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# THE MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

APRIL 08, 2026 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

PUBLISHED BY THE VERMONT JOURNAL

VOLUME 01, ISSUE 40

## Arts in April 2026 programming

**CLAREMONT, N.H.** – Join the River Valley Community College (RVCC) community by attending one or all of these creative Arts in April workshops. These free, 90-minute sessions will be held on Zoom throughout April 2026. No prior experience is needed, and all are welcome. The goal of Arts in April is to provide accessible arts programming to RVCC students and members of the local community. Throughout the workshops, participants will explore themes and topics related to a variety of courses offered for credit at RVCC. Pre-registration is required at [www.rivervalley.edu/artsinaprilform-2](http://www.rivervalley.edu/artsinaprilform-2).

### Session 1: “Six-Word Memoirs”

Memoir is a branch of narrative nonfiction focused on personal experiences. Many people find memoir writing cathartic, validating, and enjoy-

able, even if they would not normally consider themselves writers. The six-word memoir is a relatively recent adaptation of the genre that echoes the ways in which brevity and conciseness have become embedded in our day-to-day communication. However, the six-word memoir challenges us to consider that brevity does not preclude depth of meaning. This subgenre of memoir writing asks authors to consider a single experience, or their life as a whole, and distill it down into six deliberately chosen words. In this make-and-take workshop, participants can drop in to create their own six-word memoirs.

This program is presented by Cara Chanoine, a poet and the program director of RVCC’s English department. Her most recent poetry collection, “Philosopher Kings,” was released by Silver Bow

Publishing in January 2023, and her multimedia chapbook “The Sad Girl Mix Tape,” won the 2024 Deanna Tulley Multimedia Prize. Her creative work has appeared in Mantis, Lumina, and other publications.

Materials are provided. This is a “make-and-take” workshop where participants can drop in and create a piece of writing on their own schedule using the provided materials, from April 1-30. In-person stations are set up at the Claremont, Keene, and Lebanon RVCC campuses. Participants may display their work, take it home, or create one to display and one to take away.

### Session 2: “Creative Careers”

Creativity can lead to more than personal expression – it can also lead to meaningful and sustainable careers. This engaging panel discussion brings together profes-

sionals working in a range of creative fields to share how their artistic training translated into real-world career opportunities.

This session will explore how studying the arts can build valuable professional skills, such as creative problem solving, communication, collaboration, and entrepreneurial thinking. Panelists will discuss their career journeys, the role their education played in shaping their paths, and the diverse opportunities available in creative industries today.

Attendees will gain insight into the many ways artistic skills can be applied in professional settings, learn about potential career paths in the arts, and have the opportunity to ask questions about education, portfolio development, networking, and entering creative fields. Whether you are considering studying the

arts, or simply curious about how creativity connects to careers, this panel will highlight how artistic passion can evolve into impactful and rewarding professional work.

Participants include Alisa Andrusiak, group manager, creative operations; Cara Chanoine, poet and RVCC English department program director; Jay Chanoine, comedian; Heidi Lorenz, artist and arts educator; Nick Paradis, muralist and arts educator; and Amy Regan, owner and curator, See Saw Art; cofounder, Rochester MFA.

This workshop will be held Wednesday, April 22, from 6-7:30 p.m., via Zoom. You will receive a Zoom link when you register.

### Session 3: “Brenda Phillips: Nature Abstract Exhibit Gallery Talk”

Join presenter Eric Sutphin, RVCC projects gallery manager, for a discus-

sion of the life and work of the late Plainfield, N.H.-based artist Brenda Phillips, whose “Nature Abstract” series is on view in the RVCC gallery through May 29. The event will include a virtual walk-through of the exhibit, and will introduce participants to Phillips’ work and discuss it in context. Phillips was a visionary artist, and this exhibit is an opportunity to experience and discuss her inventive, joyful work.

This workshop is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, from 6-7:30 p.m., via Zoom. You will receive a Zoom link when you register.

Learn more and register for any of these workshops at [www.rivervalley.edu/artsinapril](http://www.rivervalley.edu/artsinapril).

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## Claremont Chamber award ceremony



**Model Youth Kylee Plummer with family.**  
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**SHS Alumni Association, Nonprofit Organization.**  
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**Young Professional Benjamin Thresher and guests.**  
 PHOTO PROVIDED BY LUNDGREN SUBARU OF CLAREMONT



**Lundgren Subaru of Claremont, host and Business of the Year.**  
 PHOTO PROVIDED BY LUNDGREN SUBARU OF CLAREMONT



**Citizen Richard ‘Dick’ Girard honored.**  
 PHOTO PROVIDED BY LUNDGREN SUBARU OF CLAREMONT

**CLAREMONT, N.H.** – The annual Claremont Chamber of Commerce award ceremony was held at Lundgren Subaru on Thursday, April 2. Honorees were recognized for their commitment to their community.

Honorees included: Model Youth, Kylee Plummer; Young Professional, Benjamin Thresher; Citizen, Richard “Dick” Girard; Nonprofit Organization, Stevens High School Alumni Association; Business, Lundgren Subaru of Claremont.

Lundgren Subaru general manager Rob McDermott expressed his gratitude, and reported, “The night was amazing and far beyond what we had envisioned. The showroom was packed and there were tons of great folks here with us.”

## Easter activity page winners



**Aquinna, 9, Chester.**



**Ryker, 9, Springfield.**

PHOTOS PROVIDED

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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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# Clues & Cocktails gala —

**CLAREMONT, N.H.** – Join the Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce for an unforgettable evening of elegance, entertainment, and intrigue at our annual auction gala. Clues & Cocktails brings together community leaders, local businesses, and friends for a lively night in support of the chamber.

Kick off the evening with an exclusive VIP hour, featuring specialty food and beverage pairings in a more intimate setting, before doors open to the main event. Then enjoy a vibrant atmosphere complete with a cash bar, exciting silent and live auctions, and fun-filled raffles offering incredible prizes.

Capture memories at our photo booth, bid on silent and live auction items, and, if you're feeling adventurous, take part in our interactive mystery experience. Throughout the evening,



The Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce presents the Clues & Cocktails auction gala.

PHOTO PROVIDED

you'll have the opportunity to uncover hidden clues and interview "suspects" as you work to solve the case.

Whether you come to bid, to mingle, or to sleuth, this one-of-a-kind gala promises an elegant and entertaining night out in downtown Claremont, all while supporting the mission and work of your chamber.

Mystery participation is

optional, but highly encouraged. We can't wait to sip, solve, and celebrate with you.

Visit [www.greaterclaremontnh.org/Auction-Gala](http://www.greaterclaremontnh.org/Auction-Gala) to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, participating as one of our suspects, or contributing an auction item, or to purchase tickets to the event.

# Four stages of raising confident, money-smart kids

**REGION** – Good financial habits are a little like brushing your teeth: When you learn them early, they become second nature, and you carry them with you for life. And while money can feel complicated, especially today, the foundation starts simply.

Parents can begin the conversation with very young children, and young adults can build on those basics as they take on more responsibility. Step by step, these habits create confidence that helps build long-term financial security and a more fulfilling life.

The following are the four key stages of financial growth.

**Stage 1** – For very young children, the goal is to make money feel simple and manageable. A great place to start is with three jars labeled "Spend," "Save," and "Share." When kids can actually see their money grow or shrink, the idea starts to make sense. Saving also introduces them

to setting goals, and working toward paying for a small toy or outing teaches patience. Most importantly, you're helping your children see money as a tool they can understand easily and use with confidence.

**Stage 2** – If you have tweens (children roughly 9-12 years old), they're usually ready for slightly bigger financial ideas. This is a great time for them to earn money through chores or small jobs, helping them see the connection between effort and reward, and building a sense of ownership. Conversations about needs versus wants also become more meaningful, because kids are now making real choices with money they earned themselves. Your tween may be ready for a simple savings account to watch their savings grow, or a reloadable cash card for spending.

**Stage 3** – By the time teens reach high school or young adulthood, budgeting becomes essential. This doesn't need to be overly strict or complicated. A simple system that helps them track deposits and withdrawals can make all the difference. Whether they use an app, a paper notebook, or a spreadsheet, the real goal is awareness. Teenagers also benefit from learning how credit works. Understanding how to build a healthy credit score and how to use credit wisely protects them from costly mistakes in later life.

**Stage 4** – Then come the

early working years, when habits shift from learning to building. One of the smartest steps at this stage is paying yourself first. Automatic transfers to savings or retirement accounts help establish stability without extra effort. Even small retirement contributions matter more than most people realize, because time allows compounding to do the heavy lifting. This is also when young adults can start organizing their money into different buckets for rent, automobile payments, emergencies, retirement, and everyday spending. These habits help lay the groundwork for financial freedom down the road.

Throughout every stage, the theme is confidence. Each small success creates a sense of control, and each good habit makes the next one easier. Over time, these habits turn into a lifetime of financial security and fulfillment. When you start strong and stay consistent, money becomes a tool that helps your children support the lives they want.

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

# CCCD Conservation Opportunity Fund recipients

**WALPOLE, N.H.** – The Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD) is excited to announce the 2026 round of Conservation Opportunity Fund recipients: Gay Kimball Library; Jaffrey Public Library; the Hooper Institute; Laura Shim, of Keene; Lenoir Law, of Gilsun; Michael Scardina, of Keene; Ken Kost at the Railroad Square Condominium in Keene; and Sarah Greene-Sims, of Rindge.

The Conservation Opportunity Fund's mission is to provide funding for owners and stewards of small tracts of land who are interested in improving the wildlife habitat on their property. The fund prioritizes projects which have a community education and engagement component.

The Gay Kimball Library will be installing a community garden and a pollinator habitat. The Jaffrey Library and the Hooper Institute will be installing a native plant garden. Ken Kost will be

working with the Railroad Square Condominium to install a pollinator habitat. Laura Shim will be installing a pollinator garden and early successional habitat, and Lenoir Law, Michael Scardina, and Sarah Greene-Sims will be installing pollinator gardens.

