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Rockingham looks at summer construction projects

BY PAULA BENSON
The Vermont Journal

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – At the Feb. 17 meeting of the Rockingham Selectboard, interim town manager Alex Torpey gave an update on several ongoing projects, including the new town website, which is close to completion, pending a few details and one final review by all departments.

Torpey mentioned that he and town office staff have been working to improve several workspaces within the building, such as the lower theater conference room used for selectboard and village trustees meet-

ings. “Our goal was to...make it a little easier for the public to see the [white]board and the screen,” Torpey said, gesturing to the video screen behind him. He told the board he was looking into some ideas for local art that could hang on the wall behind them, or a town seal or logo.

The board continued a previous discussion about the goals and expectations they had for the recreation committee. Torpey said he was working with parks and recreation director Jarrod James to create a more unified, organized structure. Developed as an advisory committee to address the

community’s recreation and arts-related needs, priorities, and opportunities, the recreation committee is to provide input on capital projects, and to assist with marketing, public outreach, and community engagement.

Additionally, the recreation committee will help identify grant and fundraising partnerships, and volunteer opportunities not just for athletics, but for arts and cultural programming as well.

Rockingham Highway Superintendent Glen Schreiter presented the board with a list of town construction projects potentially

scheduled for the summer of 2026. Schreiter reported it likely that the Atkinson Street School project would have to be scheduled for the summer of 2027, stating that the town would lose funding if the project is not completed by 2028.

Other projects discussed were the Route 121 culvert replacement, which is currently pending a structures grant approval, and the Route 121 repaving effort, which lacks sufficient funds for a full reconstruction. Schreiter offered the board several other options, and mentioned that some of the project’s costs would be offset by a 2027 paving grant.

The Flat Iron bump-out project is moving forward on schedule, Schreiter reported, and there was some discussion as to how critical sidewalk repairs might be funded.

Torpey told the board one of his goals while working as the interim manager is to initiate a unified capital plan. Main categories such as infrastructure, facilities, and technology would be reviewed in order to calculate anticipated expenses and funding needs for use when planning next year’s budget. Torpey suggested creating a capital planning committee to help manage the town’s financial risk.

Selectboard Chair Peter Golec announced that town reports are available at Lisai’s Market, Saxtons River Market, and the Rockingham Free Public Library. Rick Cowan mentioned the town report had been dedicated to Golec, who is retiring when his term ends in March, for his 17 years of service.

The Rockingham Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28, at the town hall main theater, 7 The Square, starting at 2 p.m. Voting will then take place on Tuesday, March 3, from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. at the Masonic Temple, 61 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls.

Earthseed Ecovillage putting down roots, creating freedom —

BY JOE MILLIKEN
The Vermont Journal

JAMAICA, Vt. – Located north of Route 100 in Jamaica, near Wardsboro Brook, Earthseed Ecovillage is a 430-acre intentional community and land-based cooperative project, designed to explore avenues to regenerative and affordable coliving and cooperative self-employment.

The cofounding team of Bob Rolen and Marissa Peck have successfully developed a growing residential community designed to foster social cohesion and teamwork, through worker collectives, forest farming, wild building, running cooperative businesses, and self-employment.

Established in 2022, the original “pie-in-the-sky” goal and vision was (and remains) to ultimately create a minimum of five interdependent intentional communities on the more than 400 acres of land, with each community sector consisting of five neighborhoods composed of roughly five pods. The key is each neighborhood remaining in alignment with the overall mission of supporting



Members and associates of Earthseed Ecovillage. PHOTO PROVIDED

the emergence of the community.

Rolen began as an inventor and mechanical engineer at heart, which helped him develop the skills and resources necessary to create a broader impact. After becoming a parent in 2012, and eventually landing at an improvisational dance retreat in western Massachusetts, this led him to become the founder of an ecovillage near Brattleboro. Not long after, Rolen obtained the land in Jamaica for Earthseed in 2022.

Peck has an extensive background in nonprofit work and

the local food economy, and moved to southern Vermont in 2022 to work with the New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA). Additionally, through her work at NECCA, Peck launched SilverCircus, a program designed to build balance and memory for older adults through the joys of circus arts.

“Social connections across different demographics is an opportunity as Vermont’s population continues to shift,” Peck stated in a Brattleboro Development Credit

See **EARTHSEED** on Page 2

Proposed school budget presented to Springfield Rotary Club

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Rick Pembroke, finance director for the Springfield School District, and Peter Burrows, Springfield School District superintendent, presented an overview of the proposed fiscal year 2027 school budget to members of the Springfield Rotary Club recently, outlining key priorities, financial challenges, and the impact on local taxpayers.

Pembroke reported that the proposed budget, including the River Valley Technical Center (RVTC), totals \$42,654,251, representing a 1.96% spending increase over the current fiscal year.

During his presentation, Pembroke explained that the modest increase reflects careful financial planning amid rising operational costs, contractual salary and benefit obligations, transportation expenses, and inflationary pressures on supplies and utilities. He emphasized the district’s commitment to fiscal responsibility while maintaining strong educational programming and student services.

“The budget process is about

making thoughtful decisions that reflect our educational mission and our responsibility to taxpayers,” Burrows said. “We work diligently to manage costs while ensuring our students continue to receive a high-quality education.”

Pembroke also reviewed enrollment trends, state education funding considerations, and cost-containment efforts undertaken by the district. He noted that administrators have worked to identify efficiencies where possible, while preserving classroom instruction and core services.

Following the presentation, Rotary members engaged in a Q&A session, raising questions about projected tax impacts, long-term capital planning, and strategies to sustain programs in a challenging fiscal environment.

The proposed budget will continue to be presented to the Springfield community before being finalized for voter consideration on March 3.

Community members are encouraged to stay informed and participate in upcoming public meetings related to the budget process. Additional information will be shared through official district communications.

For more information about the budget, please visit the Springfield School District website, www.ssdvt.org.

