NEW DEADLINES: Effective Feb. 26, 2026, we will have a new deadline for all content of Thursday at 4 p.m.

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Ben Ogden wins historic Olympic silver medal

Ben Ogden.

PHOTO PROVIDED

STRATTON, Vt. – The Stratton Mountain School (SMS) community is celebrating a historic victory today, as alumnus Ben Ogden, Class of 2018, captured the silver medal in the men's sprint at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games in Milan-Cortina, Italy.

With this podium finish, Ogden ended a half-century medal drought, becoming the first American man to win an Olympic medal in cross-country skiing since fellow Vermonter Bill Koch won silver at the 1976 Innsbruck Games.

Ogden's journey from a young skier in Landgrove to an Olympic medalist is a testament to the power of community support and educational opportunity. Raised in Landgrove – a town of fewer than 200 residents – Ogden was able to attend Stratton Mountain School using Vermont's Town Tuitioning Program. Because Landgrove does not operate a public high school, the program allows families to send students to approved independent schools, which facilitated Ogden's development.

"Ben's journey to the Olympic podium is a shining example of the doors that open when talent meets opportunity," said Carson Thurber, head of school at Stratton Mountain School. "Thanks to Vermont's unique Town Tuitioning Program, Ben was able to choose SMS, where he was able to access a program that allowed him to develop into a top-tier athlete. We are incredibly proud to see a local Landgrove student maximize that opportunity to represent Vermont and the country on the world stage."

Ogden, 25, honed his skills on the trails at SMS, eventually making history as a junior racer. In 2018, during his senior year at SMS, he anchored the U.S. team to a silver medal at the FIS Junior World Ski Championships, the first medal ever for U.S. men at that event. He went on to ski for the University of Vermont, winning two NCAA national championships, and achieved a 12th-place finish in his Olympic debut in Beijing in 2022.

Now, he joins Koch as only the second American man to stand on an Olympic cross-country podium.

Ogden will continue his competition at the 2026 Games in the upcoming team sprint and relay events.

Puzzle page winner

Congratulations to Amanda Sabo, of Westminster, for winning our puzzle page contest drawing! Amanda has selected the $75 gift certificate to Springfield Food Co-op. Look out for our next puzzle page contest in our March 4 paper for your next chance to win.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

9	4	7	2	5	3	1	6	8
2	8	6	1	7	9	5	3	4
5	1	3	8	4	6	2	9	7
1	6	5	7	3	4	8	2	9
8	7	2	5	9	1	3	4	6
3	9	4	6	2	8	7	5	1
7	3	8	4	6	5	9	1	2
4	2	9	3	1	7	6	8	5
6	5	1	9	8	2	4	7	3

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

L	E	G	■	I	M	A	M	■	B	A	L	I
I	S	U	■	N	O	T	I	■	O	D	E	S
E	P	A	■	K	E	E	L	S	O	V	E	R
V	O	C	A	B	■	■	K	O	I	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	L	O	P	■	S	N	U	B	S
H	A	S	H	O	V	E	R	■	G	N	A	T
E	C	O	■	T	U	N	A	S	■	I	R	A
R	A	F	T	■	M	A	K	E	O	V	E	R
B	I	T	E	R	■	L	E	C	H	■	■	■
■	■	■	T	A	B	■	■	U	M	A	M	I
S	T	A	R	T	O	V	E	R	■	L	O	S
S	I	M	I	■	N	I	L	E	■	V	O	L
T	E	A	S	■	D	I	M	S	■	A	D	A

Chester punts on discontinuance request

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Selectboard met on Wednesday, Feb. 4, beginning by hearing updates from town manager Julie Hance on several issues.

In relation to the board's previous meeting, at which a deficit stemming from an audit of the town's finances in 2024 was discussed, Hance said there had been no applicants for the position of finance director. Hance explained that "many, many, many towns in the State of Vermont… are seeking the same position," and that the position as advertised is asking for a candidate with experience in government finance. This, Hance felt, could be limiting the potential applicant pool, as, she said, "There are very different principles and laws that you follow" in government finance as opposed to corporate accounting, "and it's not necessarily an easy transfer from one to the other."

Hance also informed that board that the town is dealing with a shortage of road salt, an issue currently faced by many municipalities nationwide. While she said that highway director Kirby Putnam is not yet concerned about running out entirely, she did say he had made the decision to salt only Chester's main roads, while limiting treatment of "back roads" to plowing and sanding, in order to preserve salt. Hance said the town will continue to seek ways to increase its salt supply, but noted that, due to low supply and increased demand, prices are considerably inflated.

The board then took up its long-running discussion of the town's proposed Class 4 road policy, whereupon Hance told them that town attorney Jim Carroll "has some concerns about the policy."

According to Hance, Carroll feels that the policy should "align with the town road and bridge standards," and suggested that the two be combined into a single document. Hance noted that the road and bridge standards have not been updated since 2019, and that this would therefore be a good time to review them as well. Hance also said Carroll wanted to caution the town to tread carefully with the policy, due to pending litigation against the town regarding Class 4 roads.

While the board generally agreed with these suggestions, board member Tim Roper expressed concern that the work required to merge the two documents would hold up a process that has already taken significant time. "It feels like this is going to extend the time before we adopt…a policy covering our Class 4 roads," Roper said. Board Chair Lee Gustafson, on the other hand, said he feels that the slow pace of the process is "a feature, not a bug," due to the major effects any policy changes can have on the lives of people across the town.

The board requested that Hance provide a draft document that merges the road and bridge standards with the Class 4 road policy, and Hance said she would "put pressure" on Carroll to move the process along quickly.

In the same vein, the board then turned to address a request for discontinuance of Adams Road, a Class 4 road, submitted by Chester resident Damon Tyler. A portion of Adams Road runs through a family farm operated in part by Tyler, and Tyler had raised concern at previous meetings about greater public use of the road resulting from the Class 4 policy and its potential negative impacts on said farm.

The issue before the board was whether to schedule a public hearing on the discontinuance, as is required before any road can be discontinued. However, Hance told the board that Carroll's opinion is that the board should wait to take up the issue of discontinuance until their Class 4 road policy is finalized, whatever form that may take. "Jim's recommendation is that you pause until the policy is in place," she said.

