



THE MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

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Home cooking and happy diners at Claremont's Cardinal Cafe

BY PAULA BENSON
The Vermont Journal

CLAREMONT, N.H. – A friendly, determined, and multitalented group of women have joined forces once again to bring life to a cozy cafe tucked beside a church on a one-way street in downtown Claremont. And Claremont has welcomed them back with open arms.

Cardinal Cafe, at 10 Glidden Street, is the fourth restaurant from chef Sandra Lefebvre, and another business she shares with her longtime friend and collaborator Debbie Richards. Most recently, the two operated a successful food truck called East & West LLC, but the first time they met was in 1989, when 12-year-old Richards walked into Lefebvre's original establishment, Dusty's Cafe – Dusty being

Lefebvre's nickname – and introduced herself. "Hi, I'm Debbie. Do you have any work I could do?"

A third friend, a local singer named Heather Marcott, joined the team soon after and quickly became Lefebvre's assistant chef.

After Lefebvre sold the restaurant in 1994 and moved to California, the women lost touch for a bit. Marcott left New Hampshire for Washington state, while Richards remained local.

Richards is very open about sharing the ups and downs she has experienced over the past three and a half decades, and how her decision to get sober coincided with Cardinal Cafe's grand opening and put an exclamation mark on her life's new direction.

Richards learned Lefebvre had returned from

California when she unexpectedly ran into her at a local market. Lefebvre said she had had enough of traveling and California, and was ready to come home to where she felt at peace. The two women reconnected, meeting up to walk Lefebvre's dog every Tuesday, and reestablished their early bond.

Richards and her boyfriend of 14 years, Shane Taylor, attended an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at The First Congregational Church, next door to what, at the time, was a bakery. When that bakery shut down, it was Lefebvre's sister Jennifer who forwarded a Facebook post announcing the space was for lease, prompting, "Just thought you might be interested."

Lefebvre and Richards learned the church owned the property and was looking for a new business to take over the cafe. Out of a long list of applicants, the church chose Lefebvre and Richards, and Cardinal Cafe, as the next tenants.

Richards said it took a month to revamp the space, and they really made it their own. She credits Taylor with supporting her along the way. "Shane really has been a big part of getting all of this going."

There is a corner full of colorful merchandise like coffee mugs and T-shirts. One sign at the door reads,

"Have a great day!" Another welcomes everyone to a "politics-free zone."

Lefebvre wanted a traditional counter, so they took out a bakery display case and put in a tidy luncheonette counter with barstools. Lefebvre uses a grill for most menu items, so that was another addition. The kitchen is an open design – a small but efficient space – and the women work together seamlessly, never skipping a beat. Between the three of them, they prep, cook, bake, clean, service customers, come up with clever Facebook videos, and take it all one day at a time.

Kara Kennedy and Payton Harding round out the cafe staff, and the young women are bright additions to the cafe's warm, inviting atmosphere. Lefebvre said they were two of the first people to respond to an online ad, and she knew right away they would each be the right fit.

Lefebvre reportedly "runs her staff like a three-star general," but with a sense of good humor. Everyone seems willing to do what it takes to make the cafe a success, and the feeling goes both ways. Sitting at the counter, one really gets the feeling that the entire community is cheering them on and looking for ways to support the cafe's success.



The Cardinal Cafe crew.

PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

What about the food? Well, East & West LLC was famous for "bangin' burritos" and homemade sliders, and customers will find those on Cardinal Cafe's menu as well. Lefebvre uses chuck roast to make her Philly cheesesteak and French dip sandwiches more tender and flavorful. She said her favorite dishes to make are the omelets, and the most time-consuming menu item would be the home fries, made from scratch.

Richards said her favorite is the gyro, made with lamb and ground beef, picked onions, and tzatziki, served in a warm pita. The corned beef hash with two eggs over easy and home fries was quite the comfort meal, with the hash wonderfully crispy-edged, and the eggs perfectly cooked. As one customer said, "The portions are as big as the place mat!"

Cardinal Cafe is open Monday-Saturday, from 6 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visit them on

Facebook, or stop in and check them out in person. The cafe's mascot, a feisty cardinal holding a sandwich and a cup of coffee, accompanies the ladies' ironic take on New Hampshire's state motto: "Eat Well or Die." What are you waiting for?

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DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is **Thursday at 4 p.m.** for the following week's publication.

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Cardinal Cafe in Claremont.

PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

Lundgren Subaru to host Claremont award ceremony, named Business of the Year

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Join on Thursday, April 2, from 6:30-8 p.m., for an evening honoring those who make our community extraordinary. A dessert reception will begin at 6:30 p.m., in the showroom of Lundgren Subaru of Claremont, 152 Charlestown Road, Claremont, N.H., our Business of the Year honoree.

The formal award

presentation will begin promptly at 7 p.m., with time afterward for photos, mingling, and, of course, more desserts.

Honorees include: Model Youth, Kylee Plummer; Young Professional, Benjamin Thresher; Citizen, Richard "Dick" Girard; Nonprofit Organization, SHS Alumni Association; and Business, Lundgren Subaru of Claremont.

Those interested in purchasing a program or slide show advertisement are encouraged to contact Elyse at the Claremont Chamber of Commerce office by calling 603-543-1296 or emailing director@greaterclaremontnh.org.

Anyone wishing to purchase tickets with cash or by check may also contact the chamber office. Please



Join the Claremont Chamber of Commerce award ceremony on Thursday, April 2, at Lundgren Subaru.

PHOTO PROVIDED

note that advance tickets will be sold at the door, are encouraged; tickets subject to availability.

North Star to host ribbon cutting in Charlestown

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – North Star Health will host a ribbon cutting to celebrate a newly upgraded accessible exam room at its Charlestown Health Center on Wednesday, April 8, at 11 a.m., at the Charlestown Health Center, 250 Ceda Road, Charlestown, N.H. Accessibility advocates Dianne and Justin Milliken will be present.

North Star Health is committed to expanding access to care for patients through facility upgrades across its

network. The Charlestown project is part of a broader effort to improve accessibility at multiple locations, with guidance from advocates Dianne and Justin Milliken. During the event, North Star Health will also announce a new fundraising initiative to support future accessibility improvements.

North Star Health is a nonprofit, federally qualified health center with a mission to connect with and care for our commu-

nity so everyone may enjoy health and wellness. Guided by the core values of accountability, integrity, compassion, and community, North Star Health provides patient-centered primary care, dental, vision, and behavioral health services to individuals and families regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. North Star Health has locations in Springfield, Ludlow, Londonderry, and Chester, Vt.; and Charlestown, N.H.



Accessibility advocates Dianne and Justin Milliken.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Ease the squeeze on your retirement income plan

REGION – Rising prices may not dominate headlines the way they did a year or two ago, but if you're retired, you're probably still feeling them. Even when overall inflation cools, the costliest expenses – like health care, utilities, insurance, and property taxes – tend to rise faster than broad inflation numbers suggest. That creates a squeeze that can make you question whether your income plan is built to last.

Fortunately, you often can adjust without drastic cuts that affect your lifestyle. Start by understanding where the pressure comes from and how to build more flexibility into your plan.

Inflation hits retirees differently. You've likely noticed your grocery bill, prescription drug costs, and heating expenses haven't returned to "normal." Even small increases compound over time and can chip away at your buying power.

If your income plan was created years ago, it may assume lower inflation or relatively stable price increases over time. Recent years have shown that's not always the case.

Any plan relying on fixed withdrawals or rigid budgets can feel tight when living costs rise. If you're

drawing from investments, you may hesitate to increase your withdrawals because of market volatility. And, if you depend on fixed-income sources like Social Security or a pension, yearly cost-of-living increases may not keep pace with your income. You might live 25 to 35 years in retirement, giving small annual cost increases decades to add up.

A few adjustments can help you stay ahead of rising costs and maintain your financial confidence.

First, review your withdrawal strategy. Ask your financial advisor about flexible approaches that increase income when markets and portfolios perform well and pull back during tougher times. This protects your long-term plan, with room to respond to rising prices.

Next, rebalance your portfolio. You may uncover opportunities to shift toward investments with more consistent income or better tax efficiency. Sometimes a small tweak can generate extra cash flow without increasing overall risk.

Finally, look at your income sources. You may be less affected by rising costs if you delay taking Social Security, work a part-time job, add inflation-protected bonds, or create predictable lifetime income with annuities, if they're appropriate

for your situation.

Don't overlook health care. Health care costs often grow faster than general inflation. Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket expenses can rise annually, and the need for long-term care remains a big financial uncertainty for retirees. Building health care-specific inflation into your plan now can help prevent surprises later. Any savings you have in a health savings account can help you cover health care costs. And many pharmaceutical companies offer financial assistance programs to help pay for costlier medications.

Today's retirements look different from those of even a decade ago. The key is staying flexible, reviewing your plan regularly, and making small adjustments before pressure builds. A financial advisor can help you find the right approach to navigating rising costs without disrupting the life you've worked hard to build.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

Farm on the River CSA –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Enjoy freshly harvested, certified organic vegetables from June through November, with convenient pickup at our farm in Springfield, Vt., and delivery to Walpole and Keene, N.H., every Friday.

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We offer the option of receiving a box on a weekly or biweekly basis. You never miss out on the amazing variety we grow, and you can customize the pickup frequency to meet your needs.

