from 1-2:30 p.m., please join the Rockingham Free Public Library for a presentation sponsored by Vermont Humanities, entitled “River Memories: Exploring Settlement Patterns on Waterways in Vermont.”

Devastating recent rain events, including in July 2023 and 2024, and Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, have demonstrated that many communities in Vermont are vulnerable to damage from flooding. In this presentation, historian Alan Berolzheimer examines how the

development of settlement patterns over time have contributed to the problem of flooding in Vermont.

Berolzheimer has directed the book publishing program of the Vermont Historical Society since 1998. He is also the project historian and assistant director of The Flow of History, a Teaching American History program providing professional development activities to Vermont teachers. Alan received a doctorate in 20th-century U.S. history from the University of Virginia in 1996. He lives in Norwich, Vt.

For more information

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

## MOOVer promotes new chief operating officer

**REGION** – Southeast Vermont Transit (SEVT, aka the MOOVer) announces the promotion of Tammy Neathawk as its next chief operating officer, effective July 1.

The current MOOVer COO is Christine Howe, who will be promoted to CEO also on July 1, upon the retirement of existing CEO Randy Schoonmaker on June 30.

Neathawk is currently the Rockingham operations manager. She was previously employed at Green Mountain Union High School, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, and The Grammar School in Putney. Hired as a driver in September 2021, she was promoted to Rockingham operations manager a month later. She oversees 36 routes, 41 drivers, two mechanics, and the maintenance of 31 vehicles.



**Tammy Neathawk.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

The MOOVer serves 34 towns in southern Windsor and Windham counties, and splits service in their territory between its facilities Rockingham and Wilmington.

In her role as COO, Neathawk will manage the operations of both divisions, totaling 63 vehicles and 90 staff, and proving more than half a million rides per year.

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# health & community

## Snowshoe for Hope

GRAFTON, Vt. – Andie Fusco, of Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty in Bondville, Vt., announced the return of Snowshoe for Hope. Proceeds raised from the event benefit Susan G. Komen, the world's leading breast cancer organization.

"Snowshoe for Hope is meant to be a fun, winter-activity fundraiser for all ages and abilities," Fusco said. "Together, we can ensure that Komen can continue to save lives by meeting the most critical needs of our communities, and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer."

Snowshoe for Hope will take place Sunday, Feb. 8, at the Grafton Trails & Outdoor Center in Grafton, Vt.

Pre-event activities begin at 9 a.m., and trail access opens at 10 a.m. Participants can register on site, pickup T-shirts, drop off donations, rent show shoes, and enjoy a light breakfast.

There is no cost to register for Snowshoe for Hope, but a trail fee will apply. To learn more about the 2026 Snowshoe for Hope, and to register as an individual, visit [www.info-komen.org/goto/2026SnowshoeforHope](http://www.info-komen.org/goto/2026SnowshoeforHope).

Participants unable to join in person can register for Snowshoe for Hope, fundraise, and snowshoe any day this winter for the benefit of Susan G. Komen.

"Ending breast cancer forever is at the center of Susan G. Komen's mission, and no one should have to

face breast cancer alone," Fusco added.

To form a new team, please email Fusco at [snowshoe4hopevt@gmail.com](mailto:snowshoe4hopevt@gmail.com) to receive step-by-step instructions on how to form a team for the Snowshoe for Hope event. Fusco can also be reached at this email address with any other questions about Snowshoe for Hope.

The Grafton Inn is pleased to offer a 10% discount on accommodations for Feb. 6 and 7. No minimum stay is required. To receive this discount, use Promo code SNOWSHOE.

## North Star Health new director of nursing

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – North Star Health is pleased to welcome Erinna Wichland as its new director of nursing. With more than two decades of experience in nursing and health care leadership, Wichland brings a deep commitment to supporting care teams, and ensuring patients receive compassionate, high-quality care close to home.

"I chose to join North Star Health because of our strong connection to the community and our commitment to care," said Wichland. "I believe in creating systems that

allow clinical support staff to focus on what matters most: caring for patients in meaningful and impactful ways."

In her new role, Wichland will oversee North Star's clinical support staff across all primary care locations. She will help strengthen nursing practice, encourage professional growth, and promote coordinated care that meets patient needs.

"Erinna understands that strong care starts with strong relationships," said Joshua R. Dufresne, chief executive officer of North Star Health. "She listens and leads with compassion, and values the voices

of both staff and patients. Her collaborative approach and mentorship will allow our teams work to the top of their licenses, to ensure our community continues to receive excellent care."

Wichland is focused on fostering teamwork, supporting nurses and clinical support staff, and working closely with care teams to make sure patients get the care that they need.

Wichland most recently served in senior nursing leadership roles in hospital-based settings, and is known for her collaborative leadership style and strong focus on quality, safety, and staff engagement.

