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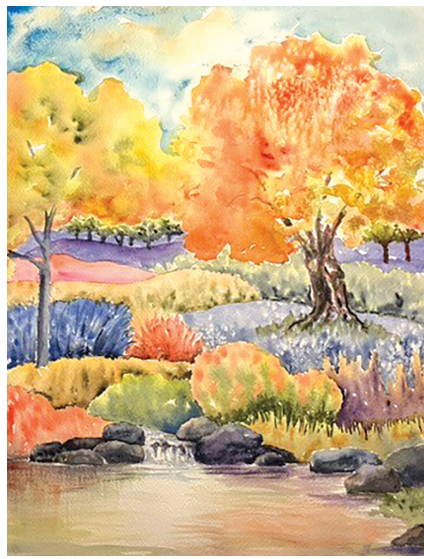


THE VERMONT Journal SHOPPER EDITION

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Saxtons River Art Guild 50th anniversary

REGION – The Saxtons River Art Guild (SRAG) is celebrating its 50th anniversary. We are planning some special events and exhibit opportunities.



"Tillie's Garden" by Linda Rothschild.
 PHOTO PROVIDED

One of the events to mark the occasion is a members exhibit at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon, N.H., from April 2 – June 29. We will show in the Rubin Gallery, Level 3 hallway between the main entrance and the cancer center clinical space. Twenty SRAG members are participating, showing artworks in a variety of media: oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, printmaking, and colored pencil. Exhibiting artists from New Hampshire are Donna Cary, Alicia Drakiotis, Sandy Greene, Christine Justice, Sarah M. Larson, Marj Layman, Donna Bascom Lund, Judy Sylvester, Liz Winchester-Larson, and Lynn Zimmerman. Exhibiting artists from Vermont are Clare Adams, Cathy Conkling, Nancy DiMauro, Lori Ebare, Barb Greenough, Kathy Greve, Barbara Gutheil, Carolyn LaVoie, Mary Lea, and Linda Rothschild.

Saxtons River Art Guild has exhibited at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center previously, from July-September 2017 and October-December 2019. A reception and light refreshments for the new

rotation of seven different exhibits in all the gallery spaces at DHMC is planned for Thursday, April 9, from 5-6:30 p.m., in the fourth floor Williamson Gallery, main entrance. There is a link to Google maps on the DHMC website. Their address is: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, 1 Medical Center Drive, Lebanon, NH 03756

A little history of the Saxtons River Art Guild: There were, in the 1960s, a group of artists who lived in Saxtons River, Vt., or nearby. They got together for painting classes at one of the artists' studios in Saxtons River. In the summer of 1976, these artists made plans to form a new art association called the Saxtons River Art Guild. The first meeting was in September 1976, at the Inn at Saxtons River, with 22 members attend-

ing. Now, in 2026, Saxtons River Art Guild is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote and encourage the advancement of the fine arts, with about 80 members throughout the Monadnock region in New Hampshire and the southern Connecticut River Valley area of Vermont. Their activities include exhibit and sales venues, workshops, open studio time September-May at the United Church of

Bellows Falls, plein-air gatherings June-August at various locations on either side of the Connecticut River, a monthly members newsletter, luncheons with guest speakers, and occasional trips to museums. An art scholarship is awarded yearly to a qualified senior from an area high school who is going on to a four-year major in the arts. Membership is open to all artists and anyone interested in the fine arts.

With thanks to Dartmouth Health and their arts and humanities program. For more information about SRAG and the exhibition, please contact Liz Winchester-Larson, SRAG exhibition coordinator, at lizart39@yahoo.com, 603-876-5083 (studio), or 603-202-2104 (cell).

Breakfast for dinner for Miss Bellows Falls Diner

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Who doesn't love breakfast for dinner now and again? That's what's on the menu Saturday, April 4, at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge 527. The first Diner Dinner of 2026 features bacon, sausage, 'taters, eggs – all sorts of breakfast classics served up hot and hearty, affordably priced, and with a heaping helping of the latest news about the Miss Bellows Falls Diner restoration project.

Diner Dinners, started in 2025 under the supervision of the late Susan MacNeil, are the means by which the volunteer team at Rockingham for Progress (RFP) can share progress reports on the Miss Bellows Falls Diner restoration project, including plans, timelines, challenges, and triumphs.

"It can be baffling why the diner appears to be just sitting there," says Robert McBride, one of the directors of RFP. "Diner Dinners are a great way to keep folks up to date with what's been happening behind the scenes."

Each Diner Dinner features classic comfort food prepared by Moose chef Aime Theroux. On Aug. 15, succulent ribs will be offered, and that diner classic, meatloaf, will be in the spotlight on Nov. 7.

"Aime and the Moose have been absolutely wonderful to work with," says McBride. "The food has been great, and the members of the lodge itself have made us feel so welcome."

The National Park Service, which oversees alterations to buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, has approved the architectural plans sub-

mitted last fall for the Miss Bellows Falls restoration.

See **DINER** on Page 2

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Breakfast for dinner to benefit Miss Bellows Falls Diner.
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DEADLINES

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Springfield approves police camera system contract

BY PAULA BENSON
The Vermont Journal

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – At the Monday, March 23, selectboard meeting, Springfield town manager Scott Pickup gave an update on four properties the town had acted on to address persistent public safety concerns and respond to neighbors' complaints.

78 Valley Street was the location of a March 6 police raid resulting in five arrests, including that of the homeowner. Pickup told the board that the house had been boarded up, secured, and posted, and they would begin to address the list of violations with the property owner pending his release from police custody.

The property located at 10-12 Central Street, previously reviewed by the board, was found to be in violation of a litany of health and safety infractions, both exterior and interior. Pickup reported that the owner had been cooperating slowly, and that removal of trash and debris remains ongoing. A follow-up walkthrough with Fire Chief Paul Stagner and the Vermont Division of Fire Safety is being planned, and Pickup said he expected to

have a status report at the April 13 selectboard meeting.

Regarding the remaining two properties in question, the owner of 516 Spencer Hollow Road has been given 30 days to remove an unregistered camper from the parcel, and town attorney Steve Ankuda has been reviewing the legally complicated situation pertaining to the ownership of 482 Seavers Brook Road and will advise the town on next steps.

The selectboard approved the "Fourth Fridays" summer-fall concert series hosted by Springfield on the Move (SOM), which will take place on Main Street each fourth Friday, from May 22 – Oct. 23, from 5-8 p.m., featuring live performances in the park, local vendors, and family-friendly activities.