Tyler responded that he will be "more than rightly dissatisfied" if the board chooses to defer action on the matter. "There is [state] statute on how to deal with discontinuance; I'd like to move forward with that process," Tyler said, noting that if the board refuses to schedule a hearing, he has the option to gather 300 signatures on a petition to force the issue. "Others have taken other methods to move their concerns forward," Tyler said, in an apparent reference to several landowners whose properties abut Class 4 roads who have pursued litigation against the town, adding, "I'd hate to go down that route."

Vice Chair Arne Jonynas, who helped draft the Class 4 road policy as a member of the Chester Conservation Committee, said that many of the Class 4 roads have been town property for "hundreds of years," and that in this time they have served different functions. "I hate to sit here and take away a section of road, and then 50 years from now…somebody is trying to do something for the village, and they can't because they're missing a Class 4 road," Jonynas said. "I think it's a huge right to give away."

Gustafson insisted to Tyler that he did not see the discontinuance as a matter of urgency, and that he would prefer to wait until the policy is adopted before setting a hearing. The rest of the board was in agreement with Gustafson, and no hearing was scheduled, though Gustafson assured Tyler that one would be once the town's approach to Class 4 roads has been codified.

During the ensuing portion of the meeting, during which the board signed the town's certificate of highway milage, Jonynas noted that issues surrounding discontinuance of Bailey Hill Road, pursued by the late landowner Paul Bidgood, had taken several years to resolve, during which time the town had conducted thorough research into the history of the road, and solicited legal opinions. Jonynas cited Bailey Hill Road as an example of the lengthy process and due diligence required for any Class 4 road discontinuance request.

The Chester Selectboard will next meet on Wednesday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.

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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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ads@vermontjournal.com

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

FML auction—

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher Memorial Library (FML) is happy to announce that the 2026 auction is on its way to success. On auction are a few very special items, such as Red Sox "Kids Run the Field" Sunday game tickets for four; season tuning at Totem Pole Ski Shop; gift baskets valued at $275, including a $75 gift certificate filled with Grafton Cheese products; a one-week Adventure Sports Camp for the 2026 season at Okemo Mountain School for kids 10-14 years old; a Russ Hurlburt signed, matted, and framed photo; and a handmade art piece made from a homegrown gourd.

There are also many wonderful items ranging from dog treats to oil changes, and many gift certificates to our local eateries and shops, as well as children's items made by Melissa & Doug, including a 3-foot, 5-inch plush penguin.

To bid on any of these items, visit www.32auctions.com/FML26. The auction ends on Feb. 23, at 3 p.m.

Fletcher Memorial Library welcomes patrons from Ludlow, Cavendish, Mount Holly, and Plymouth, and is a 501 (c)(3) organization. The library is not a municipal department. Your donations (bids) are tax-deductible.

Ludlow Rotary's 100th anniversary

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Jan. 27, 1927, the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) was chartered by Rotary International. It had 25 chartered members. Since that time, the LRC has grown and become a major contributor to the Okemo Valley area, the nation, and international groups.

As it prepares for its 100th anniversary, it is gathering information on the club's history, membership, and many activities.

Sharon Bixby and Jim Rumrill, cochairs of the anniversary committee, indicated that, while it has a large volume of information for its summary report of the club's history, it needs the help of people in its service area – Ludlow, Mount Holly, Cavendish, and Plymouth – to gather more information and photos that area residents may have of the LRC's activities, members, and contributions to the area.

"If local folks possess any photos or information about the club, we'd love to receive it," noted Rumrill. He added that all such contributions would be recognized by the club. There are several ways to send such information to the LRC: email ralphcpace@gmail.com; mail items to Ludlow Rotary Club, P.O. Box 216, Ludlow, VT 05149; or in-person delivery to Sharon Bixby, Ludlow Insurance, 150 Main Street, Ludlow, Vt.

"This a monumental time for the club," said Bixby, "and we'd like to have our neighbors part of it."

Trees of Remembrance honor loved ones

REGION – The Okemo Valley Women's Club (OVWC) sponsors this opportunity to remember loved ones, and to support the club's charitable initiatives through the annual Trees of Remembrance event throughout the holiday season. With the lighting of the two Trees of Remembrance in Ludlow and Cavendish in early December, the trees shine brightly each night until the end of February as symbols of remembrance for those who have been loved and lost.

A heartfelt thank-you is extended to all who participated. Beyond the love and memories highlighted by the gleaming trees each evening, the gatherings at the respective lightings of the trees strengthened our sense as a caring community. Also, the personal donations will go a long way to address critical needs in our local region through our service organization.

A special note of appreciation is also extended to the Ludlow Electric Light Department, which sent crews out in the frigid early December weather to hang the lights on each tree.

The names of cherished loved ones are published each month of the holiday season. The final list for this year's event of remembrance is shared below to honor their memories.