## HCRS

## honors board member Hetty Thomae

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's

nonprofit community mental health agency, is proud to spotlight the contributions of Hetty Thomae, a current board member and a pivotal figure in the inception of our school-based services program in the early 1990s. Thomae's journey reflects not only the evolution of a transformative program, but also her unwavering dedication to the wellbeing of children and families.

In 1992, while pursuing her graduate degree in therapy at Antioch University in New Hampshire, Thomae embarked on her first internship. This internship, through The Family Place,

placed her in a pilot program at the State Street School in Windsor. Collaborating with Jo Levkoff and school counselor Mary Bronga, Thomae worked closely with students and their families in what was then an experimental initiative.

Among her cherished memories is organizing a boys' group where she led activities ranging from basketball games to innovative drumming sessions. Using soft pom-poms on sticks, the boys created rhythmic beats on a drum – until a teacher upstairs intervened due to the noise. These activities, combined with Thomae's educational expertise, allowed her to connect deeply with the children, many of whom faced challenges at home.

In 1993, HCRS formally established its Success Be-

yond Six services within the children's division, and Thomae was among its first clinicians. Thomae brought her invaluable experience from the pilot program to this new initiative.

Thomae transitioned to Woodstock Elementary School as a school-based clinician. Unlike traditional office-based therapy, being embedded within the school allowed Thomae to observe her clients in their natural environment, and tailor her therapeutic interventions accordingly.

Thomae's time with HCRS concluded in 1997, when she pursued another passion, teaching drama. However, her impact on HCRS' school-based services remains foundational. Thomae's pioneering efforts and innovative spirit helped shape a program that continues to provide critical support to students and their families.

As we continue to build on the foundation she helped establish with an HCRS program that today serves more than 200 students across 15 local school districts, we are honored to recognize Thomae for her contributions and her enduring legacy in school-based mental health services.

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# LEGALS

# obituaries

## Elizabeth J. Brady, 1935-2026

**WALPOLE, N.H.** – Elizabeth J. Brady passed away at 90 years old, on Jan. 18, 2026, at the Keene Center (Genesis) in Keene, N.H. The only child of Timothy and Elizabeth (Gallagher) Leahy, she was born on Oct. 2, 1935. She married Gerald Brady on April 11, 1959, at St. Peter's Church in North Walpole.

Elizabeth is survived by four of her five children: Ann and husband Steve Corey Sr., of Drewsville; Timmy and partner Denise (Gale), of Walpole; Gerry and wife Diane, of Shelburne, Vt.; and Tommy and wife Heather, of North Walpole. She is also survived by her son-in-law Mike Snide, of Walpole. Her husband Gerald and daughter Betty Snide predeceased her.

Affectionately known as "Nanny," she is also survived by her 11 grandchildren Elizabeth Galvis-Snide, Carolyn Edson, Michael Snide, Bridget Rolfs, Steven Corey Jr., Joseph Corey, Erin Brady, Brian Brady, James Brady, Benjamin Brady, and Elissa Brady. She also was blessed to have a stepgrandson, Brendan O'Brien.

She always said having grandchildren was a blessing, but she was able to enjoy the gift of 12 great-grandchildren: Eliza Ward; Troy, Liam, and Seth Edson; Madelyn and Aidan Snide; Hadley, Brady, and Weston Corey; Asher and Myles Rolfs; and Bryson Corey.

Elizabeth worked for the Fall Mountain School District, in the food service department, for 27 years at the high school, where she made many lifelong friendships with both staff and students.

She was always inviting people to have tea with her, and could be found up very early during hunting



**Elizabeth Brady, 1935-2026.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

season to make sure all of the guys had breakfast before they left for a long day of hunting on Fall Mountain or wherever else they were headed. She made sure everyone was well fed, and nobody could make mashed potato the way Nanny did.

Elizabeth had some very special friends, whom she enjoyed visiting or chatting with: Rachel, Josanna, Karleen, Lynette, Amy, Linda, Heather, Joanne, Rose, Nancy, and Maryagnes, to name a few. Also, her honorary fourth son Dennis Wright.

While at Keene Center, she made many new friendships with both staff and residents. We would like to thank resident friends Sharin, Shirley, Steve, and the staff for being there and caring about her while she was there.

There will be calling hours on Friday, Feb. 6, from 4-6 p.m., at Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls, Vt., with a funeral Mass to be held on the following day, Feb. 7, at 11 a.m., at St. Peter's Church in North Walpole, N.H. Burial will be in the spring.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

## James R. Storey, 1947-2026

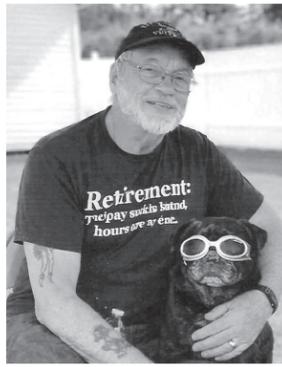
**N. WALPOLE, N.H.** – James Robert "Jim"/"Jimmy" Storey, 78, passed away peacefully on Jan. 19, 2026, at his home in North Walpole, N.H. Born on July 4, 1947, in Stoneham, Mass., James lived a full and vibrant life marked by service, humor, and deep connections to those around him.