Also given the green light was the annual Springfield Alumni Day Parade. The parade will be held on June 20, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 p.m., and will proceed up Clinton and Main streets, ending at Riverside Middle School. This year's theme is game shows.

Pickup presented the board with some information about the purchase of a new body-camera system

for the Springfield Police Department. The proposed contract would be between the town and Axon operating systems, a fully integrated body-worn and in-car camera system using cloud evidence management.

The board unanimously approved the proposed 10-year contract, at a total cost of \$338,256, to replace the failing system currently being used by the department. The town retains ownership of its data, which can be migrated should they ever change vendors. Pickup explained that the first year's cost would be about \$16,000 for implementation, then annual costs would increase to roughly \$33,000 per year, with modest escalation over the term.

Kelly Stettner, founder of the Black River Action Team, made a request of the board to consider changing the grass height in town-owned spaces to promote environmental stewardship. The effort, known as Raise the Blade, would keep green spaces mowed to 3 inches, which Stettner advised encourages the

See **CAMERA** on Page 2

Springfield Elks February Student of the Month

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Student of the Month program of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks recognizes young men and women for achievements in school and community life, hobbies, athletics, club, and community service. The Springfield Elks Lodge is pleased to recognize Tobias "Tobi" Emerson, a freshman at Springfield High School, as the Elks Student of the Month for February.



Tobias Emerson.
 PHOTO PROVIDED

Tobi, who is the son of Kelly Emerson, of Springfield, is incredibly kind and caring, a trait you don't tend to notice first in most ninth grade boys. He greets everyone with a smile, and will engage with anyone in the room, especially if the topic is art or music.

Emerson is a skilled artist. You can often find him sketching in his numerous sketchbooks, and encouraging others to draw with him, or to give him ideas of what to draw. He is currently working on cocreating an entire comic with one of his friends, all on their own time, basing the original story on classical Greek

mythology, which requires a lot of research. Tobi already knows he wants to attend art school upon graduating high school and major in fine arts.

Emerson did very well academically in his first semester as a high schooler, earning a place on the honor roll. The transition to high school can be a tough one for a lot of students, but he rocked it, balancing school with his art and junior varsity soccer.

Emerson's academics, combined with his kindness, sense of humor, and engagement with those around him make him the perfect candidate for Student of the Month. We are pleased to honor Emerson with the February Student of the Month award.

Springfield School District Strategic Plan meeting

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On April 6, at the Springfield High School cafeteria, the Springfield School District will be bringing the community together to help envision the future. Please come out for this very important meeting, where we will discuss the future of Springfield schools. We are building the 2026-2030 Springfield School District

Strategic Plan, and it's vital that we hear from all in our community.

The Springfield School District Board will be engaging with participants to build a new mission, vision, and core values. In addition, there will be an opportunity to weigh in on what you believe the focus of our work should be over the course of the coming years,

and to talk with fellow neighbors to understand the many diverse perspectives we share in Springfield.

Please come out and be a part of this important event. Child care will be provided. Look for more information in the coming weeks with specifics on timing. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tai chi workshop

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Saturday, April 4, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., please join the Rockingham Free Public Library for tai chi walking and tai chi ruler, a mindful way to begin your weekend.

Back by popular demand, this one-hour workshop will focus on two ancient and fundamental tai chi qigong forms: tai chi walking

and tai chi ruler. Both focus in different ways on developing a relaxed posture and mental state, improving static and dynamic balance, and practicing mindfulness.

The workshop is appropriate for all levels of experience in qigong and tai chi. No special equipment is required. Smooth-soled shoes or socks are recommended.

Light refreshments will be available to share after the workshop. This workshop is free and open to the public.

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.

“The Light Pirate” book discussion

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join us at the Springfield Town Library on Saturday, April 18, at 11 a.m., for a thought-provoking book discussion on “The Light Pirate” by Lily Brooks-Dalton, facilitated by Rachael Cohen.

Named after a catastrophic storm, Wanda is born into a world shaped by cli-

mate change. As rising sea levels and extreme weather reshape her coastal Florida town, Wanda grows from child to adult in a landscape transformed by nature's power. Amidst destruction and abandonment, she finds adventure, love, and a sense of purpose.

Told in four parts –

“Power,” “Water,” “Light,” and “Time” – “The Light Pirate” is a haunting and lyrical meditation on the collapse of the human-made world. It explores the resilience of the human spirit, the importance of connection, and the quiet magic that may help guide us into an uncertain future.

Don't miss this opportunity to engage in a rich conversation about survival, change, and hope in the face of ecological transformation. To sign up for a reminder, visit www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar.

SEVCA to hold small-business workshops

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) is excited to announce the launch of new microbusiness development cohorts and workshops in Springfield, Wilmington/Dover, Hartford/White River Junction, and Bellows Falls. This announcement and expansion of this program is due to a highly successful pilot cohort in Brattleboro. Wilmington/Dover and Brattleboro kick off this month, with more details coming soon on the others. Email hello@sevca.org for more information or to RSVP.

The Springfield workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 8, from 5:30-7 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street, Springfield, Vt. Pizza and refreshments will be available. Details on the Bellows



Join the microbusiness development cohort in Springfield. PHOTO PROVIDED

Falls workshops are still being finalized.

SEVCA's cohort model provides aspiring and current small-business owners – especially those from lower-income or underserved communities – with coaching, workshops, and peer support to help build skills, confidence, and connections for business success. Participants gain guidance in business planning, marketing, taxes, financing, and more.

“Our microbusiness

team helps local community members turn ideas into viable businesses,” said Chris Meyer, SEVCA economic development lead. This model has done very well in Brattleboro over the past six months, and has seen businesses such as 802 Soul Kitchen and Mama T's Sweet Spot blossom from working within the cohorts.

Entrepreneurs and prospective business owners can learn more and apply at www.sevca.org/micro-business-support.

“Drawing Hidden Systems” author talk

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Wednesday, April 22, at 6 p.m., join Dan Nott for his presentation “Drawing Hidden Systems,” a Vermont Humanities event.

Have you ever wondered where electricity comes from, how the internet works, or how there's (mostly) enough water for everyone all the time? Where did these

systems come from, and how do they affect our challenges like inequality and climate change?

Join Vermont author and artist Nott for a look at these questions and more as he discusses his new nonfiction graphic novel “Hidden Systems” for this all-ages event.