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DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is Thursday at 4 p.m. for the following Wednesday publication.

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calendar@vermontjournal.com

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EMAIL YOUR PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES, AND PHOTOS
editor@vermontjournal.com

SEVCA continues services following fire

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – On Thursday, Feb. 12, SEVCA sustained substantial damage to its main office at 91 Buck Drive in Westminster due to a fire. Thankfully, no injuries occurred. SEVCA is deeply grateful to the Westminster Fire Department for their swift response, which prevented further damage to the building. Note that our Westminster building is closed to the public at this time.

SEVCA is pleased to share that we remain fully operational and committed to serving the community. All

services continue to be open through our outreach offices in Brattleboro, Springfield, Windsor, and White River Junction, plus our two Head Start locations in Chester and Springfield.

Clients with scheduled appointments should be in touch with SEVCA staff regarding any changes in location or scheduling by calling 802-722-4575 or emailing hello@sevca.org. Our “Contact Us” page, www.sevca.org/contact, also offers a town-by-town directory.

Thanks to all those who have reached out to check

on us and share your love and appreciation for our work in the community. We are currently working through the initial stages of the insurance process, and we will send out more updates as they become available. Updates will be available at www.sevca.org/news, as well as on social media.

For more information, please reach out to Jon Megas-Russell, development and communications director, at jmegasrussell@sevca.org or 802-721-0017.

YMCA movement’s 175th anniversary celebration

REGION – Meeting Waters YMCA’s executive director Susan Fortier was at the Vermont State House on Tuesday, Feb. 17, for the reading of a proclamation honoring the YMCA movement’s 175th anniversary.

Submitted by Rep. Barbara Rachelson, of Burlington, the proclamation noted that the first YMCA in America was founded in

Boston on Dec. 29, 1851, and listed several contributions of the YMCA movement to American culture in the subsequent years, including offering the first English as a second language classes, inventing basketball, and serving as the birthplace of Father’s Day.

The proclamation also celebrated the founding of the first YMCA in Ver-

mont, in Burlington, in 1866, followed by the origination of the Bellows Falls YMCA, now known as Meeting Waters YMCA, in 1895. It notes that, today, Greater Burlington YMCA and Meeting Waters YMCA combine to serve more than 15,000 people.

For more information about Meeting Waters YMCA’s rich history and current programs, visit www.meetingwatersymca.org, or contact their office at 802-463-4769 or info@meetingwatersymca.org.

Jamaica State Park public scoping meeting

JAMAICA, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources invites the public to participate in developing a new long-range management plan (LRMP) for Jamaica State Park.

Jamaica State Park covers an area of 1,118 acres across the towns of Jamaica and Londonderry. The park ranks among the busiest 25% of Vermont’s state parks, and serves as a major recreation destination, featuring the 125-foot Hamilton Falls, the West River Trail, white-water recreation opportunities on the West River, and a popular day-use area and campground. The park also supports important wildlife habitat, including amphibian breeding sites, deer wintering areas, black bear feeding areas, and poten-

tial bobcat den habitat.

Hamilton Falls is addressed through two complementary planning efforts with different scopes. The Hamilton Falls Master Plan is a distinct planning effort for visitor use management at and immediately surrounding the falls and the Switch Road Trail, covering approximately 10 acres.

Long-range management plans guide land management on state-owned lands for a 20-year period, balancing ecological, recreational, cultural, and economic values. Public scoping is an early and important step in the process, allowing Vermonters to share how they use and value these lands.

A public scoping meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, from 6-8 p.m., at the Townshend Town Hall, 2006 Vermont Route 30, Townshend, Vt. The meet-

ing is open to the public, and will launch a month-long opportunity for the public to learn about the property and provide input. The comment period will remain open until Friday, April 3.

RSVPs are appreciated, but not required, and can be sent through the Jamaica State Park website, www.vtstateparks.com/parks/jamaica.

A recording of the meeting and a project StoryMap – an interactive webpage with maps, background information, and planning materials – will be available online. Public comments may be submitted in writing at the meeting, by email to anr.statelandsplanning@vermont.gov, or through a comment form that will be posted on the Jamaica State Park website after the public meeting.

Michael Arace addresses Rotary on probation and parole

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Michael Arace, district manager for Springfield Probation and Parole, delivered a presentation to members of the Springfield Rotary Club on Tuesday, Feb. 10, offering insight into the mission, challenges, and community impact of probation and parole services.

Arace discussed the critical role in promoting public safety, while

supporting rehabilitation and successful reintegration for individuals returning to the community. He highlighted how supervision, accountability, and access to resources such as treatment programs and employment support help reduce recidivism and strengthen communities.

Arace also addressed common misconceptions about probation and parole, emphasizing that the work ex-

tends beyond enforcement to include collaboration with local partners, service providers, and community organizations.

The Springfield Rotary Club regularly hosts speakers who provide perspectives on civic, social, and public safety issues. They meet every Tuesday, at 12 p.m., at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center. For more information, visit www.springfieldvtrotary.org.



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EARTHSEED

From Page 1

Corporation interview. “Which was a part of the reason I launched the SilverCircus program to build these connections.”

Completely onboard

with the concept of developing a cooperatively owned, land-based businesses and eco-friendly housing in the region, Peck joined the Earthseed Ecovillage project in 2023, and became a cofounder in the spring of 2024.

“Affordable housing and support for young and new businesses are two challenges facing Vermont, and I am seeking to support these challenges through the Earthseed Ecovillage project,” Peck said.

Peck has made an impressive impact in a short period of time, after being

one of 24 people honored as a Southern Vermont Emerging Leader at the Southern Vermont Economy Summit. Individuals were nominated based on their work as community leaders and volunteers, and for their professional accomplishments and commitment to serving the region.

Upcoming plans in 2026 include beginning prep work for a “common house” build, an outdoor kitchen pavilion, and a cob oven-rocket stove setup. To learn more, visit www.earthseedecovillage.com.