James proudly served his country in the United States Navy, with the rank of FN. After serving his country, James worked for Bucci and Sons Cutlery until his retirement.

He is survived by his devoted wife Linda Storey (Spaulding). James also leaves behind his brother Thomas Andrew Storey and sister Sylvia Ann Fishwick. Over the years, James embraced a large chosen family of children, nieces, nephews, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom he loved dearly, and who brought great happiness into his life.

James was predeceased by his parents Robert Storey and Isabella Storey (Landry), whose memory he carried with him always.

Those who knew James will remember him for his quick wit and infectious sense of humor. He had an uncanny ability to bring laughter into any room. A passionate football fan, James rarely missed a game. James was an avid rider, who found freedom on snowmobiles and motorcycles. Many of his most cherished moments were



**James Storey, 1947-2026.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

spent cruising scenic roads with his beloved dog Buddy riding alongside him.

In recent times, James was able to remain home thanks to the support of loved ones who surrounded him with compassion and care during his final days. Their efforts allowed him to experience peace and comfort in familiar surroundings filled with love.

May the memory of James Robert Storey bring comfort to all who knew him, and continue to inspire laughter, loyalty, and love in their hearts.

A celebration of his remarkable life will be held at Charlestown Town Hall in Charlestown, N.H., on Feb. 22, at 1 p.m.

To honor James' love of his country, please consider a donation to the Wounded Warrior Project in James' memory, in lieu of flowers.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

## Daniel K. VanAmberg, 2026

**BRIDGEPORT, Conn.** – Daniel K. VanAmberg, beloved husband of Regina, passed away peacefully on Jan. 22, 2026, at St. Vincent Medical in Bridgeport, Conn. Full obituary to follow at a later date.

### TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

At the Town of Springfield Annual Town and Town School District Meeting being held Tuesday, March 3, 2026, the legal voters will consider a petitioned article to amend the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12, Section 12-126, Discharge of Firearms Restricted, paragraph (b) by adding the following sentence at the end of paragraph (b): "No person shall discharge a firearm in the area designated as Hartness Park."

### Two Rivers Supervisory Union Ludlow, VT Recording Secretary – TRSU Board

The Two Rivers Supervisory Union (TRSU) Board in Ludlow, VT is seeking a Recording Secretary to record and prepare accurate minutes for board meetings, supporting three entities with an average of three meetings per month. Compensation is paid per meeting. Interested candidates with strong listening and writing skills should send letters of interest to [Abby.marconi@trsu.org](mailto:Abby.marconi@trsu.org).

**OBITUARIES:** A 200-word obituary is \$100, and \$0.60 per word thereafter. A black and white photo is an additional \$20. Email to [editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto: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](http://www.VermontJournal.com).

## Doris G. Strong, 1932-2026

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Doris G. Strong, 93, died on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026. She was born on Feb. 7, 1932, to Sherman and Florence Goodrich.

She married Rodney Strong on Sept. 9, 1950, and raised six children as a homemaker. Later in life she worked on Okemo Mountain as the crew boss.

Doris had a love for family, and enjoyed snowmobiling and camping with family. She also enjoyed vacationing in Maine to satisfy her love of lighthouses.

She is survived by her three sons Scott Strong, of Springfield, Vt., Rich (Joanne) Strong, of Springfield, Vt., and James Strong, of Proctorsville, Vt.; her daughter-in-law Sue Strong, of Ludlow, Vt.; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Doris is predeceased by her husband; her parents; her siblings Donald, Zeb, and Vera "Sis" Blanchard; her daughters Shirley Beau-



**Doris Strong, 1932-2026.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

chain and Dolores Lombard, and her son Randy Strong.

A graveside service will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Springfield Health and Rehab in Springfield, Vt., or to the charity of your choice.

The Strong family would like to thank Springfield Health and Rehab for their great care of our beloved mother.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., is assisting with the arrangements.

## Cristina Wood, 1948-2026

**WEATHERSFIELD, Vt.** – Cristina Guiu Wood, 77, passed away on Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, from cancer. She died at her home in Weathersfield, Vt., surrounded by family and friends, and was buried, as she wished, on the farm where she had lived for much of her life.