The talk will also include visual readings from “Hidden Systems” that focus on the electric grid and energy uses, lessons from comics

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

This talk is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities. For more information, contact Tracey Craft at 802-885-3108 or stlvtprograms@gmail.com.

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

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DINER
From Page 1

Now, RFP and their partners at the Preservation Trust of Vermont need only wait for the Vermont State Historic Preservation Office to give their stamp of approval. As well as restoration of the historic car itself, plans include a new foundation, kitchen area, and required ADA-compliant accessibility, facilities, and ramp.

Doors open at 5 p.m., and the program begins with the informational update at 5:15 p.m. Dinner will be served buffet style starting at 6:00 p.m.

Choose individual tickets, a table of six for family and friends, or purchase the entire series. Series-table purchases are highly appreciated. The Lodge is located at 59 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. The building is accessible.

Tickets are available on the Miss Bellows Falls Diner website, www.missbellowsfalls.com, with a limited number of seats available at the door.

CAMERA
From Page 1

growth of deeper roots, provides natural fertilizer, and helps soil retain water to reduce nutrient runoff into local waterways. The board agreed to give the suggestion a try, pending any negative feedback from residents. Pickup

promised there would be educational outreach to make people aware of the change of policy.

Board member Tara Chase announced that SOM will be hosting the annual Easter-egg hunt on April 4, at The Commons Park, starting at 11 a.m.

The board will meet next month on April 13 and 27.

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River Singers spring concerts

WESTMINSTER WEST, Vt. – The 65-voice River Singers community choir will perform an exciting, eclectic concert of world music on Saturday, April 11, and Sunday, April 12, both at 4 p.m., at the Westminster West Church. The River Singers, in their 35th year, is a multigenerational community choir led by Mary Cay Brass. The choir sings a thrilling variety of community-based music from many diverse cultural and musical traditions.

Brass will be joined by Kathy Bullock, professor emerita at Berea College, who is a choral conductor, arranger, and scholar in the field of African American music. This is the 15th time Bullock has worked with

the River Singers, sharing the joy of gospel, spirituals, freedom songs, and West African praise songs.

The River Singers choir is dedicated to musical diplomacy, using music as a bridge for learning about and enjoying other cultures while, at the same time, using their concerts to benefit peace-building projects. This concert will feature a wide variety of traditional songs from the Balkans (Serbia, Croatia, and Macedonia), a love song from the Republic of Georgia, ancient Lithuanian chants called “sutartinas,” South African church hymns, and traditional and contemporary shape note music. The River Singers have some wonderful instrumentalists as sing-

ers in the choir. Laurie Rabut will accompany songs on her wonderful violin, and Andy Davis will lead the choir in his arrangement of an English pub song, “Row On, Row On,” accompanied by his wonderful accordion.

Every River Singers concert is a benefit for a local or global peace initiative. This year’s concert will benefit Stand With Minnesota, an umbrella organization helping Minnesota recover from these last months. Admission to the concerts can be paid by check, cash, or Venmo, at the door only. For more information, email mcbass@vermont-tel.net.

Tracy Grammer and Jim Henry with Carling Berkhout –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Tracy Grammer and Jim Henry are an exquisite pairing – impeccable musicianship, perfect harmonies, and all the chemistry and banter you’d expect from musicians who have been touring and playing around the world together for over 20 years. They will perform on Saturday, April 11, in a 3 p.m. matinee show, at Stage 33 Live in Bellows Falls, Vt. Carling Berkhout will open. Tickets are a discounted in advance at www.stage33live.com, or can be purchased at the door as available. Only 40 tickets will be sold. Advance ticket sales will automatically close once 40 tickets are sold, or at midnight the day before the show if not sold out. Advance tickets guarantee entry.

Grammer, called “one of the finest pure musicians in folkdom” by the Boston

Globe, is among contemporary folk music’s most beloved artists, renowned for her pure voice, deft guitar and violin work, and incantatory storytelling. She has recorded and performed with Joan Baez, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Eliza Gilkyson, and many more; headlined top festivals, including Philadelphia Folk and Falcon Ridge, where she holds the record for the most consecutive appearances; and has been one of folk radio’s top-played artists for years, both solo and with the late Dave Carter, with whom she performed and recorded from 1996 until his fatal heart attack mid-tour in 2002.

Henry is an accomplished singer, songwriter, producer, and one of folk and Americana’s go-to multi-instrumentalists. He was recently on the road for three years

with Grammy-winner Mary Chapin Carpenter. His arsenal includes acoustic and electric guitars, Dobro, and mandolin, and his trademark ambient textures and sparkling solos can be heard on hundreds of songwriter albums.

Berkhout will open. Her dad has roots as a folkie songster, and her mom as a symphonic cellist. When she was a child, she played Beatles songs backward in her friend’s rabbit-themed bedroom that the two believed was haunted. She continues to both unravel and glue together her life’s complicated musical threads in a sonic world that exists somewhere between bedroom rock and the dynamic balance of a David Rawlings & Gillian Welch record.

Sparkletown III: A Tribute to Kate Lorenz

TURNERS FALLS, Mass. – On Saturday, April 11, at 7 p.m. musicians, friends, colleagues, music fans, and family will gather at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A in Turners Falls, Mass., for “Sparkletown III: A Tribute to the Music & Spirit of Kate Lorenz.” Performers that night are part of a community of touring artists who live or record in Vermont, Massachusetts, and beyond, and who have collaborated over the years with Lorenz. Celebrate her birthday weekend, and come listen, dance and sparkle. Doors open at 6 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit www.sheatheater.org/d/23256/SPARKLETOWN-3--A-Tribute-to-Kate-Lorenz.

“Sparkletown III” will be a big night of Lorenz’s own songs and the songs of many artists who were part of each other’s work. The group will include Kate’s brother Matt Lorenz, Kris Delmhorst, Caitlyn Canty, The Suitcase

Junket, Zak Trojano, The Constellations, The Rear Defrosters, and Julia Read. Hosts will include Monte Belmonte, formerly with WRSI and now cohost of The Fabulous 413 at NEPM 88.5FM; and Ed Malachowski, host of Nine Volt Heart at Valley Free Radio WXOJ 103.3FM.

Lorenz and her songwriting and soaring vocals were an integral part of the music scene in Vermont, Massachusetts, and beyond for 20 years. She was also a beloved early childhood education teacher and friend. In addition to her public life on stage and her work as a teacher, Lorenz was known for her warmth and generosity of spirit with friends and strangers alike.