Interested community organizations, schools, municipalities, or private landowners who can demonstrate a connection to broader community education and engagement are encouraged to apply in future grant rounds. If you are interested in applying for funding in 2027, visit the Conservation Opportunity Fund website for examples of past projects and resources, and check back for applications to be posted in fall 2026, at [www.cheshireconservation.org/cof](http://www.cheshireconservation.org/cof).

The Conservation Opportunity Fund is a grant program that is made possible by the generous contributions of private donors and administered by the Cheshire County Conservation District. If you would like to make a

donation to support future funding of the Conservation Opportunity Fund, please do so at [www.cheshireconservation.org/donate](http://www.cheshireconservation.org/donate).

Donations to the fund may also be made by mail. Checks can be made payable to CCCD and addressed to 11 Industrial Park Drive, Walpole, NH 03608. Please include "COF" in the memo line. Contributions of any amount are greatly appreciated and make a difference.

Interested future applicants are encouraged to subscribe to CCCD's newsletter for application updates, and to stay connected on CCCD's Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn as well. For more information, or to be added to a Conservation Opportunity Fund email list, call 603-904-3011 or email [info@cheshireconservation.org](mailto:info@cheshireconservation.org).

2026 Conservation Opportunity Fund projects' progress will be shared on CCCD's social media and newsletter as well. Subscribe to CCCD's newsletter at [www.cheshireconservation.org/newsletter](http://www.cheshireconservation.org/newsletter).

# Poor Thom's Tavern wins Upper Valley Burger Battle —

**MERIDEN, N.H.** – The Upper Valley Business Alliance (UVBA) is thrilled to announce that Poor Thom's Tavern in Meriden, N.H., has officially been crowned the winner of the 2026 Upper Valley Burger Battle. Their fan-favorite Rise and Shine Burger took home the top prize in a highly competitive field.

This year's battle featured 13 unique burgers from across the region, with nearly 1,000 votes cast by residents and visitors. While the competition was fierce, Poor Thom's Rise and Shine captured the hearts and appetites of the community.

Beyond the "dedication to deliciousness," the



Thom Lappin (right), owner of Poor Thom's Tavern, receives the UVBA Burger Battle award for the Rise and Shine burger.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Burger Battle serves a vital role in the UVBA's mission of economic development. Designed to boost foot traffic during a traditionally slower time of year, the event proved to be a significant win for the local hospitality industry.

"This event is about more than just a great meal; it's a tool for economic growth," said Morgan Brophy, president of the UVBA. "Most participating restaurants reported a measurable increase in burger sales, and, more importantly, the contest successfully brought new customers through

their doors. It's a celebration of our creative economy and the community spirit that defines the Upper Valley."

The 2026 Burger Battle was generously sponsored by Casella, whose support helped make this regional celebration possible.

Poor Thom's Tavern, opened in 2016 by Thom Lappin, has long been a community staple. Often voted a top restaurant by Valley News readers, this latest accolade adds to their legacy of being a go-to spot for both a full meal and a great story.



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**Nominate a Woman Who Makes a Difference**

**REGION** – The Lake Sunapee Region VNA Women Who Make a Difference Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 13, at Colby-Sawyer College, beginning at 11 a.m.

If you wish to nominate an exceptional woman you know for the Woman Who Makes a Difference Award, please visit [www.lakesunapeevna.org](http://www.lakesunapeevna.org). Nominations must be submitted by April 10.

For more information, contact Cathy Raymond at 603-526-4077, ext. 231, or [craymond@lakesunapeevna.org](mailto:craymond@lakesunapeevna.org).



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# puzzle page

## Complete a puzzle for a chance to win!

# CROSSWORD COUPON CONTEST

**CROSSWORD**



### The Rules

Participants must complete the Crossword or the Sudoku puzzle and mail this page to The Vermont Journal, PO Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149. Must be received by Friday, April 17, 2026. Limit one submission per person.

One participant will be selected by random drawing, and can select one coupon from participating businesses on this puzzle page. Coupons are not valid until one is chosen by drawing winner. Coupon of choice will expire on May 31, 2026, and will be mailed to the winner.

The answers to the puzzles and winner will be published the following week.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUPON OF CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly SUDOKU**

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦**

♦ Moderate   ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 — Ark  
6 Con games  
11 French novelist  
12 Heckler's weapon  
14 "Delta Wedding" author Welty  
15 Defeated in a footrace  
16 Govt. stipend  
17 Roly-poly  
19 Roast VIPs  
20 Golf pegs  
22 Docs' org.  
23 Lap dog, for short  
24 Former First Daughter  
26 Most sore  
28 401(k) alternative  
30 Med. plan  
31 Popeye's veggie  
35 Muslim legal expert  
39 Centers  
40 Possesses  
42 Uttered  
43 Before  
44 "Graceland" singer Paul  
46 The Browns, on scoreboards  
47 Chew out  
49 Tex-Mex treat

**DOWN**

1 Mal de mer  
2 "Golden" tunes  
3 Dye type  
4 Angelic instrument  
5 Milan's La —  
6 Tolerate  
7 Brilliant stroke

8 Invoice fig.  
9 "Little Women" matriarch  
10 Pancake towers  
11 Defeats  
13 Start  
18 Hollywood's Thurman  
21 Tibia settings  
23 Reverent  
25 Altar in the sky  
27 "Let me think ..."  
29 Reach  
31 Biblical realm

32 Least spoiled place  
34 Sandwich meat  
36 Glib  
37 Inclined  
38 Concepts  
41 Remote locations?  
44 Halt  
45 iPod model  
48 Asia's — Darya river  
50 Keypad trio

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# home sweet home **PROS TO KNOW**

## How homebuyers are lowering their payments

**REGION** – If interest rates have been holding you back from buying, you're not alone. It's one of the biggest reasons people are staying on the sidelines. But here's what many buyers don't realize: You don't have to take the market rate at face value. Even in today's environment, there are ways to bring your monthly payment down without waiting on rates to change.

### Lower your payment in the early years

A temporary buydown can reduce your interest rate for the first few years of your loan, which lowers your monthly payment upfront. This works by having a seller or builder set aside funds at closing to temporarily "cover" part of your interest. That

lowers your effective rate early on, without increasing your loan amount or requiring more out of pocket from you. That means lower payments in years one to three, funded by the seller or builder as a negotiation tool, which helps create breathing room early in homeownership.

For example, with a 2-1 buydown, your rate could be reduced by 2% in year one, and 1% in year two, before adjusting to the full rate.

Buyers use temporary buydowns because they can make a home feel more affordable right now, especially if you expect your income to grow, plan to refinance later, or want more flexibility in the early years of your mortgage.

### Lower your rate for the

### long run

You can also choose to buy down your rate permanently with discount points. Instead of lowering your rate temporarily, you pay a one-time cost at closing to secure a lower rate for the entire life of your loan.

One point typically costs 1% of your loan amount. Each discount point may lower the interest rate as much as 0.25%, depending on product and loan characteristics.

This results in a lower monthly payment from day one.

The key concept here is your break-even point, or how long it takes for your monthly savings to outweigh the upfront cost.

If buyers plan to stay in their home for several years, this strategy can lead to meaningful long-term savings.

### Two strategies, two different goals

Both options are being used in today's market, but they help homebuyers with different rate priorities. Temporary buydowns create lower payments now, while discount points create a lower cost over time.

There's no one-size-fits-all answer. It comes down to how long you plan to stay, how you want your payments structured, and what matters most to you right now.

So, while rates haven't

dropped, that hasn't stopped buyers from moving forward. They're adjusting how their loan is structured, not just focusing on the headline rate. Because, in today's market, it's not just about the rate you're offered, it's how you use it. And when you look at the full picture, you may have more flexibility than you think.

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

## "April showers? Plan a garden!"

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Don't let a rainy day get you down; plan a garden. Good vegetable garden designs maximize space and accessibility. Traditional planting in rows is probably the most familiar garden design and works quite well. Prepare your beds, follow the instructions on the seed packet for sowing, and you're good to go.

Take care to learn which vegetables are best grown away from each other and which ones make good companions, and rotate the vegetables from one season to the next to avoid nutrient depletion. Common companions are marigolds planted near tomatoes or kale, for example, which assist in pest control. You might include

"cutting" flowers in the vegetable garden too. Zinnias are a favorite in the Chester Community Garden, adding a profusion of fiesta-like colors that make easy arrangements. Sunflowers, another favorite, attract pollinators like bees and butterflies, and can provide protection from intense afternoon sun for shade-loving crops like lettuce, spinach, and basil.

The Three Sisters way of gardening is another method used in the Chester Community Garden. It consists of corn, pole beans, and squash. The corn is planted first, providing the "pole" for the beans to climb, and squash is planted around the outer edge. The large squash leaves shade the ground, help retain

moisture, and cut down on weed growth.

The square-foot gardening method, developed by Mel Bartholomew, is designed to maximize yields in minimal space while minimizing labor. It's a highly efficient, intensive planting method that divides 4-by-4-foot raised beds into 1-by-1-foot squares for optimized yields. The design spells out how many plants or seeds go in each square for best results. If planning multiple beds close to each other, it's good to create a path between the beds. Stone or salvaged brick are aesthetically pleasing options, or you can just use straw. Avoid using hay in paths, as it's loaded with weed seeds.

Vertical gardening utilizes A-frame trellises built with bamboo poles and string or sheep fencing to form a hoop arbor. Vining crops like pole beans, cucumbers, and squash grow upward, freeing ground space and improving air circulation. A trellis is great for connecting two plots; they not only create easy access to harvest vegetables as they ripen, but their height creates an eye-catching feature in the garden.

Raised beds allow for per-

fect soil control and easy access. Ideal designs often use 4-foot-wide beds built of wood. But container-type raised beds can be all shapes and sizes. You may have seen round strawberry beds created in tiers like a wedding cake. Raised wooden structures can allow for standing access, or can be U-shaped for wheelchair accessibility. Raised beds are not always planted inside of a structure; they can be created by just elevating rows of soil. Raised plots or rows are a good design option if your garden area is particularly wet.