Your share will be harvested, washed, and packed up for you on Fridays. Pickup locations are centrally located at our Springfield, Vt., farm, or near downtown Walpole and Keene, N.H. We offer long pickup windows at each location, ensuring that you can grab your share when it's convenient for you. You can also pause or reschedule deliveries when you'll be out of

town.

We also offer flexible payment options; you can pay in full, or choose three or six monthly installments. We never charge additional fees.

We're also proud to offer a 100% Love It Guarantee. If you decide the CSA isn't right for you, you can cancel and receive a refund for any unclaimed weeks.

Curious to learn more about how our CSA works? You can read more on our website, www.farmontheriver.com.

We look forward to another season of growing good food and sharing it with our amazing community.

Claremont Fourth of July celebration

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The City of Claremont is excited to announce our upcoming Fourth of July celebration, held in conjunction with our nation's 250th anniversary. We're looking for our community to help make it unforgettable.

We are currently seeking vendors, donations, local businesses, sponsors, and

volunteers for the event. Whether you're a local business, artisan, food vendor, or organization, we want you to be part of the celebration.

If you are interested in participating, please email citymanager@claremontnh.com. Let's come together to celebrate Claremont, community, and 250 years of American history.

Springfield on the Move revitalization efforts

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield on the Move is taking significant strides toward revitalizing the downtown Springfield area. We currently have one active vacancy available on Main Street, and are hoping to find the per-

fect tenant soon. This opportunity aligns with our vision for a bustling downtown atmosphere, and we are eager to see a new business thrive in this prime location.

Meanwhile, we are excited to announce the opening of our latest satellite office, lo-

cated in at 100 River Street, Suite 205. Moving into this space temporarily will provide greater visibility for the vacancies inside 100 River Street to entrepreneurs, stakeholders, community members, and more.

Currently, there is 600,000 square feet of commercial space that will serve as a hub for our revitalization initiatives, including the Great Hall and various retail spaces that will soon offer new opportunities for tenants. We are optimistic about the success stories that will emerge from 100 River Street, which is currently mostly vacant, with competitive pricing and a dedicated management team in place.

The revitalization of the Great Hall will be particularly noteworthy. In March, we will unveil the results of recent revitalization efforts, which include a fresh coat of paint and an inviting atmosphere for all to enjoy. This "great reveal" will mark a new chapter for the space as we work to make it a vibrant center for community engagement and commerce. A community calendar for the space is on the way.

We look forward to sharing more updates as these projects progress, and invite everyone to join us in celebrating the revitalization of our downtown.

Bellows Falls Ski Tow marks 73rd year

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Ski Tow is celebrating its 73rd year of operation. Open to the public free of charge throughout the 2026 season, the ski tow operated through the support of donations from local skiers and community mem-

bers, and a corps of dedicated volunteers.

Looking ahead, the Bellows Falls Recreation Department is working to expand both access and programming at the site. To further that goal, the department is currently seeking donations of ski and snowboard equipment to help ensure that local youth

can participate. Donations can be made by contacting recreation director Jarrod James at recreation@rockbf.org.

Plans are also under consideration to enhance the facility in the coming year, with proposed improvements including a picnic area, outdoor speakers for

music, and the possible addition of a terrain park. The recreation department is also broadening its scope to include arts and culture, which could bring live music and other community-oriented activities to the slopes next season.

Community leaders are also exploring opportunities to connect recreation with workforce development. Aimee Parnell, executive director of the Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce, noted that discussions with local partners have included expanding hands-on learning programs into ski and snowboard tuning. With several ski areas nearby, these skills could provide pathways to employment in equipment repair and related technical fields.



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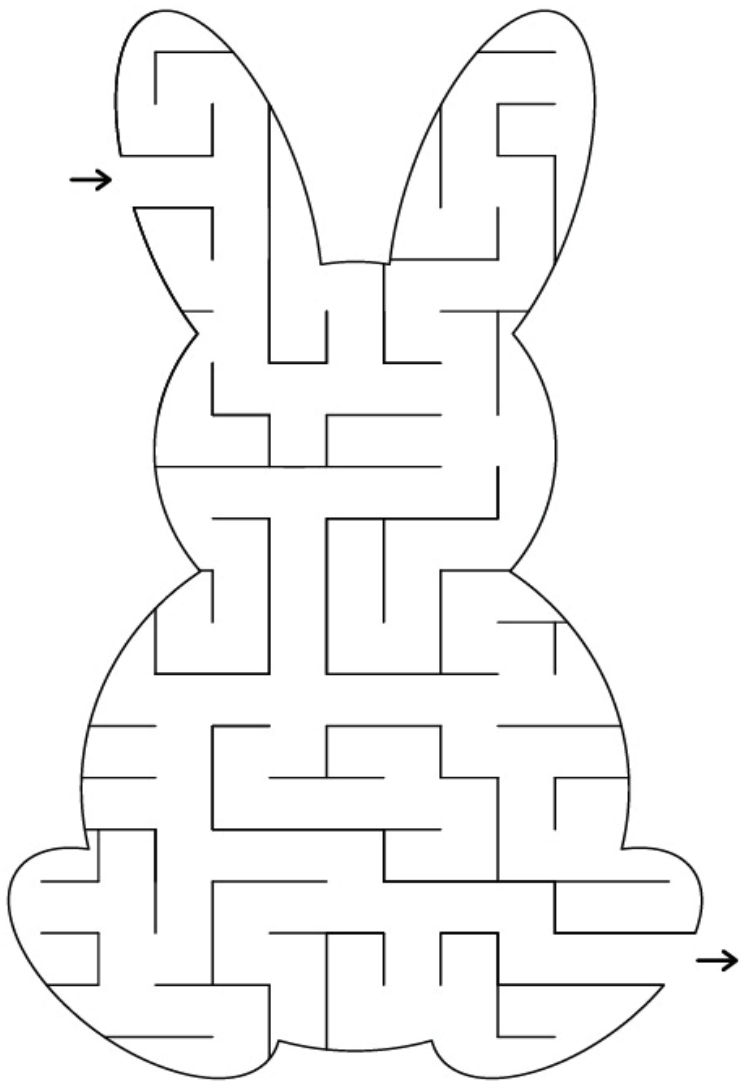
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The Rules

Fill out your name, age, town, and phone number. Complete any of the activities on both sides of this page, including the Easter Egg Hunt. Tear out this page and mail it to The Vermont Journal,

P.O. Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149 by Thursday, April 2, 2026, for a chance to win an Easter Basket! All entries must be received by mail. Two winners will be notified by phone.



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY SO WE CAN CALL THE WINNER!

Name: _____

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EASTER EGG HUNT! Locate all four Easter Eggs below on a different page in the paper, and write down what page you found them on:

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	2. _____		4. _____

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CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

Stephen F. Burpee, 1957-2026

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Stephen F. Burpee, 68, of Cavendish, Vt., passed away on Jan. 23, 2026, at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, surrounded by his family.

He was born on Dec. 9, 1957, in Windsor, Vt., the son of Francis Burpee and Geraldine (Baker) Burpee. He attended schools in Weathersfield and graduated from Windsor High School in 1975.

Stephen worked as a carpenter and log cabin builder. He had a deep love for the outdoors, especially hunting, and enjoyed spending time with family and friends throughout his life.

He is survived by his loving wife, Cathy; his daughter, Jessica, and her husband, John Ellis; his grandchildren, Emily Deome and Isabelle Hitchcock; and his great-grandchildren, Avery, Reagan,



Stephen Burpee, 1957-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

and Theodore Deome. He is also survived by his step-grandchildren, Nathan and Matthew Shambo-Hitchcock, and Vayda and Presley Ellis; his sister, Debbie Burpee Currie; as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family members.

His best friend was his beloved dog, Ashlee.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

Dorothy A. Buxton, 1936-2026

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Dorothy A. "Dottie" Buxton, 89, died Sunday, March 15, 2026, at the Gill Odd Fellows Home in Ludlow, Vt. She was born on Aug. 22, 1936, in Springfield, Vt., the daughter of Earl and Pearl (Shippy) Snide. She attended Springfield schools.

Dottie was a homemaker and at-home child care provider, and assisted her husband Dean with grounds-keeping and bookkeeping for the Plain Cemetery in Perkinsville for many years.

Dottie enjoyed cooking, and loved to feed her family and friends. She was well known for her Dot Dot rolls. She also enjoyed her cats, crocheting, and sewing. She loved the color purple, and was affectionately called Grammy Purple by her grandchildren.

She is survived by her children James Jenks, Mary LoSavio, Deborah Poire, and Peggy Grote; stepchildren Tammy Buxton and Deana Fuller; brother Eddy Snide; sister-in-law Sally Buxton; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; and a special neighbor whom she considered like a grandchild.

She was predeceased by her parents; her husband Dean; her daughter Nancy Macey; her siblings Donald, James, Robert, Arthur, Bernice, Gail, and Barbara; and her stepdaughters Deborah and Terri Lynn.

A Celebration of Life will be held on her birthday, Aug. 22, with details announced later.

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

Paul D. Dexter, 1941-2026

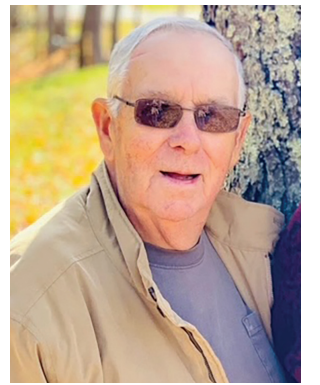
CHESTER, Vt. – Paul Douglas Dexter Sr., 84, passed away Saturday, March 14, at his home in Chester, Vt.