“Sparkletown III” is a fundraiser for the Kate Lorenz Community Fund, which supports the causes and ideas

Kate held dear: children and early literacy, women’s rights, the visual and performing arts, social justice, environmental education, and music. The fund donates to organizations in Vermont and Massachusetts.

More information about the fund and making an online donation can be found at www.katelorenzmusic.com, or by check made out to the Kate Lorenz Memorial Community Fund, and mailed to Kate Lorenz Memorial Community Fund, P.O. Box 418, Chester, VT 05143.

Diana Whitney launches “Girl Trouble”

PUTNEY, Vt. – Celebrate National Poetry Month with an evening of poetry, conversation, and dancing as Diana Whitney launches her new book, “Girl Trouble,” on Friday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. RSVP at www.nextstagearts.org.

“Girl Trouble” has been called “unstoppable” and “deeply subversive.” Whitney’s collection is a

bold excavation of female adolescence, tracing the landscape of rape culture from the 1980s to #metoo. Her earthy, unflinching poems spill secrets, make trouble, and reckon with stories of desire, harm, and the agency and oppression of women and girls. Deeply connected to the natural world, “Girl Trouble” grieves environmental degradation, celebrates queer-ness, and seeks healing for the next generation. The

book builds to a full-throated roar, offering power and release in truth-telling – a work for survivors, advocates, mothers, daughters, and anyone navigating trauma with resilience.

Whitney will be joined in conversation by poet Eve Alexandra, whose prize-winning collection “None of Us in White” was released in 2025. Guests can enjoy snacks, a cash bar, and purchase books from Everyone’s Books.

Cavendish Historical Society paper flowers

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Continuing the 250th anniversary celebration of the Declaration of Independence, the Cavendish Historical Society (CHS), with the Cavendish Library, will be holding a free paper-flower-making workshop on Saturday, April 11, at 1 p.m., at the Cavendish Library, 573 Main Street in Proctorsville.

Faux flowers, made from paper, silk, and wire, were favorites of the Colonial period, and would have adorned clothes and hats, and been displayed as decorative items. While often imported from England, they’d also be made by



Make paper flowers with the Cavendish Historical Society. PHOTO PROVIDED

milliners (hat makers).

While the April workshop will be focusing on red, white, and blue, other options will be available. Note that some hats will be available for decorating, but the supply is limited, so first

come, first served.

This is a free workshop open to the public. Donations are appreciated and welcomed. For more information, email margocaulfield@icloud.com or call 802-226-7807.

É.T.É and Keith Murphy & Yann Falquet to perform

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present a dynamic double bill on Saturday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m., featuring the boundary-pushing Quebecois trio É.T.É and the masterful Celtic guitar duo Keith Murphy & Yann Falquet. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney. Tickets are available discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org.

É.T.É brings a bold, contemporary perspective to Quebecois trad. The trio – violinist Élisabeth Moquin, bouzouki player Thierry Clouette, and cellist Élisabeth Giroux – draws on jazz, progressive rock, and classical influences to reimagine Quebecois and Acadian repertoire.

The second half of the double bill features Keith Murphy and Yann Falquet. Their work highlights the rich textures, harmonies, and

rhythmic possibilities the guitar has brought to traditional music since the Celtic revival of the 1970s.

As singers, Murphy and Falquet blend Franco and Anglo traditions with depth and nuance. Falquet brings

a wealth of French-Canadian songs, while Murphy draws from the musical traditions of Newfoundland, Quebec, and Vermont.

This event is sponsored in part by the Délégation du Québec à Boston.

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real estate

PROS TO KNOW

How a reverse mortgage could help you with retirement

LUDLOW, Vt. – The start of a new year has a way of making you pause and think about the future. If you're 62 or older and getting ready for retirement – or already settling into it – you may be thinking about how to make your savings last and how to keep life feeling comfortable. Many homeowners explore using a reverse mortgage as a practical way to access some of the equity they've already earned to help make retirement easier.

What a reverse mortgage means for you

At its core, a reverse mortgage is a loan for homeowners 62 and older that lets you turn a portion of your home's value into cash. You continue to own your home, stay on the title, and live in it just

as you always have. The difference is that you don't make monthly mortgage payments; instead, the loan is settled later on, usually when you move or sell the home.

For many people, this creates a little more breathing room without having to downsize or dip deeply into retirement accounts.

How it can support retirement

Retirement brings new routines, new priorities, and sometimes new financial surprises. A reverse mortgage can help smooth out the bumps by giving you access to funds without tapping your investments or stretching your monthly budget.

You can receive the money as a monthly payment to use any way you

like. While everyone's goals in retirement are different, many homeowners use reverse mortgage funds to help with things like rising health care or prescription costs; home repairs, accessibility updates, or safety upgrades; travel, hobbies, or spending more time with family; setting aside an emergency reserve; or managing property taxes and insurance more comfortably.

These funds are meant to support the life you want to live – not add pressure or complication.

Common reverse mortgage myths

When people first hear about reverse mortgages, a few familiar myths tend to come up. One of the most common is the idea that you give up ownership of your home. You don't – you

stay on the title and remain the homeowner just as you are today.

Another frequent myth is that a reverse mortgage could leave family members with unexpected debt. These loans are structured so that neither you nor your heirs will ever owe more than the home is worth when it's sold, which helps protect everyone involved.

There's also a misconception that the process is hard to navigate. In reality, part of the approval process includes a meeting with a HUD-approved counselor who walks through the details with you, answers your questions, and ensures you fully understand how the loan works before you commit. And while you continue to handle property taxes, insurance,

and normal upkeep – the same responsibilities you have now – the safeguards built into the program are designed to help you understand the process clearly and feel confident in whatever decision you make.

Who a reverse mortgage might benefit

A reverse mortgage isn't something everyone needs, but it can be a helpful solution for homeowners who plan to stay in their home long term and want to make their retirement years a little easier to manage. It can be especially helpful for those who have built up substantial equity and prefer to use a portion of it to support their financial plans rather than relying solely on savings or investments.

It may also be a good fit if you're looking for a steady

way to cover ongoing expenses, handle occasional surprises, or simply add a bit more comfort to your monthly budget while remaining in the home you love.

Everyone's situation is a little different, and deciding whether a reverse mortgage fits into your retirement plans is a personal choice. If you're curious about how it might work for you, or you just want a clearer picture of what it would look like, I'm here to help. We can walk through your goals, look at the numbers together, and talk through everything in simple, easy-to-understand terms. Whenever you're ready, I'm here to chat.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, Prime Lending, Ludlow, Vt.



