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THE MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

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May Breakfast raises funds for nonprofit in Claremont

BY PAULA BENSON
The Message

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The May Breakfast has been a Claremont tradition since 1910, when it began as a fundraiser for the First Congregational Church at 72 Pleasant Street.

Traditionally, the breakfast was always held on May 1, even if that fell on a weekday, and the entire town came out. Local shopkeepers would purchase tickets or whole tables for their staff to attend, while residents flocked to the huge downtown celebration that began at 6 a.m.

The 116-year tradition continues, now held on the first Saturday in May – this year that is May 2, at a more reasonable starting time of 8 a.m.

The Rev. Maggie Monroe-Cassel, executive pastor, related that the community still comes out to enjoy May Breakfast, and many are very involved in making it happen. The food is sourced regionally from King Arthur Bakery, Brownsville Butcher and Pantry, and North Country Smokehouse. Monroe-Cassel said they will be serving

pancakes with local maple syrup, eggs, bacon, sausage, fruit, coffee, and tea.

Monroe-Cassel shared that last year, “[We moved] the breakfast from the musty basement fellowship space to the open and airy sanctuary with the light of the stained-glass windows surrounding us.” The organizers also started using china instead of disposable products and composting all food scraps.

A discount will be given to participants in the Step-in’ Up to End Violence 5K sponsored by The Center for Safer Communities, formerly Turning Points Network, that takes place that same morning, at Claremont Middle School.

This will be the second year that the May Breakfast is hosted by The Well Collaborative NH. Founded one and a half years ago, The Well is a secular nonprofit that utilizes the church space as a community hub, and whose mission is to provide programming and activities to enrich the greater Claremont community. Monroe-Cassel is on the board of directors for the organization.

The church welcomed

The Well to share their space in an effort to make use of the historic building, which was sitting empty most days. Monroe-Cassel related that, other than the 10 a.m. Sunday morning services, which continue weekly, and regular Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, the venue was severely underutilized.

The historic building, a beautiful Gothic Revival brick structure built in 1835, is something to be preserved, Monroe-Cassel feels, and remains a vital part of the Claremont community.

“There are too many empty buildings of faith,” said Monroe-Cassel. “If left vacant, these structures decline and become public safety hazards.” She and others have been hard at work making sure First Congregational stays alive and relevant by finding creative ways to revitalize and support the church to the benefit of Claremont residents and visitors alike. Monroe-Cassel is motivated to bring more people to the notable city that is often misunderstood.

It was in that spirit that The Well was founded, and

initially the organization offered wellness activities like yoga, reiki, and sound baths at the church. Some building improvements were made to start bringing the building up to code and to enhance the opportunities for a public meeting space.

The Well applied to the Northern Border Regional Commission, an organization that funnels federal dollars into northern New England and parts of New York, for an economic catalyst grant, and, to Monroe-Cassel’s surprise, their application was approved.

“I got the call from [U.S. Senator] Jeanne Shaheen’s office while I was driving and I nearly drove off the road,” said Monroe-Cassel. “I was shocked.”

The grant will pay 80%, approximately \$820,000, toward a million-dollar project that will bring the building to compliance, and allow it to more easily host public meetings and community events. Plans for the updated space also include a child care facility, a preschool, a cooperative kitchen, necessary improvements to HVAC and sprinkler systems,



Last year’s Well Collaborative May Breakfast. PHOTO PROVIDED

and repairs and updates to the ADA-accessible ramp. Profits from this year’s May Breakfast will help support the required 20% match.

Addressing many of the area’s economic needs, the center will offer support for working families, community programming, and entrepreneurial opportunities, while revitalizing Claremont’s downtown.

Read all about the three-year project to create the Entrepreneurial Center at The Well on their website, www.thewellcollaborativenh.org.

“The church is understanding that empowering the community is crucial,” Monroe-Cassel stated. “Theology’s core message is about economic disparity. The gospel stories are about economic justice more so

than morality.”

“Claremont is a very creative place with amazing people with vision,” Monroe-Cassel continued. “When it comes to economic catalyst, that’s how economic development works – a rising tide floats all boats.”

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Distant Hill awarded Quality of Life Grant by Reeve Foundation

WALPOLE, N.H. – Distant Hill Gardens & Nature Trail is proud to announce that it has been awarded a Quality of Life Grant of \$24,999 from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation National Paralysis Resource Center (NPRC) to support its new trail accessibility initiative. Distant Hill is one of 56 organizations awarded Direct Effect Quality of Life Grants in 2025, totaling \$1,141,186.

Distant Hill is deeply honored to receive this generous grant from the Reeve Foundation. This support will enable the organization to purchase a TerrainHopper all-terrain mobility vehicle, increasing accessibility across its entire trail network.

“Over the past 13 years,” noted Michael Nerrie, the founder, builder, and steward of Distant Hill, “we have carefully designed and built more than two miles of wheelchair-accessible trails, in addition to miles of nonaccessible hiking trails. However, due to the terrain, some areas of the 155-acre property cannot support traditional accessible trail construction. Until now, those areas have remained inaccessible to many visitors. But thanks to the Reeve Foundation Quality of Life grant, the TerrainHopper mobility

vehicle changes that. It removes the last barrier to accessibility, opening all of our trails – not just designated accessible routes – to wheelchair users and others with mobility challenges.”

With this grant, Distant Hill is making a big step toward fulfilling its mission to make nature and outdoor spaces accessible to everyone in the community so that all can experience the beauty, health benefits, and deep connection that come from exploring the natural world.

“Quality of Life Grants represent more than just funding – they represent freedom, possibility, and dignity for individuals living with paralysis,” says Dan McNeal, director of Quality of Life Grants.

The Quality of Life Grants Program supports nonprofit organizations that serve individuals living with paralysis. Since the program’s inception, it has awarded more than 4,100 grants totaling \$50 million. Funding for this program is made possible through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living.

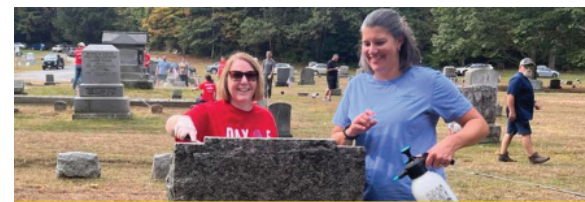
The Reeve Foundation’s National Paralysis Resource Center offers several grants through its Quality of Life program, with awards available in

multiple categories and at varying funding levels. The Priority Impact Grants program supports organizations that implement a wide range of projects and activities that benefit individuals living with paralysis and their families.

The TerrainHopper mobility vehicle is part of an effort in Monadnock Outdoors for the gear library expansion initiative supported alongside the Cheshire County Conservation District. Monadnock Outdoors is a partnership of community leaders dedicated to building a healthier, more connected community where individuals thrive by engaging with nature and maintaining an active lifestyle. Our goal is to promote physical activity, active transportation, and a love for the outdoors, to contribute to the overall wellbeing and vitality of the Monadnock region. Learn more about the gear library and how gear, similar to the addition of the new TerrainHopper, helps our community access the outdoors.

This initiative is made possible through community support and the Healthy Monadnock Alliance.

First annual Sullivan County Day of Caring



Annual Day of Caring on Friday, May 15. PHOTO PROVIDED

REGION – The Granite United Way Day of Caring is an annual volunteer event that mobilizes thousands of volunteers to assist hundreds of local nonprofits with short-term wish-list projects. Help make an impact in the Sullivan County community for our first annual Day of Caring event, on Friday, May 15.

Day of Caring helps local nonprofits that have limited capacity and rely on volunteer support for projects such as painting, cleaning up parks, reading to children, planting flowers, and much more. Volunteering makes a tangible difference in the lives of those in need. It fosters a sense of teamwork and contributes to building a stronger, more supporting community.

Thank you to event sponsors HCA Healthcare, Catholic Medical Center, Frisbie Memorial Hospital, Parkland Medical Center, Portsmouth Regional Hospital, Next Era Energy Seabrook,

and Bar Harbor Bank & Trust.