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arts & events

“Drawing Hidden Systems” presentation

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Saturday, Feb. 28, please join the Rockingham Free Public Library for a presentation sponsored by Vermont Humanities, entitled “Drawing Hidden Systems.”

Have you ever wondered where electricity comes from, how the internet works, or how there’s (mostly) enough water for everyone all the time? Where did these systems come from, and how do they affect our challenges like inequality and climate change? Join Vermont author and artist Dan Nott for a look at these questions and more as he discusses his new nonfiction graphic novel, “Hidden Systems,” for this all-ages event. The talk will also include visual readings from “Hidden Systems” that focus on the electrical grid and energy uses, lessons from comics history,

and information for readers and aspiring cartoonists on how to get into reading and drawing comics.

Nott is a cartoonist, illustrator, and educator living in Vermont. His nonfiction work uses comics to explore and untangle complex topics and create a basis for understanding current events. His debut nonfiction graphic novel “Hidden Systems” was selected as an Indies Next and Indies Introduce pick by the American Booksellers Association. He has released two comic books with the Center for Cartoon Studies, “This is What Democracy Looks Like: A Graphic Guide to Governance,” and “Freedom and Unity: A Graphic Guide to Civics and Democracy in Vermont.” He teaches at The Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction, Vt.

This free program is open to the public, and will take place at the Rockingham Free Public Library on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 1-2:30 p.m. It is made possible by the Vermont Humanities Speakers Bureau program.

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

Enslaved soldiers in the Revolutionary War

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Estimates are that between 5,000-8,000 African Americans fought against the British, including Peter Tumbo and Prince Robinson, who settled in Cavendish following the war. However, far more (estimates of 20,000) were Loyalists. These numbers do not reflect the number of enslaved women and children who fled to British encampments in the hopes of freedom, nor those who used the cha-

otic time to escape to maroon communities, such as the Great Dismal Swamp on the border of Virginia and North Carolina.

On Saturday, Feb. 28, at 1 p.m., the Cavendish Historical Society (CHS), in conjunction with the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, 573 Main Street, will hold a talk about the role of enslaved people during the Revolutionary War period. This will include showing portions of Ken Burns’ “The American Revolution” se-

ries, as well as discussing Cavendish’s patriots, Tumbo and Robinson.

The talk will be held at the Cavendish Library in Proctorsville. This event is free and open to the public, and is recommended for those 12 years old and older. In the event of inclement weather, a notice will be posted to the Cavendish Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cavendishvt. For more information, call 802-226-7807 or email margocaulfield@icloud.com.

Next Stage upcoming events

PUTNEY, Vt. – on Friday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m., Next Stage Arts presents an intimate cinema verite portrait of one of music’s greatest icons, “Johnny Cash! The Man, His World, His Music.” Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

Produced in 1968, this film captures Johnny Cash both on stage and behind the scenes. Following Cash on the road and in concert with the Carter Family, the Statler Brothers, and Carl Perkins, the film also includes rare footage of Cash recording with Bob Dylan at Columbia Studios.

Audiences will also see Cash at home with June Carter, visit his parents and children in California, and return to his

childhood town in Arkansas. The documentary features moving sequences at the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota and the site of the Wounded Knee Massacre, offering a deep look into Cash’s life, family, and social conscience.

Local filmmaker Alan Dater, who served as the film’s sound recordist, will be present to introduce the screening and participate in a discussion after the film. A short video interview with director Bob Elfstrom will also precede the screening.

On Saturday, Feb. 28, Next Stage Arts presents a rare evening of acoustic blues with Corey Harris and Sunny Lowdown. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., with the show beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Harris, guitarist, vocalist, songwriter, and band leader, has carved a singular place in contemporary blues. Beginning as a street singer in New Orleans, Harris has toured across North America, Europe, Brazil, the Caribbean, West Africa, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. A year living in Cameroon deeply shaped his musical voice, blending blues tradition with reggae, soul, rock, and West African influences.

Sharing the stage, Sunny Lowdown is a master of slide guitar known for deep grooves, slow-burning blues, and a raw, hypnotic sound. Beginning his professional career at 16

backing John Lee Hooker, Lowdown has collaborated with legends including Hubert Sumlin, Pinetop Perkins, Otis Rush, R.L. Burnside, and Cedell Davis.

This performance is co-sponsored by the Vermont Blues Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to preserving and promoting blues music through concerts, workshops, and educational programs. For more information, visit www.vermontbluessociety.org, or follow them on Facebook.

Next Stage Arts is located at 15 Kimball Hill, Putney, Vt. Tickets for both events are available at www.nextstagearts.org.

Growing edible berries discussion

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Green Mountain Gardeners invite the public to attend an open discussion on raising fruits and berries in the home landscape on Monday, March 2, at 4 p.m., at the Rugg Valley Greenhouse, 968 Haven Hill Road in South Londonderry. The program will be led by Mark Wright, owner of Rugg Valley Landscaping. Attendees are asked to bring their own folding chairs. All are welcome.

Wright will speak from his experience, and give some practical tips on growing fruit trees and berries, and how to best use them to enhance the home grounds.

In high school, Wright was in charge of the school greenhouse as part of the school’s work program. It was his first experience working in a controlled growing environment, and it was an eye opener.

He attended Cornell University, where he majored in landscape architecture and horticulture. Thanks to some

influential and enthusiastic professors, his interest in plants and landscape design flourished. However, one of the most important lessons he learned was that he didn’t want to spend his life in an office. When he graduated in 1974, he and his wife Sunny joined the back-to-the land movement, built their cabin in the woods, and started Rugg Valley Landscaping.

Mark has spent his life observing and learning. Like everything, the more you learn, the more you realize how much more there is to learn; growing edible fruits is no exception. Come learn about the beauty and practicality of growing fruits at your own home.