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Fair housing, tenants' rights workshop

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Thursday, April 23, at 1 p.m., the public is invited to a Zoom presentation

on fair housing and tenants' rights.

The Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity Fair Housing project and the Springfield Town Library are hosting a this live workshop via Zoom. This workshop is an introduction to the fundamentals of tenants' rights and responsibilities, as well as fair housing protections, and it is designed for tenants, landlords, and all community members in between. We will briefly cover the housing landscape in Vermont, basic tenant skills, landlord obligations, who is protected under state and federal fair housing law, what housing discrimination

can look and sound like, and what we can do to prevent housing discrimination.

This workshop provides information that is essential to all community members, community advocates, and housing providers. It is crucial that people are aware of these rights and fair housing protections to have the knowledge to navigate a variety of housing experiences and conflicts. Our goal is to help everyone be informed about where they can find support, resources, and information to prevent and fight illegal housing discrimination.

To sign up, please contact the Springfield Town Library at 802-885-3108.

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obituaries

Virginia M. Dufresne, 1948-2026

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Virginia M. Dufresne passed away peacefully at home on March 11, 2026, at the age of 77, surrounded by her loving family.

Virginia was born on June 30, 1948, in Lebanon, N.H. She attended Richards School in Newport, N.H., Claremont Junior High, and St. Mary's High School in Claremont, N.H., where she graduated in 1967.

Virginia married her husband of 56 years, André V. Dufresne, on June 1, 1968, in Claremont, N.H. She had three daughters. She worked at Dunkin Donuts, Holsum Bakery, and Split Ball Bearing (Timken), where she retired after 32 years when her health began to decline.

Virginia found enjoyment in spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren, playing bingo and cribbage, doing crossword puzzles, going to casinos, attending conventions with the local lodges where she could travel and take in many new sights, and making friends while volunteering with helping others in their many needs.

She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary 29, and a life member of the VFW Auxiliary 808 and the WOTM 629, where she held many positions over the years.

Virginia was predeceased by her parents, William H. and Marie Cummings Sr.; her husband, André; her brothers, William Cummings Jr., Theodore Cummings Sr., and Henry Cummings Sr.; and her sisters Judith Cummings and JoAnn Johnson.

Virginia is survived by her daughters, Mabel Bertot (Michael), of West Warwick, R.I., and Kathy Webster and Mary Judd, both of Claremont, N.H.; her grandchildren, Nicholas Bertot (Katie), Daniel Bertot (Denisse), and Rhianon Bertot (Shawn), all of Manchester, N.H., Victoria



Virginia Dufresne, 1948-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

Webster (Jason), of Keene, N.H., Mariah Dufresne (Keevan), of Claremont, N.H., and Alysha Webster (Adam), of Springfield, Vt.; her great-grandchildren, Allyssialyn Furtado, David Dufresne, and Natiery Haley, all of Claremont, N.H.; her sisters Janice Converse (Larry), of Claremont, N.H., and Mary Stone (Harold), of Walpole, N.H.; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A celebration of life for Virginia will be held on Sunday, May 17, from 12-4 p.m., at the Newport Moose Family Center 1236, 18 Golf Club Road in Newport, N.H. A Mass of Christian burial will be held on Saturday, July 11, at 11 a.m., at St. Norbert Church in Hardwick, Vt., with a graveside service at Fairview Cemetery. A gathering will be held following the service, at the church's reception room.

Virginia's family would like to extend a sincere thank-you to Associates of Medicine, Valley Regional Hospital, Golden Cross Ambulance, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Cheshire Medical Center, Cheshire County EMS, and Bayada Hospice for helping take care of our mother through her illnesses.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Sullivan County Humane Society, 14 Tremont Street, Claremont NH 03743.

Doreen Eno, 1927-2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Doreen was born on Dec. 4, 1927, to George Thumwood and Ethel Mayne, in London England. She left this world on March 15, 2026, at the age of 98.

Doreen was a young girl at the beginning of World War II. She was part of Operation Pied Piper, where more than 1.5 million people, mostly schoolchildren, were moved from their homes and families to the countryside to escape the German bombing raids. Eventually, she was able to move back to her family. She loved going to the movies and dancing.

Doreen met her husband-to-be, an American soldier, on a blind date at the changing of the guard outside Buckingham Palace in London, in 1945. Many things were hard to come by at the time, but Charles made sure his "Shorty" had plenty of chocolate and oranges – two of her most favorite things.

They married on April 29, 1946, in London, and had a life together for 70 years, until Charles passed away in 2016.

Doreen came to America on the Queen Mary I with other English "war brides," as they were called. She went to her husband's hometown of Bellows Falls, Vt. She always loved the town, and especially the Connecticut River. It reminded her of home by the River Thames.

Doreen loved her tea and cookies, and felt that they were the cure-all for everything. When served, she would happily say "yum yum!"

Doreen worked for several stores in Bellows Falls, but her favorite of all was the Rockingham Library. She was an avid reader. She would have several books going at once. We think she read every book there. She worked until 80 years of age.

Doreen had a good and kind soul. She had a smile for everyone she met. She loved spending time with



Doreen Eno, 1927-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

her family.

She is survived by her daughters, Doreen (Dennis) Rochester and Marie Laplanter (Terrence Ryan); and her beloved grandchildren, Joshua (Amanda), Jordan, David (Beth), and Brenna. She was blessed to have three great-grandchildren, Adam, Matthew, and Hudson, and many fondly thought-of nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Charles, her brother, Edward, and her parents.

We would like to send a special thank-you to the Springfield Center for Living and Rehab for the loving care they gave her. Special thanks to Holly, Dan, Chelsea, and all the other aides; and nurses Tony and Trevor, for always bringing a smile to her face.

There are no calling hours. A Mass of Christian burial will be held on April 18, at 11 a.m., at St. Charles Church. Burial will follow in St. Charles Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Rockingham Library, or to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Doreen would like to leave you with this: "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are grey, you'll never know dear, how much I love you."

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

Gordon R. Hall II, 1983-2026

WALPOLE, N.H. – Gordon "Gordo"/"Gordy" Richard Hall II, 42, formerly of Alstead, N.H., and Chester, Vt., passed away unexpectedly at his home in Walpole, N.H., on March 23, 2026, following a joyful family celebration in upstate New York. Though his time here was far too short, the love he gave and the memories he created will live on in all who knew him.