Register to volunteer at guw.upicsolutions.org/Volunteer/VolEventInfo.jsp?nbr=168. Opportunities include Moody Park cleanup in Claremont, sorting inventory at Lebanon Thrift Store Donation Center, and indoor and outdoor projects at The Well Collaborative.

Email volunteer@graniteuw.org to be added to the announcement email list. For more information, email Katie Berndsen at katie.berndsen@graniteuw.org.



Sign up to volunteer today. PHOTO PROVIDED

Hartford Police units assist Claremont Police with vehicle pursuit

HARTFORD, Vt. – On April 19, at 11:27 p.m., the Hartford Police Department responded to Interstate 91 Northbound near mile marker 69 to assist Claremont Police with a motor vehicle pursuit traveling toward the Town of Hartford. Claremont Police suspected the operator was intoxicated and had attempted to initiate a traffic stop prior to the pursuit.

As the fleeing vehicle passed into Hartford, Hartford police officer Goslin and officer Cronin both successfully deployed spike

strips to stop the fleeing vehicle. The spike strips successfully deflated two tires on the vehicle, effectively disabling it. Hartford police officer Cyran, along with two Claremont Police units, continued to pursue the disabled motor vehicle until it came to a controlled stop on Sykes Mountain Avenue near Beswick Drive.

The juvenile operator was promptly taken into custody and transported back to the Claremont Police Station for booking and processing. Sykes Mountain Avenue near Beswick Drive was

temporarily closed until police units were able to remove the disabled vehicle from the roadway.

As a result of the effective communication between Hartford and Claremont Police units, the effective use of equipment, and proper training, the pursuit was terminated, and the operator was taken into custody with no risk to the general public.

The Claremont Police Department is leading the ongoing investigation into the incident.

Emergency funds offer breathing room when it matters

REGION – Everyone needs an emergency fund. Financial experts recommend it, and we've all experienced surprise expenses: a costly car repair, a broken water heater, or unexpected medical bills. Despite our best intentions, building a financial cushion can feel impossible. After rent or mortgage, groceries, utilities, and everyday expenses, it seems there's nothing left to save.

With a strategic approach and realistic milestones, you can create the financial safety net you

need. Start small and build momentum. Traditional advice suggests saving three to six months of total expenses. It's an excellent goal, but can feel overwhelming when you're starting from zero.

Instead, begin with a more achievable target, such as \$500 or a full month's worth of expenses. The key is to get started and contribute consistently. Even a few hundred dollars can provide meaningful protection and help you avoid relying on credit cards or high-interest loans. This initial milestone can cover many medium-sized emergencies. Once you reach the

first milestone, work toward one and a half to two months of expenses, then the full three to six months.

Find money you didn't know you had. Building your emergency fund doesn't always require cutting expenses. If you're employed, set up automatic transfers from your paycheck into a separate savings account. Cancel subscriptions you rarely use, shop around for better insurance rates, and take advantage of sales whenever you can.

Consider saving windfalls like tax refunds, work bonuses, or birthday money. If your budgeted expenses come in lower than expected – perhaps your health care costs or home maintenance needs were less than anticipated this month – save the difference in your emergency fund.

Have a dedicated account for your fund. Keep your emergency savings in a separate account from your regular checking, so you're less tempted to use the money for nonemergencies. Choose an account that's easily accessible and without penalties and, while you shouldn't invest emergency money in stocks or bonds, look for an account that earns interest.

Balance competing priorities. Building an emergency fund is important, but it shouldn't come at the expense of other crucial financial goals. If you're carrying high-interest debt or missing out on your employer's retirement contribution matches, address those priorities first, while still building your emergency savings.

Ultimately, you'll want to balance your emergency fund with other goals. To determine an emergency savings target, consider your personal risk for unexpected expenses, your job security, and family circumstances. You may need three to six months' worth of savings, or possibly some other amount. If this step feels overwhelming, ask a financial advisor to help you come up with a suitable plan.

The path to financial security requires progress rather than perfection. Begin where you are, use what you have, and take one small step at a time.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial adviser. Edward Jones, member SIPC.

Vermont Packing House acquired

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Walden Local Meat Co. today announced the sale of the Vermont Packing House (VPH) business to a new entity formed by Louis Helbling, a veteran food industry leader with decades of experience in premium meat sourcing and food distribution operations. Separately, building owner Mark Curran, of Curran-Birge, is selling the North Springfield property to the new ownership group led by Jack Feiter, formerly of Oxford Trad-

ing. All three executives will team to restore the iconic former Ben & Jerry's plant.

Helbling and Feiter, plan to upgrade the 50,000-square-foot United States Department of Agriculture meat processing facility, while also looking to expand the footprint with needed cold storage capacity in the Northeast corridor. Working with Curran and partnering with Black River, a modernized Vermont Packinghouse is an exciting step forward with

benefits for Vermont and our region's farmers. Existing partner customers like Farmers and Cooks will now have the ability to expand to meet their growth needs.

Helbling was most recently the chief operating officer of Prime Source Foods in Londonderry, N.H., leading a team of more than 300 dedicated families. He also served as president of Performance Food Group's Northeast Specialty Meat Group, as well as serving as executive vice president at Sysco. Helbling has numerous industry veterans on his

team to help create a world-class operation in North Springfield, Vt.

"Louis brings exactly the right combination of expertise to this facility – premium meat industry knowledge and large-scale food operations experience," said John Hommeyer, CEO of Walden Local Meat Co. "Vermont needs USDA processing capacity. This transition puts the facility in the hands of a leader and his team who understand the business and are committed to investing in it."

Mark Curran, who built the original processing

facility in 2013 by converting the former Ben & Jerry's plant, is selling the building as part of the transition. Curran cofounded Black River Produce and has spent more than 50 years building Vermont's local food infrastructure. He continues to operate Vermont Family Farms and will be a processing customer at Helbling's VPH. "Mark built this facility to solve a real problem for Vermont farmers," said Hommeyer. "It's fitting that its next chapter begins with new owners who share that commitment, in a building he made possible."

Walden acquired the VPH business in 2023 and invested significantly in facility improvements and operations, but is choosing to focus on their core high-attribute, regeneratively farmed meat program and direct-to-consumer distribution. Walden's core operations – deliveries to more than 23,000 member families across the Northeast – are unaffected. As part of this transition, Walden is filing Vermont WARN Act notice and providing severance to VPH's approximately 53 employees to ensure they are supported with compensation and health insurance. Walden is coordinating with the Vermont Department of Labor's rapid response team on job placement resources and is working with Helbling and Curran to ensure a smooth transition.

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arts & entertainment

“Just Desserts” benefit concert in Saxtons River

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Music, community, and dessert come together for a good cause on Saturday, May 2, at 7 p.m., with “Just Desserts,” a benefit concert featuring the folk quartet 2x2 with an opening act by Half Giraffe. The event will be held in the assembly hall at the 24 Main Street Community Building, Saxtons River, Vt.

This special evening will support 24 Main Street Community Building, a beloved local nonprofit center. Attendees will enjoy an opening with Half Giraffe, Vermont Academy’s jazz trio, followed by the main act, a performance by 2x2 – Valerie Kosednar, Mark Grieco, and Lee and Betsy Rybeck Lynd – a vocal and instrumental quartet known for their heartfelt harmonies and eclectic folk repertoire

sung in multiple languages. With guitar, dobro, and banjo accompaniment, 2x2 brings to life songs of love, struggle, and hope.

In addition to great music, guests will be treated to locally made desserts, and will have the chance to purchase tickets for exciting raffle prizes, including a handmade quilt by 2 Material Girls of Saxtons River (on display at Saxtons River Village Market); a collage by Stephanie Payne of Chester, Vt.; a garden kneeler; springtime seed collections; and spring blooms for planters.

Attendees can also participate in a food pantry raffle. Every nonperishable food item earns an entry to win one of three gift certificates to Saxtons River Village Market.

Tickets to “Just Desserts”

can be purchased at the door, with a discounted price for children age 12 and under. All proceeds benefit the continued operation and preservation of 24 Main Street Community Building.