Find a spot in your garden for a small, leafy fruit tree. Put out a couple of bistro chairs and a small table for when you need a lunch break or a visit with another gardener. Make a tepee out of small branches for pole beans, and the kiddos have a fun shady hiding place, too. The Chester Community Garden has a few plots available for anyone who lives or works in the community. They also have raised-bed options for standing or wheelchair access. For more information, visit [www.chestercommunitygreenthouseandgardens.org](http://www.chestercommunitygreenthouseandgardens.org), and happy garden planning.



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# obituaries

## Julie Abraham, 1958-2026

LUDLOW, Vt. – On the evening of March 29, the light was taken from Julie, after a brief but very brave battle with cancer.

Julie Anne was born March 2, 1958, at Edwards Air Force Base, to mother Jenny and Airman Gordon, who was on assignment to plan and survey the new runways that would not only carry military aircraft, but also space shuttles.

Two years later, Julie, her parents, and her new little brother packed up the family station wagon and drove from Southern California all the way back home to Essex, Vt. Julie attended Essex schools and graduated from the University of Vermont with an accounting degree.

She moved to Hartford, Conn., to work as a corporate auditor for one of the big firms, Arthur Young. She continued her financial career, culminating as chief financial officer for several public and private corporations. She also held positions on several boards of directors, contributing to the success of various companies, and was finance director for Vail's Northeast resorts. Ever a champion of education and knowledge, she was a founding board member of the Expeditionary School at Black River. She was presently serving as an owner/partner at Mary Davis Real Estate Company in Ludlow, Vt.

Julie met and fell in love with George Abraham. They were married on November 2, 1992, and later had two wonderful girls, Jamie Elizabeth and Casey Lynn. They built a beautiful home in Avon, Conn., where they made many special memories.

Summers were spent at Coral Sands Beach in Westbrook, Conn., and on the family boat, Yes Dear. When the girls were in middle school, the Abraham family moved full time to Westbrook and built another stunning home at Island View Beach. She always had a keen eye for fashion, art, and interior design.

Winters were spent skiing and racing at Okemo Mountain in Ludlow, Vt. The countless ski and beach families have been such an important part of Julie's life, and the special memories will sustain us all going forward.

Julie loved to travel and experience new places. Some of the highlights include family trips to France, Italy, England, Spain, New Zealand, Australia, and Greece; sailing through the British Virgin Islands; and skiing in Colorado, Utah, and California.

Julie and George relocated full time to Ludlow, Vt., and completed yet another spec-



Julia Abraham, 1958-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

tacular home renovation overlooking Okemo Mountain. Many friends and family enjoyed delicious meals, card games, and evenings around their gorgeous fire pit.

Always active, she was an avid runner who completed many road races. She enjoyed hiking the Vermont mountains and walking the beaches of Westbrook, Conn.

She was a mom to many, from soccer teams to skiing racing teammates. She could easily calculate ski race points in her head, and was famous for making garric bread at pasta dinners the night before a soccer game.

She loved to get her hands dirty designing and maintaining the beautiful landscaping at all of her homes. No weed was safe, and all her flowers and trees were lovingly cared for.

More important than all her professional achievements was the fact that she made her family and her friends the center of her life. She was generous, warm, and welcoming, funny, easy to talk to, supportive, and so loving. She was the sunshine that gave life to so many.

Words cannot express the deep sorrow of losing her light. Her young, strong, healthy, and beautiful spirit will live on in all the lives she touched, and she will be thought of always.

A celebration of life will be held at Water's Edge Resort in Westbrook, Conn., on Sunday, April 19, from 12-3 p.m., open to all. A celebration of life in Vermont will occur later in the summer, with details to follow.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Julie's honor to the Okemo Mountain School via the Julie Abraham Scholarship Fund, at [www.okemomountainsschool.org/donate](http://www.okemomountainsschool.org/donate). Alternatively, the Black River Good Neighbor Services (BRGNS) organization is a local charity serving the Okemo Valley. Checks can be made out to BRGNS, with the memo indicating "In honor of Julie Abraham," and mailed to Black River Good Neighbor Services, 37B Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149. For more information, please visit [www.brgn.org](http://www.brgn.org).

## Kelly A. Cohun, 1978-2026

LEESBURG, Va. – Kelly Ann Cohun passed away on March 4, 2026, in Leesburg, Va. She was born in Berlin, Vt., on July 16, 1978, to her parents, Christine and Jack Cohun, and grew up in Westminster, Vt.

Kelly served her country as a United States diplomat in the Foreign Service, bringing steadiness, intellect, and compassion to a demanding vocation. She approached every challenge with a balanced mindset – learning with passion, leading with intention, and acting with humanity. Through her work, she used her influence to make the world a better place and was always prepared for a thoughtful, well-informed discussion. Kelly most importantly loved her friends and family.

Kelly attended Westminster elementary schools, Northfield Mount Hermon boarding school, and went on to study at American University, Georgetown University, University of Maryland, and Duke University, where she deepened her knowledge and prepared for a life of service.

Kelly was known for her calm curiosity, her readiness to engage, and her capacity for kindness. She combined professional rigor with warmth and carried herself with a dignity that invited trust and respect. Small acts



Kelly Cohun, 1978-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

of generosity and a steady moral compass defined how she lived each day.

Kelly most importantly loved her friends and family. She is survived by her immediate family: Brent, Nora, and Parker; her parents, Christine and Jack; and her sister, Kristel, and family: Pat, Kurt, Krystah, and Klara. Many relatives and close friends will miss her deeply. Her presence – her laughter, her counsel, and her devotion – left a lasting imprint on everyone fortunate enough to know her.

A memorial service was held on March 23, 2026, at St. James Episcopal Church in Leesburg, Va. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Peterson Life with Cancer. Kelly will be greatly missed. Her life is a powerful example of service and love.

## William O. Murphy, 1948-2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – William Osgood Murphy was born on July 29, 1948, to William Patrick Murphy, of Bellows Falls, and Lois Lingley Osgood, of Saxtons River. Bill passed away on March 26, 2026, at home, with loved ones present, just as he wished, at the age of 78.

There will be calling hours at Fenton & Hennessy in Bellows Falls, Vt., on Friday, April 10, from 5-7 p.m. A Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Charles Church, on April 11, at 11 a.m. Burial will follow in St. Charles Cemetery. The full obituary can be found at [www.fentonandhennessy.com](http://www.fentonandhennessy.com).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Bill's



William Murphy, 1948-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

name to the Vermont Academy Baseball Program, 10 Long Walk, P.O. Box 500, Saxtons River, VT 05154.

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

## Allyn Johnson graveside service

NORTH SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A graveside service for Allyn Johnson, who passed away Jan. 16, 2026, will take place at Pine Grove Cemetery in North Springfield, on Friday, April 17, at 2 p.m.

## Cristina Wood, 1948-2026

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – There will be a celebration of the life of Tina Wood on Saturday, May 9, at 11 a.m., at the Weathersfield Center Meeting House.

## George Harling, 1943-2026

ALSTEAD, N.H. – George Harling, of Alstead, passed away on March 24, after a short illness.

He was born in Norwood, Mass., on Oct. 6, 1943, to parents George and Ruth (Wagner) Harling, and raised in New Hampshire, the eldest of six siblings: Jeffrey Harling, Merrilou Stanton, Jeralyn Barlow, Lynne D. Harling, and David W. Harling.

George met his wife, Marie (Hatch) in a country line dance at the Keene Singles Club. The moment he met Marie, he knew he found his lifelong mate. They were married in June 1981, and George became a father to Marie's two children, Linda Thompson and Basil Sar-

gent.

A man with numerous hobbies, his passion was making wooden children's toys, especially wooden vehicles. He also enjoyed bird-watching, doing jigsaw puzzles, word searches, and playing solitaire.

Additionally, he is survived by four grandchildren, Kim Lopes, Rupert Kenny Thompson, Lianne Thompson, and Aaron Thompson; and four great-grandchildren.

The family wishes to thank the staff at the Keene Center for their work with George over the last year, with a special acknowledgment to "Auntie Lu."

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

## Katherine A. Howard, 1921-2026

BURLINGTON, Vt. – Katherine Ann Howard, of Burlington, Vt., passed away in Burlington on March 21, 2026, at the age of 104. Kay was born on July 23, 1921, in Bellows Falls, Vt. Her parents were Edward J. Howard and Ellen (O'Keefe) Howard. She attended St. Charles School and graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1938. She then attended and graduated from Bay Path Business School.

After business school, Kay worked for St. Michael's College in Vermont, and for Vermont's Congressman Meyer in Washington, D.C. Kay then worked as a legal secretary for many years for several Burlington lawyers before going to work as an administrative assistant for the United States Postal Service in 1975. She retired from the postal service in 1989.

Kay lived an independent life, proud of her ability to do so. She traveled in Europe, was a lifelong Democrat, enjoyed skiing and golf, and loved her Irish heritage. She loved books, reading even into the last year of

her life. She was surrounded by a group of close friends, who enjoyed her wit, humor, and spirit, and kept her company in her later years.

Kay is survived by many nephews and nieces, great-nephews and -nieces, and great-great-nephews and -nieces. She was predeceased by her parents; her siblings Edward, James, John, Robert, Lawrence, and Daniel; and her sister and close friend Marie.

The family thanks the staff at Converse Home for their care of Kay, especially Diane.

There will be no calling hours. A Mass of Christian burial took place on Saturday, March 28, at 1 p.m., at St. Charles Church, Cherry Hill, in Bellows Falls, Vt. Burial followed at St. Charles Cemetery in Westminster.

Donations in her memory can be made to the Rockingham Public Library in Bellows Falls, Vt.