Gordo came into this world as suddenly as he left it, born on Oct. 31, 1983, in the cab of his father's pickup truck, in a hospital parking lot in Claremont, N.H., to Gordon Richard Hall and Donna Lee (Sutts) Hall. From the very beginning, he lived life in his own extraordinary way. He grew up in Alstead, N.H., attending Alstead Elementary School and Fall Mountain Regional High School, where he built lifelong friendships and was known for his loyalty, humor, and genuine heart.

Gordo began his career with Davey Tree Service, starting as a tree climber. He later continued his work at Asplundh, where, through dedication, hard work, and perseverance, he advanced to the role of foreman. While he was deeply committed to his profession, what mattered most to him was building a life centered around his son, his family, and the people he loved. Being a father was Gordo's greatest pride and deepest joy. His son, Gabriel, was his world. The love he had for him was endless, and it showed through with every moment they shared. That love will continue to guide and surround Gabriel always. Gordo will also be remembered as a fiercely loyal grandson, a loving son, a protective brother, a caring cousin and nephew, the best uncle ever, and a true friend. He was the kind of person who showed up – no matter what – with a willingness to help and a heart that gave without hesitation. His signature cock-eyed smile and the warmth behind it could light up even the darkest days, and his presence brought comfort, laughter, and a sense of home to so many.

Gordo is survived by his beloved son, Gabriel Fran-



Gordon Hall II, 1983-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

cis-Ervin Hall, of Chester, Vt., and Gabriel's mother, Katerina Fluharty, of Chester, Vt.; his paternal grandmother, Joanne Gilman Hall, of Westmoreland, N.H.; his loving and supportive parents, Gordon and Donna Hall, of Alstead, N.H.; his sister, Jessica L. Hall, of Alstead, N.H., and her partner, Joshua Buchman, of Saxtons River, Vt.; his brother, Charles J. Hall, of Alstead, N.H., and his partner, Sonya A. Moore, of Walpole, N.H.; and his nieces, Isabella S. Giorgi, of Alstead, N.H., and Claire L. Hall, of Charlestown, N.H.; along with many aunts, uncles, cousins, and extended family who loved him deeply. He was predeceased by his paternal grandfather, Donald Emerson Hall.

Visiting hours will be held at Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt., on Wednesday, April 8, from 5-7 p.m. A remembrance of his life will be held at a later date, with details to be shared once arrangements are finalized. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America (MSAA), by calling 800-532-7667 or emailing donorrelations@mysaa.org. Gordo's life was a reminder to love deeply, show up fully, and hold tight to the people who matter most. Though our hearts are broken, we will carry him with us – in every laugh, every memory, and every moment we choose love, just as he always did. He will never be forgotten.

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

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

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 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.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St., Bellows Falls, Vt.

Immanuel Episcopal Church offers Holy Week and Easter services. Here you will find a welcoming atmosphere regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey. All are welcome. On Palm Sunday, March 29, at 10 a.m., we begin Holy Week with Jesus' joyful arrival in Jerusalem, greeted with palms and "Hosanna!" The celebration turns reflective as we hear the Passion story; on Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 6 p.m., a communion service in St. Mary's Chapel remembers the Last Supper. We move outdoors as the story continues, ending in silence as the altar is left bare; On Good Friday, April 3, at 6 p.m., walk the Stations of the Cross through scripture, prayer, and art, reflecting on Jesus' suffering and his message of love and forgiveness. An Easter Vigil will be held on April 4, at 6 p.m. Beginning outdoors we light the fire of new life and gather in quiet hope, awaiting the joy of the resurrection. On Easter Sunday, April 5, at 10 a.m., celebrate the joy of Easter with music, flowers, and a resounding "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" Zoom invites to Sunday 10 a.m. services are available by emailing immanuelepiscopal@gmail.com.

Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green, 99 Main St., Ludlow, Vt.

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., Londonderry, Vt.

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.

Tyson Community Church, 39 Dublin Road, Ludlow, Vt.

The Tyson Community Church will be celebrating Easter services on April 5, at 10:30 a.m., with readings and music provided by Erik Johansson. We are located across from the Echo Lake Inn. We hope you can join us.

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

Lawrence L. Wight, 1941-2026

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – Lawrence Leon Wight, 85, of Weathersfield, Vt., passed away on March 23, 2026, surrounded by his family, after a long and meaningful life defined by curiosity, creativity, learning, and a deep love for the natural world. Born Aug. 19, 1941, in Claremont, N.H., Larry devoted his life to education, teaching, and leading in schools across Vermont, New Hampshire, and Alaska.

He often said his soul was split between Alaska and Vermont. In Girdwood, Alaska, he taught middle school and explored the wilderness before returning to his beloved Weathersfield home, where he lived for nearly 50 years. A passionate educator, he was known for advocating for students who needed support in strengthening their self-worth.

He shared a remarkable 70-year love story with his high school sweetheart and wife, Dottie.



Lawrence Wight, 1941-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

In later years, Larry lived with Alzheimer's disease, yet the core memories he worked so hard to preserve remained the most vivid.

He is survived by his wife, Dottie; daughter Shelley Alfien (Robert); granddaughters Kayla Staples (Graham) and Kaidance Craig (Ryan); great-grandchildren Exelia and Gauge; and niece Jennifer Johnston.

He will be remembered for his kindness, humor, and unwavering belief in others. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched.

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

calendar

COMMUNITY/LEGAL NOTICES

APRIL 3 –

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Tyson Ladies Aid, in conjunction with the Easter Bunny and the Marshmallow Chicks, are once again holding their annual Easter pie bake sale to benefit the surrounding communities. There will be pies, cakes, breads, cookies, and treats to choose from for your holiday meal. The ladies are hard at work planning and preparing to make freshly baked, homemade goodies for you and your family. Come join us at the Shaw's Plaza on Good Friday, April 3, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. All proceeds go towards scholarships for a graduating senior from both Green Mountain Union High School and Woodstock High School, maintaining the Tyson Library, and various other community support

projects.

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.

NEWPORT, N.H. – There will be live country music at the Newport Moose Lodge, 18 Golf Club Road, on

April 4, from 2-5 p.m.

APRIL 8 –

PLAINFIELD, N.H. – A Humpday Luncheon will be served on Wednesday, April 8, from 12-1 p.m., at the Blow-Me-Down Grange, 1107 Route 12A. The menu will be pork chops, potatoes, vegetables, and dessert, for a small fee. Sponsored by the Blow-Me-Down Grange and Park Grange, to benefit Liberty House for veterans in Manchester, N.H.