Founded in 2018, 24 Main Street Ltd. is a nonprofit steward of a cherished space. The building, formerly a church, has been in use since 1842. Today, it houses Village Early Learning Center and remains a hub for local events, gatherings, and support services. The assembly hall can be accessed by wheelchair.

Join your neighbors for a night of music, sweets, and giving back; “Just Desserts” promises to be a celebration of community spirit in the heart of Saxtons River.

Stevens High School student art at COH

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Claremont Opera House (COH) will host the Stevens High School Student Art Exhibit in the John D. Bennett Atrium Gallery, 58 Opera House Square in Claremont, N.H. The exhibit features work by students in grades 9-12, and will be available by appointment and during public opera house events through May 15. A complimentary opening reception is scheduled for May 6, from 5-6:30 p.m.

The exhibit includes artwork in a variety of media, including graphite, acrylic, pastel, ink, clay, watercolor, and charcoal.

“Given current budget limitations in the district, students and educators have had to rely even more heavily on creativity, adaptability, and technical skill to

produce strong work with the resources available,” said Shelly Avery, Stevens High School visual arts department lead. “This exhibit reflects not only the talent of our students, but also the dedication and problem-solving they bring to their artmaking.”

“Students involved in sports, theater, and music have a platform to perform and showcase their skills and talent to the public, whereas visual art students rely on galleries and open interior spaces,” Avery said. “Having our students showcase their work at the Claremont Opera House is their stage, and we hope the community comes out to show their support.”

“The Stevens High School Student Art Exhibit is an opportunity for the

public to see the creativity and effort our students have put into their work,” Avery said. “We’re proud to share it with the community.”

The exhibit is available for viewing by appointment or during public Claremont Opera House events. Guests may call 603-542-0064 to schedule an appointment to visit the gallery.

The opening reception will be held on May 6, from 5-6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Please use the police entrance around the corner to access the elevator to the sixth floor, as the city hall entrance closes at 5 p.m. Additional details may be found at www.cohnh.org.

Two landmark music films at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents two special film screenings curated by acclaimed local filmmaker Alan Dater, offering audiences a rare chance to experience iconic moments in American music history on the big screen. Both events will include in-person introductions and post-screening discussions with Dater.

On Saturday, May 9, at 7 p.m., Next Stage will screen “Sing Sing Thanksgivng,” a powerful 1973 documentary directed by David Hoffman and Harry Wiland. Filmed at Sing Sing Prison, the film captures an extraordinary concert featuring B.B. King, Joan Baez, and other legendary performers. Widely regarded as one of the most electrifying live shows ever

recorded, the performance was described by King himself as one of the greatest of his career, and hailed by the New York Daily News as a landmark in live entertainment. Dater, who served as the film’s sound recordist early in his career, will share behind-the-scenes insights and reflections following the screening.

The series continues on Saturday, May 23, at 7 p.m., with “The Nashville Sound,” a 1972 concert film directed by Robert Elfstrom and David Hoffman. Filmed in 1969 at the legendary Ryman Auditorium during the Grand Ole Opry’s annual birthday celebration, the film features unforgettable performances by Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, and other country music greats.

In addition to its onstage performances, the film offers a portrait of Nashville, highlighting the cultural landscape that gave rise to its enduring musical legacy. As with the first screening, Dater will introduce the film and participate in a post-screening conversation.

Both screenings take place at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., and tickets are available at www.nextstagearts.org.

These films not only document historic performances, but also provide a glimpse into the early career of one of Vermont’s most respected documentary filmmakers. With Dater on hand to contextualize and discuss the work, these evenings promise to be both entertaining and illuminating for music lovers and film enthusiasts alike.

Westminster Song Fest —

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Featuring Don Dawson as master of ceremonies, the Kurn Hattin Children’s Choir, Ron Bos-Lun and many others from all parts of Westminster, the Westminster Inclusion Committee, and Westminster West and Butterfield libraries join to sponsor the Westminster Song Fest at the Butterfield Institute, on Saturday, May 2, at 4 p.m. Come sing a song if you are a musician or just come sing along

The Kurn Hattin Children’s Choir will open the show. Ron Bos-Lun, Nick Keil, Tom Griffith, and the Orchard Hill Band will also play. Any musical entertainment



Th Kurn Hattin Children’s Choir.

PHOTO PROVIDED

is welcome. We especially invite original songs about Westminster.

Celebrate our history, heroes, businesses, farming, children, the hills and valleys, flora and fauna, etc., using familiar or original tunes. Invite others to sing

along or just tell a story.

We will end with a sing-along of familiar tunes. Come meet your neighbors and welcome the spring.

For more information, call Lise Sparrow at 802-345-3982 or email lisem-sparrow@gmail.com.

Cameo Arts Foundation concert

WALPOLE, N.H. – Cameo Arts Foundation presents Cameo Baroque on Sunday, May 3, at 4 p.m., at the Walpole Unitarian Church in Walpole, N.H. The program includes works of Couperin, Leclair, Boismortier, and others, and is a benefit for the Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP). Cameo

Baroque – Leslie Stroud (traverso), Beth Hilgartner (recorders and vocals), Laurie Rabut (violin and viola da gamba), and Ernie Drown (harpsichord) – specializes in historically informed performance on original instruments. Admission is by free-will offering, all of which goes to CASP. CASP cultivates a supportive community for those seeking

asylum in the U.S., provides for basic needs and legal representation, and accompanies them on their journey towards building a life in this country. While it primarily serves clients in southeastern Vermont, CASP has been instrumental in the development of other organizations serving asylum seekers in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Victoria Redel with Robin MacArthur at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents an evening with acclaimed author Victoria Redel in conversation with award-winning writer Robin MacArthur on Friday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. The event will also be available via livestream. Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

Redel will discuss her highly anticipated new novel, “I Am You,” a richly imagined story set in 17th-century Amsterdam. Inspired by historical fact, the novel follows Gerta Pieters, a young girl raised as a boy in service to a Dutch household, and Maria van Oosterwijck, a gifted painter navigating the constraints of the Dutch Golden Age. Through

their intertwined lives, Redel explores themes of love, artistic ambition, gender, and identity, illuminating the often-overlooked struggles faced by women in history.

“I Am You” has garnered widespread attention, including recognition as a Bustle Most Anticipated Book of Fall 2025, a Zibby Books Most Anticipated Book of Fall 2025, and a Book Riot LGBTQ Historical Fiction Highlight. The novel also received a starred review from Publisher’s Weekly, was named an Amazon Editors’ Best Book in Literature & Fiction, and was selected as a People Magazine Best New Book. Foreign rights have sold in multiple international markets.

The conversation will be led by Robin MacArthur,

whose debut short-story collection, “Half Wild,” won the PEN New England Award. MacArthur’s work has appeared in Orion, LitHub, The Washington Post, and on NPR, and she brings a thoughtful and engaging perspective to discussions of literature and craft.

This event offers audiences an opportunity to hear directly from Redel about the inspiration and research behind her novel, as well as the broader questions it raises about identity, history, and artistic expression.

ByWay Books will be on site with copies of “I Am You” and select titles by both authors available for purchase. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.nextstagearts.org.

Gypsy Reel at the Springfield First Congregational Church

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Friends of Springfield Town Library (FOSTL) invites you to a concert with Gypsy Reel on Wednesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. The show will be held in the sanctuary of the First Congregational Church, UCC, 77 Main Street in Springfield.

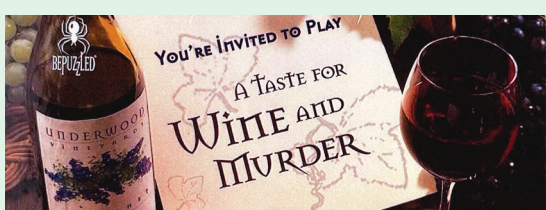
Featuring Camille Parker on mandolin, Claudine Langille on banjo, Graham Parker on fiddle, and special guest Jon Clinch on guitar, Vermont’s favorite

Celtic band will arrive with a mix of songs and instrumentals old and new, from traditional favorites to one-of-a-

kind originals. The concert begins at 7 p.m., immediately following the FOSTL board meeting, scheduled at 6 p.m.