Joan Albert, Helen Ballard, Pam Barnes, John Bazzano, Nellie Beckman, Oscar Beckman, Ernie Belanger, Charles Bidwill, George Bitters, Mary and Ronnie Bolduc, Earl and Edris Bonneau, Harley and Ida Bragg, Harold and Mary Bragg, Kyle Brasher, Dick Brazil, Evelyn Bryant, Kim Bryant, Margarite Bryant, Roy and Marie Bryant, Stanley and Francis Bryant, Gail Caldwell, Walter Camara, Laura Caravatt, Charlotte Chardonet, Peter Connor, Richard Cormier, George Costa, Kathy Culhane, Lane Danyow, Dorothy Davis, Ellsworth R. Davis, Roy and Leta Davis, George and Ethelyn Dever, Kathleen Dever, Suzette Durgin, John Ewen, Paul Fehrenbach, Harry Fisher, John Foscolos, Helen Garvey, Regis "Pat" Garvey, Leonard Gendron, Chizzie and Frank Geraci, Dan Giordano, Norm and Marilyn Gordon, Larry "Granny" Grandchamp, Jim Grossbard, Stanley Hart, Rita Higgins, Mark Huntley, Brian Hodgeman, Leta Hudgings, Charlie Hughes, Jerry Jaminet, Alma Jaskey, Andy Jaskey, Armas Jaskey, Sarah Jaskey, Susan Jaskey, Hersh Klein, George and Eileen Laber, Frank Lacava, Bruce LaRoache, Particia LaRock, Peter Lawless, Charlotte LeClair, Alyson Legrora, Jean Leonard, Maria Laina Letqic, Gloria Leven, Seymour Leven, Arthur Leduc Jr., Joseph Lorrain, Irene Lorrain, George and Rose Macintyre, Dolores Marcoux, Fred Marin, Mary-Ann Markowski, Anne and Iggy Matulonis, George and Violet Matulonis, Jim Mays, Frank "Mac" McAuliffe, Anna McKinney, Mr. and Mrs. McLean, Aaron W. McNabb, Betty Merrill, Edward Merrill, Paula Messina, Glen and Marilyn Miller, Tony Mirabelli, Jim Misuraca, Judd and Virginia Nelson, Pete Noyes, Emma Null, Ernest Null, Melba Null, Eleanor O'Donnell, Andrew Orie, Eva Orie, Franklin Orie, John Pappalardo, James Parker, Mary Lou and Charles Parker, Lana Parks, Dee Pavone, Marge and Frank Peters, Tony Pickowitz, Anne Price, Helen and Laval Remy, Gardner and Laura Ripley, Don and Carole Robert, Carol Rowan, Roger Ryan, Roger and Lucille Ryan, Kelley Sanderson, Ronald Schauster, Helen and Allyn Seward, Leon and Mary Shabbott, Bernard and Shirley Snow, Caroline Spaulding, David Stearns, Larrry Stevens, Bunny and Richard Strong, Bridgid Struthers, Sam Struthers, Donald and Vera Sullivan, Carol Sullivan Kuk, Rick Sullivan, Terri Tabshey, Ray "Roger" Taksar, Harold and Doris Tedford, Kenneth Tedford, Rose Tedford, Joe Townsley, Mary Tredenick Gould, Bob Twombly, Ted Twombly, Chee-Chee Tyrrell, Kathy Tyrrell, Ken Tyrrell Sr., Genevieve Vincent, William Vincent, Patty Walsh, Stan Wasel, Betsy Welch, Harry Welch, Sally Whitaker, Ed Zawacki, and John Zink.

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arts & entertainment

Queralt Giralt Soler Trio

PUTNEY, Vt. – Cellist, vocalist, and composer Queralt Giralt Soler presents her deeply expressive trio on Friday, Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt., for an evening of intimate, genre-blending music that bridges classical training, jazz improvisation, and Catalan folk traditions. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are available discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org.

Based between the U.S. and Catalunya, Giralt Soler has cultivated a distinctive musical voice that fuses cello and vocals into a singular, lyrical language. Her work draws equally from contemporary composition, Mediterranean roots, and the spontaneity of jazz, resulting in music that feels both adventurous and deeply personal.

An internationally active artist, Giralt Soler has performed at renowned venues including Carnegie Hall and the Detroit Jazz Festival, and has collaborated with celebrated musicians such as Kenny Barron, Joe Lovano, and Latin Grammy-winning group Las Migas.

She is joined by an outstanding ensemble featuring Mahya Hamedi on piano, percussion, and vocals, and Bahar Badiei on oud and vocals. Together, the trio will present Giralt Soler's original compositions alongside imaginative reinterpretations of works by influential composers such as Hermeto Pascoal and Paco de Lucía.

This performance is funded in part by the New England States Touring Program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the six New England state arts agencies.

Sunburned Hand of the Man at Stage 33 Live

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Sunburned Hand of the Man are an enigmatic experimental collective with a stunningly large discography and frequent personnel changes. Their improvisations incorporate elements of free jazz, space rock, psych-rock, hypno krautrock, drone, folk, funk, punk, and dirty synth. Their live shows are a surprise every time – even to them, usually – ranging from wild freak-outs to more coherently sculpted material, careening from unsettling, to hypnotic, to mellow.

According to Sean Kitching, writing in The Quietus, "Sunburned at their best are capable of taking the listener on a shamanic, boogie-fueled trip outside of quotidian reality. Live shows blend monstrous tectonics of rhythm, caustic guitar, echoing phased vocals, insect electronics, and kitchen-sink instrumentation that collide in an ecstatic racket."

Throughout the mid-'90s they represented New England's free-rock contingency, and the free-folk – sometimes misnomered as "freak folk" – era described by David Keenan's 2003 article "New Weird America" in British music magazine The Wire.

There will be no opener for this show; it will be 100% Sunburned. It's likely to be loud. Stage 33 Live has no idea what the lineup will be, or how long the show will go. This is in accordance with the strange purity of Sunburned Hand of the Man.

Daisy Frederick will provide old-school psychedelic interactive liquid light projections.

The show is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at www.stage33live.com, or at the door as available. Advance tickets guarantee entry. Only 40 tickets will be sold. The performances will be recorded and filmed. Stage 33 Live is located at 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

Raku pottery class

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is excited to offer a raku pottery workshop with Andrew Berends on two consecutive Saturdays, March 7 and 14, from 12-4 p.m. each day. Register by Saturday, Feb. 28.

Berends will be teaching the Japanese firing technique known as raku, a 16th-century technique developed in Japan for making tea-ceremony ware. The firings take about an hour, and you get a finished piece at the end. Pots are fired to 1,840 degrees, pulled out of the hot kiln, and manipulated with sawdust and water to change the look of the glazes. The glazes can be metallic, and/or have a crackle effect, making each piece unique and one-of-a-kind. We will also fire pots with an technique known as horse hair raku, which creates interesting designs on the clay.

The class will include wheel-throwing, slab-making, and extruding instruction. The first day will include making all types of clay work, and the second day will be glazing and firing all the pots in the raku tradition. Emphasis will be on being creative, and learning the basics of pottery, including making the work, glazing, as well as firing. The class is geared towards teens through adults, and limited to four students.

The editor and his wife at the raku pottery class with Andrew Berends.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Berends has been a master potter for over 30 years, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, as well as a Master of Fine Arts from Montana State University. He worked with a Spanish folk potter for a year, and was also a guest artist-in-residence at Anderson Ranch in Snowmass, Colo.

The cost of the workshop is discounted for gallery members, and includes 25 pounds of clay, glazes, and firing costs in a gas-fired kiln. Wear old clothing, and bring pottery tools if you have them. Directions to Berends' studio in Springfield will be given at registration.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit Facebook, Instagram, or www.galleryvault.org. Gallery at the VAULT is accessible.