Paul was born at Rockingham Hospital in Bellows Falls, Vt., on Oct. 15, 1941, to Elaine Katherine Cray Dexter and George Leland Dexter. He graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1960. He attended Putney School and graduated from Northampton Commercial College. Paul served in the U.S. Army at Fort Dix, N.J.

Paul owned Dexter Roofing Inc. in Bellows Falls, Vt., and the Townshend Corner Store in Townshend, Vt. Later in life, he owned The Stuffed Bun in Townshend with his wife Charmien and son Jeff.

Paul was married on Jan. 16, 1965, to Charmien Rousseau, at St. Charles Church. He is survived by his wife, Charmien; and his children Paul Douglas Dexter Jr. (Carol), Melissa Ann Bills (Norman), and Jeffery Leland Dexter (Heather).

He is also survived by his grandchildren Justin Dex-



Paul Dexter, 1941-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

ter (Reyna), Jenna Sanchez (Josh), Emilio Sanchez (Andrew), Nicholas Bills (Jessica), Madison Pratt (Tyler), Junius Dexter (Madison); and his great-grandchildren Xander Dexter, Avery Bills, and Levi Pratt.

Per Paul's wishes, there will be no services.

If you want to make a donation in Paul's name, please consider Neighborhood Connections, P.O. Box 207, Londonderry, VT 05148.

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

EASTER SERVICES

First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 U.S. Route 5

The First Congregational Church of Westminster will hold the following services for Holy Week and Easter: Palm Sunday, March 29 – Palms blessed and distributed at 10 a.m.; Tenebrae service at 7 p.m.; Holy Thursday, April 2 – Soup meal in the church hall at 5 p.m.; service of the Last Supper at 6 p.m., in the church; Good Friday, April 3 – Church open 12-3 p.m. for personal prayer and Good Friday service, with veneration of the Cross at 6 p.m.; Easter Sunday, April 5 – Sunrise at Kurn Hattin Mayo Building, at 6:40 a.m. Easter breakfast to follow in the church hall. Main Easter service at 10 a.m., in the church. Please join us, we are a growing congregation. The Rev. Rich O'Donnell serves as Pastor. We hope to see you.

Ludlow Baptist Church, 99 Main St.

The Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green in Ludlow, invites you to their Easter services. He is risen! There will be a Good Friday service on Friday, April 3, at 6:30 p.m. On Easter Sunday, the church will hold a sunrise service at 8:30 a.m., Easter breakfast at 9:30 a.m., and worship service at 11 a.m. Join us, all are welcome.

Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, 2051 N. Main St.

The Second Congregational Church in Londonderry invites all to their Holy Week Services. Palm Sunday is Sunday, March 30, and worship is at 9:30 a.m. We have a wonderful Sunday school for young people. On Good Friday, April 3, there will be a Good Friday service at 7 p.m., at the church. On Easter Sunday, April 5, our sunrise service will be at 6:15 a.m., at 1005 Landgrove Road, Londonderry. Easter Worship is in the church sanctuary, at 9:30 a.m., followed by our annual Easter egg hunt in the sanctuary, and Easter brunch in our downstairs Friendship Room. On Easter Sunday, everyone is invited to decorate the cross on the lawn of the church with a flower as a sign and celebration of the Resurrection. For more information, please call the church office at 802-824-6453, or visit www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED SERVICES

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church St.

Traditional Baptist Services held Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Handicap accessible. 802-463-3220.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.

Services are held most Sundays at 10 a.m., in person. Please join us. All are welcome. For more information go to Facebook @ImmanuelEppiscopalChurch or to our website www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

CAVENDISH, VT.

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.

Please join us Sundays, at 8:45 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/stjamesumcproctorsville.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St.

Sunday service starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 603-826-3335.

Charlestown Bible Church, 37 Hammond Rd.

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

CHESTER, VT.

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.

Holy Family Parish, St. Joseph's Church, 148 South Main St.

Saturday confessions at 3 p.m., Mass at 4 p.m. Wednesday Mass at 9 a.m. For more information, contact stmarys05156@gmail.com, call 802-885-3400, or visit www.holyfamilyvermont.com.

CLAREMONT, N.H.

Union-St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 133 Old Church Rd.

Weekly service of morning prayer or Holy Communion held on Sunday, at 9:30 a.m.

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.

Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 9 a.m. For further information, see our website at churchoftheannunciation.org, or call us at 802-228-3451.

PERKINSVILLE, VT.

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5, Weathersfield Bow

Sunday services are 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study and prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-546-4902.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.

Sunday Services are at 10 a.m., in person and on Zoom. For more information, go to www.uuspringfieldvt.org.

Holy Family Parish, St. Mary's Church, 10 Pleasant St.

Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. Weekday Mass Monday and Friday, at 9 a.m.; and Tuesday, at 5:30 p.m. Confessions at 6 p.m. For more information, contact stmarys05156@gmail.com, call 802-885-3400, or visit www.holyfamilyvermont.com.

WALPOLE, N.H.

St. John's Episcopal Church, corner of Westminster and Elm St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. in person or via Zoom. For more information, go to www.stjohnswalpole.org, email pastor@stjohnswalpole.org, or leave a message at 603-756-4533.

Gary M. Lewis, 1956-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt.

Gary Martin Lewis, 69, passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 3, 2026. Above all else, he will be remembered as a good man who loved his family and friends deeply.

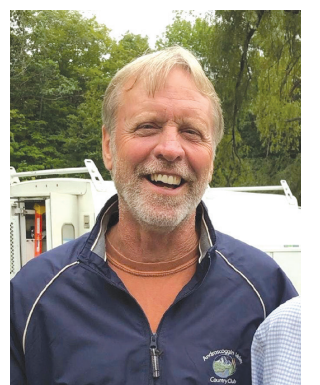
He was born on Aug. 25, 1956, in New Britain, Conn., to Joan and Calvin Lewis. He was the oldest of their four children. Gary spent much of his childhood at his grandfather's farm, working and enjoying life as a farm kid. In 1969, the family moved to Springfield, Vt., following his father's job at Idlenot Dairy.

Gary attended Springfield schools, participating in cross-country, ski team, and track and field, and graduating in 1974. After graduation, he followed in his father's footsteps and began working at Idlenot Dairy, where he and his father worked together until Idlenot's closing in 1992.

In his younger years, Gary enjoyed four-wheeling, and dirt bike riding and racing, through which he built many lasting friendships and memories. He also enjoyed a good game of racquetball or volleyball, as well as golf tournaments. He met his future wife, Kim Watson, while they were in high school. After Kim returned from college, they began their relationship, and were married on Aug. 22, 1981, sharing nearly 45 years together. They built their home in Perkinsville, Vt., where they raised their three sons, Cole, Devin, and Karson.

Gary always prioritized family first. He was an extremely hard worker who couldn't sit still. When he wasn't working, he spent his time with his boys biking, skiing, skating, sledding, swimming, throwing the baseball, playing a good game of Horse, and teaching them life lessons in his own way. As they grew, he became a coach for multiple sports at Weathersfield schools. During this time, he also became a second father figure to many of their friends. Gary and Kim attended nearly every game, often being the loudest supporters in the stands.

Gary loved spending time with his family, from holidays and gatherings, to trips to Winchester, annual camping trips, time spent in Keene with the Dodge family, and visits to the lake house with the Watson



Gary Lewis, 1956-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

family. He loved his family deeply, and there are countless stories that reflect that love.

After Idlenot Dairy closed, Gary worked at Ben & Jerry's until they moved out of the area. He later worked for several local companies, including Gurney Brothers and P&L Trucking, before finishing his career delivering fuel for Abenaki Fuels.

In October 2021, Gary became a grandfather to his first grandson, one of the greatest highlights of his life. In June 2023, he welcomed his granddaughter. Shortly after her birth, Gary retired to spend more time with his grandchildren. He was a loving grandfather who enjoyed making them laugh, keeping them entertained, getting into a little mischief, and sharing donuts.

Gary was always ready to help others, especially family, friends, and neighbors. If his boys needed him, he was there immediately, never asking for anything in return, though he never turned down an ice-cold beer at the end of the day.

Gary and Kim experienced the unimaginable loss of their youngest son, Karson, in April 2025, following a battle with brain cancer. Gary carried this loss deeply, along with the loss of his father, Calvin, and his best friend, Brian Dodge.

Gary is survived by his wife, Kim, of 44 years; his son Cole and his wife, Claire; his son Devin; his beloved grandchildren, Brooks and Burkley; his mother, Joan; his brothers, Bob and Alan; his sister, Carol; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers- and sisters-in-law, nieces, and nephews.

A celebration of Gary's life will be held May 16, at 2 p.m., at Crown Point Country Club.

OBITUARIES:

A 200-word obituary is \$100, and \$0.60 per word thereafter. A photo is an additional \$20. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m.

CHURCH SERVICES:

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



Easter

He is Risen!

Ludlow Baptist Church

On the Green

6:30 pm	Good Friday Service
8:30 am	Sunrise Service
9:30 am	Easter Breakfast
11:00 am	Worship Service

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

UPCOMING MARCH 27 –

LUDLOW, Vt. – The annual ham and kielbasa raffle hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion will be held on Friday, March 27, starting at 5:30 p.m., at the Ludlow American Legion Post 36, 133 Main Street. All proceeds benefit veterans and youth programs. There will be 10 rounds, with numerous additional prizes per round. This event is open to the public, and all are welcome.