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

## James E. Pelkey, 1952-2025

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – James E. Pelkey, a resident of Springfield, passed away peacefully on Nov. 14, at Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, N.H. His sister was with him, and his brothers had been with him throughout the day. He had been most recently hospitalized the week prior to his passing, and had many family members stop in to visit him. For the past few months, Jim had been saying he "was ready" and wanted to go see family. We knew what he meant, but we were not ready for that to happen.

Jim was born in Springfield, on Jan. 15, 1952, to Edward and Linda (Pollard) Pelkey, and grew up in Proctorsville. As a youth, he attended the Methodist Church and was a member of the Boy Scouts.

Jim graduated from Green Mountain Union High School in Chester, and went on to work for General Electric in Rutland as a machinist, retiring in 2009 after 39 years.

Every August growing up meant the Pollard family reunion. Relatives arrived from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Virginia for the festivities. Jim loved his family, and was a very giving man. Over



James Pelkey, 1952-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

the years, he adopted many four-legged babies, and he doted on them. They were all spoiled!

Jim enjoyed hunting and fishing, making baked beans, and, in later years, woodburning. You could also find him off visiting with his close friends, and going for drives with a dog at his side.

Survivors include his siblings, Cindy, of Standish, Maine, Brian, of Proctorsville, and Alan, of Chester; and a cousin, Charles Pollard, who was always thought of as our older brother. Jim leaves behind his nieces and nephews, and a very large extended family.

Jim was predeceased by his parents, a nephew, and a niece. There will be a spring burial at Hillcrest Cemetery in Proctorsville.

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### OBITUARIES:

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

### CHURCH SERVICES:

We run Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at [www.VermontJournal.com](http://www.VermontJournal.com).

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# calendar

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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](http://www.thegrammarschool.org).

**APRIL 10 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls will hold their monthly Friday fundraiser dinner on April 10, from 5-6:30 p.m. The menu includes shepherd's pie, roasted carrots, green salad, dessert, and a beverage. There is a small suggested donation to benefit the local mission fund of First Baptist.

**APRIL 11 – BRATTLEBORO, Vt.** – The Tri Town Collectors Club announces its upcoming free hobby show giveaways featuring comic books, coins, paper money, vintage and modern sports

cards, stamps, postcards, and other collectibles, on Saturday, April 11, from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., at the Brattleboro Holiday Inn, 100 Chickering Drive. This daylong series of hobby activities is packed with fun for the whole family. There will be two new collectors with a large collection of sports cards and memorabilia. There is no admission charge. Anyone wishing to set up to sell their material may do so by contacting Joe Fuller at 802-379-2353 or [pepsijoseph@yahoo.com](mailto:pepsijoseph@yahoo.com).

**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.

**CHARLESTOWN, N.H.** – There will be a potluck dinner, raffles, and cake auction fundraiser to benefit the River Valley Animal Protection League on Saturday, April 11, at 5:30 p.m., at the Charlestown VFW, 365 Lovers Lane. Please join us and help support the animal shelter. Open to all. There will be door prizes and games. For more information, call 603-826-3061.

**APRIL 12 – BELMONT, Vt.** – Rainbow Riding Center, a therapeutic horsemanship program, is hosting a pancake breakfast fundraiser on

Sunday, April 12, from 8:30-11 a.m., at the Mount Holly Community Center in Belmont. Funds raised will help with the care of our program's therapeutic horses. There will also be wonderful raffle items and prizes. The cost is discounted for youth under 16. Please prepay for your ticket via Zeffy or PayPal. You may also pay at the door. Learn more and RSVP at [www.lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ezr2hzw](http://www.lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ezr2hzw).

**GRAFTON, Vt.** – The Grafton Cornet Band (GCB) welcomes all band players with any experience to our spring rehearsals. If you want to find out more about playing with the GCB, this is the best opportunity. The band keeps its 160-year-old name, but all band instruments are welcome. There are no auditions or dues, and no minimum commitment. We play mostly familiar community band music with some more challenging pieces included. Glen D'Eon directs. Rehearsals are 2-4 p.m., with a refreshment break, on Sundays, April 12, May 3, and May 17. The band hall is upstairs in the Old Fire House, 217 Main Street in Grafton, Vt. For more information, visit [www.graftonband.org](http://www.graftonband.org).

**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.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Bleeding is the leading cause of death in an accident. Come learn the simple skills you need in order to potentially save a life. Accidents can happen anywhere – at home, in the yard, on the road,

or just running errands. Please preregister for this important training on Monday, April 13, from 4-5:30 p.m., at the Black River Innovation Campus, on Park Street in Springfield, Vt. Space is limited to the first 10 people to register. Register at [www.bit.ly/3Qb9Phe](http://www.bit.ly/3Qb9Phe), or contact event host Kelly Stettner at [blackrivercleanup@gmail.com](mailto:blackrivercleanup@gmail.com) or 802-591-0101.

**APRIL 16 – WALPOLE, N.H.** – A step-by-step painting class led by Corin Bednar will be held on Thursday, April 16, from 6-8:30 p.m., at Alyson's Orchard, 57 Alyson's Lane, to benefit the River Valley Animal Protection League, of Charlestown, N.H. Food and drink will be available for purchase, and there will be door prizes, raffles, and a 50-50 raffle. To register, or for more information, message Bednar on Facebook at "Painting with Corin," or email her at [clashwheeler@baypath.edu](mailto:clashwheeler@baypath.edu).

**APRIL 17 – ACWORTH, N.H.** – The Female Charitable Society of Acworth will hold their biannual rummage sale on Friday, April 17, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., at 16 Town Hall Road in Acworth, N.H. Come see what you may find! The mission of the society includes helping to fill the needs both locally and globally.

**APRIL 18 – CHESTER, Vt.** – The Chester Rod & Gun Club, 4352 Vermont Route 11, will hold a beginner fly-fishing workshop for youth and adults on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. The workshop is free for youth under 16 and current club members. Space is limited to 30 participants, with priority given to those 16 and younger. Register by emailing [flybnt@vermontel.net](mailto:flybnt@vermontel.net). The course will include basic fly-fishing principles, an overview of equipment and knots, and a basic casting lesson. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served from 12:15-1:30 p.m.

## RECURRING EVENTS

**SUNDAYS – CHESTER, Vt.** – Six Loose Ladies hosts Odd Bobbins Spinners the second Sunday of each month from

1-4 p.m. at their location on the Common in Chester.

**MONDAYS – PROCTORSVILLE, Vt.** – On Mondays at 6:15 p.m., join Mikayla for a yoga class. Email [mikayla@mikaylasmantra.net](mailto:mikayla@mikaylasmantra.net) to register. Visit [www.dgbodyworks.com](http://www.dgbodyworks.com) for more information. Private classes are available.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – The Cozy Stitches pop-in sewing class is held on Mondays, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street. Start your week with a cozy morning of sewing, chatting, and sharing ideas. Bring your own hand-sewing, knitting, crocheting, or mending projects, and enjoy the company of others who love to create.

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – The Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, hosts the Black River Grief Support Group on the second Monday of every month, from 1-2 p.m. This is a safe space for individuals to share their experiences, find comfort, and learn coping strategies after a loss. Offered by Black River Good Neighbor Services. For more information, call 802-228-3663.

**TUESDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Sew What is held Tuesday afternoons, from 2-4 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street. Spend your Tuesday afternoon working on sewing projects in a relaxed and welcoming space. Bring your own supplies and enjoy time to sew, learn, and have fun with others. Sewing machines are provided, or you can bring your own if you prefer. Both groups are free to attend and open to all skill levels. For more information, visit [www.springfieldtownlibrary.org](http://www.springfieldtownlibrary.org), or call the library at 802-885-3108.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Tai Chi Vermont certified teacher Jo Bregnard will teach a new tai chi form, bafa wubu, online and in person, Tuesdays, from April 7-May 26, from 10-11 a.m., at the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road. 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](http://studio.jobregnard.com/product/92447).

**WEDNESDAYS – CLAREMONT, N.H.** – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds bingo every Wednesday afternoon. You must be at least 55 years old, and purchase your cards by 12:45 p.m. Games begin at 1 p.m. Concessions are available until the game begins. We average around 30-40 seniors who love to attend, visit with their friends, and try to win a little extra money.

**THURSDAYS – LUDLOW, Vt.** – The Black River Memory Cafe is held on the second Thursday of each month, at the United Church of Ludlow, 48 Pleasant Street, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The memory cafe is free to attend, snacks included, and offers a safe and comfortable space where caregivers and their loved ones living with dementia or Alzheimer's can socialize, listen to music, play games, and enjoy other appropriate activities. This is a program of Black River Good Neighbor Services. For more information, contact Vicki at 802-376-3388, or Krey at 802-228-3663.

**CLAREMONT, N.H.** – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds computer clinics on the third Thursday of every month, from 1-3 p.m. Bring your computer or laptop in if you need help with it. This is for seniors only. Emily and Luke will help you troubleshoot any problems you are having, or help you to better understand your computer. You are responsible if any parts need to be purchased, but that is not usually the case. They can also help you with your cell phone, especially if it is an Android. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

**FRIDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – On Fridays from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., John Bohannon will teach tai chi and qi gong at the Rockingham Library in Bellows Falls, Vt. No special equipment or clothing is required.

**CLAREMONT, N.H.** – If you are interested in playing or learning the game of mahjong, please come to the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Fridays, at 1 p.m. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

**CLAREMONT, N.H.** – Come show off your masterpieces at the Claremont Senior Center Knitters Group, on Fridays, from 1-3 p.m., at 5 Acer Heights. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

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

**DAILY – REGION** – If you want to drink that's your business, but if you want to stop, that's ours. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at [www.aavt.org](http://www.aavt.org) or call your local hotline at 802-802-2288 and join a meeting. You are not alone.

### Town of Rockingham

#### Bellows Falls Downtown Historic District NRHP Nomination Invitation to Bid

The Town of Rockingham, Vermont, acting through its Historic Preservation Commission, invites qualified historic preservation consultants to submit proposals for the preparation of a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination for the Bellows Falls Downtown Historic District.