To attend this event, please RSVP to Cynthia Gubb at chgubb2020@gmail.com, or call her at 802-236-6526. For more information about Green Mountain Gardeners, visit www.greenmountain-gardeners.net.

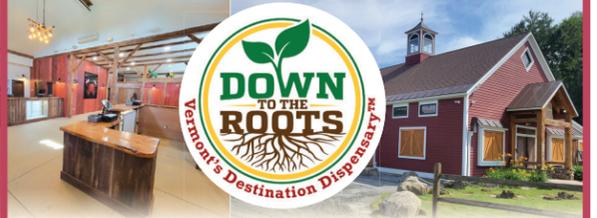


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opinion

Dear Springfield Residents,

I am running for a position on the Springfield School Board. I have lived in Springfield for close to two years. Prior to that, I grew up in Lyndonville, Vt. I have a bachelor's degree in biology from Rutgers University. My work experience ranges from managing a 100-veterinarian laboratory to a position at IDEXX, at which I supported veterinarians, staff, and

the business with technical and educational products, services, and continuing education.

My son currently attends the Elm Hill School preschool program. I have seen so much growth and excitement regarding his early education experience. I'm consistently impressed with all the teachers, administration, and support staff I have met and interacted

with at our schools.

As a board member, I hope to engage the community in supporting the education of our students, and I want to support our teachers and staff in their positions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Brenda Boynton
Springfield, Vt.

To the Voters of Springfield,

On behalf of the North School Preservation Society, I am asking you to please vote "yes" on Article 9. A "yes" vote would renew our tax-exempt status, and make it possible for our nonprofit organization to continue our

mission of preserving North School and its surrounding property. The property is open to the public for year-round recreation, and includes a playground and dog park which are enjoyed by many. Please show your

support with a "yes" vote on Town Meeting Day.

Thank you,
Virginia Ricker, Treasurer
North School Preservation Society

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 specific candidate or party.

Springfield Area Adult Day Services

"Springfield Area Adult Day Services has truly changed my life. I look forward to every day because I know I'll be doing things I enjoy—crafts, bingo, and lunch with friends.

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Where People Come First

Dear Editor,

My name is Amethyst Bonneau, I am the communications and marketing manager for Springfield Area Public Access Television (SAPA TV). As a proud nonprofit organization, SAPA TV has been deeply rooted in the Springfield area for many years, serving not just Springfield, but also the neighboring communities of Chester, Weathersfield, and Reading. At our core, we believe in the power of storytelling, transparency, and connection. SAPA TV provides comprehensive local coverage, from town meetings and school events, to cultural festivals and public forums. We create opportunities for individuals and organizations to share their voices, stories, and ideas freely. We are also passionate about education, offering public access to professional-grade video equipment, hands-on media training, and op-

portunities for residents to develop their own content and technical skills. Our mission is simple but vital: to be an educational, creative, and archival resource for our region. We work hard to preserve the moments that shape our towns, while providing a platform where creativity, civic engagement, and local culture can thrive.

Today, we find ourselves at a crossroads. As technology and viewing habits evolve, so too must our funding strategies. We can no longer rely solely on traditional cable revenues or limited federal support to sustain the work we do. That is why we are reaching out to you, our community members, local businesses, and supporters, to ask for your help.

Public access media exists because of people like you. Your donation, no matter the size, helps us provide training, equipment, and a platform for community voices. Every dollar ensures

our community continues to have free, open access to local media. All contributions are tax-deductible and deeply appreciated.

Every gift truly matters. Your donations make it possible for us to continue delivering vital services: broadcasting local government meetings, providing youth with media education, supporting grassroots initiatives, and offering a creative outlet for artists, activists, and everyday citizens. With your support, we can ensure that this essential resource not only survives, but continues to grow and serve the needs of our vibrant, diverse community. We deeply appreciate your consideration and generosity. Together, we can keep public access alive and accessible for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Amethyst Bonneau
SAPA TV Communications and Marketing Manager

Dear Editor,

Gallery at the VAULT will be on Springfield's Town Meeting ballot this year, asking for town support of your local community arts center. Please consider supporting us with your vote.

VAULT brings tourists and locals to downtown Springfield to shop for handmade goods and fine art from more than 125 Vermont artists. We host four open wall shows per year for community members to display their artwork. We hold workshops, teach animation in Springfield's elementary schools, collaborate with the Springfield Town Library, provide learning opportunities for Springfield High School students, and hold artist demonstrations during Vermont Open Stu-

dio weekends. We host artist receptions, such as for the current Bradley Jackson show, and events, such as the recent Chocolate Hearts and Student Arts, which highlighted artwork of students from the Springfield schools.

Although we have been awarded the distinction of being a Vermont State Craft Center, we receive no money from the state. With the help of part-time staff and many volunteers, we operate on revenue from sales, memberships, donations, fundraisers, grants, and workshop income. The revenue from these sources varies each year; having town support would help us to maintain a more consistent funding stream, and even allow us to consider new opportunities.

We believe that Gallery at the VAULT is a strong contributor to Springfield's downtown, and helps to put Springfield on the map. Try Googling, "What is Springfield, Vt., known for?" and you will see that VAULT is recognized as a town attraction. Read our Google reviews, and you will see five-star reviews from far and wide.

Please vote "yes" if you wish to support the arts on Springfield's Main Street.

Sincerely,
Gallery at the VAULT Board Members
Joanna Bombadil, Chair
Melissa Post, Secretary
Cynthia Porter, Treasurer
Pat Belknap
Bridget Stone
Melody Reed
Vanessa Rebertisch

Dear Editor,

I am extremely disappointed in the two Windsor County senators, Becca White and Alison Clarkson, who sit on the Government Operations Committee. After admitting they received "a lot" of emails from constituents asking them to add a voter ID requirement to an elections bill, S.298, both flatly rejected their constituents' requests, and refused to even consider the policy.