APRIL 10-12 –

PUTNEY, Vt. – The Grammar School's seventh and eighth graders will perform Shakespeare's goofiest play "The Comedy of Errors," packed with silly slapstick and heartwarming moments, on Friday, April 10, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, April 11, at 2 p.m. and 7

p.m.; and Sunday, April 12, at 2 p.m. Directed by Jessa Rowan and brought to life with laughter and love by The Grammar School's seventh and eighth graders, this show is sure to be fun for the whole family. The Grammar School is located at 159 Grammar School Lane. To purchase tickets, visit www.thegrammarschool.org.

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS, Vt. – Bingo at the

Bridgewater Grange, 129 Route 100A, will be held on Saturday, April 11. Doors open at 5 p.m., game begins at 6:15 p.m. Concessions will be available.

APRIL 12 –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will host a paint and sip event on Sunday, April 12, at 1 p.m. There is a maximum of 25 participants. Call Cheryl at 603-543-5998 to reserve

your spot. Participants will paint dragonflies. All supplies for the painting will be provided. Bring your own drinks (alcohol is permitted) and snacks. You do not have to know how to paint; you will be taught.

APRIL 13 –

CHESTER, Vt. – American Legion Post 67, 637 Vermont Route 103, will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, April 13, at 7 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.

Bafa wubu tai chi

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – There's a new, simpler tai chi form that beginners are learning in China, and it has come to Springfield.

Bafa wubu means "eight methods, five steps," and it breaks down more complex tai chi movements into smaller pieces that are easier to follow for many students. The first part of the form is stationary, and it can even be done while seated.

Come to the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse in Springfield, Vt., 21 Fairground Road, at 10 a.m., for eight Tuesdays, April 7-May 26, to learn from and practice with Tai Chi Vermont-certified teacher

Jo Bregnard. Classes are 60 minutes and will also be livestreamed via Zoom for those who can't make it to the meetinghouse. To learn more and sign up for online access, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/92447.

In China, bafa wubu is now taught as the standard beginner form. It includes quintessential tai chi movements, and it focuses on the core principles of the practice: deliberate weight transference, healthy posture, relaxed breathing, body awareness, and steps that improve balance and agility.

Sponsored by Senior Solutions, these free classes

will include warmups and cooldowns, with practice both standing and seated. If being on your feet for an extended time is challenging for you, you can participate right from your chair. No prior tai chi experience is necessary. Can't make it live? All who sign up will have access to recordings after class so you can practice on your own schedule.

Please wear comfortable clothing and flat, closed-heel and -toe shoes for practice, and have a full water bottle with you. Contact Bregnard if you have any additional questions by emailing jo@jobregnard.com.

Tai Chi Vermont is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing safe and effective tai chi instructor training throughout the state. Learn more about Tai Chi Vermont by visiting www.taichivermont.org.

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



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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@trsu.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

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

Reinbow Riding fundraiser –

BELMONT, Vt. – Reinbow Riding Center, a Rutland County-based therapeutic horsemanship center, is hosting a Pancakes for Ponies fundraising breakfast at the Mount Holly Community Center, located on the bottom floor of the Mount Holly Community Library, 26 Maple Hill Road, Belmont, Vt. This event will take place on Sunday morning, April 12, from 8:30-11 a.m. Funds raised will primarily be used for the care of the horses in our program. As parking is limited, guests are also encouraged to carpool. The cost is discounted

for youth 16 and younger. Guests are encouraged to prepay for tickets at www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/pancakes-for-ponies.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for members of the community to meet Julia, our new program director and instructor. There will be door prizes and a silent auction as well.

The mission of Reinbow Riding Center is to improve the wellbeing of individuals with unique physical, emotional, and/or cognitive challenges through a customized therapeutic equine experience. Reinbow Riding Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2008, based in Belmont, Vt. We strive to meet the needs of every individual who participates in our therapeutic horsemanship programs, mounted or unmounted, regardless of their ability to pay.

Reinbow recently earned a 2026 Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level awarded, from CANDID, an independent organization that ranks nonprofits. If you are unable to attend this fundraising breakfast and would still like to support the program, please visit www.reinbowridingcenter.org/support-us.

For information about opportunities to volunteer with Reinbow Riding Center, visit www.reinbowridingcenter.org/volunteer.

You can also show your support by sharing this event, or following Reinbow Riding Center on all their social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

For more information about Reinbow Riding Center and its therapeutic horsemanship programs, please visit www.reinbowridingcenter.org.

TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM

The Town of Rockingham, VT is accepting bids for the sidewalk improvement project in front of the Flat Iron Building, 51 The Square, Bellows Falls, VT, and associated work in accordance with the plans prepared by SVE Associates, at the intersections of Westminster, Mill and Bridge Streets in Bellows Falls, VT. Site Visit on April 8 2 p.m. Bids Due on Wednesday, April 22 at 11 a.m. developmentassist@rockbf.org

Complete Bid package www.rockinghamvt.org/public-notice

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF PLYMOUTH, VERMONT SALE OF TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Plymouth, Vermont, will offer for sale certain parcels of real property acquired by the Town through tax sale proceedings due to delinquent property taxes.

This sale is conducted in accordance with the provisions of Vermont law, including 24 V.S.A. § 1061 (Sale of Town-Owned Land). The properties to be sold were not redeemed within the statutory period following tax sale and are now held by the Town.

Property Information:

A list of available properties:

Route 100N, Plymouth, VT – Parcel #001225

East Ash Road, Lot 2-20, Plymouth, VT – Parcel #000328

Interested parties are encouraged to perform their own due diligence regarding property conditions, title status, and any applicable restrictions.

For further information, please contact:

Kevin Barnes

William Raveis

802-228-8877

kevin@vtprop.com

Dated at Plymouth, Vermont this 24th day of March 2026.
By Order of the Plymouth Select Board

OPINION

classifieds

Dear Editor,

The rule of law has kept our country safe from despotism for almost 240 years. Our Constitution, ratified in 1788, was missing a Bill of Rights, which kept several founders from signing. James Madison introduced one the following year, and 10 amendments were ratified in December of 1791. The First Amendment's place at the top was no accident: The freedoms of religion, speech, and press were understood as the most foundational political rights of all.

George Washington had a notably complicated relationship with the press – he was one of its most savaged targets – yet still defended its necessity: “If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be

led, like sheep to the slaughter.”