MARCH 27-28 – CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Senior Center, 223 Old Springfield Road, will hold their annual rummage sale on Friday March 27, and Saturday, March 28, from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. both days. The bake sale portion will be held on Saturday only.

MARCH 28 – CHESTER, Vt. – On Saturday, March 28, a third No Kings Day, a nationwide day of protest, will be held in Chester. Residents of Chester and neighboring towns will gather in solidarity on the

Chester Village Green, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., to reject authoritarianism and show the world what democracy really looks like. For more information and to register for this event visit www.mobilize.us/s/taGwYu, or contact Steve Dock at styeve35@gmail.com.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Academy Museum proudly presents “Love Letters” by A.R. Gurney, performed by George and Linda Thomson, on Saturday, March 28, at 7 p.m., at the Heald Auditorium in the Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot Street. This is a fundraiser for the museum. Tickets can be purchased the night of the event, or prior to the event at local businesses.

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Jamelot will be held on March 28, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., at Vermont Vines Vineyard, featuring wine tastings and live music. Our tasting room opens at 12 p.m., so feel free to come early, sip some of our finest

wines, and get ready for an unforgettable evening. Come for the wine, stay for the tunes. We can’t wait to see you there. There is a small cover charge; thank you for supporting local farms/music.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley Street, is having a silent auction during the farmers market on Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – There will be a No Kings rally on Saturday, March 28, from 1-3 p.m., on Main Street in Charlestown. Please join the Charlestown Democrats and friends to peacefully protest against the actions of the Trump administration. Bring your own posters. For more information, email democratscharlestownnh@gmail.com.

WESTMORELAND, N.H. – Books and More Thrift Shoppe, 9 South Village

Common, will hold its grand opening on Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. All your favorite items and more – adult, young adult, and children’s books; games and puzzles; household items; crafts; toys; and more. Visit with old friends and neighbors, and meet new ones. Friendly volunteer staff, great prices, as well as a cozy book nook with coffee and refreshments.

APRIL 4 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Easter-egg hunt will be held on April 4, on the Commons. The first hunt kicks off at 11 a.m., for children ages newborn to 3 years old, followed by a second hunt at 11:30 a.m., for kids aged 4 and older. The Easter Bunny will be there, ready to pose for photos with the community, making this a delightful event for families. Sponsored by the Town of Springfield Parks and Recreation Department, with a partnership from Springfield on the Move, this festive day promises fun and excitement for everyone.

APRIL 7 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Tai Chi Vermont-certified teacher Jo Bregnard will teach a new tai chi form, bafa wubu, online and in person, on Tuesday, April 7, at the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road. Recordings are available. Sponsored by Senior Solutions. All are welcome. Head to the meetinghouse, or, for access to the livestream or recording, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/92447 to sign up. For more information, email jo@jobregnard.com.

RECURRING MONDAYS –

WESTON, Vt. – Bingo is Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Weston Rod & Gun Club, 982 Route 100, 1.5 miles north of Weston Village. All are welcome.

TUESDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, will hold drop-in corn hole games every Tuesday, at 1 p.m. For more information, contact executive director Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Cribbage is played at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Tuesdays, at 1 p.m. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Men’s pool games are played every Tuesday and Thursday, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights. All men are welcome. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

WEDNESDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Knitting Together, every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m., at Village Square Booksellers, knitting hats and mittens for our school kids. We provide yarn, some direction, and an enjoyable visit. Acrylic yarn donations are always welcome. For more information, contact Caroline at 802-463-4653.

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

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

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard will be at the Rockingham Library on Thursdays, from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. Both beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome.

GRAFTON, Vt. – A free playgroup for children from newborns to age 5 will be held at Grafton Elementary School on Thursday mornings, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Activities will include songs, games, and arts and crafts. Contact Heather with any questions at 802-843-4792.

FRIDAYS – SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Main Street Arts, 35 Main Street, will hold the “Originals & Traditionals” Open Mic Night on the fourth Friday of every month, from 7-9 p.m., hosted by musician Putnam Smith. All material should be original or “traditional” (i.e., in the public domain). If you have any questions, please contact Smith at putnamsmith@gmail.com.



ROAD FOREMAN – TOWN OF WESTON, VT

The Town of Weston is seeking a full-time Road Foreman to oversee maintenance of town roads and supervise the road crew. Position includes equipment operation, project coordination, and emergency response including winter storm operations. CDL required or ability to obtain. Competitive salary and benefits.

Send resume and cover letter to: Town of Weston, PO Box 98, Weston VT 05161 or email selectboard@westonvt.org Full job description available at: www.westonvt.org Position open until filled. EOE.

Administrative Assistant Weston Selectboard (Part-Time)

The Town of Weston, Vermont is seeking a highly organized and reliable Administrative Assistant to support the Selectboard and assist with daily municipal operations.

Responsibilities include meeting coordination, agenda and minutes preparation, public communication, records management, and general administrative support.

Schedule: Approximately 20 hours per week
Location: Weston Town Office
Pay: Based on experience

Strong organizational, communication, and computer skills required. Municipal experience preferred but not required.

Full job description and application available at: www.westonvt.org

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders, and mortgagees of property in the Town of Andover, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Christopher T. Meyer and Kathleen R. Meyer by Quit Claim Deed of Bruce P. Meyer and Sylvia A. Meyer dated January 30, 2006 and recorded on February 3, 2006 in Book 48 at Page 451 of the Andover Land Records. Reference is made to the stipulation between Bruce Meyer and Sylvia Meyer and The Town of Andover, et al, dated January 24, 2006 and recorded on May 10, 2006 in Book 49 at Page 257 of the Andover Land Records. [E-911: 108 Gates Rd., Parcel #011000058.400]

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Andover Office, a public place located at 953 Weston-Andover Road, in Andover, Vermont, on the 10th day of April, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Andover, Vermont this 4th day of March, 2026.

Jeanette Hazeltine, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH, VERMONT PUBLIC WARNING – INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Town of Plymouth is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of one (1) new 2026 Ford F-600 4x4 Chassis Cab DRW.

The vehicle shall be equipped with, at minimum, the following specifications: 6.7L Power Stroke V8 Diesel engine; 10-speed automatic transmission; 22,000 lb. GVWR package; snow plow preparation package; dual 410 AMP alternators; dual battery system; trailer brake controller; skid plates; limited slip axle; platform running boards; vinyl interior; and all standard and associated equipment.

Bids should be marked “F-600 Chassis Cab” and emailed to clerk@plymouthvt.org or mailed to Town of Plymouth, 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont 05056 no later than 1:00 PM on Thursday, April 2, 2026.

Bids will be opened and/or read immediately after the deadline in Plymouth Town Office Meeting Room. The Select Board may award the bid at their regular meeting on Monday, April 6, 2026.

The Town of Plymouth reserves the right to accept and or reject any or all Bids/Proposals as they deem to be in the best interest of the town. This solicitation in no way obligates the Town of Plymouth to award a contract.

For questions, please contact Larry Lynds at 802-672-3535 or visit www.plymouthvt.org

GREEN MOUNTAIN PRESCHOOL Enrolling for the ‘26-’27 school year

If your child will be 3 or 4 years old by August, 31, 2026, we would love to have you join us!

Please call 802-875-7758 for more information and to register.

Cavendish Town Elementary School
573 Main Street, Proctorsville, VT

BELLOWS FALLS VILLAGE CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

WATER MAIN FLUSHING

THE BELLOWS FALLS VILLAGE CORPORATION WATER SYSTEM WILL BE FLUSHED WEEKDAYS FROM 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, April 1, 2026, AND CONTINUING THROUGH Thursday 30, 2026.

SOME AREAS MAY EXPERIENCE ROILY WATER BUT THIS CONDITION SHOULD CORRECT ITSELF IN A SHORT TIME.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS, PLEASE CALL THE BELLOWS FALLS WATER DEPT. AT 802-463-1232. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Travis Kemp
Chief Operator
Bellows Falls Water Dept.

Cavendish Town Elementary School Kindergarten Registration Monday, April 13th - Friday, April 17th

Parents residing in the town of Cavendish are invited to contact Donna Hamilton at Cavendish Town Elementary School office at donna.hamilton@trs.u.org to register their child who will be five years of age by September 1, 2026.

When you contact us, we will provide further information on the registration process. The following documentation is required for registration: birth certificate, current immunization record, current physical exam and proof of residency.

For more information call: 802-875-7758

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT

Windsor Unit

PROBATE DIVISION

Docket No.: 25-PR-00039

In re ESTATE of: John P. Lynch

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: John P. Lynch

late of Windsor

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: 03/10/2026

Signature of Fiduciary

Executor/Administrator		Mailing Address	
Thomas Lynch		c/o Parker & Ankuda, PC, PO Box 519	
Phone Number	Email	City, State, Zip	
802-885-2582	parkerankuda@vermontel.net	Springfield, VT 05156	

Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal

Publication Date: March 25, 2026

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

OPINION/LEGALS

classifieds

Dear Editor,

As Pattie McCoy, our minority leader, stated, “Vermonters deserve to be able to live, work, raise a family, and retire here without facing an affordability crisis. I am committed to working with Gov. Scott and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make Vermont more affordable and the best place to live.”