The middle of three sisters, Tina was born on Feb. 22, 1948, in Greenfield, Mass., to Rafael and Elizabeth (Bray) Guiu. She came to Weathersfield, Vt., in 1970, after graduating with a degree in music from Bennington College. As a child, she had always wanted to live on a farm, and that childhood dream became a reality when, at the height of the Vermont Back to the Land movement, she and her husband Willis took over the family farm that had been in his family since the late 1700s. Here they stayed for the next 55 years, raising two children, Joshua and Marina, continuing and expanding the farm's cider and maple business, while also raising cows, sheep, and chickens. She was a wonderful gardener, spending countless hours raising vegetables and tending the beautiful flower gardens that surrounded her house. She reveled in the fact that, in maybe 25 years of hard work, she managed to turn a patch of Japanese knotweed into a thriving vegetable garden, but never managed to conquer the encroaching

gout weed. She was a wonderful cook and entertainer, easily turning a lunch from two to 20 when friends, grandkids, or a sweaty hay crew showed up.

Tina enjoyed traveling, including trips to Cuba (her father's birthplace) and Guatemala, where her son and daughter-in-law lived for many years. One memorable trip was walking the entire Camino de Santiago, a 500-mile pilgrimage trail



**Cristina Wood, 1948-2026.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

running from France to Santiago, Spain.

Music was always central to her life. She spent many years teaching piano to both children and adults, she sang in many local choirs, and she played piano and organ at the Weathersfield Center Church for more than 40 years, as well as at other local churches. Some 20 years ago, Tina and her friend Julie Levy started and led Clear Springs, a hospice choir, where she shared her love of music with sick and dying patients at homes and assisted living centers. After years singing to others on their death beds, her choir sang to and with Tina as she became sicker, and even up to the moment of her death. She was a lifelong believer in the spiritual teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg, and attended every summer for almost all of her 77 years a Swedenborgian retreat at the Fryeburg New Church Assembly in Maine.

Tina is survived by Willis, her husband of 55 years; her son and daughter-in-law Josh and Gabriella Wood; her daughter and son-in-law Marina Wood-McNaughton and Nathan McNaughton; and grandchildren Zed, Myra, Ada, and Rose. She was predeceased by her sister Cecilia (Guiu) Searle, and survived by her sister Gloria (Guiu) Costello, as well as nieces and nephews. The family plans a celebration of her life in the spring.

### Springfield Annual Report Notice of Availability

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Report containing the Town Auditor's Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 will be available February 21, 2026 and may be picked up at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office at 96 Main Street, M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or at the Springfield Town Library at 43 Main Street, M-F 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Annual Report containing the Town Auditor's Report will be available on the Town's website <https://springfieldvt.gov>. Upon request, the Auditor's Report shall be mailed. The Town School District Report will be available on the School District website <https://www.ssdvt.org>. Barbara A. Courchesne Town Clerk, CVC (802) 885-2104 [tonwnclerk@springfieldvt.gov](mailto:tonwnclerk@springfieldvt.gov).

### TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

On behalf of the Town of Londonderry, VT, Hoyle Tanner is accepting bids for the Spring Hill Road Culvert over Eddy Brook, Londonderry TAP TA23(23), Town of Londonderry, VT, project.

The Engineer's estimate for this project is between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000.

The Project consists of removal and salvaging of existing polyethylene pipe culvert and installation of precast box culvert and foundations and wingwalls, and reconstruction of roadway and approaches.

The bidding documents may be viewed at the website of [hoyletanner.com](http://hoyletanner.com) and clicking the bid portal tab in the upper right.

# calendar

## LEGAL NOTICES

**JAN. 31 –** SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The snow may be flying, but the Springfield Farmers Market is open for business. Join us on Saturday, Jan. 31, for the first of four indoor markets held from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the United Methodist Church, 10 Valley Street, Springfield, Vt. Our usual vendors will be there, offering natural meats, artisan breads, free-range eggs, hand-crafted gifts, old-fashioned doughnuts, authentic batik clothing and accessories, honey, fabric arts, beeswax candles, jams, jellies, pickles, relishes, and a

full selection of locally produced maple products. For more information, contact [sfog@vermontel.net](mailto:sfog@vermontel.net).

**CHARLESTOWN, N.H. –** The Tri Town Collectors Club will start its summer seasonal shows featuring comic books, coins, paper money, vintage and modern sports cards, Pokémon, postcards, and other collectibles on Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Charlestown Senior Center, 223 Old Springfield Road. This daylong series of hobby activities is packed with fun for the whole family. Besides the usual offerings,

there will be a special quiz for collectors. There is no admission charge. Anyone wishing to set up to sell their material may do so by contacting Joe Fuller at 802-379-2353 or [pepsijoseph@yahoo.com](mailto:pepsijoseph@yahoo.com).

**FEB. 3 –** PUTNEY, Vt. – The Putney Public Library, Third Act Windham, and Windsor Beyond Plastics invite you to the launch of the community read of “The Problem With Plastic,” a powerful investigation into plastic’s impact on human health and the environment, and how we can fight back, featuring guest speakers Christina Dubin, of Beyond Plastics; and Eileen Ryan, founder of Beyond Plastics Boston. The community read will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 6:30 p.m., at the Putney Public Library, 55 Main Street. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be held on Feb. 10.