The project includes historic research, field survey, evaluation of contributing resources, boundary justification, and preparation of a complete NRHP nomination that may include both a boundary increase and amendment to the existing district.

Proposals must be submitted in PDF format no later than Monday, May 18, 2026 at 5:00 PM EST. Consultant selection is anticipated on May 25, 2026, with a project start date of July 1, 2026.

This project is funded in part through a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant and represents an important step in advancing preservation planning and stewardship of Bellows Falls' historic resources.

Proposals shall be submitted electronically to [clg@rockbf.org](mailto:clg@rockbf.org). For additional information, contact the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission at (802) 463-3964 ext. 1112.

Full RFP bid package can be found at <https://www.rockinghamvt.org/public-notice>

### Town of Londonderry South Village Community Wastewater System – Segment 1

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the **South Village Community Wastewater System – Segment 1, Contract 2026-1** will be received by the **Town of Londonderry**, at the office of the **Town Administrator**, until **2:00 PM** local time on **May 5, 2026** at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read in the **Town Office, Selectboard Meeting Room, located at 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT.** The Project consists of the construction of a drip dispersal mound system with appurtenant equipment and tankage, wastewater pretreatment system, equipment building, approximately 8,375 lf of 3-inch and 330 lf of 2-inch HDPE low pressure sewer main, 17 sewer services with new septic tank effluent pump systems, and appurtenant work.

Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a unit price basis as indicated in the Bid Form.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: **Copy World LLC., 5 Airport Road, Colonial Plaza- Unit 21, West Lebanon, NH 03784; Contact: 603-790-8357, [bill@copyworldllc.com](mailto:bill@copyworldllc.com).** Prospective Bidders may obtain the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of **8:00 AM and 5:00 PM**. Printed Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office at a cost of **\$195** per set, shipping is included. The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the prospective Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Upon request, Bidding Documents in PDF format will be provided to prospective Bidders who have purchased printed Bid Document. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at the office of the **Town Clerk** on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of **8:30 AM and 4:00 PM**; and the office of the Engineer, **Dufresne Group, 56 Main Street, Suite 200, Springfield, VT**, on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of **8:00 AM and 4:00 PM (by appointment)**.

A pre-bid conference will be held at **9:00 AM** local time on **April 15, 2026** at the **Town Office, located at 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT.** Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.

This project is funded in part through the Vermont Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the American Rescue Plan Act. Consequently, the following provisions apply to this WORK (more detail for each of these provisions can be found in Instruction to Bidders):

1. Bid security in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders
2. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) requirements
3. Performance BOND and Payment BOND each in the amount of 100% of the contract price
4. American Iron and Steel (AIS) provisions of P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act
5. Federal Wage Rates as determined under the Davis-Bacon Act
6. Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) requirements under Title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("IIJA"), Pub. L. 117-58.

Owner: **Town of Londonderry**

By: **Aileen Tulloch**

Title: **Town Administrator**

Date: **March 31, 2026**

### Londonderry Planning Commission Bylaw Hearing has been POSTPONED UNTIL MONDAY APRIL 27, 2026

The Londonderry Planning Commission will meet on Monday April 27, 2026, at the Londonderry Town Offices to solicit comments from the public on a proposed zoning bylaw amendment and a new zoning map. This amendment will change the zoning regulations for the entire town of Londonderry. It is designed to:

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

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

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

# LEGAL NOTICES

# classifieds

## 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.

ing Springfield, Vt. area. Call/text 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

## CLEANING

CHESTER/SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Are you interested in getting your house cleaned? I have excellent references, trustworthy, and dependable. I've been doing this for 30+ years. Please give me a call 802-591-0769.

## FOR SALE

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.

## OTHER

CENTRAL VERMONT - A & J's Tree Service - No job too big or too small. Free Estimates & Fully Insured. "Dangerous Trees are our Specialty." 802-376-7000.

Like us on Facebook! @VermontJournal

### 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

## 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. Serv-

**SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
301 SOUTH STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT 05156  
WWW.SSDVT.ORG

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UPDATED SUBSTITUTE PAY STRUCTURE!!

**Warning Ludlow Democratic Committee Caucus**

Ludlow Expeditionary School  
43 Main Street  
Ludlow, Vermont 05149

April 15, 2026  
5:30 PM

CLASSIFIED LISTING

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DIRECTORY LISTING

Start at \$150 for 13 weeks, for approximately a 20-word listing. Starting at \$250 for 26 weeks or \$400 for 52 weeks.

Email ads@vermontjournal.com with your listing today

**NOTICE TO SPRINGFIELD VOTERS**

Absentee Ballots for the Springfield Town School District Meeting being held Tuesday, May 5, 2026, are available at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, and you didn't already make a request for "all local elections" with your pre-Town Meeting absentee ballot request, please contact the Town Clerk's Office as soon as possible in person, in writing, by phone or by email. If you make your absentee request in person, you can choose to vote your ballot and return it before leaving the Town Clerk's Office. If you return your ballots by mail, allow extra time for postal delivery. An Absentee Request Form can be found on the town's website <https://springfieldvt.gov> or you may request your ballots online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. The deadline for requesting absentee ballots is Monday, May 4, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. You may register to vote on Election Day at the polls and then proceed to vote on that day. You may also register to vote any time at the Town Clerk's office or online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. Prior to May 5, 2026, absentee ballots may be returned in-person, through regular mail and after hours through mail slots located in town hall entrances. All voted absentee ballots must be received at the polls by the Town Clerk before the close of polls at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. The polls are located at Riverside Middle School in the gymnasium and will open on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk's Office will not be open on May 5, 2026. Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC - 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156 (802) 885-2104 [tosclerk@vermontel.net](mailto:tosclerk@vermontel.net)

**Town of Westminster**  
P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158  
Tel. 802-722-4524 Fax 802-722-9816

**DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB)**  
**WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL**  
*Westminster, Vermont*

**Legal Notice**

The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:00 pm on **Monday, May 4, 2026** to consider the following:

**Application # 26-24**

Application #26-24 Richard Crocker (Owner) property located at 4004 Westminster West Rd. The Applicant is requesting an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) with a Variance in the Westminster West Village District. This Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 312 Waivers for Dimensional Requirements; Section 313 Variances; Section 445 Westminster West Village District; & Article V General Regulations, Section 520-523 Nonconforming Uses & Noncomplying Structures** of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Participation in the proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeals.

The application is available for review in the Westminster Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5 Westminster, Vermont 05158, Monday - Thursday from 7:30 am - 4:30 pm.

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

The legal voters of the Town of Springfield School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at Riverside Middle School Gymnasium in said Town on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. (8:00 o'clock in the forenoon) until 7:00 p.m. to vote by Australian ballot for the following article:

- ARTICLE 1: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the School Board to spend FORTY-ONE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED TWELVE and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$ 41,666,512.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$15,008 per pupil. This projected spending per pupil is 7.96% higher than spending for the current year.

A public informational hearing will be held in-person, and will be accessible remotely by electronic means, at the Springfield High School on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the proposed school budget as presented in Article 1.

**IN-PERSON PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING WILL BE ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS:**

**April 30, 2026**

- GOOGLE MEET ID LINK: [meet.google.com/xr-ogsm-ben](https://meet.google.com/xr-ogsm-ben)
- By telephone: Dial (US) 1 314-300-6876 and when prompted enter the PIN 195 567 298#
- Meeting link can also be accessed on the home page of the School District Website: [ssdvt.org](https://www.ssdvt.org/)
- Watch live on SAPA TV or stream it from <https://www.sapatv.org/>

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2026 at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont.

Troy Palmer

Stephen Karaffa

Denise Hunter

Jessica Austin

Steven Geller

Board of School Directors - Springfield Town School District

Notice posted on the 3 day of April, 2026

Attest:   
Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC

M&T Bank Mail  
North Springfield Post Office  
Springfield Municipal Office  
Springfield Town Library  
Springfield Town Website: <http://springfieldvt.gov/>  
Springfield School District Website: <https://www.ssdvt.org/>

**STATE OF VERMONT**

**SUPERIOR COURT**  
Windsor  Unit

**PROBATE DIVISION**  
Docket No.: 26-PR-01079

In re ESTATE of: Dennis King

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To the Creditors of: Dennis King  
Decedent

late of Springfield  
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: 4/1/2026 Signature of Fiduciary

<small>Executor/Administrator</small>		<small>Mailing Address</small>	
Ronald W. King		c/o Parker & Ankuda, PO Box 519	
<small>Phone Number</small>	<small>Email</small>	<small>City, State, Zip</small>	
802-885-2582	parkerankuda@vermontel.net	Springfield, VT 05156	

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal

Publication Date: April 8, 2026

Name of Probate Court: Windsor Unit Probate Division  
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green  
Wadstock, VT 05091

**STATE OF VERMONT**

**SUPERIOR COURT**  
Windsor  Unit

**PROBATE DIVISION**  
Docket No.: 26-PR-01164

In re ESTATE of: Wayne Davis

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To the Creditors of: Wayne Davis  
Decedent

late of Springfield  
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: April 1, 2026 Signature of Fiduciary

<small>Executor/Administrator</small>		<small>Mailing Address</small>	
Jeremy K. Davis		c/o Parker & Ankuda, PO Box 519	
<small>Phone Number</small>	<small>Email</small>	<small>City, State, Zip</small>	
802-885-2582	parkerankuda@vermontel.net	Springfield, VT 05156	

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal

Publication Date: April 8, 2026

Name of Probate Court: Windsor Unit Probate Division  
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green  
Wadstock, VT 05091

# opinion

Dear Editor,

In the tumultuous year of 1848, during the Young Irish Disorders, nine men were captured, tried, and convicted of treason against Her Majesty: John Mitchell, Morris Lyene, Pat Donohue, Thomas McGee, Charles Duffy, Thomas Meagher, Richard O’Gorman, Terrence McManus, and Michael Ireland.