Overview

The first half of the 2026 legislative session has been busy, with roughly 400 bills filed in the House of Representatives alone. Gov. Scott delivered his State of the State address and budget recommendations. He focused on the need for education reform to stop property taxes from skyrocketing, and a general fund budget that lives within our means. I support the governor's efforts! As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback on any of these issues we are grappling with. Many of these bills that would begin to solve our affordability crisis, rather than kicking the can down the road, are held up and blocked in various House committees. Republicans still don't have enough House seats to move these practical solutions to the House floor for a vote, stalling any real progress I believe I was elected to support.

Legislative priorities

Education reform – Since the 1990s, Vermont has lost roughly 30,000 students, yet our education structure remains unchanged, with massive overhead, redundant bureaucracy, and inequities across towns. The latest report card from the Agency of Education shows that student performance in Vermont is declining, even though our costs are among the highest in the U.S.A. Our students deserve an education system built for their future – one that puts outcomes first, not the goals of special interests or the status quo. I remain committed to working with Gov. Scott to put our kids first.

Property taxes – In 2023 and 2024, the average Vermonter faced back-to-back, double-digit property tax increases. This is unaffordable, unsustainable, and unacceptable, which is why many Vermonters went to the polls in 2024 to help restore balance in Montpelier. Rest assured that your trust is paying off. Last year, the average property tax increase approved by the legislature was just 1%, compared to 13.8% the year prior. We also passed a bipartisan education finance reform package that requires the legislature to continue to work this year on finding a long-term solution to pay for education in Vermont. I realize that savings have yet to show up in our property tax

bills, but our work has just begun.

Affordability – This year, numerous pieces of legislation have been introduced to lower the cost of living in Vermont, including stabilizing our health insurance market to lower premiums, easing red tape for housing to lower cost; further reducing taxes for all vulnerable populations, such as retirees living on fixed incomes; and much more. I am supportive of all efforts to make Vermont a more affordable place to live, work, raise a family, and retire. A root-cause challenge is to find substantive ways to attract and retain productive, tax-paying families.

There are a handful of bills I would like to see brought to the floor to be debated and hopefully passed: H.585, to reduce health care costs by offering low-cost insurance coverage options; H.602, to ease housing red tape by simplifying housing rules to increase supply; H.721, to increase public safety by changing the court system (e.g., to restrict sentence reductions for repeat felony offenders or probation violators); H.754, to establish a repeat-offender statute permitting the State of Vermont to seek stricter penalties; H.759, to repeal several tax types and replace them with a flat income tax; H.767, to “pause” multiple climate-change related laws for eight years; H.769, to reduce legal risk for parents who choose to allow their children to engage in safe activities without supervision; H.774, to cap education property tax rates for 2027-2029 at 2026 levels; H.778, to require the Division of Emergency Management to develop a plan for each dam that puts people significantly in harm's way; H.780, to establish required minimum sentences of incarceration for retail theft and drug trafficking; H.842, to improve the composition of members of the Commission on Public School Employee Health Benefits board; H.900, to exempt all social security benefits from Vermont personal income tax; S.300, to require hospital screenings for fentanyl as part of drug screening for diagnosing a patient's condition; S.303, to amend requirements on the three-acre stormwater discharge permit; and S.304, to declare

a public policy encouraging sharing of divorced parents' rights for the good of our children.

Most probably, none of these bills will even get to the floor for debate or a vote. Republicans are still in the minority even though Vermonters sent a record number of Republicans to Montpelier because they believe the legislature is on the wrong track.

It's an honor to serve you in Montpelier, and I will continue to look for ways to work with anyone willing to make Vermont safer and more affordable so that we can attract productive families who want to enjoy and keep Vermont beautiful. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Regards,
Rep. Kevin C. Winter
Rutland-Windsor District

Dear Editor,

In his 1796 farewell address, President George Washington counseled Americans to pursue peace and commerce while limiting political entanglements – especially “permanent alliances” with foreign nations. Until 1917, our elected representatives attempted to abide by this advice.

President Woodrow Wilson broke with the long-held restraint Washington urged by committing our nation to World War I, during which 116,516 U.S. military personnel lost their lives. Since 1918, approximately 620,000 to 650,000 American military personnel have died in foreign wars.

In the aftermath of 9/11, more than 940,000 people died due to direct war violence in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and Pakistan, according to estimates by Brown University's Costs of War Project. More than 432,000 of those deaths were civilians. When indirect deaths caused by disease, starvation, and infrastructure destruction are included, the figure rises to an estimated 4.5 to 4.7 million.

These wars also carry an enormous financial price tag. The U.S. has spent \$8 trillion on post-9/11 wars, including at least \$2.2 tril-

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.

CLEAN OUTS + MORE

EZ-Dump Enterprises has a 15-yard dump trailer available.

We're also here for heating equipment, appliance removal, home/storage unit clean outs, stump grinding, and refinishing/repairing gravel driveways. Serving Springfield, Vt. area. Call/text 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

ELECTRICIAN

LEVI ELECTRIC – 917-417-7880 levielectricvt.com – Trusted residential electrician with 10+ years experience. Upgrades, lighting, EV chargers, panels, service calls.

Proctorsville-based. Quality work, fair pricing, free estimates.

FOR SALE

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Dear Editor,

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Weston Volunteer Fire Department, who jumped to action the night of March 18 to put out a fire in a dumpster at the Wilder Memorial Library construction site in

Weston. Thanks to their swift and professional action, we are happy to share that all is well and there was no damage to the library or the site. The library is under construction as we near completion of a significant renovation and expansion project. While the library is under construction, we are open at a temporary location at the Old Parish Church, on Main Street in Weston.

The fire was contained to the dumpster, and the fire department was there in full force to put it out quickly. We are grateful to so many, including the incredible volunteers at the Weston Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Chief Brian Lundberg, and Michelle and Luke Bonang, who first saw

the fire and started the phone tree that alerted the fire department and the library trustees. Many more played important roles, calling 911, calling trustees, sharing photos, and more. We are so lucky to have such a caring community here in Weston.

The fire was an isolated incident, and construction continues on schedule. We are making progress every day toward completing construction and opening the library early this summer. We can't wait to share this special space with all of you.

With gratitude,
Deborah Granquist, Trustee Chair
Faye Mack, Library Director

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.



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Town of Chester Housing Commission Opening

Looking for an opportunity to serve your community? The Town of Chester has an open position for appointment to the Housing Commission. Interested parties should submit a letter of interest to julie.hance@chestervt.gov or Town of Chester, P.O. Box 370, Chester, VT 05143 by March 27, 2026.

TOWN OF CHESTER NOTICE OF HEARING FOR SUBDIVISION PERMIT

Sharon Baker has applied for a Subdivision Permit for a property located at 78 Common Street in the Town of Chester. The proposed minor subdivision will divide the existing property into a Lot 1 of .11 acres and a remainder Lot 2 of .14 acres.

The Town of Chester Development Review Board will conduct a site visit at 5:00 PM on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 78 Common Street and will hold a hearing on this application at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 13, 2026, at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester. A copy of the application and additional information may be obtained from the Zoning Administrator. Participation in this hearing in person, via videoconference, or in writing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

A link to participate in this hearing via Zoom videoconference may be found on the Town of Chester website home page at www.chestervt.gov.

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 19th day of March 2026.

Hugh Quinn
Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
zoning@chestervt.gov

TOWN OF CHESTER NOTICE OF HEARING FOR SUBDIVISION PERMIT

Jared Manasek & Carey Kasten have applied for a Subdivision Permit for a property located at 1258 Grafton Road in the Town of Chester. The proposed minor subdivision will divide the existing property into a Lot 1 of 80.03 acres and a remainder Lot 2 of 5.04 acres.

The Town of Chester Development Review Board will conduct a site visit at 5:30 PM on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 1258 Grafton Road (accessed via Linden Way) and will hold a hearing on this application at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 13, 2026, at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester. A copy of the application and additional information may be obtained from the Zoning Administrator. Participation in this hearing in person, via videoconference, or in writing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

A link to participate in this hearing via Zoom videoconference may be found on the Town of Chester website home page at www.chestervt.gov.

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 19th day of March 2026.

Hugh Quinn
Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
zoning@chestervt.gov

TOWN OF CHESTER PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING NOTICE Act 181 Tier 3 Overview

The Chester Planning Commission is pleased to invite Alex Weinhagen, Board Member on the State of Vermont's Land Use Review Board, to join us to review work underway on Act 181 to define maps and rules for Act 250 Tier 3 areas. The meeting will be held on Monday, April 06, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester and via Zoom at the following link found on the chestervt.gov website <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81029256359>.

What are Tier 3 areas?

Historically, Act 250 jurisdiction has been based on the size of the development or subdivision, with a focus on larger projects. Act 181 of 2024 implements location-based jurisdiction reform by identifying three different areas. Tier 1 areas are planned for growth in and around village and downtown centers, where Act 250 jurisdiction would be reduced or eliminated entirely in favor of municipal-level permitting and other State permitting (e.g., ANR, Division of Fire Safety, etc.). Tier 3 areas are critical natural resources, where Act 250 jurisdiction would be increased to cover more types of development than today. Tier 2 areas are the rest of the state, where Act 250 jurisdiction would remain largely as we know it today, but with additional jurisdiction for projects building more than 800 feet of new roads.

The purpose of the meeting is to raise awareness of this important body of work, ask questions, and gather feedback from the community.