BRAM to host murder mystery evening

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Academy Museum (BRAM), 14 High Street, will host a “A Taste for Wine and Murder,” a murder mystery game night, on Thursday, May 14, at 6 p.m. Please reserve tickets by May 4. To do so, email paulaferro22@comcast.net. This is a fundraising event for the museum.





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Neighborhood Connections to launch Winhall 100% Campaign

WINHALL, Vt. – From the end of April through the end of May, Neighborhood Connections will be undertaking a targeted effort to enable residents of Winhall to take advantage of the many financial benefit programs to which they may be entitled, but with which they are unfamiliar, known as a 100% Campaign. Neighborhood Connections can help with advising, completing applications, handling delivery to the appropriate federal or state of-

ices for processing, and follow-up. Programs that can be explored include 3SquaresVT (SNAP benefits), seasonal fuel assistance, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Programs (including Vermont's prescription "V-Pharm" plan), Green Mountain Power discounts, and more.

Staff will be on site at the Winhall Memorial Library on Tuesday, May 5, from 12-4 p.m.; Tuesday, May 12, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Tuesday, May 19, from 12-4 p.m.; and Tuesday, May 26, from

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Staff will also be on site at the Winhall Community Arts Center on Thursday, April 30, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Thursday, May 7, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Wednesday, May 13, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Thursday, May 21, from 3-5 p.m.; and Thursday, May 28, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

For best results, please reserve an appointment by calling Neighborhood Connections at 802-824-4343.

Grace Cottage Spring Into Health 5K

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Spring is just around the corner, so mark your calendar now for the 17th annual Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital Spring into Health 5K. The event

begins with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start on Saturday, May 9, on the Townshend Common. You can run, walk, roll, stroll, or push your baby carriage for this fun, family-friendly event.

Registration is discounted if you register prior to the day of the event. Children under the age of 18 are free with signed parent/guardian permission. Registration is open now at www.gracecot-

tage.org/events. A virtual option is also available. Register at the same link.

For more information, contact Grace Cottage Foundation at info@gracecottage.org or call 802-365-9109.

When to remove mortgage insurance

REGION – For many homeowners, mortgage insurance is just part of the deal when buying a home with a lower down payment. But what many homeowners don't realize is that this fee doesn't always have to stay for the life of the loan.

Depending on the type of loan you have, there may be a path to removing it and lowering your monthly payment in the process.

FHA loan

FHA loans include mort-

gage insurance premium (MIP), and, in many cases, it doesn't go away on its own. If you put less than 10% down, MIP typically stays for the life of the loan. If you put 10% or more down, it may fall off after 11 years

Many homeowners choose to refinance to a conventional loan once they've built enough equity. As your home value increases and you pay down your loan, you may reach a point where you no longer need mortgage insurance at all. That could allow you to eliminate monthly mort-



Want a lower payment? It may be time to remove your mortgage insurance.

PHOTO PROVIDED

gage insurance, potentially lower your payment, and/or move into a loan structure with more long-term flexibility.

A common benchmark is

reaching around 20% equity, though options can vary based on your situation.

Conventional loan

With a conventional loan, private mortgage insurance (PMI) isn't always permanent, but it doesn't always disappear right away either. PMI is typically required if you put less than 20% down, but it can be removed once you reach enough equity. This can happen if you request removal once your loan balance reaches 80% of your home's value, or through automatic removal around 78% based on the original value. Refinance if your home's value has increased and you've built equity faster than expected.

Refinancing can be especially helpful if your home has appreciated, since it may allow you to remove PMI sooner than waiting on your original loan schedule.

What this could mean for you

Home values have shifted over the past few years, and many homeowners have more equity than they think. In some cases, home price growth alone may have increased your equity more than expected, even if you haven't owned your home for long.

If mortgage insurance is still part of your monthly payment, it may be time to take a closer look at your loan. Because once you have enough equity, that extra cost doesn't always need to stick around. And in many cases, a quick review of your loan can show whether removing it is already within reach.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, PrimeLending, Ludlow, Vt.



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OPINION

obituaries

Dear Editor,

We wish to invite you and all your readers to join us. Many worry about safety, food on the table, children, elderly parents, property rights, world events, their own moral compass, and much more. The environment, government intrusion, lack of health care, teachings contrary to parents' beliefs, etc., are causing internal stress that people should not have to deal with in a free, moral society. The government – local, state, or federal – says they have the answers, yet the problems just grow. Every day we are confronted with some type of trauma. It is everywhere. There is nowhere to find peace. No place to hide. Or is there?

Just having enjoyed Easter, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our risen savior who conquered sin and death and offers new life to all who

believe, we at Precision Valley Baptist Church in North Springfield have an answer to your worries. It is written in Psalm 32:7, "Lord, you are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah." And in Psalm 119:114, "You are my hiding place and my shield; I wait for your word."

We are a biblically based Christian church committed to teaching the whole counsel of God's word with clarity and passion.

Under the faithful leadership of our pastor, Mauricio Martins, and his wife, Ashley, who are both deeply committed to strong Christian faith and dedicated to equipping believers through scripture, you will experience preaching and teaching that points people to Christ and helps them grow to maturity in Him.

Our church is especially family-friendly, with engaging children's ministry through kids' worship and Sunday school September-May, movie nights, and a summer vacation Bible school, all designed to help kids learn about Jesus in a fun, nurturing environment. We also offer opportunities for sincere friendships to form. Our ladies night provides a relaxed setting for women to gather, enjoy wholesome conversation, play cards, share a meal, and build meaningful connections. We value and encourage men to step into godly leadership, honoring the biblical truth that God created man and woman, each with distinct and complementary roles in His design.

Whether you are seeking spiritual renewal, a place to grow in faith as a family, or a warm community of believ-

ers, you will find a welcoming home here where everyone is accepted and encouraged to encounter Christ in a meaningful way.

We are located at 67 Route 106 in North Springfield, Vt. Sunday services include kids' worship and adult Bible study at 9 a.m., September-May, followed by our worship service at 10 a.m. Please visit our website at www.mypvbc.com for the latest schedule, events, and more information.

Come experience the transformative power of the risen Christ with us. We would be honored to welcome you and your family into our church family.

Sincerely,
Gerry and Judy Mittica
Springfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

We are family child care owners throughout the state of Vermont, and we support the current version of S.206, or the Early Childhood Educator Profession Bill. This legislation creates individual licensure and professional recognition for early childhood educators working in Vermont's family home- and center-based programs, and includes provisions to support today's family child care workforce and ensure our programs stay open.

As family child care owners, we care for hundreds of Vermont's youngest children, and we keep families in our rural communities working. In places like ours, when child care is available, parents can work. When it's not, local businesses feel it immediately.

Family child care has always filled the gaps: extending hours and providing after-school care, being a steady support for our communities. For decades, we have been the consistent, flexible option that makes it possible for families and local economies to function.

The unique and wonderful thing about Vermont's mixed-delivery early childhood education system is that we have autonomy within regulations. That means families seeking regulated child care can choose the setting that works best for their family. Every family is different, and they know the needs of

their child. Sometimes, family child care is the best fit, and the best quality.

Family child care owners are not asking for less regulation. We work with vulnerable populations; we should be regulated, and we're familiar with regulation. What we want is to have a voice in our own regulation, and equal access to the opportunities that come with being part of a recognized profession.

Individual professional licensure creates a system where opportunities for family child care educators are the same as opportunities for center-based educators. At its core, this bill is about equal opportunity. We've spent a long time trying to unite our child care system and share opportunities, and this bill does that. To put an even sharper point on it: This legislation will ensure that families living in rural communities have access to the same quality child care as those in more urban parts of our state.

It does not mean we create a system where opportunities for family child care are different from opportunities for center-based care. Instead, it creates the conditions for choice, allowing educators and families to select the path that works best for them.

People sometimes point to family child care programs closing. Nationally, they are. In Vermont, they were – up until a couple of years ago. Contrary to popular belief,

this was not due to over-regulation. It was because resources were funneled to larger-population areas. Historically, the challenge in rural Vermont hasn't been regulation; it has been access to resources.