Before sentencing, the judge invited any of the men to speak. Meagher, representing the group, remarked, “My Lord, this is our first offense, but not our last. If you show us leniency this time, we promise, as gentlemen, to do better next time. And surely, we won’t get caught again.” The judge, outraged, sentenced them to be hanged, drawn, and quartered. However, worldwide protests compelled Queen Victoria to commute their sentences, leading to their banishment to Australia.

In 1874, Queen Victoria was surprised to find that the new prime minister of Australia, Sir Charles Duffy,

was one of the men she had exiled 25 years earlier. Curious about the others, she received this report: Meagher, governor of Montana; McManus, brigadier general, U.S. Army; Donohue, brigadier general, U.S. Army; O’Gorman, governor of Newfoundland; Lyene, attorney general of Australia, later succeeded by Ireland; McGee, member of Parliament and president of council, Montreal, Canada; Mitchell, New York politician and father of John P. Mitchell, who was mayor of New York at the start of World War I.

Clearly, these men seized their opportunities.

April is Global Volunteer Month, a time to acknowledge the significant impact volunteers have on their communities, as well as the profound benefits volunteering brings to those who offer their time.

As many face feelings of loneliness, volunteering provides a rare chance for genuine connection. Research consistently shows

that it reduces stress and depression, fosters stronger social ties, and enhances one’s sense of purpose. In essence, volunteering benefits both the volunteer and those he or she assists.

As a member of the Rotary Club of Springfield, Vt., I can personally vouch for these benefits. Organizations like Rotary offer structured, ongoing opportunities to serve alongside others, turning good intentions into meaningful action. Along the way, volunteers forge friendships, develop leadership skills, and enjoy helping others.

The advantages extend to individuals at all life stages. For young professionals, it broadens networks and hones skills; for retirees, it provides routine and a sense of purpose; and for anyone feeling isolated, it offers a reason to engage and feel needed.

Just like the nine Irishmen from more than a century ago, you have the opportunity to make a difference by getting involved with Rotary. To learn more, visit [www.springfield-vtrotary.org](http://www.springfield-vtrotary.org).

Sincerely,  
Martin Cohn, Secretary  
Rotary Club of Springfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Thank you, voters of Ludlow! On March 24, residents of the town and village cast their ballots in favor of the town and village merger. More than 80% of town voters who voted on March 24 said yes, and 85% of those who voted on the village side said yes. The merger is a monumental step in the right direction and will undoubtedly contribute to the success of Ludlow’s future.

For those who still question the benefits of a merger, please reach out to Ludlow Town Hall, and ask to speak with me or set up an appointment; I am happy to discuss. Let’s keep moving forward!

Sincerely,  
Penny K. Wu  
Ludlow Town Manager

Dear Editor,

What do we lose if Weathersfield loses another budget vote for our K-8 school and our students?

We urge voters to come out on Tuesday, April 14, to vote a resounding “yes” in favor of your school. Sadly, only 30% of our registered voters, a significant minority, voted during the March 3 election. Good schools grow good towns.

The school board and the principal have worked diligently since the failed vote to identify areas in which the board has any authority to make cuts. Much of our budget, including teacher salaries and health care, as well as special education costs, are determined by the State of Vermont or are under contract.

We send out our high school students, which is of benefit to both the town and to our students. However, the tuition is another expense beyond our control.

If the budget does not pass this time, half the teaching staff could receive pink slips. We are likely to lose valuable teachers.

The voters should take pride in the fact that our

Weathersfield School is one of only 19 public schools, of approximately 300 in the state, that are “meeting and are excelling” the standards of the Vermont State Report Card published in February. Good teachers grow good students.

We the undersigned, the school board, and town officials are aware of the financial challenges faced by many in our community. We all share the challenges of rising prices for food, fuel, and other necessities, as well as rising health and insurance costs.

If you are concerned about affording your property taxes this coming year, please, even if you do not file an income tax return, do complete an application for the Vermont Homestead Exemption, available at the town hall, by April 15.

This yearly property tax exemption is available to any Vermont homeowner whose household income is below \$115,000, and who has lived in Vermont for more than a year. It can provide a significant reduction in your tax bill.

If you are older or of a low

income and in need of help completing that form, you may be able to get free assistance with that form by calling 802-875-2418 for an appointment on a Tuesday at the Proctor Library in Ascutney. Appointments are in demand!

Please come out and vote to support the Weathersfield School on Tuesday, April 14. You can also vote early at the town office or call the town clerk at 802-674-2626 to receive an absentee ballot.

This is Vermont. Imagine our school as a future orchard in which you are planting fruit trees you may never enjoy yourself – a selfless, enduring gift. Good students grow good communities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Patti Arrison  
Paul Austin  
Maureen Bogosian  
Julie Lannen  
Sophia Lashchyk-Tytla  
Emmet McGowan  
Naomi Morse  
Alison Roth  
Alisa Scipio  
Andrew Tytla  
Susan DeWitt Wilder

## 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.

Dear Editor,

I would like to address the unacceptable tax situation that the State Legislature is feeling entitled to levy on the good citizens of Vermont, specifically the education tax and the multi-million dollar bond for the Woodstock Union High School.

Property taxes in Vermont have risen sharply over the past several years. Vermont ranks fifth nationwide in average property tax rate, at 1.417%.

Many families are already facing affordability challenges as inflation remains elevated, health-care costs continue to rise year after year, and wage growth in Vermont has not kept pace.

According to the Vermont Futures Project, which tracks the state against national benchmarks, Vermont continues to struggle with population decline and slow economic growth, and, as of January 2026, ranks last in the nation for economic momentum.

House lawmakers advanced a bill last week tapping nearly \$75 million in one-time surplus funds to hold next year’s average increase to around 7%. The underlying math hasn’t changed: Education costs are growing about twice as fast as the revenues that support them. Vermont’s per-pupil costs

remain among the highest in the nation. Enrollment continues to fall, and an aging population means a shrinking tax base.

Vermont is losing population. For three years running, Vermont has topped the list of all states in percentage loss of population. New U.S. Census estimates show the state had the largest percentage decline in the country last year. Vermont Public reports the loss of more than 1,800 residents, driven by an aging population and continued out-migration. For the second year in a row, more people left the state than moved in. By 2030, roughly one in three Vermonters

will be over 65. That means fewer workers, fewer students, and higher health-care costs, all putting pressure on the tax base. At the same time, decades of constrained development have left Vermont with one of the oldest housing stocks in the nation, worsening affordability just as the state needs younger workers and families to move in.

Vermont is amongst the lowest in the country in housing affordability and has some of the highest tax rates in the country. There are only approximately 400 students at the current Woodstock Union High School, and enrollment will continue to fall

throughout the next few years. Teachers cannot afford to move here. Young families will not relocate to the area because of the tax burden imposed on its citizens by an ignorant legislative body.

The local school board has misrepresented the Woodstock Union High School project to the public by ignoring the facts. There is no need to do a complete renovation.

The elderly, middle class, and those at poverty level are already suffering, and this bond will cripple the next generation with debt that will destroy lives.

People in the age group from 20-40 are leaving Ver-

mont because there are no jobs, no housing, and no hope for the future to make a decent living.

The \$111 million requested to build a new school is beyond comprehension in this state of financial instability. What cost \$88 million two years ago is now up to \$111 million, and yet the board failed to take into consideration the state of the world economy when proposing these numbers.

Stop the madness of spending and driving the residents of Vermont into poverty.

Sincerely,  
Rick Martin  
Plymouth, Vt.

**\$175 for 13 Weeks • \$275 for 26 Weeks • \$425 for 52 Weeks**  
Prices are based on a 20 word listing. An additional 50 cents for each word thereafter.

## Art Crafts Gifts

### CREATE TOGETHER AT FLETCHER FARM

Community Art Center offering Workshops, Equipped Studios, Camps, and More

611 Rt.103S, Ludlow, VT 802-228-8770  
[www.CreateTogetherVT.org](http://www.CreateTogetherVT.org)  
(12/9/26 - 5/2)

### GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Art, Crafts, Gifts, Exhibits & Workshops  
68 Main St., Springfield VT 802-885-7111 [galleryvault.org](http://galleryvault.org)

OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5

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Workshops [galleryvault.org/workshops](http://galleryvault.org/workshops)  
*Spectacular Flowers in Watercolor* w/Rob O’Brien 4/11 9:30-4  
*Turkish Map Fold Book* with Deborah Stuart 4/18 11:30-1:30  
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# arts & entertainment

## Pianist David Feurzeig to play Weathersfield

**WEATHERSFIELD, Vt.** – Renowned pianist David Feurzeig will perform his 97th Vermont concert on Saturday, April 18, at 3 p.m., in Weathersfield, Vt., at the Perkinsville Community Church, 35 Church Street, with local performer Naomi Morse (fiddle and voice), continuing Feurzeig’s exciting tour – a free show in all

of Vermont’s 252 towns to spread the joy of music and promote environmentally sustainable performance. In May of 2022, he embarked on his “Play Every Town” project: 252 free concerts in each of Vermont’s 252 towns to combat climate change through the power of community and music. With this project, Feurzeig

will become the first musician to perform in every Vermont municipality. He will travel in his solar-charged electric vehicle throughout the state, offering free concerts to bring attention to the interrelated issues of climate and community, while bringing the joy of music to his audiences.

## Klezmer all-star evening at Next Stage

**PUTNEY, Vt.** – Next Stage Arts is thrilled to present an extraordinary evening of klezmer and Yiddish music featuring Jake Shulman-Ment and Abigale Reisman: Two Strings, and Ira Temple & Michael Winograd, on Friday, April 17. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., with the show beginning at 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets are available discounted at [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org).

This double bill brings together two of the most exciting ensembles in contemporary klezmer and Yiddish music. Each draws on a distinct branch of the klezmer tradition, one rooted in old-world European string band aesthetics, the other inspired by the clarinet-led sound of mid-20th-century New York. Together, they bridge eras of Ashkenazic musical history, offering a fresh and original soundtrack of the diaspora.