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 19th day of March 2026.
Hugh Quinn, Planning Commission Chair



pros to know

DIRECTORY

Businesses can double energy rebates with Efficiency Vermont —

REGION – Dairies and ice cream makers. Breweries and furniture builders. Hospitals and colleges. Some of Vermont's most recognizable businesses have saved energy and cut costs through Efficiency Vermont's rebates for custom projects. Now, for a limited time, any Vermont business can double their rebate up to \$25,000 if they finish a custom project by the end of November.

"Doubling your rebate is really an inflation buster for businesses," said Peter Walke, managing director of Efficiency Vermont. "It can help operations of any size make policy-proof investments this year. And the energy savings from these projects will help keep costs lower for years to come."

Custom projects are tailored to meet each business' unique needs and goals. This ensures businesses

install the most efficient equipment and make the most cost-effective facility improvements. But businesses can only double their rebate for a custom project completed before the end of November.

"You've got to start planning right away if you want to get a custom project done in time," Walke added. "If you want to double your rebate for your business, you've got to act now."

Past projects that received Efficiency Vermont's custom rebates include energy-saving ice cream making at Ben & Jerry's facilities in Waterbury and St. Albans, cutting-edge refrigeration at Lawson's Finest Liquids in Waitsfield, LED lights and HVAC upgrades at Landmark College in Putney, energy-conscious yogurt production at Commonwealth Dairy in Brattleboro, LED lighting at Pompanoosuc

Mills in Thetford, and smart cooling at Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC) in Berlin.

Efficiency Vermont has other supports for businesses looking to invest in efficiency, including those listed below.

Free business energy consultations for businesses of any size – Understand where energy and money are being wasted in your business, and learn about incentives and rebates that can help.

Rebates for preapproved commercial tubular LED (TLED) lamp replacements – Rebates cover up to 100% of product costs for qualifying TLED lamps that replace existing fluorescent lamps.

Rebates for preapproved agricultural LED lighting projects – Rebates cover up to 100% of a project's total costs in livestock or sugar-

ing facilities, farmyards, dairy barns, processing and sorting rooms, milking parlors, and egg-packing rooms.

Only new or currently incomplete custom projects are eligible for a doubled rebate up to \$25,000. Eligible projects may receive up to twice the standard custom incentive with the total additional incentive capped at \$25,000 or 100% of the total project cost, whichever is less. Custom projects must be completed in full by Nov. 30. This offer is only available for a limited time, or until funds run out this year. Doubled rebates are not available for Efficiency Vermont's standard business rebates. Additional terms and conditions apply. See Efficiency Vermont's custom project rebate page for additional details.

Funding available to organizations through the Crosby-Gannett Fund —

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Funding is now available for Vermont organizations in the Brattleboro area, through the Crosby-Gannett Fund grant program. The purpose of the fund is to support endeavors that contribute to the betterment and vitality of the Brattleboro area.

The Crosby-Gannett Fund awards a grant to one applicant annually. The grant term will be active for three years,

and the grantee will receive \$7,500 per year, totaling \$22,500 over the three-year period. The goal of this model is to provide reliable capacity-building support to creative ideas and community-based organizations, enabling meaningful improvements in the Brattleboro area.

Applications must be submitted by Tuesday, April 28, at 5 p.m. Please visit www.vermontcf.org/crosby-gannett to learn more and apply.

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Valuing a house

REGION – There are three values for any home on the market: what the seller thinks it's worth, what the buyer thinks it's worth, and what a professional appraiser will think it's worth. The key to a successful purchase is to get those three numbers to align.

You never want to assume that the asking price of a home is also its fair market value. Home values are somewhat subjective and always changing, so understanding how home values are calculated and what factors impact them can help you make a sound real estate investment.

Buyers should always do their research, taking time to determine the market value of a home before making an offer. Otherwise, they risk overpaying.

What is market value? Simply put, market value is what a fully informed, willing buyer would pay for a home. It's an amount informed by prices other buyers have recently paid for nearby, similar homes – called comparable homes, or "comps." Comps are used for multiple purposes, including determining the listing price of a home about to list on the market, helping buyers determine a fair offer price, and helping an existing homeowner find out the current value of their property and potential equity.

Comps usually consider five key criteria when calculating a home's value. These criteria are as follows.

Timeline – In a typical market, comps include homes sold in the past three to six months.

Location – Comps should be pulled from the same neighborhood, and in close proximity to the home in question. In an urban area,

comps are usually within a mile or so. In rural areas, the radius comps are pulled from will be larger.

Home size – Comps should have the same number of bedrooms and bathrooms, same number of stories, and a similar square footage. The lot size and presence of a garage or basement should be similar, too.

Features – Comparable homes should have similar amenities and level of finishes and updates.

Age – The homes being compared should be roughly the same age. Newer homes have newer designs, layouts, systems, and appliances, which can increase value.

In order to determine a home's value using comps, three to five comps are collected and grouped together. Then, a report is generated determining a market value, based on the sale prices and details of these homes. You could get two types of reports, based on who is doing the calculations. These are a comparative market analysis, or an appraisal.

A comparative market analysis (CMA) is a report typically generated by a real estate agent, used to come up with an accurate list price/estimate of a home's sale price.

An appraisal is a report generated by a licensed appraiser, and it's typically used for financing approval.

Keep in mind that the market value you receive from your agent or an appraiser can differ depending on a few factors. These include:

Market speed – If your local real estate market is moving slowly, you might have to depend on comps that are older or less relevant, which could affect the results.

Comp selection – When multiple relevant comps are available, different agents or appraisers might choose to use different comps, which can affect the outcome slightly.

Valuation of features – The agent or appraiser will add or subtract value based on the features of a specific home, and different agents or appraisers may assign slightly different values to home features.

Subjective human nature – CMAs and appraisal reports depend on humans to evaluate and calculate the home's value, which means you won't get the same outcome every time. Remember, the true value of a home is how much a buyer is willing to pay for it.

The value of some home features just comes down to individual buyer preferences. If a swimming pool is factored into the price of a home, but you plan to just fill it in and relandscape, it doesn't make sense to pay extra for it. If you love new carpeting, it may be worth paying a little more for a house with new, high-end, wall-to-wall carpet. But if you're going to tear it out to install hardwoods, it's not. If your idea of home cooking is popping something in the microwave, you probably don't want to pay a premium for a gourmet kitchen when a nice, reasonably sized one would suit you just fine.

Home values are usually based on comps, but it's important to consider a home's key factors when choosing comps to use. For instance, if a similar, nearby home sold recently, but it's in a slightly better location, it's probably worth more. How much more? That's up to the buyer to determine.

Many features of a home can be changed by the owner, like finishes, and even home size. However, you cannot change where the home is located. That's why location is such an important factor in a home's value. Outside of standard market appreciation, a home's land will only increase in value if the area around it improves. For example, 64% of buyers say being in a walkable neighborhood is very or extremely important, according to the Zillow Group Consumer Housing Trends Report 2021.

Some key location factors that can increase a home's value: proximity to urban core; cul-de-sac location or dead end (less traffic); farther away from railroad tracks, airports, freeway noise, and power lines; near parks or green spaces; sidewalks and walkability; proximity to public transit; waterfront, water, or mountain views; the local job market; property taxes; interest rates; and the required level of maintenance.



Determining the value of a home can be complicated.

PHOTO PROVIDED

correctly is overpaying. Other consequences include losing financing after appraisal, or not getting your offer accepted at all.

If you value a home too high, you may set yourself up to be underwater on your investment, especially if market conditions are volatile. Plus, the more you borrow, the more you have to repay.

Even if you and the seller agree on a price, the appraiser's valuation will determine the amount your lender will loan for the property. When you agree to pay too much, it can be hard to get financing. If the appraisal comes in too low, it's possible you will have to come up with a larger down payment, or you risk the deal falling apart.

There's also some risk in valuing a home too low. If you miscalculate, the seller may not accept your low offer, and you may have to move on to another home.

Generally speaking, if you're purchasing a newer or well-maintained home, the home is likely worth more than the land today. But in 50 years, without upkeep, the land would probably be worth more. The physical structure, appliances, and materials usually depreciate over time, assuming everything in the home is left original.

Of course, most owners continue to update and repair their homes over the years. So, the longer you stay, the more you will inevitably have to improve to maintain the value of the home itself. The cost of labor and materials inflates steadily over time, so the value of improvements is moderately predictable.

The value of land, however, is much more volatile and difficult to predict. A home within close proximity to desirable shops, restaurants, city centers, or attractions will generally have a higher value compared to a home farther from these perks. But those amenities and their desirability can change over time.

If you're buying a home with a view or near a long-standing city center, then odds are good that its value will appreciate, but land value is never guaranteed.

Article provided by Zillow Group.

Chester Townscape's tree and shrub sale

CHESTER, Vt. – Spring is coming, and Chester Townscape's 2026 tree and shrub sale has begun. This annual event offers good-size, proven trees and shrubs at below regular nursery retail prices to help people beautify their properties. Here are the eight selections offered this year: Snow Showers weeping cherry tree (pink), Sugar Shack dwarf buttonbush (white flowers and bright red fruits), Easy as Pie cherry bush (with edible cherries), Reminiscent ginger rose (apricot-orange), Let's Dance Sky-view hydrangea (blue), Let's Dance Can Do hydrangea (pinkish), Serbian cypress Celtic Pride, and Spilled Wine weigela (magenta-pink).

Orders must be submitted and paid for before April 9.