**FEB. 6 –** CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will host fundraiser bingo on Friday, Feb. 6. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and the games begin at 6

p.m. Open to the public, must be 18 years old or older to play. Concessions will be available through intermission. If you are interested in helping with future events, please call Cheryl at 603-543-5998.

**FEB. 14 –** LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Tri-Mountain Lions Club of Londonderry, Vt., invites everyone to a Valentine’s Day celebration on Saturday, Feb. 14, from 1-3 p.m., at the offices of Neighborhood Connections, 5700 Route 100 in Londonderry. Bring your friends, your mom, your daughter, or your grandmother for a traditional tea. There will be tea and cookies, conversation, camaraderie, and fellowship. For more information or to RSVP, please call Neighborhood Connections at 802-824-4343 to reserve a spot.

**CLAREMONT, N.H. –** On Saturday, Feb. 14, the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will host a Valentine’s Day dance and social evening from 6-9 p.m. Bring your family and friends to hear the music of The Flames. This event is

free and open to the public. Hors d’oeuvres and punch will be served.

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

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

**MONDAYS –** CLAREMONT, N.H. – Women’s pool games are

played every Monday, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights. Come be a part of this fun activity with likeminded women. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

**TUESDAYS –** CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Tuesday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at [bwquilter1778@gmail.com](mailto:bwquilter1778@gmail.com).

**WEDNESDAYS –** LUDLOW, Vt. – A gentle yoga flow class with strength building with bands and body to reconnect to your center, build strength, and invite ease into your body and mind will be held Wednesdays, from 10-11 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street. All levels welcome. Mats and blocks available. Contact Lori Wright at [loriwright163@gmail.com](mailto:loriwright163@gmail.com) or 603-401-8123 to register, or with any questions.

**THURSDAYS –** CHESTER, Vt. – The Black River Memory Cafe is held on the first Thursday of each month, at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 313 Main Street, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The memory cafe is free to attend, snacks included, and offers a safe and comfortable space where caregivers and their loved ones living with dementia or Alzheimer’s can socialize, listen to music, play games, and enjoy other appropriate activities. For questions, please call 802-885-2669 or 866-673-8376, or email [memorycafe@seniorsolutionsvt.org](mailto:memorycafe@seniorsolutionsvt.org).

**TYSON, Vt. –** The Tyson Ladies Aid Library Association meets the first Thursday of each month, typically at the Tyson Library. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and meetings start at noon. New potential members are always welcome. Please call Janine Norman at 802-228-8764 for more information or to verify meeting location.

**FRIDAYS –** CLAREMONT, N.H. – On Fridays, between Feb. 6 and April 10, AARP volunteers will be preparing taxes for seniors, for free, at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights. You must call Audrey at 802-345-5415 to schedule an appointment (please do not call the senior center directly).

### TOWN OF CHESTER NOTICE OF HEARING FOR BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT

RDVT Properties has applied for a Boundary Line Adjustment between properties located at 37 Cary Road and 159 Cary Road in the Town of Chester. The proposed Boundary Line Adjustment will reduce the land at 37 Cary Road by 1.49 acres and increase the land at 159 Cary Road by 1.49 acres. No new parcel will be created.

The Town of Chester Development Review Board will meet at 159 Cary Road at 5:00 PM on Monday, February 23, 2026, to conduct a site visit, and will hold a hearing on this application at 6:00 PM on Monday, February 23, 2026, at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester. A copy of the application and additional information may be obtained from the Zoning Administrator. Participation in this hearing in person, via Zoom videoconference, or in writing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

A link to participate in this hearing via Zoom videoconference may be found on the Town of Chester website home page at [www.chestervt.gov](http://www.chestervt.gov).

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 23rd day of January 2026.

Hugh Quinn  
Zoning Administrator  
(802) 875-2173  
[zoning@chestervt.gov](mailto:zoning@chestervt.gov)

### TOWN OF CHESTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The Town of Chester is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Director of Finance. The Director of Finance oversees and manages the financial and accounting functions of the Town of Chester. This role safeguards the Town assets and ensures compliance with GAAP and GASB. The Director provides financial analysis to support the Town Manager and Selectboard goals, manages cash flow reporting, and leads the supervision and performance of a small Finance team. In addition, this position partners with the Town Manager and department managers to ensure accurate and timely reporting and operational support. The Director of Finance should expect to be hands-on in daily operations.

Applicants must possess strong financial acumen and knowledge of governments and governmental accounting. Technical expertise in general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable, and payroll is required, as well as knowledge of taxation, Department of Labor regulations, insurance, and employee benefits. Applicant must also possess strong analytical, judgment, and decision-making skills.