Act 76 shifted the balance and sent a lot more resources to family child care, and recent data shows family child care growing – which reflects what we see in our communities. When resources and supports are available, family child care grows.

If S.206 takes effect, opening career opportunities to all early childhood educators statewide, that helps rural family child care. We're proud of our independent businesses and our value to our communities. The quality of our home programs is on par with any other kind of child care program.

Like any professional, we want a clear way to demonstrate that quality. We would love to be able to show families a professional license to practice. And yes, renewing a license every couple of years is a cost, and a task. But if it makes our practice better, and if it means access to opportunities that we do not currently have, we'll gladly do it. If it strengthens our practice and expands our opportunities, it's worth it.

There are many young people eager to enter this profession. Their biggest obstacle is parents who worry about

Dear Editor,

How wonderful to return home after a week in Montpelier to find our hillside full of blooming daffodils and forsythia. And, on the ride home, I had noticed how, as I drove south, it got greener and greener. Spring must indeed be on the way.

We have hit a time in the session, about four weeks from adjourning, when everything is in play. As many of you have read, the education reform bill, H.955, has passed out of the House for consideration by the Senate. This is based on creating seven regional Cooperative Education Service Areas (CESA) out of the 119 school districts, designed to promote more efficient management of human resources, special education, professional services, and development, like what we have already established here in southeast Vermont. Voluntary mergers aimed at regionalizing our middle and high schools would then be encouraged within those CESAs. Incentives to encourage these mergers are not fully agreed upon yet, but would probably include school construction support and other financial "carrots."

But the Senate has its own education reform bill which has yet to make it out of committee, let alone pass the Senate floor, leaving the House almost no time to fully consider it.

The yield bill, H.949, which addresses how we pay for education, cleared the House with a 7% increase in the statewide education property tax rate. The Senate has worked to reduce the increase even further, to 3.8%. However, the Senate's bill also includes a reduction of the excess spending threshold from 118% to 112%, which would have very tough consequences for our area schools.

Other work very much in the mix is the update to parts of 2024's Act 181, which included several Act 250 reforms designed to spur housing development. It identified tiers for a range of development and required that our towns set housing targets and create maps identifying which areas they wanted to develop and which areas they wanted to protect. Two aspects of the original bill have drawn stiff opposition from our rural communities: the Road Rule, which requires that any road

longer than 800 feet get Act 250 review, and Tier 3, designed to limit development on our most ecologically sensitive lands. The updates are in a Senate bill, S.325, which is now being considered in the House. And, while the bill recognizes these two aspects of Act 181 need more work and extends the time frame to work on them, it now appears that these provisions will be repealed and replaced with a negotiated compromise.

In addition, there are many other bills and issues in play: efforts to improve the eviction process for landlords and tenants, improving data privacy, closing the \$33 million gap in the Transportation Fund, reducing health care costs, building more homes, improving firearm safety, protecting consumers

with improving data privacy, reducing ticket resale scams, and reducing our alarming rise in teenage nicotine addiction. So much is still being negotiated, and so much needs resolution before we adjourn in May.

I appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached by email at aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us, by phone at the Statehouse, Tuesday-Friday, at 802-828-2228; or by phone at home, Saturday-Monday, at 802-457-4627. To get more information on the Vermont Legislature and the bills which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website, legislature.vermont.gov.

Sincerely,
Sen. Alison Clarkson
Windsor District

OBITUARIES:

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

CHURCH SERVICES:

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

Lynne K. Beverly, 1942-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Lynne Kathryn Beverly, of Springfield, Vt., passed on April 4, after a brief illness.

Lynne was born in Atlantic City, N.J., in 1942, the daughter of Margaret Pulis Beverly and Peter A. Beverly, and grew up in Ridgewood, N.J.

She graduated from Ridgewood High School, Class of 1960, and received her undergraduate degree from Dominican College and her master's degree from New York University.

Her nursing career included employment at Blythedale Children's Hospital, The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals for New York State, and several years as a nurse at Ascunty Hospital in Vermont.

In the mid-1980s, Lynne moved to Jamaica, Vt., where she and her former husband opened The Gallery at Jamaica. With an eye for beauty and talent, Lynne represented an impressive array of artists, including Josh Simpson, Keith Hoffman, and Robert O'Brien. Her home was filled with art, a collection that focused on botanical images; her home was a riot of flowers. An artist in her own right, Lynne's medium was



Lynne Beverly, 1942-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

embroidery, creating magic with fine stitching. Her crocheted blankets were wrapped around a generation of babies. Kids called her "Dr. Lin Lin" and asked for her counsel when feeling unwell.

She loved a mean ol' cat named Pete who loved her right back.

Lynne is survived by her dear friend Jenn Connor and family, who adopted her as one of their own, and longtime friend Gene Marano.

Heartfelt thanks to her neighbor, Ray, who stepped in to lend a steady hand.

A celebration of life will be held in June.

Donations in Lynne's memory may be made to the Springfield Humane Society.

Grace I. Farnum, 2025

NAVARRE, Fla. – Grace Irene Farnum passed away on Dec. 8, 2025, in Navarre, Fla.

She was born in Brownsville, Vt., the daughter of Russell and Nelly Sander-son Washburn. Grace spent much of her life in Vermont and New Hampshire, and was known for her strong work ethic, kindness, and dedication to others.

Grace worked for many

years as a manager at Aubuchon Hardware in Springfield, Vt., and Claremont, N.H. She took pride in her work and was respected by colleagues and customers alike. She also provided transportation services, driving for Simone's, assisting people traveling to and from airports and surrounding areas. She was known for her reliability and her willingness to help others.



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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

Proposed Introduced Invasive Plant Control Measures

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation proposes to conduct treatments to control introduced invasive plants on properties owned by the State of Vermont in Windsor and Windham Counties. The proposed treatment area will not exceed 150 acres in size. Application will include foliar and cut stem methods utilizing common site-specific herbicides such as Rodeo or Roundup. Treatment will occur between 5/1/2026 and 11/30/2026, and each site will have signage displayed for additional public notice. For specific locations or more information, please contact State Lands Forester Aaron Hurst at Aaron.Hurst@vermont.gov or 802-279-8625.

WATER FLUSHING NOTICE VILLAGE OF LUDLOW

On Tuesday, May 5, 2026 through Thursday, May 7, 2026, the Village of Ludlow Water Department will be flushing the water system and testing the fire hydrant system. The flushing will take place each day from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

Please note: The entire water system will be affected. Residents may experience discolored water during this time. When the flushing is complete, please be sure to let your cold water run until your water runs clear. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we perform our annual distribution system maintenance.

If you have any questions, please call the Water Department at 228-8431 or the Municipal Office at 228-2842.

Thank you.

SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT WATER MAIN FLUSHING NOTICE MONDAY, May 4th - FRIDAY, May 15th, 2026

Periodically, in Springfield, Vermont, we clean water mains of harmless corrosion and accumulated foreign matter by opening hydrants and allowing the water to escape under high pressure. The flushing action is an important part of our program to maintain high quality water.

Although such flushing may produce temporary discoloration, the safety of the water is not affected in any way. **HOWEVER**, we advise you to schedule clothes washing and cleaning projects at other times.

All mains will be flushed between **7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday**. During the time this work is performed, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE ENTIRE SYSTEM WILL BE AFFECTED. It is suggested that restaurants, laundromats, etc. keep their use to a minimum until water clears. The water system will be riled and cloudy, but this condition will clear up upon completion of the work.

SPRINGFIELD WATER DEPT.

Town of Springfield Request for Proposals - May 15, 2026 Field and Brush Maintenance

The Springfield Water Department is requesting proposals for field mowing and brush cutting to be done throughout the summer of 2026.

SCOPE OF WORK:

1. Bi-seasonal mowing and trimming of the town's four (4) water tanks. This work also includes the cutting of any brush or saplings growing in the mowed area and or along the fence and the tanks.

2. Bi-seasonal mowing and trimming of the wellfield. This work also includes the cutting of any brush or saplings growing in the mowed area including around the monitoring wells and the embankment at Chapman 1 wellhouse.