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real estate

COMMUNITY

Mary W. Davis mentors the next generation

LUDLOW, Vt. – Mary W. Davis Realtor & Associates Inc., a cornerstone of the Okemo Valley real estate community since 1958, is proud to introduce Conor Bennett and Dan Vigeant, two real estate agents who have completed an extensive hands-on mentorship program led by owner and principal broker Suzanne Garvey.

"Immersing a new licensee into every aspect of the business is key," Garvey explained. "The 'how-to' of real estate is only one piece. Understanding the 'why' behind the extensive diligence the profession requires is what fosters confident, ethical, and knowledgeable professionals who truly serve their customers and clients."

Bennett brings a unique global perspective to the Ludlow real estate market. Born and raised near Atlanta, Ga., he spent much of his childhood visiting Okemo with his family. After attending Centre College in Danville, Ky., on a lacrosse scholarship, and graduating in 2016, Bennett pursued a master's degree in renewable energy at Reykjavik University in Iceland.

He spent eight years in Iceland, where he owned and operated a successful bar, before returning to the United States. Bennett ultimately returned to Okemo to manage the beloved restaurant The Bull, where he met his wife, a Ludlow native.

Bennett said he was drawn to Mary W. Davis Realtor & Associates because of its longevity and collaborative culture. "There are lifetimes of knowledge about the Okemo Valley here," he shared. "The agents have forgotten more about real estate than I'm afraid I'll ever learn. They're incredibly generous – not just with their knowledge, but with what they contribute to the community – and being part of that is something I'm proud of."

"The Ludlow community has been life-changing," Bennett added. "I came for a winter job, and quickly fell in love with everything Vermont has to offer. I'm excited to give back by supporting local schools, businesses, and the community as a whole."

Vigeant grew up in Massachusetts, spent 10 years in Colorado, and was a licensed Colorado Realtor for two of those years.

"When I decided to move back east to be closer to family, Vermont was an easy choice," Vigeant said. "I already feel my roots growing deep within the community, and I'm genuinely excited about what the future holds." Since relocating, Vigeant has become involved with the Okemo Ski Patrol and works alongside his fiance in their small business, using drones to inspect power lines across the state.

"One of the biggest things I've noticed is how steep the learning curve can be, simply because every transaction is different," he said. "As a younger agent entering this career, I have the utmost confidence that I'm surrounded by the right people to guide me. I also believe that becoming more involved locally is key to building strong relationships and long-term success in this business." When asked what attracted him to the Mary Davis agency, Vigeant explained, "Mary Davis has some of the most experienced agents I've ever met, and what stands out most is their genuine willingness to help and support one another."

With deep local roots, a commitment to mentorship, and a passion for service, Mary W. Davis Realtor & Associates continues its longstanding tradition of preparing the next generation of real estate professionals. Bennett and Vigeant are poised and supported to be trusted resources for buyers and sellers and are already hard at work.

"I love supporting our agents. I'm especially proud of our firm's collaborative culture in a highly competitive market/industry," Garvey said. "Helping the next generation understand that success in real estate happens organically – while living your unique life, being out in the community, meeting people, listening, and building meaningful relationships."

Ludlow Volunteer Firefighters Association honors local businesses

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Volunteer Firefighters Association recognized two local businesses for their outstanding commitment to the Ludlow community during a gathering on Dec. 13, 2025.

Representatives from William Raveis Vermont Properties and Benson's Chevrolet were in attendance. On behalf of the association, Fire Chief Ben Whalen presented Community Service Awards to both organizations in appreciation of their continued support.

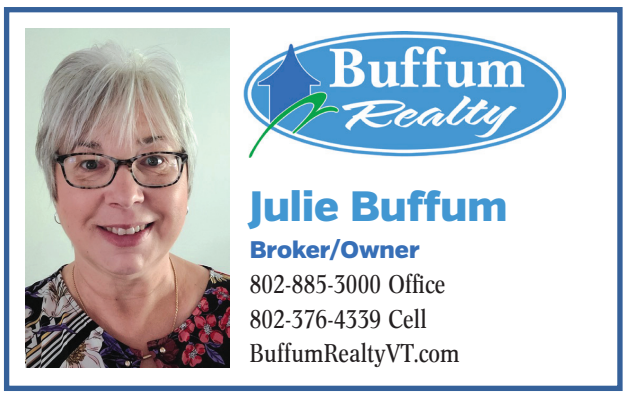
Kathy Burns and Kevin Barnes, of William Raveis Vermont Properties, accepted a plaque recognizing their leadership and fundraising efforts, particularly the 2025 Fire and Ice fundraiser. That event raised more than $96,000 to upgrade and enhance the Ludlow Fire Department's radio communications system, including new portable radios, mobile radios, and a repeater. The project significantly improves operational effectiveness and firefighter safety, and would not have been possible without their efforts and the generous support of event sponsors.

Benson's Chevrolet, represented by George and Mary Benson, was honored for its longstanding support of the association and the broader Ludlow community. In recent years, Benson's has been a key sponsor of the association's annual Five Alarm 5K run, and has supported numerous community events, including the trunk-or-treat celebration held each Halloween.

Left to right: Ludlow Fire Chief Ben Whalen, Mary Benson, George Benson, Kathy Burns, and Kevin Barnes.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Established in 1959, the Ludlow Volunteer Firefighters Association is a nonprofit fundraising organization comprised of current and former firefighters. Its mission is to empower and support all firefighters by providing resources, training, and equipment to enhance service to the community, while fostering camaraderie, professionalism, and continuous learning. Through fundraising efforts, the association invests in modern equipment that helps protect lives, property, and the environment.

The association expressed its gratitude for the continued support of local businesses and community members, noting that initiatives like these would not be possible without their generosity and partnership.



LEGAL NOTICES

BELLOWS FALLS

St. Charles Church, 31 Cherry Hill St.
Masses are held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, at 7 a.m.; Wednesday, at 7 p.m.; Saturday Vigil Mass, at 4 p.m.; and Sunday, at 9 a.m. For more information, call 802-732-8721.

CHESTER

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.
Worship is Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, including online streaming, go to www.chesterbaptist.org.

LUDLOW

Tyson Community Church, Corner of Route 100 and Dublin Rd., opposite Echo Lake Inn
Services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. No service last Sunday of the month. Email terry.bascom@pm.me or call 802-228-2480.