All specimens are low maintenance, hardy, and feature multiseason interest. Most are native and sport beautiful blossoms. All appeal to pollinators and/or birds. Any one of

these plants would also make wonderful presents for Mother's Day or Father's Day, birthdays, anniversaries, housewarming celebrations, or other special events. Proceeds from the sale support Chester Townscape's charitable civic projects, such as the floral pots and bridge boxes that beautify the town for residents and visitors.

Buyers do not have to be Chester residents, but they do have to preorder and pay before April 9, and then pick up the plants, likely in early-to-mid-May, from Main Street in central Chester. The colorful, informative order form that gives details about the plants, their prices, and where to send the check and order form may be found at www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape.html. For additional information, contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillist@comcast.net.

Signs of Spring hike at Bald Hill trails

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – On Saturday, March 28, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., the Rockingham Free Public Library will host a "Signs of Spring" walk on the Bald Hill trails in Westminister, Vt. This walk will be led by Hannah Dallas, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation's southern Windsor County forester.

As April is nearing, it's time to look for

signs of spring. This all-weather outing is perfect for walkers who will enjoy learning about the forested landscape, looking for birds, and exploring the Bald Hill trails with good company. Refreshments are included.

Walkers should meet at 10:45 a.m., at the Cemetery Road entrance to Bald Hill trails, on Route 5 by Bellows Falls Union High School. We will leave for the walk at 11 a.m.

This walk will take place regardless of weather. If there is snow, bring your own snowshoes, poles, and crampons, or borrow them from the Rockingham Free Public Library; please plan to borrow in advance, as they will not be available at the trail. Walkers are also encouraged to bring binoculars; several pairs are available

to borrow from the Rockingham Free Public Library as well.

This event is free and open to the public, no sign-up required. For more information about this and other programs, call 802-463-4270, visit www.rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the library at 65 Westminister Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

health & wellness

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BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Managing your health shouldn't feel like a chore, but between busy schedules and complex prescriptions, it's easy for things to get confused. At Fall Mountain Pharmacy, we understand that keeping track of multiple medications is a chal-

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we can simplify your daily routine. You can find us at 78 Atkinson Street, Bellows Falls, Vt. You can also give us a call at 802-428-4023. Fall Mountain Pharmacy, your partners in wellness.

Article submitted by Fall Mountain Pharmacy.

Yoga at Rockingham Public Library

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Gather for some self-care and join the Rockingham Free Public Library (RFPL) for a free, hour-long yoga class led by Yoga on Main, of Saxtons River, on Saturday, March 28, at 11 a.m.

The weather is all over

the place – find your center during this all-levels yoga escape. No yoga experience is necessary, and newcomers are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Rockingham Free Public Library has yoga mats and blocks available.

Participants are also welcome to bring their own yoga mats, if they would like. Attendees are invited for snacks and hot beverages afterwards. The class is free and open to the public.

This yoga class is part

of Rockingham Free Public Library's Rockingham Gathers program, made possible by a 2025 AARP Vermont Winter Placemaking Grant. Rockingham Gathers is a series of programs and activities the Rockingham Library is

organizing during winter 2026 to support creative, inclusive programming that fosters community connection and combats social isolation among older adults during the coldest months of the year. RFPL is one of eight orga-

nizations from across Vermont to receive this grant.

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.

Parks Place welcomes new board members

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Parks Place Community Resource Center is pleased to announce the addition of several members to its board of directors: Emily Lisai, Dr. Evan Lowy, Heather Waryas, Janice Berube, and Lama Tomas O'Flaherty. Each brings valuable professional experience.

Lisai grew up in the heart of Bellows Falls and now lives in Westminster. She has been teaching at Westminster Center School since the early 2000s and has long been active in the community through volunteer roles including voter check-in, the PTA, and the Bellows Falls Union High School Booster Club.

Having watched the development of Parks Place and other local organizations while growing up, Lisai said those experiences inspired her to remain in the area as she built her ca-

reer and raised her family. As an educator in the local school district, Lisai said she regularly connects families with community resources and has seen firsthand the impact Parks Place can have on the wellbeing of students and families.

"I'm excited to see the board grow in both numbers and diversity," Lisai said. "The walk-in supports and friendly faces at Parks Place keep me recommending families to check it out."

Lowy has lived in Rockingham for the past 10 years. He works as an emergency physician and previously served in the United States Peace Corps in Senegal.

Lowy said he was inspired to join the board because of the vital role Parks Place plays in supporting individuals and families in the community.

"As an emergency physician, I see how many of the

medical issues that bring people to the hospital relate to other challenges, such as housing and food insecurity, mental health struggles, and substance use disorders," Lowy said. "I hope to use that perspective to help strengthen the services provided by Parks Place."

Lowy also expressed enthusiasm about the organization's future and its growing impact in the region.

Waryas is returning to the Parks Place board of directors with a deep commitment to the community she has long called home. She is a lifelong resident of Bellows Falls.

Waryas currently serves as the career learning coordinator at BFUHS and BFMS, where she strengthens partnerships between local employers and schools, and helps students explore career opportunities and envision their futures.

Her dedication to the community is rooted in generations of shared ex-

periences and relationships. Waryas is passionate about helping young people succeed and thrive locally by seeing clear and attainable futures for themselves in the Great Falls region.

Berube brings both lived and professional experience in housing and community support to the Parks Place board. She has been connected to the Bellows Falls community for many years through a variety of roles, including serving as a case manager overseeing a transitional house for youth, and as the volunteer coordinator for the local warming shelter. She also helped establish the community diaper bank and previously owned a business in Bellows Falls.

Currently working with Springfield Supported Housing, Berube continues to collaborate with Parks Place through weekly housing support services and by helping connect families with essential resources.

"Having grown up experiencing poverty, I understand firsthand the importance of accessible community support and resources," Berube said. "My lived experience gives me empathy and a genuine understanding of the barriers many people face."

O'Flaherty, a Bellows Falls resident, currently serves as interim president of the Parks Place board of directors. An ordained Buddhist monk, he is deeply committed to serving marginalized communities, including individuals living with substance use disorder and people living with HIV/AIDS.

O'Flaherty volunteers as a spiritual advisor, certified recovery coach, and licensed peer recovery support specialist at Turning Point Recovery Center in Bellows Falls. He is also a member of Bellows Falls Pride, board chair of the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, and serves as treasurer and spiritual representative on the board of Greater Falls Connections. Having witnessed Parks Place's work in the community for more than a de-

cade, O'Flaherty said he was inspired to become more involved in supporting the organization's mission.

"As a person in long-term recovery and someone dedicated to community service, I understand the importance of accessible resources and compassionate support systems," O'Flaherty said. "The importance of service to our community is especially vital during times of many challenges."

Jennifer Tolaro-Heidbrink, executive director of Parks Place Community Resource Center, welcomed the new board members and emphasized the importance of community leadership.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and diverse group of leaders joining our board," Tolaro-Heidbrink said.

Parks Place Community Resource Center provides resources, support, and connections to help individuals and families thrive throughout the Greater Falls region. For more information about Parks Place Community Resource Center, visit www.parksp-lacevermont.com.



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health & wellness

Dental implants in Chester

CHESTER, Vt. – Dental implants are a great way to replace missing teeth, and also provide a fixed solution to having removable partial or complete dentures. Implants provide excellent support and stability for these dental appliances.

Dental implants are artificial roots and teeth – usually titanium – that are surgically placed into the upper or lower jaw bone by a dentist or periodontist –

a specialist of the gums and supporting bone. The teeth attached to implants are very natural looking, and often enhance or restore a patient's smile.

Dental implants are strong and durable, and will last many years. On occasion, they will have to be retightened or replaced due to normal wear.

Reasons for dental implants include replacing one or more missing teeth without affecting adjacent

teeth; resolving joint pain or bite problems caused by teeth shifting into missing tooth space; restoring a patient's confident smile; restoring chewing, speech, and digestion; restoring or enhancing facial tissues; and supporting a bridge or denture, making it more secure and comfortable.

The process of getting implants requires a number of visits over several months.

X-rays and impressions

(molds) are taken of the jaw and teeth to determine bone, gum tissue, and spacing available for an implant. While the area is numb, the implant will be surgically placed into the bone and allowed to heal and integrate itself for up to six months. Depending on the type of implant, a second surgery may be required in order to place the "post" that will hold the artificial tooth in place. With other implants, the post and anchor are al-

ready attached and placed at the same time.

After several weeks of healing, the artificial teeth are made and fitted to the post portion of the anchor. Because several fittings may be required, this step may take one to two months to complete. After a healing period, the artificial teeth are securely attached to the implant, providing excellent stability and comfort to the patient.

You will receive care in-

structions when your treatment is completed. Good oral hygiene and eating habits, alongside regular dental visits, will aid in the life of your new implant.

If you have questions about dental implants, or would like to schedule a consultation, please contact our office at 802-885-3191 or info@drchristopherfauver.com.

Article submitted by Dr. Christopher Fauver, DDS.

Presbyopia, an age-old eye problem

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – If you've noticed that read-

ing your emails or browsing social media requires

holding the phone at arm's length, you may be enter-

ing the wonderful world of presbyopia. Presbyopia often makes its debut in our early-to-mid-40s. The term 'presbyopia' comes from the Greek words "presbys," meaning "old man," and "ops," meaning "eye." Unflattering as the name is, it's a natural part of the maturing process, and it happens to everyone at some point.

Why does this happen? The lens inside our eyes that focuses on objects at varying distances begins to lose flexibility. As the lens gradually becomes less elastic, we have trouble focusing on close objects.