All proposals, along with proof of insurance, should be submitted to the Town Manager's Office by close of business, 4:30 pm, on May 15, 2026. Proposals may be either mailed or dropped off at 96 Main Street, Springfield VT. 05156 in sealed envelopes marked "Water Tower Mowing."

Site visits can be arranged by contacting the Water Dept. at 886-2208.

Superior Court Windsor Unit Probate Division Docket No. 25-PR-04971

IN RE ESTATE OF PATRICIA A. SAUL LATE OF LUDLOW, VERMONT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of Patricia A. Saul: I have been appointed to administer the 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.

Thomas Saul, Executor
c/o Alycia Sanders, Esq.
147 Western Ave.
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-257-7244

The Vermont Journal
April 29, 2026

Name of Court:
Vermont District Court, Windsor
12 The Green
Woodstock, VT 05091

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 1 -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church Street, will hold their First Friday fundraiser on May 1, from 5-6:30 p.m., to benefit the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge 527 building fund. The menu includes barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs, potato salad, green salad, chips, a beverage, and dessert. There is a small suggested donation.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. - The Charlestown Senior Center, 223 Old Springfield Road, will be having a giant indoor yard sale on May 1, from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. We have an extensive variety of items: dishes, toys, books, games, household items, and garden items to name a few. Come see what you can find and grab a cup of free coffee. This is a fundraiser for the senior center; most items

are by donation. We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you for supporting us.

MAY 2 -

BELMONT, Vt. - The Mount Holly Community Association invites you to join us to welcome the spring with Frydaddy on Saturday, May 2, from 7-11:30 p.m., at the Odd Fellows Hall, 37 Lake Street in Belmont. There will be live music, dancing, and good fun.

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. - The Weathersfield contra dance returns after a winter hiatus on Saturday, May 2, from 6-10 p.m., at the Weathersfield Center Church and Meeting House, 2579 Weathersfield Center Road. Come together, meet your neighbors, make new friends, dance, listen, play, sit, or chat. Caller Andy Davis will teach and guide everyone through the dances. Open band led by Naomi Morse (fiddle), Mary Cay (brass and piano), and Emmet

McGowan (drums). No special clothing, footwear, or experience required. All are welcome. For more information, visit www.weathersfieldcontradance.wordpress.com or call 802-263-5487.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley Street, is having their spring rummage sale on Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. We look forward to seeing you. Everyone is welcome.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Springfield Moose Lodge 679 will be hosting a delicious barbecued chicken dinner on Saturday, May 2, from 1-4 p.m. Proceeds will support Meals and Wheels of Greater Springfield. Bring family and friends. Everyone is invited.

CLAREMONT, N.H. - Join us on Saturday, May 2, from 8-11 a.m., for the annual May Breakfast at First Congregational Church, 72 Pleasant Street in Claremont, N.H. The event is hosted by The Well Collaborative NH. Admission is free for kids 4 and younger. There will be locally sourced eggs, meat from North Country Smokehouse, locally produced maple syrup, baked goods made by volunteers, and more. This year, the breakfast will include a spring mini art show featuring art created by people from around the area, with the theme of spring. All pieces will be sold by donation. This year, the art can be any medium (such as painting, decoupage, clay, crochet, cross-stitch, embroidery, etc.) as long as it is no bigger than 5 by 7 inches. If you would like to participate, reach out to Neil at neilpiercellen@gmail.com.

MAY 3 -

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. - Matt Meserve will be playing a live concert on Sunday, May 3, from 4-5 p.m., at

the Perkinsville Community Church, 35 Church Street. If you would like to be on the email list for these events, please contact us at churchperkinsville@gmail.com.

MAY 9 -

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Join Springfield on the Move for a delightful Mother's Day market on Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at 100 River Street. This is the perfect way to honor the incredible moms in our lives. Discover a beautifully curated market featuring local artists showcasing their unique creations, amazing vendors offering handmade goods and gifts, and workshops where you can learn to create stunning floral arrangements. Whether you're looking for the perfect gift or a fun day out with mom, this event has something for everyone. Don't miss out on the joy and creativity waiting for you at the Great Hall.

MAY 14 -

LUDLOW, Vt. - The Black River Academy Museum, 14 High Street, will host "A Taste for Wine and Murder," a murder mystery game night, on Thursday, May 14, at 6 p.m. Please reserve tickets by May 4. To do so, email paulaferro22@comcast.net. This is a fundraising event for the museum.

Windham Regional Commission Regional Plan update meetings

REGION - The Windham Regional Commission (WRC) will be hosting an in-person and remote public meeting to present a draft of the Windham Regional Plan update. WRC assists 27 towns in south-eastern Vermont to provide effective local governance and address regional issues. The Regional Plan provides guidance on the future of the region and is used for WRC's work program and regional planning efforts.

The focus of the current plan update is to meet new state requirements following the passage of Act 181 in 2024. Act 181 overhauls Vermont's planning framework to coordinate state, regional, and municipal land-use planning. Members of the public, municipal officials, and local organizations are encouraged to attend the meetings to learn more about the role of the Regional Plan and to provide input. Draft revisions to the Regional Plan are available to review on WRC's website, www.windhamregional.org. Additional information is also available at this website.

Meetings will be held on Thursday, May 7, at 5:30 p.m., at the Winston Prouty Center, Holton Hall, fourth-floor conference room, 209 Austine Drive, Brattleboro, Vt.; and on Wednesday, May 20, at 6 p.m., via Zoom, with access information available at www.windhamregional.org.

Please direct any questions to Matt Bachler, senior planner, at mbachler@windhamregional.org or 802-257-4547, Ext. 112.

Chester-Andover Elementary School KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Chester-Andover Elementary School has begun the process of registration for children who will be eligible for Kindergarten for the 2026/2027 school year. Children must be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2026. Please contact the school office at 802-875-6832 or email kim.leonard@trs.u.org to let us know your child will be attending.

Green Mountain Union High School FOOD SERVICE WORKER

GMUHS is seeking a part-time school year cook to join its Food and Nutritional Services team (15 hours per week). No nights, weekends, or holidays required. Pay ranges from \$16.70 to \$20.70 per hour. Interested applicants should contact Andrew.Levesque@trs.u.org or 802-875-2146.

ROCKINGHAM, VERMONT

Public Notice of solicitation for Demolition of two buildings in the Town of Rockingham: 25 Hapgood St. & 37 Old Terrace. Contractor must submit, bid form, COI, Non-Debarment Certification. Site visit by request May 14, 2026 12 pm, Bids must be received by May 29, 2026 at 11 a.m. either hand delivered or emailed to development@rockbf.org, Development Office 7 The Square, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Bellows Falls, VT 05101. Project commence week of June 2, 2026 and be completed in June/July 2026. Full bid package at <https://www.rockinghamvt.org/public-notices>

TOWN OF CHESTER - NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lienholders and mortgagees of the real estate in the Town of Chester, in the County of Windsor, and State of Vermont are hereby notified that real estate taxes for the 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 tax years assessed by the Town of Chester remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid upon the following described real estate in the Town of Chester as indicated below, to wit:

Rodney Batchelder (deceased) and Scott Murphy: Delinquent 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 Property Taxes

Being 1.10 acres of land, more or less, with multi-family dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 1807 Mattson Road, Chester, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Rodney G. Batchelder (now deceased) and Lynn Batchelder by Warranty Deed of Warren Pease and Nancy Pease dated July 1, 1977, and recorded in the Chester Land Records in Book 54 at Page 394. Reference is made to the following: (a) Quit Claim Deed from Lynn Batchelder to Rodney G. Batchelder dated July 20, 1999, and recorded in the Chester Land Records in Book 84 at Page 229; and (b) Warranty Deed from Rodney G. Batchelder to Rodney G. Batchelder and Scott N. Murphy, as joint tenants with rights of survivorship, dated December 20, 1999, and recorded in the Chester Land Records in Book 84 at Page 514. (Parcel I.D. #272017).