SPRINGFIELD

Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.
Sunday morning service is 10 a.m. Evening service is 6 p.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Springfield-Assembly-of-God-156583214402910 for links and more information.

WESTON

The Old Parish Church, 644 Main St.
A diverse, informal, and welcoming congregation. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. For more information, contact Jon Bliss, minister, at 802-824-4452 or email easthillfarm@vermontel.net.

obituaries

Don Fielder, 2025

STOCKBRIDGE, Vt. – Don Fielder, 69, of Stockbridge, Vt., died on Dec. 31, 2025, at Gifford Medical Center, after a brief illness. A gathering celebrating Don will be held later this summer. A full obituary is available at www.dayfunerals.com. Arrangements are under the direction of Day Funeral Home.

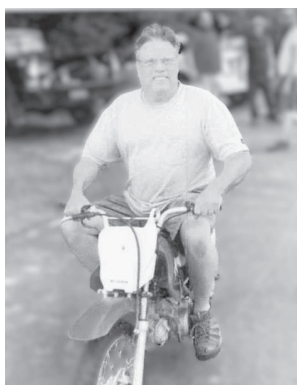
Laurence L. LaCross, 1957-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Laurence L. "Larry" LaCross, 68, died unexpectedly on Feb. 7, 2026, at Springfield Hospital. He was born on March 3, 1957, in Springfield, Vt., the son of Ernest R. and Margaret "Peggy" LaCross. He graduated from Springfield High School, Class of 1975.

Larry was a quiet, kind, and gentle man, who loved his family deeply. He was a lifelong dairy farmer. He enjoyed sharing a cup of coffee with his wife, spending time in his garden, tending to his tree farm, playing his guitar, and working as a welder.

Larry was always there for his family. He faithfully cooked special dishes specifically selected to share with his kids and extended family. He was a lover of sports, and supported his own children's ventures as athletes. He was a devoted fan at his grandsons' football, basketball, and baseball games. He was an avid Patriots fan. He built a '41 Willys coupe and restored a '56 Corvette.

Larry is survived by his wife Mary; his children Joshua, Jason, Jessica (Chris), Kati (Paul), and Alan (Michelle); siblings Holly Capen (Bud) and Karen Gould (Frank); brother-in-law Jim; and grandchildren Lucas, Thomas, Carson, Ben, Gabe, Jacqueline, Meredith, and Collin.



Laurence LaCross, 1957-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

A Celebration of Life and burial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Springfield Booster Club, P.O. Box 666, Springfield, VT 05156.

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WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Plymouth, County of Windsor, State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Plymouth Municipal Building at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont on Monday, March 2, 2026 at seven o'clock PM (7:00 PM) to transact at that time business not involving voting by Australian Ballot or voter required by law by ballot. The Polls will open Tuesday, March 3, 2026, between the hours of ten o'clock AM (10:00 AM) and seven o'clock PM (7:00 PM) for the purpose of voting by Australian Ballot to act on the following articles.

The legal voters of the Town of Plymouth are further notified that voter qualifications, registration and absentee voting relative to said Town Meeting shall be as provided in Title 17, Chapters 43, 51, and 55, Vermont Statutes Annotated. You must be a Town of Plymouth registered voter in order to vote at Town Meeting. Voters may request an Early/Absentee Ballot from the Town Clerks Office by calling 802-500-1815, Ext. 1 or email at clerk@plymouthvt.org.

Tuesday, March 3, 2026: Australian Ballot – 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Article 1. To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year(s) by Australian Ballott: Moderator, Selectman, Lister, Trustee of Public Funds, Cemetery Commissioner, and Constables.

Article 2. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will authorize the Select Board to maintain a Fire Truck Equipment Reserve Fund in the amount of $150,000, annually, for three (3) years in accordance with 24 V.S.A §2804.

Article 3. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will authorize the Select Board to establish a future Emergency Highway/Natural Disaster Reserve Fund for roads, culverts and bridges in accordance with 24 V.S.A §2804.

Article 4. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will authorize the Select Board to maintain a future Emergency Highway/Natural Disaster Reserve Fund for roads, culverts and bridges in the amount of $100,000, annually in accordance with 24 V.S.A §2804.

Article 5. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will vote to increase the exemption for eligible Veterans, as required by the State of Vermont, from $10,000 to $40,000. This exemption only applies to homes that are owned by the veteran or survivor; and is their primary residence.

Monday, March 2, 2026: Public Informational Meeting & Annual Meeting at 7:00 PM

Article 6. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will vote **$16,089.50** for Human Services to be allocated as follows:

a. American Red Cross - $250.00
b. Black River Area Community Coalition - $500.00
c. Black River Good Neighbors - $500.00
d. Black River Valley Senior Center - $3,000.00
e. Fletcher Memorial Library - $1,200.00
f. Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation - $321.50
g. Green Up Vermont - $50.00
h. HCRS Mental Health Services - $568.00
i. MOOver - $125.00
j. Okemo Valley TV - $800.00
k. Okemo Valley Technical Rescue - $2,500.00
l. Ottauquechee Health Foundation - $600.00
m. Plymouth Historical Society - $500.00
n. Plymouth Memory Tree - $250.00
o. Senior Solutions Council on Aging for SE Vermont - $300.00
p. Southeastern VT Community Action - $400.00
q. Tyson Library - $500.00
r. Visiting Nurses - $2,150.00
s. VT Center for Independent Living - $175.00
t. VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force - $200.00
u. Windsor County Mentors - $500.00
v. Windsor County Youth Services - $400.00
w. Women's Freedom Center - $300.00

Article 7. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will vote to increase Okemo Valley TVs' annual appropriation to $1,400.00?

Article 8. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will vote to raise $1,508,259.94 in taxes to pay estimated expenses in the amount of $1,924,659.94?

Article 9. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will fix the salaries of the Select Board the same as last year in the amount of **$1,600.00** annually?

Article 10. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will collect taxes on real property in installments, taxes to be paid to the Treasurer, Town of Plymouth on **September 1, 2026** and **February 1, 2027,** and must be delivered to the Town Treasurer on or before the due date. Postmarked envelopes/payments will not be accepted as timely payments?

Dated at Plymouth, Vermont the 20th day of January 2026.