This position is a full-time position with modified remote work options available.

Qualification requirements include a Bachelor’s Degree in a relevant field (or comparable years of service) with 3-5 years of experience in Government accounting, preferably in Vermont. Salary range is \$80,000 to \$90,000 per year based on qualifications in addition to a comprehensive benefits package.

Please submit Letter of Interest and Resume to the Chester Town Manager’s Office, [julie.hance@chestervt.gov](mailto:julie.hance@chestervt.gov) or mail to 556 Elm Street, P.O. Box 370, Chester, Vt, 05143.

### Town and Village of Ludlow Public Hearing #1 Notice

#### Proposed Plan of Merger of the Town and Village of Ludlow, Vermont Thursday February 12th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (Town of Ludlow) Tuesday February 17th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (Village of Ludlow) Hybrid Meetings – Heald Auditorium/Zoom

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1484, notice is hereby given of a public hearing by the Town of Ludlow’s Board of Selectman and Village Trustees to hear comments regarding a proposed plan of merger of the Town and Village of Ludlow, Vermont. Approval of the plan will result in charter changes in both the Town and Village.

The public hearings will take place on Thursday, February 12th for the Town of Ludlow and Tuesday, February 17th for the Village of Ludlow. Meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. You may attend the Public Hearings in-person at the following location/address:

Ludlow Town Hall  
37 Depot Street  
Ludlow, VT 05149

Or virtually on Zoom using the following links or Meeting IDs/Passcode:  
[Select Board Public Hearing- Proposed Merger Plan](#)  
Meeting ID# 982 7571 0032 Passcode: 327480

[Village Trustees Public Hearing - Proposed Merger Plan](#)  
Meeting ID# 949 1802 1794 Passcode: 533752

Purpose of the Hearings: The purpose of each hearing is to take public comments regarding the proposed Plan of Merger of the Town and Village of Ludlow. Written comments may also be submitted, via email, to Ludlow’s Town/Village Manager, Penny K. Wu. Her email address is: [pwu@ludlow.vt.us](mailto:pwu@ludlow.vt.us)

Summary of the Plan of Merger for the Town and Village of Ludlow and Charter Changes: The Plan of Merger (“Plan”) proposes that the Village of Ludlow merge into the Town of Ludlow, with the Town of Ludlow as the sole surviving municipal corporation. It establishes the name of the Town (Ludlow) and declares that all the former Village property, including that associated with the Electric Light Department and Sewer Plant, are transferred to the Town. The Town will assume all the former Village’s debts and will perform all the former Village’s duties and obligations owed to third parties. The Plan repeals the charters of both the Town and the Village and replaces them with the substance of the Plan as the charter for the Town. The Plan names the officers of the Town and their manner of election or appointment, the form of governance, the powers of the Selectboard, the establishment and organization of the Water and Sewer Board, the governance and operation of the Electric Department and authority of its Board, transitional provisions, and other matters related to the proposed merger and legal operation of the Town thereafter.

Materials Available: The proposed plan of merger and resulting charter changes, and supporting documentation are available on our online website, <https://www.ludlow.vt.us>. An official copy of the plan of merger and charter changes is on file for public inspection in the Town Clerk’s office in the Ludlow Town Hall located at 37 Depot Street, Ludlow, VT 05149. Copies thereof will be made available to members of the public upon request.

# 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.

COINS, COIMIC BOOKS, POKÉ-MON, SPORTS CARDS, POST-CARDS, and other collectibles. Saturday, Jan. 31 at Charlestown, NH Senior Center, and Saturday, Feb. 14 at Brattleboro Holiday Inn. 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Contact 802-379-2353 or pepsijoseph@yahoo.com.

## CLEAN OUTS + MORE

EZ-Dump Enterprises has a 15-yard dump trailer available. We're also here for heating equipment, appliance removal,

home/storage unit clean outs, stump grinding, and refinishing/repairing gravel driveways. Serving Springfield, Vt. area. Call/text 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

## SNOW PLOWING

LUDLOW, Vt. - Snowplowing and sanding, Ludlow area, residential

only. Reasonable rates. Contact SK Logging at 802-384-0313.

## TRIP

Atlantic City Bus Trip, April 19-21, 2026. For more information, Call Simone at 802-463-3573 or 802-463-3992. Leave message if no answer.

### Town of Grafton, Vermont 117 Main Street, P.O. Box 180, Grafton, VT 05146 Invitation to Bid

The Town of Grafton is seeking sealed proposals for tree cutting along a retaining wall project located on Eastman Road, Grafton, VT, TH 20.

Bids are due in the Town Administrator's office (117 Main Street, Grafton, VT 05146) no later than **February 2, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.**

For the full invitation to bid, please contact Morgan Wilbur, Town Administrator, at townadmin@graftonvt.org or 802-843-2552.

### STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT  
Windsor Unit

PROBATE DIVISION  
Docket No.: 25-PR-06965

In re ESTATE of: Edward A Conlon, III

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Edward A Conlon, III,  
Decedent

late of Plymouth,  
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: Jan 22, 2026 Signature of Fiduciary  
*Sean Conlon*  
Sean Conlon (Jan 22, 2026 09:26:28 EST)

Executor/Administrator		Mailing Address
Sean Conlon, Administrator		c/o Law Offices of Amanda L. S. George, PLLC
Phone Number	Email	City, State, Zip
802-875-7777	amanda@amandageorgelaw.com	Chester, VT 05143

Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal

Publication Date: January 28, 2026

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

### WARNING RIVER VALLEY TECHNICAL CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

(Member districts: Bellows Falls Union High School District #27, Expeditionary School at Black River, Green Mountain Unified School District #35, and Springfield School District)

### ANNUAL MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The legal voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District are hereby warned to meet in the RVTC Café, Rm. B106 at the Howard Dean Education Center, Springfield, Vermont, on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 7:00 PM, to transact at that time business not involving voting by Australian Ballot or voting required by law to be by ballot.

The business to be transacted to include:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for a term of two years

ARTICLE 2: To elect a Clerk for a term of two years

ARTICLE 3: To elect a Treasurer for a term of two years

ARTICLE 4: To see what compensation the School District will pay to the officers of the River Valley Technical Center School District.

ARTICLE 5: To hear and act on the reports of the School District officers.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the School District will authorize the Board of Directors to receive and expend funds received through grants, donations, or other outside sources during the ensuing year, so long as such funds do not change the technical-education tuition assessment derived from the operating budget approved by the School District voters.

ARTICLE 7: To authorize the Board of Directors to borrow funds through a bridge loan to cover expenses while waiting for state funding to arrive.

ARTICLE 8: To transact any other business that may legally be brought before this School District Annual Meeting.

The meeting will then be recessed to Tuesday, March 3, 2026, on which date the voters of each member district are further warned to vote on the following article by Australian ballot at their respective polling places:

### VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT MARCH 3, 2026

#### ARTICLE 1

Shall the voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District approve the sum of **three million, five hundred thirty-seven thousand, two hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$3,537,238)** to defray current expenses for the ensuing fiscal year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations?

The legal voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District are further warned that a Public Informational Meeting will be held concerning the aforementioned Australian ballot article on Thursday, February 26, 2026, in the RVTC Café, Rm. B106 at the Howard Dean Education Center, immediately following the business portion of the School District's Annual Meeting.

For more information about the proposed 2026-2027 budget, please contact the office of the RVTC Superintendent/Director at (802) 885-8301. Copies of the RVTC Annual Report are available at town clerk offices and high schools of the member districts, on our website at rvtc.org, or upon request by contacting the RVTC office.

Robert Flint, Chair	Chris Hodsdon
Jessica Burlew, Vice Chair	Kate Lamphere
Andrew Pennell, Board Secretary/Clerk	Kelly Tarbell
Lyza Gardner	Sarah Vogel
Desiree Giroux	Brenda Blodgett, Clerk, River Valley Technical Center SD

### Voting Locations and Hours

Bellows Falls Union High School District #27		
Athens	Athens Town Office	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Grafton	Grafton Elementary School	9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Rockingham	Masonic Temple	8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Westminster	Westminster Institute	8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Two Rivers Supervisory Union		
Andover	Andover Town Hall	8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Baltimore	Baltimore Town Office	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Cavendish	Proctorsville Volunteer Fire Station	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Chester	Chester Town Hall	9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Ludlow	Ludlow Town Hall	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Mount Holly	Mount Holly Town Office	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Springfield School District		
Springfield	Riverside Middle School	8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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(12/9/26 - 52)

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Richard Emery Paintings Retrospective until 1/31

First Friday 2/6 open till 8

Student Arts & Chocolate Hearts 2/7 12-4 (free)

Workshops galleryvault.org/workshops  
Beginner Pysanky with Shannon Wallis 3/14 1-4:30  
Watercolor Skills with Kim Eng Yeo 3/21 & 28 10-12  
Dot Mandala Workshop with Antje Ruppert 3/28 2-4 p.m.  
Turkish Map Fold Book with Deborah Stuart 4/18 11:30-1:30  
(04/15/26 - TFN - 13)

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(02/11/26 - 13)

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(05/06/26 - 26)

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(02/25/26 - 13)

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

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(04/08/26 - 26)

## Tools

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802-579-5891  
(03/18/26 - 13)

# arts & entertainment

## Art at the Barn

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – West River Coffee Barn, Londonderry's newest destination for coffee and community, is excited to welcome Karol Allen to "Art at the Barn," a rotating art series celebrating local creativity. An opening reception will be held for Allen and her work on Thursday, Jan. 29, from 5:30-7 p.m., at the coffee shop, located in the heart of Londonderry.