Violinists Jake Shulman-

Ment and Abigale Reisman are celebrated as two of the most virtuosic klezmer musicians working today. Their collaboration, Two Strings, is a string band project that blends breathtaking technique, deep grounding in Yiddish and Eastern European traditions, and a fearless spirit of improvisation. With longtime collaborators Pete Rushefsky on tsimbl and Raffi Boden on cello, Two Strings weaves original compositions, newly set early-20th-century radical Yiddish poetry, and rediscovered works from forgotten manuscripts into music that is simultaneously haunting, ecstatic, and timeless.

Ira Temple and Michael Winograd are central figures in New York City’s vibrant klezmer scene. Accordionist and songwriter Temple is the founder of the radical Yiddish project Tsi-bele and a longtime director of the Aftselakhis Spectacle

Committee Purimshpil. His upcoming solo album, “Strange Tongue – Mistame-Loshn,” reimagines traditional Yiddish songs through queer and trans-inflected English-language expansions, bringing Yiddish culture alive in contemporary Brooklyn.

Clarinetist Winograd has performed with leading figures in Jewish music, including Itzhak Perlman, Frank London, and the Klezmatiks, and brings klezmer to global audiences with his band The Honorable Metnshn. His upcoming release, “TANZ! Live in New York City,” recreates the iconic 1956 klezmer album “TANZ!,” celebrating the clarinet-led sound of midcentury klezmer masters.

This concert is presented with the generous support of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

## “MORE” at Artistree’s The Grange Theatre

**S. POMFRET, Vt.** – Artistree is thrilled to announce that playwright Becca Schlossberg, director Hondo Weiss-Richmond, and actor Jordan Elliot (previously seen at The Grange Theatre in “Sylvia”) will participate in a two-week artist residency at The Grange Theatre to develop their new play, “MORE.” Two public presentations of the work-in-progress will take place on Friday, April 17, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, April 19, at 3 p.m., at The Grange Theatre, 65 Stage Road, South Pomfret, Vt. Admission is pay-what-you-wish. To reserve your seat, or for more information, visit [www.artistreevt.org](http://www.artistreevt.org).

An audience is vital not only on a play’s opening night, but also during its development. Be a part of the first audience to experience “MORE” and help shape the play as it continues its journey toward its world premiere. This workshop presentation, somewhere between a play reading and a performance, will give you an inside look at how a script begins to take on new life once a playwright, director, and actor spend time together in the rehearsal room.

In “MORE,” no sooner than the day he brings his newborn home from the hospital, Ben, who is

estranged from his own father, starts to hear voices – voices from his Jewish ancestors, telling him he must reconnect with his faith or be damned. But what does it take to become a Jew in today’s complicated world? And how much of himself can he give before he falls apart? “MORE” is a part-comedic, part-dramatic, moving exploration of how one modern man navigates the lines between family and religion, and freedom and faith.

Weiss-Richmond, Elliot, and Schlossberg will also lead the class “No Accidents,” centered on the essay “Visit to a Small Planet”

by Elinor Fuchs. Participants will unlock a powerful new way to read and think about plays. Through guided conversation, they will apply the essay to excerpts from such well-loved works as “Arcadia,” “Noises Off,” “Urinetown,” and “Dybbuk Bat Mitzvah” by Schlossberg, which just received an industry reading at the Broadway/Off-Broadway company Manhattan Theatre Club. The class will meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings, April 6-15. To register and receive more information, visit [www.artistreevt.org](http://www.artistreevt.org).

## Bidi Dworkin featuring Peter Eldridge at Stage 33

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Singer and composer Bidi Dworkin draws from a deep well of influences: the jazz-folk lineage of her childhood, the Middle Eastern melodies of her ancestry, the fluidity of Vedic meditative traditions – a fusion enriched by intuitive language and a dreamy interior landscape. She honed her chops the old-fashioned way: gigging in New York City, Montreal, and New England.

Her long-gestating debut album, “Beautiful

Souvenirs,” was arranged by legendary jazz vocalist Jay Clayton, and she’s poised to enter the recording studio for a follow-up of original songs in collaboration with two-time Grammy-winning pianist-composer Peter Eldridge, who has described the new work as “equal amounts of light and dark, whimsy and reflection, each song evolving into what’s starting to feel like a set of jazz art songs.”

She will share her new compositions in a 3 p.m. matinee at Stage 33 Live in Bellows Falls, Vt., on

Saturday, April 18, along with Grammy winner Peter Eldridge on piano, Jamie MacDonald on bass, Matt Steckler on horns, Claire Arenius on drums, plus a special surprise guest.

Tickets can be purchased in advance through [www.stage33live.com](http://www.stage33live.com), or at the door as available. Advance tickets guarantee entry. Advance ticket sales will automatically close once 40 tickets are sold, or at midnight the day before the show if it hasn’t sold out. More information can be found at the website above.

## “Boho Bunnies” silk scarf show at Gallery at the Vault

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Hop into Spring with this whimsical “Boho Bunnies” collection of hand-painted silk scarves from guest artist Terri Flowers at Gallery at the Vault, now through May 14.

Each scarf features a quirky bunny against a flamboyant background of flowers or fruit. Every scarf is an original work

of art. Flowers also has created ever-so-cute stuffed bunnies to be enjoyed by all ages.

Flowers brings this latest selection of original hand-painted designs from her studio in Lincolnshire, England. Her work is on display in galleries around the U.K., and exclusively available at Vault. They are a fabulous way to add the new season’s

colors to your wardrobe.

Gallery at the Vault is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, come into the gallery, call 802-885-7111, email [galleryvault@vermontel.net](mailto:galleryvault@vermontel.net), or visit [www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org) or Facebook/Instagram. Gallery at the Vault is accessible.

## “Music Through a Prism”

**BRATTLEBORO, Vt.** – Step into a world of color, light, and sound with the Windham Philharmonic’s spring concerts, “Music Through a Prism,” on Saturday, April 11, and Monday, April 13. This program refracts baroque, romantic, and modern music through a vivid kaleidoscope of textures and moods.

The concert includes Bach’s “Concerto for Oboe and Violin in C minor,” featuring oboist Aaron Lakota and concertmaster Michelle Liechti, a sparkling dialogue of drive and elevated expression. Maria Gabriella Mendez will enchant us all with the smiling sadness of Dvořák’s “Violin Romance.”

Combining lush harmonies with a modernist sparkle, Glazunov’s “Saxophone Concerto of 1934” showcases alto saxophone

soloist Nick Pelton. The program closes with Dvořák’s “Jarní (Spring),” a brief, jubilant celebration of renewal and blossoming energy for orchestra and our guest soloists.

Visual art and music meet in Pedro Pereira’s cubist-inspired poster, expertly suggesting the playful, multifaceted musical journey awaiting the audience.

“Music Through a Prism” is a concert of vibrant orchestral sound and inventive

programming, played by soloists celebrated and beloved by local audiences.

The Saturday, April 11 performance will be held at 7 p.m., at St. Mary’s in the Mountains Church, 13 East Main Street in Wilmington, Vt.

The Monday, April 13 performance will be held at 7 p.m., at the Latchis Theatre, 50 Main Street in Brattleboro.

Tickets are by donation at the door; all are welcome.



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# community news

## Cone Automatic Machine Company scholarships

ASCUTNEY, Vt. – The Cone Automatic Machine Company Charitable Foundation scholarship program will continue for the coming school year 2026-2027. This scholarship is available to the children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren of former employees

of Cone Blanchard Machine Company having a minimum of five years of continuous service with the company, and who meet the eligibility requirements. Eligibility requirements, terms of award payments, and applications may be obtained by writing to

Cone Automatic Machine Company Charitable Foundation, P.O. Box 167, Ascutney, VT 05030.

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than May 13. Scholarship awards will be announced in June.

## Chair yoga at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – April's monthly chair-yoga class at the Springfield Town Library, on Friday, April 17, at 10 a.m., will mark the arrival of spring with side-body stretching and nods to leafing-out trees. Join in person at 43 Main Street in Springfield, Vt., or online, to learn accessible movements you can do right from your seat.

Chair yoga meets the third Friday of every month, for 60 minutes. With attention to brain boosting and nervous system nourishment, each month's practice will leave you feeling mobile yet grounded. This month, learn about the wood element through energetic lengthening, as well as relaxing, quiet postures.

Classes are led by Jo Bregnard, a 500-hour certified yoga teacher with

additional certifications in tai chi, acupressure, meditation, and more. She leads group and private sessions through her virtual studio, where she enjoys weaving lessons learned from the natural world into practice time.

Simply walk into the library and join live, in person, for free; there's no need to preregister for this option.

Springfield Town Library cardholders can contact the library at 802-885-3108 or stlib@vermontel.net to receive a coupon code for free online access. Those without a library card can

visit [studio.jobregnard.com/product/88980](http://studio.jobregnard.com/product/88980) for complete details on additional pricing options and to sign up for online access. Either way, you'll get access to seven chair-yoga videos recorded at the Springfield Town Library as soon as you register.

If you need further information, email [jo@jobregnard.com](mailto:jo@jobregnard.com).



Jo Bregnard leads a chair yoga session. PHOTO PROVIDED

## Local builders earn High Performance Builder certification

REGION – On March 12, six area carpenters completed training to earn the Sustainable Energy Outreach Network's (SEON) Level I High Performance Builder certification. The newly certified builders represent three Windham County companies, all members of SEON: Black Mountain Builders, Mathes Hulme Builders, and Apple Tree Builders.

The following organizations provided resources for the class: Windham Regional Career Center, WW Building Supply, Benjamin Obdyke, 475 High Performance Building Supply, TimberHP, and Sierra Pacific Windows.

To achieve certification, participants successfully completed two courses: "Basics of High Performance Building" and, most recently, the hands-on course "Water, Air, and Thermal Continuous Control Layers." With this most recent cohort, a total of 33 carpenters and builders have now earned SEON's Level I certification.