And so much of said real estate will be sold at public auction at the Chester Town Clerk's office, a public place in said Town on the 16th day of July, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs and fees, unless previously paid. Be advised that the owner or mortgagee, or the owner's or mortgagee's representatives or assigns, of lands sold for taxes shall have a right to redemption for a period of one year from the date of sale pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5260.

Any questions or inquiries regarding the above-referenced sale should be directed to the following address:

Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C.
ATTN: James F. Carroll, Esq. or Wanda M. Murray, Paralegal
64 Court Street
Middlebury, Vermont 05753 Telephone: (802) 388-6711

Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C. and the Town of Chester do not give any opinion or certification as to the marketability of the title to the above-referenced property as held by the current owners/taxpayers.

The only acceptable forms of bid payment at the day of tax sale are bank check payable to Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C., Real Estate Trust Account. **No personal checks will be accepted.**

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 20th day of April, 2026.

Julie Hance, Town of Chester Delinquent Tax Collector

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

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DRIVING

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HELP WANTED

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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WARNING FOR THE LONDONDERRY TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Londonderry, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall, 139 Middletown Road, South Londonderry in Londonderry, on Monday, May 11, 2026, to act on the following Articles, namely:

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR:
Beginning at 6:00 p.m., the following business will be transacted from the floor:

ARTICLE 1 Shall the Town raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$81,000 for the purpose of funding, in part, the salary and benefits of the General Office Manager, a portion of which salary and benefits will be shared by all Departments within the town?

ARTICLE 2 To transact any other business that may legally come before the Meeting.

- (NON-BINDING) Shall the Town of Londonderry authorize the Selectboard to investigate purchasing one or more parcels of land for future use to be determined by a future Town Meeting?

Dated at Londonderry this 6th day of April 2026.

Selectboard of the Town of Londonderry

Thomas Cavanagh, Chair
James Ameden, Jr., Vice Chair
Taylor Prouty
James Fleming
Leanne Alexander

Received for the record this 6th day of April 2026

Allison Marino, Town Clerk

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/skr-qgsm-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
- Watch live on SAPA TV or stream it from <https://www.sapatv.org/>

Dated this 2nd 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

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

Notice posted on the 3rd day of April, 2026

Attest: Barbara A Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC



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TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

At their duly warned 04/20/2026 meeting, the Londonderry, VT Selectboard adopted the Amended Short-Term Rental Ordinance. The new ordinance contains these changes:

- The definition of a "Hosted STR" is expanded to allow a person authorized in writing by the owner to act as Host, if present at and residing on the STR property.
- A Rental Housing Appeals Board will be added for an interested party to appeal an action by the STR Administrator.
- Additional definitions include; Dwelling Unit Capacity (DUC); Good Standing; STR License.
- Definitions with updated language include: Short-Term Rental; STR Administrator; Lock Box; Hosted / Unhosted; and Designated Agent.
- STR operators will be required to include their annual STR License number in all advertising, and to post a town-issued license placard in the STR.
- Clarification that a property owner may license one STR in a given year, excepting those owners issued additional licenses in the 2024-25 year.
- A Designate Agent will be required to sign and submit a statement accepting the responsibilities of that role.
- Applications missing required information will be denied. Submission of false or misleading information, or material omission, on an STR application will be considered a violation of the ordinance subject to a fine.
- Units with unresolved safety violations identified by a Town or State inspection will not be issued a first-time or renewal STR License, until violations are satisfactorily corrected.
- The deadline for STR license renewal will be 15 days before its expiration.

Unless a petition is filed in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 1973, the Ordinance shall become effective sixty (60) days after its adoption. However, the Short-Term Rental registration requirements under Article 4 shall not take effect until July 1, 2026, though STR applications may be accepted by the STR Administrator beginning May 15, 2026.

To read the full ordinance, please visit the Town of Londonderry website, at londonderryvt.gov. Copies have also been placed at the Town Offices at 100 School Street, the Londonderry Post Office, and the South Londonderry Post Office.

Questions or comments may be directed to Andy Dahlstrom, Short-Term Rental Coordinator via phone 802-824-3356 ext. 9, email stradmin@londonderryvt.gov or by mail 100 School Street, Londonderry, VT 05155.

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Raku Pottery with Andrew Berends 5/2 & 5/9 12-4

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(07/15/26 - 1FN - 13)

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(03/17/27 - 52)

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(05/13/26 - 13)

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(08/12/26 - 1FN - 52)

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Gracie Claffin and Clayton Rousse.

PHOTO BY MARIE LAPLANTE



Malloree Snide and Marley Stoddard.

PHOTO BY MARIE LAPLANTE



Maya Villemaire and Liam Ebbitt.

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The little contestants.

PHOTO BY MARIE LAPLANTE

the last dance
SENIOR STYLE

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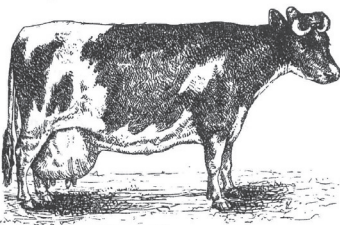


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MaKaila Gallow and Niko Sanville. PHOTO BY MARIE LAPLANTE



Paige Austin and Owen Lawler. PHOTO BY MARIE LAPLANTE



Ryleigh Thayer and Blake Bachinski. PHOTO BY MARIE LAPLANTE

The Last Dance... Senior Style

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the last dance SENIOR STYLE

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~ and ~
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McKenzie Bachinski and Sophia Lihatsch. PHOTO BY MARIE LAPLANTE

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herricks cove festival

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SUNDAY, MAY 3

SCHEDULED PROGRAMS AND WALKS:
 7 a.m. – Walk: Herricks Cove Bird Walk with Ken Cox, Ascutey Mountain Audubon Society
 9:30 a.m. – Gate to Festival Venue Opens
 10 a.m. – Program and Walk: Checking the Turtle Traps with Jim Andrews
 10:30 a.m. – Walk: Bird Walk for Kids with Holly Henderson, naturalist, out-

door program leader, Upper Valley Land Trust
 10:45 a.m. – Walk: "All About Trees" with Lynn Levine
 11 a.m. – Program: "Raptors Up Close" at Vermont Institute of Natural Science
 11:45 a.m. – Demonstration: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Canine Unit
 12:30 p.m. – Program: Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals

12:30 p.m. – Walk: Bird Walk for Beginners with Holly Henderson, naturalist, outdoor program leader, Upper Valley Land Trust
 1 p.m. – Walk: "Fish Grow on Trees" with Courtney Buckley, Vermont Fish and Wildlife
 1 p.m. – Walk: Bug Walk with Michael Sabourin, Vermont Entomological Society
 1:30 p.m. – Program and

Walk: Checking the Turtle Traps with Jim Andrews
 2:15 p.m. – Program: "Live Animals Up Close" at Vermont Museum of Natural History
 2:45 p.m. – Walk: "Invasives of Land and Water" with Lizzy Gallagher
 4 p.m. – Exhibits Close and Festival Ends
LIVE MUSIC IN THE HERRICKS COVE

WILDLIFE FESTIVAL FOOD COURT:
 9:30-11:30 a.m. – Stringfield Springers (Old Timey Bluegrass)
 1-3 p.m. – Paulin Lukombo, Roots Sounds Productions (African Rhythms)
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 Take I-91 to Exit 6.
 After going under the overpass, turn Left on Route 5.
 After crossing the bridge over the Williams River, turn right onto Herricks Cove Road.

Northbound I-91
 Take I-91 to Exit 6.
 Turn Left onto Route 5 toward Chester.
 Turn Right on Route 5.
 After crossing the bridge over the Williams River, turn right onto Herricks Cove Road.

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 Sunday, May 3, 2026

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herricks cove festival

Join the Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival on May 3



Windham County Natural Resources Conservation. PHOTO PROVIDED



Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department booth. PHOTO PROVIDED



Vermont Museum of Natural History 2025 table. PHOTO PROVIDED



VINS Nature Center. PHOTO PROVIDED

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – If you're a wildlife enthusiast itching for spring, be sure to check out the Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival on Sunday, May 3, at beautiful Herricks Cove on the Connecticut River in Rockingham, Vt.