White snarkily said, "I'm

not doin' that," despite a Pew poll that showed 83% of Americans support requiring voters to show a photo ID when voting, and another Gallup poll showing 84% support the policy, both polls showing landslide majorities across party lines. As a CNN reporter commented when reporting these numbers, "It's not controversial." It's just common sense.

White and Clarkson wouldn't discuss voter ID,

but they were willing to consider allowing out-of-state criminals, like the drug dealers coming into Vermont from Massachusetts, New York, and other places, who are caught, convicted, and imprisoned in Vermont to vote in Vermont, just like we allow out-of-state college students to vote here if they so choose.

I can't imagine two more out-of-touch people who are not listening to their constituents, and clearly not representing the best interests of their communities.

Sincerely,
Stu Lindberg
Cavendish, Vt.



@VermontJournal

obituaries

Martha Damone, 1935-2026

LUDLOW, Vt. – Martha Damone, of Ludlow, passed away peacefully on Feb. 16, 2026, at the age of 90, with her family by her side. She was born on Feb. 21, 1935, in Oyster Bay, N.Y., the daughter of John and Antoinette Clegg.

At just 18 years old, Martha married the love of her life, James “Jim” Damone, on Oct. 11, 1953. Together they built a life centered on family, hard work, and adventure. For most of their marriage, they worked in the food service industry across New York, California, Florida, New Hampshire, and Vermont, ultimately settling in Ludlow, in the early 1970s, while raising their seven children.

Martha and Jim thrived on new challenges and enjoyed many successful and fulfilling ventures. Beyond their restaurants, they became involved in real estate and home restoration, with Martha proudly leading the construction projects and crew. They also supported their longtime business partner and good friend Richard Gagnard in his boxing endeavors.

Martha’s adventurous spirit extended to every part of life – she even embraced Jim’s dream of owning a racehorse. While Jim was widely known as “Diamond Jim,” those who knew them agreed that Martha was the true sparkle, admired for her unforgettable style, beauty, warmth, and even the couple’s legendary ability to “cut a rug.”

After Jim’s passing in 1999, Martha remained active and joyful, filling her days with work, golf, a glass of white wine, and cherished time with family and friends. She was known af-



Martha Damone, 1935-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

fectionately as “The Hostess with the Mostess,” a title she embodied throughout her life. Following a stroke in 2014, she remained positive and resilient, lovingly cared for by her family – especially her daughter Patty, with whom she lived until her recent hospitalization and final stay at the Gill Home.

Martha is survived by her brother John Clegg and his wife Elnora; her sister Leona Houghton; her brother-in-law Pete Damone and his wife Dot; and her seven children Tina Danyew, Susan Balch, Patty Damone, Gina Bailey, Jamie Josselyn, James Damone, and Phil Damone, along with their spouses. She also leaves behind 15 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held at DJ’s Restaurant, on March 1, from 12-3 p.m. Friends and family are warmly invited to gather and share stories, laughter, and memories, to celebrate a woman whose love, strength, and spirit touched so many lives.

To view Martha’s online tribute, send a message of condolences to the family, or for more information, visit www.phaneuf.net.

Laurie J. Jackson, 1975-2026

CHESTER, Vt. – On Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, Laurie Jean Jackson passed away, at the age of 50. Laurie was born on June 19, 1975, in Chester, Vt., to Frank and Carol (Brooks) Balch.

Laurie had a variety of different skill sets and jobs where she left an impact on those around her, from driving a bus and being a cashier, to being a member services representative at One Credit Union’s Chester branch. Laurie was a beloved and avid member of her community, bringing light and her energetic personality to those with whom she worked, and who had the pleasure of knowing her. Along with Laurie’s dedication to helping those in her community through both her work and volunteering, she was a devoted mother, partner, and friend.

Laurie was predeceased by her husband Ronald Jackson in 2020, with whom she had two daughters. Lau-

rie is survived and will be remembered by her father Frank, mother Carol, her two daughters Rose and Pearl Jackson, and the many friends and community members who got to know her.

There will be a Celebration of Life held at the Ludlow American Legion on Saturday, March 7, from 1-4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Springfield Humane Society or your local animal shelter.

Ernest C. Lamphere, 1936-2026



SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Ernest C. “Puggy” Lamphere, 89, died on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026. He was born on Aug. 25, 1936, in Springfield, Vt., the son of Hyland R. and Bernice I. (Olney) Lamphere. He attended the North Springfield School, and graduated from Springfield High School, Class of 1954. In 1953, he joined the Army Reserve, serving a total of 26 years.

On June 8, 1975, He married Hallie L. Robbins.

In 1969, he was appointed as a full-time firefighter for the Town of Springfield, the beginning of a 40-plus-year career that spanned the positions of lieutenant, deputy chief, and chief, retiring in 2006.

Puggy was a certified football, softball, and basketball official, and served as an official in the Shrine Game. He also served as justice of the peace, and officiated more than 600 weddings.

He was a longtime member and elder of the Spring-



Ernest Lamphere, 1936-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

field Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife Hallie; two sons Phillip Lamphere (Rosalyn) and Tracy Lamphere (Donna); half siblings Bradley Morgan and Denise Smith; seven grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was predeceased by his parents; sister Marjorie Bartley; brothers Ervin, Francis, and Dean; and daughter Shari Lamphere.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28, at 2 p.m., at the Springfield Church of Christ.

Wendy L. Moss, 2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Wendy L. (Norton) Moss, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., on Friday, Feb. 6, 2026.

She is survived by her loving husband of 30 years Bernie, of Bellows Falls, Vt.; her son Joe LeClair (Becky Barrett), of East Alstead, N.H.; stepdaughter Alison Kemp (Wade), of North Walpole, N.H.; mother Jeannette Whelan, of Westminster, Vt.; brothers Jaime and Justin Norton; the mother of her grandsons Megan Zehr, of Keene, N.H.; and Taylor Franklin, of Guilford, Vt., who she thought of as a bonus daughter.