Town of Plymouth Select Board

Jay Kullman, Chairman

Richard Kaminski, Vice-Chair

Keith Cappellini

calendar

FEB. 20 –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join online or in person at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street, at 10 a.m. every third Friday, for a 60-minute chair yoga practice. Learn accessible movements that you can do right from your seat, leaving you feeling mobile, grounded, and focused. This month's class will take inspiration from the Fire Horse, the Chinese zodiac animal for the Lunar New Year. Walk into the library and join live in person for free – there's no need to preregister. For online access, which includes all recordings, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/88980 to choose from among a variety of registration options.

FEB. 21 –
CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will serve a turkey dinner on Saturday, Feb. 21. The menu will be turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, squash, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, and apple pie. There is a small cost per meal. To order a meal, please call 603-678-0433 any time before 3:30 p.m., and specify whether you will be dining in or taking out. Dine-in begins at 4:30 p.m., and takeout meals can be picked up at 5 p.m.

FEB. 23 –
LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will hold a pizza party on Monday, Feb. 23, at 12 p.m., featuring a surprise dessert. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. Free cash bingo will follow. All are 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 contact us at 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/SAPCCCPR. 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.

LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

The Town of Londonderry, Vermont is seeking proposals for Tennis Court Replacement at Pingree Park, located at 36 Pingree Park Rd, Londonderry VT. Any questions should be directed to Liam Elio, Mountain Towns Recreation Director, at 802-824-3356 ext.8. Bids are due March 5, 2026 at 2pm. You can view the bid documents here: https://www.londonderryvt.gov/rfps

Londonderry Planning Commission Hearing 3/9/26 at 6:00 PM

The Londonderry Planning Commission will meet on March 9, 2026, at the Londonderry Town Offices to solicit comments from the public on a proposed zoning bylaw amendment and a new zoning map. This amendment will change the zoning regulations for the entire town of Londonderry. It is designed to:

- align the town's zoning regulations with the planning goals in the Town Plan,
- addresses inconsistencies resulting from the many changes that have been made to state statutes since the zoning bylaws were last updated,
- fix shortcomings of the current regulations that had resulted in confusion or difficulties for applicants, the Administrative Officer, and the Development Review Board over the years,

The full text of the proposed amendment and the new zoning map are posted on the Planning Commission page of the Londonderry Web site, and paper copies are available for twenty dollars from the town clerk.

The table of contents of this proposed zoning bylaw includes: General Standards, Exemptions and Limitations, Prior Applications, Approvals and Uses, Nonconformities, Zoning Districts, General Zoning Rules, Site Design and Performance Standards For Commercial and Multi-Unit Housing Developments, Specific Use Standards, Subdivision Standards, Planned Unit Development (PUD) Standards, Administration and Enforcement, Fees and Filing Requirements, Zoning Permits, Commercial and Multifamily Home Development, Appeals, Notice Requirements, Hearings and Decisions, Violations and Penalties, and Definitions.

Town of Weston Planning Commission Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Weston Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Town Office, 12 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston, VT on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. This hearing will be held for public review of and comment on proposed amendments to the Weston Zoning Bylaw, pursuant to Title 23, Chapter 117, Section 4441.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to make several revisions to the zoning bylaw to address procedural provisions, revise definitions, and update site development requirements related to loading, screening, and landscaping. Specifically, the amendments would add provisions to allow for the approval of unlisted land uses; update off-street loading space requirements; update landscaping and screening requirements; revise minor subdivision application requirements; add provisions to allow amendments to zoning permits or site plans; add provisions to allow the Development Review Board to grant waivers; and update the definition for building height. The proposed amendments would apply to the entire Town of Weston. The proposed amendments do not include any changes to the district boundaries on the Weston Zoning Map

The affected Zoning Bylaw sections are as follows: Section 200 (Prohibited Uses), Section 225 (Village District), Section 540 (Off-Street Parking Space Requirements), Section 541 (Off-Street Loading Space Requirements), Section 570 (Landscaping Requirements), Section 571 (Screened Service Area Requirements), Section 590 (Subdivision of Land), Section 702.3 (Amendments to Zoning Permits or Site Plans), Section 705.1 (Authority of Appropriate Municipal Panels), Section 705.2 (Hearing and Notice Requirements for Appropriate Municipal Panel Proceedings) , Section 708 (Waivers), Article VIII (Definitions).

A full copy of the proposed amendments to the Weston Zoning Bylaw and the Report of the Planning Commission are available for public review and can be found at the Weston Town Office, 12 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston, VT, and on the Town's website at: www.westonvt.org.

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

LEGALS classifieds

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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

NOTICE TO SPRINGFIELD VOTERS

Absentee Ballots for the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting being held Tuesday, March 3, 2026, will be available at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, a request for these elections must be made, please contact the Town Clerk's Office in writing, by phone or by email. If you make your absentee request in person, you can choose to vote your ballots and return them before leaving the Town Clerk's Office. If returning your ballots by mail, allow extra time for postal delivery and use two Forever stamps. An Absentee Request Form can be found on the town's website https://springfieldvt.gov or you may request your ballots online at https://mvp.vermont.gov. The deadline for requesting absentee ballots is Monday, March 2, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. You may register to vote on Election Day at the polls and then proceed to vote on that day. You may also register to vote any time at the Town Clerk's office or online at https://mvp.vermont.gov. Prior to March 3, 2026 absentee ballots may be returned in-person, through regular mail and afterhours through mail slots located in town hall entrances. All voted absentee ballots must be received at the polls by the Town Clerk before the close of polls at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. The polls are located at Riverside Middle School in the gymnasium and will open on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk's Office will not be open on March 3, 2026. Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC - 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156 (802) 885-2104 townclerk@springfieldvt.gov

WARNING
ANNUAL TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING HYBRID (PHYSICAL and REMOTE)

The legal voters of the Town of Springfield and Town of Springfield School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at Riverside Middle School Gymnasium in said Town on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. (8:00 o'clock in the forenoon) until 7:00 p.m. to vote by Australian ballot for Town and Town School District Officers, for all appropriations to be voted by Australian ballot, and all other items of business to be voted by Australian ballot.