Here are some common symptoms to keep an eye out for: (1) difficulty reading – you might find yourself needing to squint

or hold reading material farther away; (2) eye strain – after a long session of reading emails or scrolling social media, your eyes may feel tired or achy; (3) headaches – if your head starts pounding after a full day of close-up activities, it could be a sign your eyes are working overtime; and (4) blurred vision, especially when trying to focus on things up close.

Fear not! Presbyopia may be inevitable, but plenty of solutions can help you navigate this new chapter. Here are some options to consider: (1) reading glasses – simple and effective, they come in various magnifications, so your doctor can help you choose the strength that works best for your needs;

(2) bifocal or progressive lenses – these lenses allow you to see at different distances without the hassle of switching glasses; (3) contact lenses – multifocal contact lenses are designed to provide simultaneous distance, midrange, and near vision.

Another option is monovision contacts, where one eye is corrected for distance, and the other is focused for near work.

Presbyopia, while often unwelcome, is a normal part of life. As your optometrist, I am excited to work with you to find the best solution to see every moment clearly!

Article submitted by Springfield Family Eyecare.

HCRS named Best Place to Work for sixth year

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's nonprofit community mental health agency, has been named one of Vermont Business Magazine's Best Places to Work in 2026, marking six consecutive years on the list.

Six years in a row is not luck. It's a reflection of culture.

The Best Places to Work designation is driven primarily by anonymous employee feedback, which accounts for approximately 80% of each organization's score. Staff evaluate leadership, communication, trust, benefits, engagement, and overall workplace satisfaction. The remaining portion is based on a comprehensive review of organizational policies and practices.

For HCRS, the recognition reflects a simple but powerful truth: When people feel supported, they do their best work.

"Our staff show up every day for people during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives," said George Karabakakis, CEO of HCRS. "To be recognized six years in a row tells us that we are not only supporting our communities, we are supporting each other. That's something we are deeply proud of."

With more than 550 staff across 20 locations, HCRS serves over 4,000 people annually throughout Windham and Windsor counties. Services extend beyond office walls into schools, homes, and community spaces, ensuring access to care where and when it's needed most.

The agency's workplace

philosophy mirrors its service model. Over the past year, HCRS has continued investing in the things employees say matter most: competitive compensation and strong benefits, including generous paid time off, low-cost health plans, tuition reimbursement, and a 5% retirement match; flexible work options, including hybrid roles that support work-life balance; wellness initiatives such as winter tire stipends, CSA farm share support, and chair massages; professional development and internal growth opportunities, allowing staff to build long-term careers within the agency; and intentional staff recognition programs that celebrate contributions across all roles and locations year-round.

"At HCRS, we believe a strong workplace is built on

trust, transparency, and shared purpose," Karabakakis added. "We are committed to creating an environment where people feel valued, not just for what they do, but for who they are."

The Vermont Best Places to Work program is presented by Vermont Business Magazine in partnership with the Vermont Department of Economic Development, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and the Vermont State Council. Winners are selected through a rigorous evaluation process combining employee surveys and organizational review.

If you're looking for meaningful work in a place that truly invests in its people, explore current opportunities at www.hcrs.org/careers.

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arts & entertainment

“Poetry in Harmony” at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Big Woods Voices will present “Poetry in Harmony” at the Springfield Town Library on Tuesday, April 28, at 6 p.m. The public is invited to enjoy two 40-minute sets of a cappella vocal harmony.

The quartet celebrates vocal music through original arrangements rooted in American folk traditions, global song, and the work of composer Will Danforth. The program features music inspired by the poetry of W. B. Yeats, David Whyte, Wendell Berry, Alice Oswald, Daniel Leavens Cady,

and others.

From prayerful to playful, and dissonant to dulcet, Big Woods Voices brings poetry vividly to life through rich harmonies and expressive singing.

Audience members have praised the group’s “extraordinary music,” noting “the exquisite care each singer brings and the hope their sound carries,” while another listener called the performance “a ‘pinch me, I’m in southern Vermont’ experience.”

Big Woods Voices includes Amanda Witman,

founder of the Brattleboro Pub Sing; Becky Graber, director of the Brattleboro Women’s Chorus; Will Danforth, award-winning multi-instrumentalist and member of the Brattleboro Camerata; and Alan Blood, long-time member of regional ensembles including Tessitura and the Brattleboro Camerata.

The event is free and open to the public. To sign up for a reminder, visit www.springfield-townlibrary.org/calendar.

HCRS annual client and staff art show

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) will host its annual client and staff art show throughout the month of April in downtown Brattleboro. The exhibit brings together artwork from people connected to HCRS programs across Windham and Windsor counties, including staff and people receiving services.

From colorful paintings and detailed drawings, to photography, sculpture, and mixed media, the show offers a wide range of artistic styles and perspectives.



Left to right: Jonathan Mattoon, HCRS CEO George Karabakakis, and Nickie Godin.

PHOTO PROVIDED

More than an exhibit, the event has become a space

than Mattoon and Nickie Godin, who help bring together artwork from programs across the agency, including child and adult mental health services, substance use services, developmental services, Kindle Farm School, and residential programs.

“HCRS works with people across so many parts of our community,” said Mattoon. “The art show is one of the few times when all of those voices come together in one place. It’s always exciting to see what people create.”

HCRS CEO George Karabakakis said, “This show is about celebrating creativity and the many ways people express themselves...We’re grateful to 118 Elliot Gallery for providing such a welcoming space for this event each year, and for helping make it possible for our artists to share their work with the community.”

The gallery will also be open to the public on Friday, April 3, from 5-8 p.m., at 118 Elliot Gallery. The free evening will include live music, refreshments, and the opportunity to meet some of the artists.

The show is organized by HCRS staff members Jona-



A piece by Nickie Godin.

PHOTO PROVIDED

where creativity, community, and conversation come together.

For many participants, art offers a meaningful way to express themselves, share their stories, and celebrate the things that make them unique.

The public is invited to celebrate with the artists at the opening reception on Friday, April 3, from 5-8 p.m., at 118 Elliot Gallery. The free evening will include live music, refreshments, and the opportunity to meet some of the artists.

The show is organized by HCRS staff members Jona-

Open mic at Next Stage Arts

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents an open mic evening hosted by Vermont Timbre (Amelia Struthers and Mike Mrowicki) on Sunday, March 29, at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6:15 p.m. The evening will include a special featured performance by guitarist and songwriter Peter Siegel, of The Gaslight Tinkers.

The open mic offers a welcoming and supportive stage for musicians, poets, storytellers, and performers of all kinds to share their work. Performers will have 10-15 minutes for their sets, depending on the number of participants who sign up.

Siegel, known for his energetic performances and genre-blending musical style, will present a special set as the evening’s featured

performer. As a founding member of The Gaslight Tinkers, Siegel has helped shape a sound that fuses global rhythms with New England fiddle traditions, creating an infectious blend of Afro-Caribbean, Latin, funk, and folk influences.

Hosted by Vermont Timbre, the evening aims to cultivate community and creativity by offering a space where artists of all experience levels can share their voices and connect with one another. Those interested in performing are encouraged to reserve a spot in advance by emailing Mike Mrowicki at mmrowicki@gmail.com.

Audience members can RSVP at www.nextstagearts.org. A suggested donation is requested at the

door.

Located at 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Next Stage Arts continues its mission of presenting diverse arts programming while fostering opportunities for community participation. Whether you come to perform, listen, or both, the evening promises an engaging mix of local talent, creative expression, and live music in an inviting community setting.

Javanese gamelan music at Pentangle Arts

WOODSTOCK, Vt. – Gamelan Sulukala will appear at the newly renovated Pentangle Arts Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, on Friday, March 27, at 7 p.m.

The Javanese gamelan is an orchestra of about 30 instruments ranging from huge gongs to tiny flutes, with lots of xylophone and kettle-type instruments in between, plus drumming. Cur-

rently, it is being played by a community group of 12 members who range in age from their 20s to their 70s, with every decade in between represented. If you’ve never heard a Javanese gamelan, you are in for a rare and exquisite treat. If you have, you know this concert is not to be missed.

Tickets are available at www.pentanglearts.org.

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Dance party with The Gaslight Tinkers and Luke Concannon

PUTNEY, Vt. – Get ready to move as African, Caribbean, funk, reggae, and Latin grooves collide with traditional fiddle music in a bold, genre-bending vision of the future of the past in a dance party with The Gaslight Tinkers and Luke Concannon on Friday, April 3, at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are discounted in advance at [www.next-](http://www.nextstagearts.org)

[stagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org).

The Gaslight Tinkers fuse global rhythms with New England old-time and Celtic fiddle traditions, creating a joyously danceable sound fueled by melody, song, and boundless energy. Since forming in 2012, the band has lit up stages across the East and West coasts, and the Caribbean, headlining clubs, dances, and major festivals. The Valley Advocate describes their performances as “music that consistently fizzles and pops with unexpected textures and turns,” delivering delightful surprises, elated crowds, and exuberant musicianship.

Concannon’s music roots trace back to Irish family gatherings filled with guitars, singing, and dancing. As lead singer and cowriter of the U.K. No. 1 chart act Nizlopi – best known for “JCB Song” and a key influence on Ed Sheeran – Concannon now thrives as a solo artist. His 2022 album “Ecstatic Bird in the Burning” debuted at No. 12 on both the U.K. and U.S. folk charts, earning widespread acclaim.

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