She was predeceased by her father Lenny Norton, her grandparents Winnie “Bah” and Pearl Allbee, and her stepfather John Whelan.

One of the biggest joys of her life was becoming a grandmother, and her grandchildren held a special place in her heart. Her grandchildren include Bentley, Peyton, Charlotte, Noah, Gracie, Maeve, Forrest,



Wendy Moss, 2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Ezra, Jackson, and Lillie.

Wendy enjoyed writing, spending time on the Maine seashore (Wells in particular), eating seafood (especially lobster), and sitting watching the waves. Wendy was an extremely compassionate person, and was always putting others first. She was a cat person, and loved her cats Molly, Gray, and Ash.

Wendy was a proud employee of Cota & Cota, and had just celebrated her 20th anniversary with the company this past summer.

Calling hours were held Saturday, Feb. 21, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt. A graveside service will be held in Townsend, Vt., in the spring.

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

Judith Benway Mills, 1951-2026

CHESTER, Vt. – Judith Benway Mills, 74, a resident of Ninety Six, S.C., and devoted wife of Norman Mills, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, at her home.

Born on Sept. 5, 1951, in Springfield, Vt., she was the oldest daughter of Bertha Wheatley Benway and the late Ernest Benway, of Chester, Vt. Judi was a 1969 graduate of Chester High School, and later received her associate’s degree in early childhood education. She began her career in banking at Vermont National Bank in Brattleboro, Vt., and eventually retired from Brattleboro Savings and Loan as a mortgage originator. She was a beloved member of the Brattleboro community, making many friends and connections through her banking career and her active participation at Saint Michael’s Catholic Church, especially as a member of the folk group. After meeting the love of her life, Judi and her husband relocated to Keene, N.H., where she was an active member of the choir at Saint Bernard Catholic Church. After retirement, Judi and her husband relocated to Greenwood, S.C., and enjoyed meeting many friendly neighbors and building their dream home with a beautiful view of Lake Greenwood.

Judi was devoted to helping others, serving as a hospice volunteer in New Hampshire, and later working at the hospice of the Piedmont Resale Store. She was a voracious reader, and enjoyed keeping her brain sharp with puzzles and games. She was also a talented singer and pianist, and loved sharing those gifts with her family.

Judi was known for her generous spirit, and delighted in being a caretaker. She always said that being a mother and grandmother was her greatest joy in life. As the oldest of the four Benway siblings, Judi was the glue of the family, tak-



Judith Mills, 1951-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

ing the lead in lovingly caring for their parents as they aged. She was the touchstone for friends and family who needed advice or a listening ear. Her family will forever miss her unique ability to bring comfort with just a few words.

Surviving, in addition to her husband of 33 years, are two daughters Amber Taylor, of Greenwood, S.C., and Bethany Schneider (Eddie), of Apex, N.C.; a sister Cindy Kehoe (Bob), of Windham, Vt.; two brothers Jeff Benway, of Goffstown, N.H., and Stuart Benway, of Chester, Vt.; four grandchildren Olivia Schaffer (Andrew), of Greenwood, S.C., Charlotte Taylor, of Denver, Colo., and Harrison and Bennett Schneider, both of Apex, N.C.; one great-grandson Callen Schaffer; and her aunt-in-law and friend Joy Stevenson, of Greenwood, S.C.; along with several beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memorials may be made to Care of the Piedmont Hospice & Palliative.

Blyth Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family with her cremation, according to her wishes.

Her family will hold a casual open house celebrating Judi’s life on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 2-4 p.m., at the Mills Residence, 126 Mitchum Drive, Ninety Six, S.C.

Judi’s ashes will be laid to rest this spring at the Benway family plot in Chester, Vt. Further details will follow at a later date.

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Londonderry, VT

obituaries/calendar LEGALS

Douglas E. Lund, 1959-2026

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Douglas Edward Lund, 66, of Westminister, Vt., passed away on Feb. 11, 2026, surrounded by loved ones.

Born on March 27, 1959, Douglas was the son of Bela and Isabel Lund. He often joked, "I was born so big, I drove my mom home from the hospital," a line that perfectly captured his humor and larger-than-life personality.

Douglas lived a life full of laughter, connection, and love for those closest to him.

He truly cherished his family and friends. His presence was something you always felt – often before you even saw him. When Douglas was around, you were sure to hear him first, usually sharing a story or bringing a smile to everyone nearby. His booming voice, storytelling spirit, sense of humor, and warm heart made him unforgettable. He'll also be remembered for being a talented carpenter and mason.

He worked as a mason with his good friend Jim

Saunders, and their work can be seen in various locations around the Vermont area.

Douglas is survived by his wife Sherri, his son Israel, his daughter-in-law Olivia, and his one and only grandson Renzo, of New York City.

He is also survived by his brother Mark Lund and wife Janice; his sister Beverly De-Camp and husband David, all of Westminister, Vt.; and his brother Bradley Lund and wife Lorrie, of Hermiton, Ore.

Douglas was preceded in death by his parents Bela and Isabel Lund, and his sisters Anne Marie and Mary Beth.

Douglas will be remembered for his big heart, lively spirit, fantastic stories, joking nature, and the genuine way he connected with people.



Douglas Lund, 1959-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

He leaves behind countless memories filled with laughter, love, and stories that will be shared for years to come.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a future date.

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

FEB. 28 –

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Grafton Historical Society will host a Sugar on Snow Supper on Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Grafton Chapel, 4 Main Street, Grafton, Vt. Seatings will be at both 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets for children ages 6-12 are discounted, and 5 and under are free. Please make reservations by calling 802-843-2584. The menu will be ham, baked beans, scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, homemade rolls with sugar on snow, and doughnuts and pickles for dessert.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley Street, is having a soup and bake sale during the farmers market on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

MARCH 1 –

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Pat Daddona will be playing a live concert on Sunday, March 1, from 4-5 p.m., at the Perkinsville Community Church, 35 Church Street. If you would like to be on the email list for these events, please email churchperkinsville@gmail.com.