Thomas Jefferson was equally unequivocal: “The only thing worse than an irresponsible free press is no free press at all.”

“Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”

These are not abstract ideals. Defunding public broadcasting. Massive lawsuits against outlets critical of the current president. Selectively blocking Pentagon briefings. Consolidating media ownership to suppress dissent. Pressuring local publishers to defer to local government. These things are happening now,

and left unchecked, will result in an ever-deeper consolidation of power and a public left wondering what happened to our republic.

It is up to us – We the People – to defend our Constitution, because too many within our government are working to tear it down. Being a patriot means standing up for our Bill of Rights and the rule of law, especially when government itself is the threat. Don't be fooled by the Trump machine's propaganda – a government of, by, and for the people will not survive without the people demanding it.

Sincerely,
Tim Roper
Chester, Vt.

Dear Editor,

The Springfield Rotary Club recently presented its 15th recycled bench to Union Street Elementary School. Next in line for the program are the Springfield Lions Club Dog Park, Springfield VFW, and Elm Hill Elementary School.

We have learned that Trex has changed the incentives for program participation. Instead of earning a bench after collecting 1,000 pounds of plastic bags and films, organizations that collect 250 pounds in a three-month period will be

entered, along with 24 other groups, into a prize drawing. The program details are at www.nextrex.com/view/ programs.

What this means for our community: after collecting the 1,000 pounds we expected would produce a bench, we received only four raffle entries for this quarter's drawing. There is now no guarantee that the next organization in line – the Springfield Lions Club Dog Park – will get a recycled bench.

Although this change is

disappointing, the motivation behind the effort remains environmental stewardship. Over the past three years, our program has removed more than 7 tons of plastic film from the waste stream, and that positive impact should not be overlooked.

Please continue to bring your plastic film to the Springfield Town Library.

Sincerely,
Marty Cohn, Secretary
Springfield Rotary Club

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Okemo Valley TV, I would like to thank the voters of Ludlow and Plymouth for approving increases to our funding from budget appropriations from each town. As many know, one of our longstanding core services is the “gavel-to-gavel” coverage of municipal meetings, which provides not only an opportunity for residents to stay informed on the issues affecting their town, but also

unfettered and unedited access to their government bodies in action. We record, stream, broadcast, and archive all official government meetings in each town. In recent years, this part of our work has increased, with the adoption of “hybrid” meetings and the new requirements in Vermont's Open Meeting Law.

We value the partnerships we have with the towns, and appreciate the support from

the voters for the services that we provide.

We'd also like to thank the voters in Cavendish, Andover, and Mount Holly for supporting our level-funded appropriation requests in those towns for the coming year.

With Gratitude,
Patrick Cody, Executive Director
Okemo Valley TV

AUCTION

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Contents of storage unit #94, rented by Sean Harkins, will be auctioned off on April 10, 2026, at 10 a.m., at 4215 Route 106, Perkinsville, VT 05151.

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GRAFTON, Vt. – 2005 GMC Sierra, SLE 2500HD DSL, 4dr/4wd, \$8500. 2020 GMC Sierra SLT 2500HD DSL, 4dr/4wd, Fisher V-plow, 5th wheel set up, side tool boxes, \$36,000. 2020 GMC Sierra SLT 2500HD DSL, 4dr/4wd, w/2025 Fisher V-plow and 2025 Fisher Sander, 5th wheel set up, \$46,000. Call 802-732-8494.

Dear Editor,

Senior Solutions extends our gratitude to the voters of southeastern Vermont who this year supported Town Meeting appropriations in support of our ongoing work. In nearly all of the 46 towns we serve, community members once again demonstrated a commitment to ensuring that older adults have access to the services and support they need to live with dignity, independence, and connection. Your votes are more than

a line item in a budget – they are an expression of care for neighbors, friends, and family members who rely on these services every day.

Because of your support, Senior Solutions can continue providing critical assistance to older adults and their caregivers, helping them navigate complex systems, remain in their homes, and stay engaged in their communities. We are truly grateful that the communities in our service area chose to once again invest in this important work.

To learn about how we can help the older adults in your life, contact us at 802-885-2669, or visit our website at www.seniorsolutionsvt.org. In addition, annual town reports usually include our report on the impact of our services in these communities. Your support makes a meaningful difference, and we are honored to serve you.

Sincerely,
Mark Boutwell, Executive Director
Senior Solutions

Dear Editor,

In October, my husband suffered a stroke, resulting in a 40% to 80% loss of vision, along with other stroke deficits. The diagnosis was confirmed through emergency department and neurology consultation at a major, credentialed stroke center.

What followed was not coordinated stroke recovery, but prolonged and consequential gaps in care.

Stroke follow-up was scheduled five months after the event. In the interim, there was no plan for cognitive assessment, rehabilitation, or occupational or physical therapy. There was no psychiatry consultation and no evaluation of the extent or functional impact of his vision loss. A referral to neuro-ophthalmology resulted in visual field testing scheduled nearly 10 months after the stroke.

An occipital stroke with significant visual field deficit was diagnosed, yet

no rehabilitation services or compensatory training were offered. Meanwhile, I observed persistent post-stroke symptoms: confusion, disorientation, memory impairment, hallucinations, balance and gait changes, and impaired visual-spatial processing. These deficits were never formally evaluated or addressed. We were given no explanation, no plan, and no guidance on how to manage or recover from stroke-related impairments.

My message to the public is simple: If you or a loved one is discharged from the emergency department after a stroke, ask whether timely follow-up, rehabilitation, and specialty care are actually available. Ask about expected timelines, and whether they meet national standards of care. Patients and caregivers deserve transparency. If timely post-stroke assessment and rehabilitation are not available, health care systems must state this clearly and early so

patients can seek appropriate care elsewhere.

My message to health care systems is equally direct: Delayed stroke care is not an inconvenience. It is a patient-safety failure. Lives, independence, and futures are lost in these gaps.

When I speak of care gaps, I am naming a critical – and uncomfortable – reality: capacity without transparency. If a system cannot provide guideline-concordant post-stroke care, it has an obligation to disclose that limitation explicitly, rather than allowing patients and clinicians to assume that appropriate care is available when it is not.

Stroke recovery is time-sensitive. Delay causes harm. Silence about that reality is not neutral – it is damaging.

With concern,
Susan Boyer, DNP, RN, FAAN
Health care Advocate and Caregiver
Weathersfield, Vt.

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(04/15/26 - TFN - 13)

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