The knowledge and



Builders earn High Performance Builder certification. PHOTO PROVIDED

skills gained through these courses are foundational for addressing building challenges in Vermont's cold and wet climate. Most building failures can be traced to a lack of understanding or improper application of building science principles. As instructors often note, "It's the attention to detail and level of precision that guides the team's building process and distinguishes a durable, energy-efficient home."

For homeowners planning to build or renovate, selecting a builder with a

trained workforce is critical. The knowledge and skills of building science embedded in these courses are essential to achieve the level of efficiency and comfort homeowners deserve.

The Sustainable Energy Outreach Network (SEON) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit training organization that delivers in-person courses on building science and leadership development throughout Vermont. To learn more and view the 2026 training schedule, visit [www.buildingscience.org](http://www.buildingscience.org).

## CCCA hosts presentation on strategic wood addition to rivers

CAVENDISH, Vt. – On March 25, the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association (CCCA), with the support of the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, hosted a presentation on strategic wood addition with Jud Kratzer, a fisheries biologist with Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

Strategic wood addition addresses the issues that can arise when a stream has a deficiency of woody material habitat. This wood addition is performed in a stream where it is likely to stay and have a lasting, beneficial impact. The felled trees added to the stream are selected and positioned to maximize benefit and stability.

Kratzer explained that large woody material has been a natural and important component of stream habitats in the Northeastern United States. Mature forests naturally contribute this material when trees fall into streams. "Two of the best things we can do for streams is to protect and restore streamside forests, and to leave downed trees where they lie." Strategic wood addition is a method for helping to restore streams where the forests



Healthy streams support fish habitat, among other benefits. PHOTO BY TIM O'DONOGUE

have declined along their banks.

"In this age of increasing flood frequency and severity, restoring large wood loading to upland streams can benefit not only the aquatic organisms in the stream, but also humans living downstream. Large wood can improve floodplain connection in upstream, undeveloped areas, thereby potentially reduce flood impacts downstream through flood flow storage and sediment retention. It can also help to reduce nutrient loading downstream," according to the Strategic Wood Addition Handbook.

Strategic wood addition has also been effective in increasing fish populations. In one six-year study of a

watershed, the brook trout population tripled on average where large wood was added using these techniques. This study also showed that strategic wood addition not only increased brook trout in the areas of improvement, but also increased brook trout in the stream as a whole.

Kratzer also addressed what Vermont's streams and rivers looked like before European settlement, and how ongoing developments impacted them. For more information, you can find the Strategic Wood Addition Handbook online at [www.anr.vermont.gov/content/vermont-strategic-wood-addition-handbook](http://www.anr.vermont.gov/content/vermont-strategic-wood-addition-handbook).

You can reach Kratzer with your questions at [Jud.Kratzer@vermont.gov](mailto:Jud.Kratzer@vermont.gov).

## River Valley Employment Fair

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The River Valley Workforce Investment Board is hosting the 2026 River Valley Employment Fair on Thursday, April 23, at the Riverside Middle School in Springfield, Vt., from 3-6 p.m.

This event is a great opportunity for employers to find potential employees and network with other organizations. Businesses of any size from Vermont and

New Hampshire are welcome to participate.

Please visit [www.rivervalleyemploymentfair.org](http://www.rivervalleyemploymentfair.org) for more information on registration options and benefits. For more information, contact Amanda Sidler, of the Springfield Regional Development Corporation, at 802-885-3061 or [amanda@springfielddevelopment.org](mailto:amanda@springfielddevelopment.org).

Follow our River Valley Employment Fair Face-

book page for updates, job-seeker tips and information, and more.

The 2026 River Valley Employment Fair is brought to you by the River Valley Workforce Investment Board, in partnership with the River Valley Technical Center, HireAbility, the Vermont Department of Labor, Springfield Regional Development Corporation, and the Springfield School District.



[esblackriver.org/open-house](http://esblackriver.org/open-house)



## Open House

You are cordially invited to attend an open house at the Expeditionary School at Black River. Meet and talk with the staff, browse student work and projects, and enjoy refreshments.

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# River Valley Technical Center

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**Abigail Silverman**  
Health Sciences II  
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**Morgan Vaughn**  
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SHS  
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# Sons of the American Legion bowling tournament

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Saturday, March 27, the Ludlow Sons of the American Legion hosted their second annual bowling tournament to support the veterans and youth in our community. Nineteen teams competed to claim bragging rights as the overall winner. The winning team consisted of Peter Kolenda, Ron Wood, Mac McDonald, and Josh Sharon.

The Sons of the American Legion would like to thank all the teams for sup-

porting this event, as well as the following lane sponsors, who also contributed to help make this tournament a success. A huge thank you goes out to the following: Ballard Hobart American Legion Post 36, Ballard Hobart Unit 36 Auxiliary, Big Pops Sandwich Shop, Clear Choice Pool & Spa Service LLC, Cota & Cota, Countryside Alarms Inc., Dave Berry Woodworking, 802 Auto Body, Gassetts Group, Hair by Paula Inc., The Hatchery, Jeff Stearns

Excavation, LaValley Building Supply, Ludlow Insurance Agency, Ludlow Side Hill Cronchers Snowmobile Club, Master Plumbing and Heating Inc., Pete's Painting, Inc., SAL Squadron #7, SK Logging, Squeels on Wheels BBQ, and Wright Construction Co. Inc. Also, a special thank-you to Shawn and Deb at Maple Lanes in Claremont for their hospitality and allowing us to host this event.

# Record-breaking 24 Hours of Stratton

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vt. – The 24 Hours of Stratton, hosted by the Stratton Community Foundation at Stratton Mountain Resort on March 14 and 15, celebrated a milestone year, raising a record-breaking \$465,859 in individual participant fundraising with another \$100,750 in sponsorships through the effort of 894 participants – the highest totals in the event's history.

Participants skied through the night under

the lights, all in support of programs addressing hunger, basic needs, health, and education for children in southern Vermont.

Team Ravenwood took top fundraising honors, raising more than \$114,000. Team Limozeen took first in the on-mountain points ranking with 15,030 points, including uphill and Nordic skiing. The Kings and Queens of the Mountain, which combines fundraising, and skiing and activity points, went to Team Skiderhoffer, who also ranked

as the No. 1 skiing team. All event winners and top fundraisers are recognized at [www.strattonfoundation.org](http://www.strattonfoundation.org).

Thank you to presenting sponsors Klingman and Associates, and Wohler Realty Group; our title sponsor DLA Piper; and our gold sponsors Brattleboro Savings and Loan, Casella Waste Management, ELM Electric, M&T Bank, Semet Family, Stratton Ski and Board Club, TÖST, UBS Parkview Partners, and WCAX; along with all of our sponsors.

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SOFA LOVESEAT <del>\$449</del> <b>\$429</b>	SOFA LOVESEAT <del>\$499</del> <b>\$469</b>	SOFA LOVESEAT <del>\$499</del> <b>\$469</b>	SOFA LOVESEAT <del>\$619</del> <b>\$589</b>	SOFA CHAISE SOFA LOVESEAT <del>\$699</del> <del>\$599</del> <b>\$569</b>	SOFA LOVESEAT <del>\$739</del> <b>\$699</b>

### RECLINERS BY ASHLEY Best Home Furnishings L A Z B O Y OVER 300 IN STOCK!

<b>NERVIANO</b>	<b>SHERMAN</b>	<b>NORTON</b>	<b>BRYSONVIEW</b>	<b>KRISTISHA</b>	<b>RAIDER</b>
					
WALL HUGGER <b>\$329</b>	ROCKER <b>\$549</b>	ROCKER <b>\$559</b>	WALL HUGGER <b>\$569</b>	ROCKER OR WALL HUGGER <b>\$579</b>	ROCKER OR WALL HUGGER <b>\$589</b>

### LEATHER RECLINERS BY Best Home Furnishings

<b>PICOT</b>	<b>JOJO</b>	<b>BROSMER</b>
		
<b>\$699</b>	<b>\$699</b>	<b>\$799</b>

### POWER LIFT RECLINERS OVER 75 IN STOCK! ASHLEY Best Home Furnishings L A Z B O Y

<b>SNOWFIELD</b>	<b>AURORA</b>	<b>JEAN</b>
		
GUNMETAL <b>\$799</b>	3 SIZES SMALL • MEDIUM • LARGE YOUR CHOICE: <b>\$699</b>	DOVE <b>\$799</b>

### CLEARANCE RECLINERS BY L A Z B O Y

<b>SPARROW</b> <del>\$799.99</del> <b>\$400</b>	<b>KELLS</b> <del>\$999.99</del> <b>\$500</b>	<b>MADDOX</b> <del>\$999.99</del> <b>\$500</b>	<b>HARBORTOWN</b> <del>\$1,999.99</del> <b>\$600</b>	<b>AVA</b> <del>\$1,299.99</del> <b>\$650</b>	<b>AUDRY</b> <del>\$1,699.99</del> <b>\$850</b>
					
ROCKER TAN	WALL HUGGER BROWN	ROCKER PEBBLE	POWER ROCKER ECLIPSE	LEATHER ROCKER TAN	LEATHER HIGH LEG DUSTY

### CLEARANCE SOFAS BY L A Z B O Y

<b>HAWTHORN</b> SMOKE <del>\$1,499.99</del> <b>\$750</b>	<b>PIPER</b> GRANITE <del>\$1,499.99</del> <b>\$750</b>	<b>CASSIAN</b> CHARCOAL <del>\$1,699.99</del> <b>\$850</b>	<b>MACKENZIE</b> BROWN SUGAR <del>\$1,699.99</del> <b>\$850</b>	<b>AVA</b> WHISPER <del>\$1,799.99</del> <b>\$900</b>	<b>PAXTON</b> COCOA <del>\$1,799.99</del> <b>\$900</b>
					
RECLINING SOFA	SOFA CHAISE	RECLINING SOFA	SOFA	RECLINING SOFA	SOFA

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