MARCH 7 –

LUDLOW, Vt. – Join The Boot Pro on Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at Solitude on Okemo, for our next free on-snow ski demonstration of the season. Test the latest men's and women's skis from top brands, meet manufacturer representatives, and find your perfect match before models and sizes sell out. The event begins at Village Run Trail, on the skier's right when approaching Solitude Day Lodge. Registration and a credit card deposit are required. Preregister at www.bit.ly/3Ziu1za. Sponsored by The Boot Pro and Mary W. Davis Realtor & Associates.

MARCH 10 –

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join the Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) on Monday, March 16, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center, 51 Jack and Jill Lane, for a comprehensive CPR training session designed to empower you

with the knowledge and hands-on skills to respond effectively in life-threatening situations. Register before March 9 at www.tinyurl.com/SAPCCPR. An email from Sales Force at American Red Cross will be received by March 10 with the online portion of the class. The online portion must be completed prior to the in-person class. For more information, contact arielr@sapcc-vt.org or 802-886-5242.

MARCH 18 –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On March 18, Springfield Area Parent Child Center's (SAPCC) Tienna's Closet, a free community clothing closet, will be serving the Bellows Falls community at Parks Place Community Resource Center, 44 School Street Extension, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tienna's Closet will offer a selection of clothing in various sizes, including jackets and shoes, available free of charge. We will also have a small selection of hygiene products, diapers, formula, and children's books, also free. Come see SAPCC in the Bellows Falls community and learn about the concrete support they offer. For more information, contact krista.wilson@sapcc-vt.org or 802-886-5242.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Songsters will perform a concert at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, at 1 p.m. For more information, please contact executive director Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

SUNDAYS –

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

ACT 250 NOTICE APPLICATION 2W1391 AND HEARING 10 V.S.A. §§ 6000 - 6111

Application 2W1391 from Haran Lane Properties (Attn: June Lupiani 1624 Townshend Rd, Grafton, VT; Attn: Todd Haran 7289 Woolston Road, Bloomfield, NY; and Attn: Paul Haran 13 Potter Land, Port Henry, NY) was received on January 22, 2025, and deemed complete on December 5, 2025. The project is generally described as the construction of eight (8) campsites and related infrastructure (septic system, 2 stall bathroom, 2 stall shower facility, and communal "kitchen" area). More specifically, the project is proposed in two phases. Phase 1 consists of establishing eight (8) tent campsites, and Phase 2 consists of replacing three (3) of the tent campsites with cottages. This application considers the following work associated with the project as "after-the-fact," as it has already been completed/constructed: removal of trees, undergrowth vegetation, and structures; construction of four (4) wood platform decks; installation of portable shower/bathroom infrastructure; construction of septic system and leach field; and installation of underground electrical lines. The project is located at 221 Dug Road in Grafton, Vermont.

The District 2 Environmental Commission will hold a site visit on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 9:00 AM and a public hearing on the application following the site visit on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 10:30 AM. This hearing will be conducted both in-person and via Microsoft Teams video conferencing software (Teams). To access the Teams meeting, click on the following link, or enter the meeting ID and passcode by clicking on the button in the upper right corner of your Teams calendar window that says "# Join with an ID."

- Teams Meeting Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/join/21351764075043?p=klcv6lswkC3ZPrFICN>
- Meeting ID: 213 517 640 750 43
- Passcode: HD6vt9pN

The public hearing will be held at 117 Main Street, Grafton, Vermont (Grafton Town Hall).

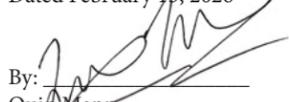
If you are unable to participate in person or by using Teams, you may still call in to the hearing:

- Dial: 802-828-7667
- Enter Conference ID: 734 525 689#
- To raise hand: Press *5
- To mute and un-mute: Press *6

The application may be viewed on the Land Use Review Board's website (<https://act250.vermont.gov>) by clicking "Act 250 Database" and entering the project number "2W1391." To request party status, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board's website: <https://act250.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form>, and email it to the District 2 Office at: Quin.Mann@vermont.gov and Act250.Springfield@vermont.gov.

If you have a disability for which you need accommodation in order to participate in this process (including participating in the public hearing), please notify us as soon as possible, in order to allow us as much time as possible to accommodate your needs. For more information, contact Quin Mann, District Coordinator before the hearing date at the email address or telephone number below.

Dated February 18, 2026

By: 
Quin Mann
District Coordinator
100 Mineral Street, Suite # 305
Springfield, VT 05156-3168
802-661-8041
Quin.Mann@vermont.gov

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

The Town of Londonderry seeks a self-motivated, detail-oriented person for the position of Parks Maintenance employee for seasonal maintenance of Londonderry's various parks between the months of April and October, weather permitting.

Work involves significant physical labor, use and maintenance of tools, and maintaining a valid driver's license.

Maintenance tasks include but are not limited to: Lawn mowing, weed whacking, landscaping, trash pick-up and removal, picnic table upkeep, dog park facility maintenance, water testing at Memorial Park, checking on porta potty conditions, park trail maintenance, playground repair, woodchip raking, sports facility repairs, maintenance of park signage, tree trimming, picnic pavilion clean up, spring clean-up, fall clean-up, garden maintenance and assisting the MT Rec director as requested.

Salary: \$20-\$30/hour depending on experience.

To apply, please visit the Employment page on the Town of Londonderry's website: <https://www.londonderryvt.gov/> employment and fill out an employment application. The application can be email to Aileen Tulloch at townadmin@londonderryvt.org or mailed to

Aileen Tulloch
Town Administrator
100 Old School Street
South Londonderry, VT 05155

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
WINDSOR UNIT DOCKET NO. 26-PR-00336

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: DARLENE M. SANDERS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
TO THE CREDITORS OF: DARLENE M. SANDERS, late of, NORTH SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT.