"We want West River Coffee Barn to be a place that celebrates and showcases the incredible talent in our community," said owner Kristin Nelson. Allen's exhibit includes a mix of watercolor and pastels

from Vermont, including Lowell Lake, Bromley Mountain, and the Londonderry Mill Pond.

Each featured artist will have their work displayed on the Coffee Barn's gallery wall for up to two months, with all pieces available for purchase. Local artists interested in participating can apply by completing an application found on the Coffee Barn's website, [www.wrcbvt.com](http://www.wrcbvt.com).

The Coffee Barn invites all residents, artists, and neighbors to join the launch event. Light refreshments will be served.

## Screenings of 1930s films

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Thursdays in February, at 6 p.m., at 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Stage 33 Live and WOOL FM will screen a series of classic films newly entered into the public domain. There is a small suggested donation at the door.

Feb. 5: "King of Jazz" and "Oswald the Lucky Rabbit" shorts – A pair of cartoons, the first starring Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, precursor to Mickey Mouse, followed by "King of Jazz," a lavish series of musical numbers, comedy sketches, and visual set pieces showcasing the

possibilities of sound cinema and color filmmaking at the dawn of the 1930s. The runtime is 1 hour 57 minutes, with a brief intermission.

Feb. 12: "All Quiet on the Western Front" – A German youth eagerly enters World War I, but his enthusiasm wanes as he gets a firsthand view of the horror. In 1990, the film was selected and preserved by the United States Library of Congress' National Film Registry, being deemed "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant." The runtime is 2 hours 14 minutes, with a brief intermission.

Feb. 19: "Hell's Angels" – With the onset of World War

I, two British brothers recruited into the Royal Flying Corps find their bond tested by their differing attitudes toward the war and their love for the same woman. The product of a notoriously long and dangerous production that resulted in the deaths of multiple crew members, "Hell's Angels" broke new technical ground, making use of early sound and color technologies. The runtime is 2 hours 13 minutes, with a brief intermission.

Feb. 26: "Animal Crackers" and "Soup to Nuts" double feature – Based on the Marx brothers' 1928 stage musical, "Animal Crackers" is set at a Long Island society party

honoring eccentric African explorer Captain Jeffrey T. Spaulding (Groucho Marx). The film serves as a vehicle for the Marx brothers' comedy and absurdist routines, with a minimal plot loosely structured around the theft of a valuable painting. In "Soup to Nuts," Mr. Schmidt's costume store is bankrupt because he spends his time on Rube Goldberg-style inventions. His creditors send a young manager, who falls for Schmidt's niece Louise. Things come to a slapstick head when Louise needs rescuing from a fire. The runtime is 2 hours 50 minutes, with a brief intermission.



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## VAULT hosts student art show

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Saturday, Feb. 7, from 2-4 p.m., Gallery at the VAULT will host "Chocolate Hearts and Student Arts."

Join us to enjoy homemade chocolate treats of the season as we celebrate student artists in VAULT's annual student art show. Springfield's artists through high school age are represented, and we thank their

art teachers. You can do some creating of your own by making valentines, as well as learning how to stitch and decorate valentines of felt with Corky Bond. Shop for your valentine, or treat yourself from our gallery stocked with beautiful handmade crafts and fine art. Take a chance on our Arts Inspire Raffle. Find out about upcoming work-

shops. Your donation will help Gallery at the VAULT continue its mission as our community arts center, and is much appreciated.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street, Springfield, Vt., and is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. On Friday, Feb. 6, the gallery will be open until 8 p.m. as part of First Friday. For more in-



A student portrait on view. PHOTO PROVIDED

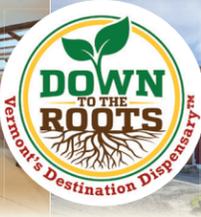
formation, visit [www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org).

## 18th-century valentines

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Letter writing in the Revolutionary War time period was not only a way to stay in touch with friends and family, write a valentine, or conduct business, but it was critical to spying and winning the war. Using codes, ciphers, and various "letter locking" techniques, messages were continually being sent by both Patriots and Loyalists.

On Saturday, Feb. 7, at 1:30 p.m., at the Cavendish Library, 573 Main Street in Proctorsville, CHS will be hosting a workshop where participants will learn about the role of letter writing in the 18th century, and have a chance to write a valentine using a quill pen, try various types of letter locking, and seal it with wax. This workshop is free and open to the public. It is recommended for those 12 and older.

In the event the workshop must be changed due to weather, information will be posted to [www.facebook.com/cavendishvt](http://www.facebook.com/cavendishvt) on Feb. 7, by 10 a.m. For more information, call 802-226-7807, or email [margocaulfield@icloud.com](mailto:margocaulfield@icloud.com).



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