A public informational hearing will be held in-person, and will be accessible remotely by electronic means, at the Springfield High School on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. to hear reports of the Town Officers, Town School District Officers and Committees, to discuss all Australian ballot articles on the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting Warning and to do any other business that can legally be done under this Warning.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING
WILL BE ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS:
- ZOOM MEETING ID: 867 9327 0780
- By computer: Join meeting by clicking here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86793270780
- You may be prompted to enter the Meeting ID. You may need to download software https://zoom.us/
- By smartphone, tablet, or other device: Download and open the https://zoom.us/ app. You may have to create a free account or sign into your existing account. Select the option to join meeting and enter the Meeting ID. One-tap mobile device click here: +1-301-715-8592
- By telephone: Dial +1-301-715-8592 and when prompted enter the Meeting ID. Note that long distance rates may apply. Dial-in participants use *9 to raise/lower hand and *6 to mute/unmute.
- Meeting link can also be accessed on the home page of the Town of Springfield website
- Watch live on SAPA TV or stream it from Sapatv.org

ARTICLE 1: To elect the following Town Officers and Town School District Officers for the ensuing year:

		Cemetery Commissioner
School Director	Town School District Moderator	Library Trustees
Selectboard	Trustee of Public Funds	Town Moderator

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Town vote a salary of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS ($50.00) per meeting for the Town Moderator for the ensuing year?

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to pay each Selectperson the sum of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS ($500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving the Town in that office?

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of SIXTEEN MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED ONE THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE and 00/100 DOLLARS ($16,801,225.00) for the budget of the Town for salaries, incidental and necessary Town expenses, including highways, and for the purposes for which the law requires appropriations, and for which a Town may legally vote?

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of ONE MILLION, ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS ($1,100,000.00) for repaving, road construction, gravel road improvements, and ancillary professional services for the projects specified in the Road Surface Management System Report dated December 2021 or other duly warranted sidewalk improvements?

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS ($100,000.00) for sidewalk reconstruction in various locations throughout the Town?

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS ($10,000.00) to offset Springfield Area Public Access TV's operating costs to record, broadcast, archive, and promote up to 25 Selectboard meetings, up to 25 School Board meetings, the annual Town Meeting, and the outreach work it does to promote government transparency, media literacy, and community connection in our community?

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to exempt from taxation the premises at 7 Morgan Street (Parcel 023/1/30) owned by Turning Point Recovery Center of Springfield, Vermont, Inc., the exemption for such period of time as long as said premises are not used for any private use, or any use inconsistent with its present charitable use? Such exemption shall be limited to FIVE (5) years, as is required by Section 3840 of Title 32 of Vermont Statutes Annotated.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to exempt from taxation the premises at 5 School Street (Parcel 01B/2/30) owned by North School Preservation Society, Inc., the exemption for such period of time as long as said premises are not used for any private use, or any use inconsistent with its present charitable use? Such exemption shall be limited to FIVE (5) years, as is required by Section 3840 of Title 32 of Vermont Statutes Annotated.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve a payment of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS ($ 50.00) per meeting for the Town School District Moderator for the ensuing year, the funds for which are included in the school budget?

ARTICLE 11: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the payment to each School Board member of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS ($500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving in that office, the funds for which are included in the school budget?

ARTICLE 12: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District authorize the Town Treasurer, subject to the direction and approval of the School Board, to borrow money in anticipation of taxes needed to meet the requirements of the Town School District for the ensuing year?

ARTICLE 13:Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the School Board to spend FORTY ONE MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE and 00/100 DOLLARS ($ 41,458,651.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of $15,189 per pupil. This projected spending per pupil is 9.26% higher than spending for the current year.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS ($2,500.00) to the Springfield Community Band for eight (8) concerts?

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS ($9,000.00) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Springfield in responding to the emergency needs of the community and to provide all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need?

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS ($50,500.00) to help support the high-quality home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH? Care is provided regardless of ability to pay.

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of EIGHT THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS ($8,500.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home?

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS ($4,000.00) to help support the Valley Health Connections (formerly Precision Valley Free Clinic) to help the uninsured access health care?

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWELVE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS ($12,500.00) for the support of the MOOver f/k/a the Current operated by Southeast Vermont Transit, Inc., to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Springfield?

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS ($2,500.00) 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 Springfield through volunteer service?

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS ($10,000.00) to assist with the cost of operating the Meals on Wheels Program of Greater Springfield that provides daily hot & cold congregate and home delivered meals and other nutritional needs to the qualified residents of Springfield?

ARTICLE 22: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS ($3,000.00) to Windsor County Partners d/b/a Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to the children of Windsor County?

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS ($5,000.00) to the Springfield Supported Housing to assist families and individuals find permanent housing and provide in home case management services for 6 months to two years after placement?

ARTICLE 24: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS ($65,000.00) to the Springfield Family Center to assist with the cost of providing free meals, a free food shelf, and other services related to hunger as well as make referrals to partner social-service organizations in the community?

ARTICLE 25: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS ($4,000.00) 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?

ARTICLE 26: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS ($9,500.00) to the Springfield Art and Historical Society to assist in preserving, maintaining, and displaying, for the public, the history and art of the Town of Springfield, Vermont?

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS ($9,000.00) to Turning Point Recovery Center Drop-In Center and Transition House to help with the everyday cost of providing recovery services and housing for men and that are in recovery from alcohol, substance abuse and co-occurring disorders?

ARTICLE 28: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS ($10,000.00) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc.?

ARTICLE 29: Shall the Town of Springfield, VT appropriate the sum of FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS ($5,000.00) to the Springfield Area Parent Child Center to provide wrap-around services for young children and their families, including but not limited to: diaper & formula bank, developmental screenings and early intervention therapy, community workshops & trainings, family case management, activity bags, high quality preschool & childcare center, welcome baby bags, and fun community events like the Family Festival, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 30: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of SEVENTY-FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS ($7,500.00) for Gallery at the VAULT (Visual Art Using Local Talent) to offer opportunities for learning and participation in the creative process, and to provide a marketplace for artists, while furthering the revitalization of the downtown?

ARTICLE 31: Shall the Town vote 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."

Dated this 26th day of January, 2026
at Springfield, County of Windsor
and State of Vermont.

Kristi C. Morris, Chair
Tara Chase
Heather Frahm
Michael E. Martin

Town of Springfield Selectboard

Dated this 28th day of January, 2026
at Springfield, County of Windsor
and State of Vermont.