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 4 months of the date 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: 02/19/2022

Signed: /s/ Ellie Gebarowski-Shafer, Administrator

Address: Gfeller Laurie, LLP
110 Merchants Row, Ste 3
Rutland, VT 05701
eshafer@gllawgroup.com

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal
Publication Date: February 25, 2026

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

Andover, VT

Request for Bids (RFB) 12' x 8' Precast Box Culvert

The Town of Andover is accepting bids from contractors to replace a culvert on Davis Road with a precast box culvert. The Request for Bids (RFB) and plans may be obtained from Everett Hammond (engineer) at (802)-376-0042 or hammondeng@gmail.com. A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the Andover Town Hall at 10:00 am on March 2, 2026. Bids are due to the Andover town office by 2:00 pm on March 19, 2026.

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

LMHUUSD School Board Has an Immediate Opening

The Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District (LMHUUSD) seeks one Ludlow and one Mount Holly Town resident interested in serving as a member of our local school board. The term of this position will be until Town Meeting Election Day held on Tuesday, March 2nd, 2027. The Board meets regularly, the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and others as necessary. Members may fulfill additional responsibilities such as serving on board committees.

Please submit a letter of interest to:
LMHUUSD Board
c/o Layne Millington
609 VT Route 103 South
Ludlow, Vermont 05149
layne.millington@trsu.org

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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email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

WANTED

GRAFTON, Vt. - Log-length

cordwood wanted, 3 cords total, delivered/dropped at my property in Grafton. Please call/text 802-289-4121 with price and availability.

TOWN OF CHESTER WARNING NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Chester Town Hall, Second Floor in said Town of Chester on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 6:00 pm., to act on the following Articles. Voting on Article 1, 2, and 3 will be by Australian ballot on March 3, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall Second Floor.

ARTICLE 1: To elect Town Officials for the ensuing year as provided by the Public Laws of Vermont. Voting by Australian Ballot.

ARTICLE 2: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Four Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$430,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of financing the construction of upgrades to the existing sidewalks at an estimated cost of \$1,800,000. These funds will provide the required 20% match for an awarded Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant. Voting by Australian Ballot.

ARTICLE 3: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of paving Flamstead Road, River Street, Library parking lot and patching Depot Street at an estimated cost of \$300,000?

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town of Chester will vote to approve borrowing for the purchase of a police cruiser for the Police Department in an amount not to exceed \$70,000. This equipment is replacing existing equipment at the end of useful life and is not an addition to the town inventory.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town of Chester will vote to approve borrowing One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to fund the town's grant match for Route 35 construction and the town's match on Thompson Road easement purchase and preliminary design.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$4,461,054.94 to be paid to the Chester Town Treasurer on September 15, 2026, to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters establish a 1% Local Options Tax on the sale of Rooms, Meals and Consumed Alcohol for a period of 10 years. Revenue from the Local Options Tax will be used to fund the Housing Reserve Fund which is used to support the production of housing and increase opportunities for families and individuals to access affordable homes in Chester.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS (\$13,807) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND FORTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$3,044) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND FORTY DOLLARS (\$3,040) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Chester in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,400 to Senior Solutions, the nonprofit Area Agency on Aging serving southeastern Vermont, to serve older Vermonters and younger disabled Vermonters with nutrition and wellness programs, application assistance for state and federal benefit programs, Medicare enrollment guidance, long term care Medicaid program care coordination, Volunteer Visitor programs, and more, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,250 (two thousand two hundred fifty dollars) for the support of the MOOver Rockingham to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Chester, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$800 (eight hundred dollars) to support Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Chester through volunteer service, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,800.00) toward the support of the Community Cares Network of Chester and Andover, Inc. a non-profit organization which provides services to senior citizens, helping them to stay in their homes longer safely, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$4,000 (four thousand dollars) to Meals on Wheels of Greater Springfield, Inc. for continued support and services to the citizens of the Town of Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY DOLLARS (\$5,570) to Neighborhood Connections, Inc. and Mountain Town Connector to cover the cost of providing services in Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 19: Shall the town appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to the Black River Area Community Coalition for continuing to work within the Chester community preventing youth substance/alcohol misuse in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2691?

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town of Chester will appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) to assist in the services of the Chester-Andover Family Center for individuals and families in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

Dated at Chester, Vermont on this 21st day of January 2026.

/s/ Lee Gustafson, Chairman
/s/ Arne Jonynas
/s/ Tim Roper
/s/ Peter Hudkins
/s/ Arianna Knapp

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT

Unit

PROBATE DIVISION

Docket No.:

In re ESTATE of:

B. Laura Caravatt

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of:

B. Laura Caravatt

late of Ludlow, VT

Decedent
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:

2/18/26

Signature of Fiduciary

Cynthia Holden

Executor/Administrator		Mailing Address	
Cynthia Holden		577 Dawson Hill Rd	
Phone Number	Email	City, State, Zip	
203-266-9507	Cyndie Holden@gmail.com	E. Wallingford, VT 05742	

Name of Publication:

Vermont Journal

Publication Date:

February 25, 2026

Name of Probate Court:

Windsor

Address of Probate Court:

12 The Green
Woodstock, VT 05291

Town and Village of Ludlow Public Hearing #2 Notice

Proposed Plan of Merger of the Town and Village of Ludlow, Vermont
Thursday February 26th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (Town of Ludlow)
Tuesday March 3rd, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (Village of Ludlow)
Hybrid Meetings - Heald Auditorium/Zoom (February 26th, 2026)
Howard Barton Jr. Conference Room (March 3rd, 2026)

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 26th for the Town of Ludlow and Tuesday, March 3rd 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 #2 - Proposed Merger Plan](#)
Meeting ID# 996 3488 0881 Passcode: 167183

[Village Trustees Public Hearing #2 - Proposed Merger Plan](#)
Meeting ID# 995 7692 3564 Passcode: 538920

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

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.

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Workshops galleryvault.org/workshops
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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
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