Troy Palmer, Chair
Jessica Austin
Jessica Cady Burlew
Denise Hunter
Stephen Karaffa

Town of Springfield Board of School Directors

history

LEGAL NOTICES

Author talk on Springfield's role in professional sports

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join us at the Springfield Town Library on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 11 a.m., for a discussion on Springfield's role in the integration of professional sports with author Chris Boucher.

Harry "Bucky" Lew was basketball's first Black professional. In a career that spanned a quarter century, Lew was the first Black player, coach, manager, referee, and franchise owner in integrated professional basketball. One of the highlights of his career was his season with Vermont's Springfield Athletic Club, with whom he won a state championship in 1907.

Springfield in particular, and Vermont as a whole, were part of a silent majority of sports fans throughout New England who supported everyone's right to play. Their support wasn't limited to Lew alone; other pioneers who played in the state included Black baseball Hall-of-Famer Bud Fowler, who played in Vermont in the 1880s, and William Clarence Matthews, who played in Vermont in the early 1900s. The state also hosted baseball's first Indian, Louis Sockalexis, as a college player with Holy Cross in the 1890s, and likely as a professional after his major league career with Cleveland ended.

To sign up for a reminder, visit www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar.

"The Equivalent Lands"

PUTNEY, Vt. – Join the Putney Historical Society to watch a showing of a 2004 filmed performance of the play "The Equivalent Lands" by Joe Greenhoe, at Next Stage, on Sunday, Feb. 22, at 2 p.m.

The play, written for the 1976 Bicentennial celebration, depicts life on the northern frontier as settlers moved into what is now southern Vermont during the 18th century land disputes between New Hampshire and New York. The story takes place in Putney, Dummerston, and Westminster, where conflicts between supporters of the king of England and those working toward independent governance played out in the years and months prior to the battles of Lexington and Concord. Those conflicts pitted neighbors against each other. Ancestors of some of the characters in the play still live in the area.

Admission is by suggested donation. Proceeds will go toward the Putney Historical Society. Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. For information, call 802-387-0102 or visit www.nextstagearts.org.

OLLI spring 2026 programs

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is pleased to announce its spring 2026 programs. Sponsored by the University of Vermont, OLLI is run by local volunteer members, and is geared mainly towards seniors who are 50 years of age and older, but all are welcome. The programs are held Tuesday afternoons, at 2 p.m., and last about an hour and a half, at the Nolin Murray Center on Pleasant Street, next to St. Mary's Catholic Church, in Springfield, Vt.

Following is the listing of programs for the spring.

Feb. 24, Crown Point Road – Learn about the history of this road with local historians and members of the Crown Point Road Association Barry Griffith and Lonnie Lisai. The road was first marked and cut by the British in 1759, and often is called "Vermont's first interstate highway." It was used as a military road during the French and Indian War, as well as the Revolutionary War.

Thursday, March 12, "Abigail Adams: Liberty & Legacy."

March 24, "Journalism Under Threat."

April 7, "Discovering New England Stone Walls."

April 21, "Historic Log Drives of the Connecticut River."

May 5, "The Chance of Ten Lifetimes: Restoring Notre Dame de Paris."

Thanks go out to our local benefactors Barbara Sanderson and HB Energy Solutions. You can register online at www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield. There is a membership fee. Nonmembers are welcome and encouraged to attend for an individual program fee.

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.

TOWN & VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing before the Ludlow Development Review Board will be held on Monday, March 9th at 6:00 P.M. in the Francis J. Heald Auditorium at the Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot Street, and via Zoom, to hear the following applications:

- Toga5 LLC, Application #511-26-CU and #505-26-SITE to remove the existing building at 136 Main Street and construct six (6) new residential units on the existing foundation. This project is located within the Village Residential-Commercial zoning district.
- The Reserve LLC, Application #SUB-26-003 to subdivide two (2) contiguously owned parcels into a six (6) lot subdivision for future single-family residences. This project is located within the Mountain Recreation zoning district.

The meeting Agenda will be available on Ludlow's Web page, www.ludlow.vt.us with the Zoom ID and the URL link.

Additional information about this application is available in the Planning and Zoning office at the Town Hall.

Erin Ladd, Director of Planning & Zoning

Art Crafts Gifts

CREATE TOGETHER AT FLETCHER FARM
Community Art Center offering Workshops, Equipped Studios, Camps, and More

611 Rt.103S, Ludlow, VT 802-228-8770
www.CreateTogetherVT.org
(12/9/26 - 52)

GALLERY AT THE VAULT
Art, Crafts, Gifts, Exhibits & Workshops
68 Main St., Springfield VT 802-885-7111 galleryvault.org
OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5

Annual Student Art Show through February 28

Bradley Jackson's ***Celebrate the Spirit of Nature***
Painting Exhibit, Reception 2/21 Noon-1:30

Workshops galleryvault.org/workshops
Raku Pottery witn Andrew Berends 3/7 & 3/14
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)

Builders/Contractors

PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION
Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267.
(05/13/26 - 13)

ROSE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT
Booking for winter 2025 and spring 2026 projects. Offer carpentry, remodeling, interior & exterior painting, window & door replacements, vinyl siding washing, pressure washing, drywall repairs, and odd jobs. Call 802-591-0019 or email billr2808@gmail.com. Cavendish, Vt.
(05/06/26 - 26)

THE SEMI RETIRED PAINTER
Painting Interior and Exterior
All work done by the person you are paying
Small Honey Do List Projects as well
802-263-9693 rogcaw@msn.com
Roger, Perkinsville, VT
(05/13/26- 13)

Campground

CATON PLACE CAMPGROUND
2419 EAST ROAD, CAVENDISH VERMONT
SEASONAL SITES AVAILABLE FOR 2026! REASONABLE RATES!
802-226-7767, Catonplacecamp@gmail.com.

Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites!
(02/25/26 - 13)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC
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)

Masonry

DRC STONE DESIGN
Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 37 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com.
(02/18/26 - 13)

MOORE MASONRY
Fireplaces, chimneys and liners, chimney sweeps, patios, walls, steps, restoration and repairs. Fully insured, free estimates. Contact Gary Moore at 802-824-5710 mooremasonry802@gmail.com.
(04/08/26 - 26)

Tools

$$ CASH PAID FOR OLD TOOLS $$
PLANES , AXES, STANLEY ITEMS, ETC.
802-579-5891
(03/18/26 - 13)