The festival is presented by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society (AMAS), and Great River Hydro, in partnership with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and Audubon Vermont.

This event is also part of the Greater Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce's 2026 Regional Festival Series, made possible through the generous support of regional sponsors. Lead support is provided by Headwaters Partner Next Stage Arts, with additional support from Green Mountain Stewards Great River Hydro, Best Septic Service, and Savings Bank of Walpole; Heritage Guardians Chroma Technologies and WCFR Radio; and Community Roots Sponsors FACT

TV and Oak Meadow Publishing.

This is a family-friendly festival with an emphasis on the wildlife and natural resources of Vermont. The festival will feature live animals, nature-focused walks, kids' activities, presentations by environmental and nature organizations, and demonstrations, including the return of Vermont game warden canine units. There will be food offered by a variety of local vendors, as well as wildlife art, craft, book, and gift vendors

throughout the day.

"The Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival gives participants a chance to learn about and experience our native fish and wildlife and the importance of conserving their habitats so future generations can appreciate them as well," said Courtney Buckley, a state fisheries biologist with Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

"This festival is a wonderful example of how our regional festival series brings people together – connecting residents and visitors

with our natural assets, local businesses, and each other," said Aimee Parnell, executive director of the Greater Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce. "Events like Herricks Cove create meaningful opportunities for connection while also supporting local vendors, driving visitation, and contributing to the economic vitality of our region throughout the 2026 festival season."

Gates open at 9:30 a.m., and activities are scheduled from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., rain

or shine, with a morning bird walk at 7 a.m. The suggested donation is discounted for families and can be paid by cash or check made payable to AMAS, but no one is turned away for lack of funds. Pets are not allowed.

Visit the festival website, www.amasvt.org/herricks-cove-wildlife-festival, for updates, information, and a full list of sponsors.

Herricks Cove is located just off Vermont Route 5, less than three miles north of Bellows Falls.

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11. Bug Hotels with Mercedes Oxford Kemp
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14. VDFW - Alyssa Bennet, Bats/Bat masks
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Tent 1 Exhibitors

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- Birds&Beans - Certified Bird-Friendly Coffee
- Connecticut River Joint Commissions
- Connecticut River Conservancy
- Harris Center for Conservation Education
- Rich Earth Institute (Pee-cycling)
- Upper Valley Land Trust
- USDA NRC Service
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- Vermont Dept. of Fish & Wildlife - Fisheries, Bears, Furbears
- Vermont Land Trust
- Vermont River Conservancy
- Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association (WHPA)

Tent 2 Exhibitors

- Black River Action Team/ONRCD
- The Nature Museum at Grafton
- Vermont Herpetology Atlas - Jim Andrews
- Vermont Entomological Society

Individual Tents

1. Vermont Museum of Natural History
2. VINS
3. Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center
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26. Lemonade Stand - GFRCC
27. Bumbles Birria - Mexican Food
28. Alyssa Noyes - Fair Food

spring home & garden

Andover Green Up Day, picnic

ANDOVER, Vt. – Green Up Day, the yearly statewide effort to clean up trash from the roadsides, will be held on Saturday, May 2. In Andover, the plan is to clean up the roadsides and freshen the cemeteries. A potluck picnic lunch will follow at around noon. Hot dogs and chips will be provided, and participants are asked to bring a side dish or dessert if possible. This is a great way for volunteers to

meet new neighbors and to help the community. Green Up bags can be obtained on May 2, at 9 a.m., at the Andover Town Hall, or from the town office now. If volunteers would like to select a road or cemetery in advance, they can contact Deb Moser at dmoser6468@gmail.com. Otherwise, assignments will be made when volunteers pick up their bags on May 2.

Springfield Green Up Day

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Green Up Day will take place on Saturday, May 2, continuing Springfield's longstanding tradition of community-driven environmental stewardship. Now in its 55th year, this annual event brings together hundreds of volunteers dedicated to cleaning roadside litter, protecting natural resources, and preserving the beauty of local waterways, including culverts and the Black River. Each year, more than 600 volunteers contribute over 200 hours of

service, collecting upwards of 600 bags of trash and removing tons of waste from the community. The effort is coordinated locally by the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the nonprofit Green Up Vermont. Participants may pick up official green bags in advance at the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce office, 56 Main Street in Springfield. Day-of distribution will also be available beginning at 8:30 a.m., in the Springfield Food Co-op parking lot. The Town of Springfield Highway De-

partment will collect filled official green bags in the days following the event. Volunteers are encouraged to exercise caution while cleaning, particularly when encountering sharp objects such as needles. These items should be placed in rigid plastic containers for safe disposal. Green Up Day in Springfield is more than just a cleanup; it's a celebration of community spirit. This year's event will feature a free hot dog cookout sponsored by Springfield Project Action; mulching and planting bed cleanup

in Main Street parks, supported by Springfield on the Move and the Springfield Garden Club; and a special visit from the Springfield Humane Society, which will bring along some furry companions for attendees to enjoy. Community members of all ages are encouraged to participate and take pride in keeping Springfield clean, safe, and beautiful. For more information or to get involved, please contact the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce at info@springfieldvt.com or 802-885-2779.



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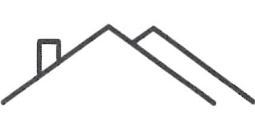
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Garden health and soil pH

REGION – Gardeners know that healthy soils lead to healthy plants. A soil test is a great start to ensure our soils have what they need for optimal plant growth and development.

Soil pH is the measure of how acidic or alkaline your garden soils are. It is reported on a scale of 0-14, where 0 is low or the most acidic (the equivalent to battery acid) and 14 is high or the most alkaline (equivalent to lye). A soil pH of 7 is considered neutral.

Knowing your soil's pH is critical, because it can have a profound effect on the availability of nutrients already in your garden. Many plants will adequately grow in soils with a pH of 6-7.5. However, the ideal pH for most vegetable and berry crops is between 6.5 and 6.8.

The exceptions are plants like blueberries and rhododendrons that prefer more acidic soils with a soil pH around 4.5-5.5.

While soil test results can also reveal the levels of nutrients like phosphorus and potassium in your soils, it is soil pH that determines how much of those nutrients are available to your plants.

The sweet spot becomes a soil pH range where the majority of nutrients are optimally available to meet the nutritional needs of your garden plants. Our challenge as gardeners is to adjust soil pH to land in that optimal range of 6.5-6.8.

Since most Vermont soils are naturally acidic or become more acidic over time, we need to raise pH in many gardens. This is accomplished with the addition of lime. UVM Extension vegetable and berry specialist Vern Grubinger recommends using dolomitic lime when magnesium levels are low, or high-calcium lime when magnesium levels are high. It is important to only apply the amount of lime

recommended in your soil test report. Too much lime can raise the soil pH excessively, leading to soils that are too alkaline. Often, recommendations include smaller amounts a couple of times, typically once in the spring and once in the fall. Wood ash can be used as an alternative to lime. Note that ash from treated wood should never be used in the garden.

If your soil test results suggest that soil pH is too high or alkaline, the addition of

elemental sulfur is recommended. Be sure to follow the recommendations to avoid over-application.

Contact the UVM Extension Master Gardener Helpline at go.uvm.edu/gardenhelpline if you need assistance with your soil test results. If you carefully follow the recommendations, your soil pH will land in the sweet spot your plants will love.

Written by Debra Heleba.

Nature Museum seeks planters

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Nature Museum in Grafton is looking for volunteers to help plant native perennials, trees, and shrubs in their new gardens on Saturday, May 2, and Saturday, May 30, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Volunteers will have the opportunity to learn about habitat restoration, native plant gardening, and climate-forward stewardship while cocreating a space for people and pollinators to enjoy for years to come.

Light refreshments

will be provided, as well as gloves, tools, and guidance by our team of knowledgeable staff and board members. All the plants are regionally sourced or will be transplanted from the museum's holding beds. Students can receive community service hours, and school or business groups are welcome.

Registration is encouraged but not required. More information is available at The Nature Museum's website, www.nature-museum.org/events-calendar, or by calling 802-843-2111.

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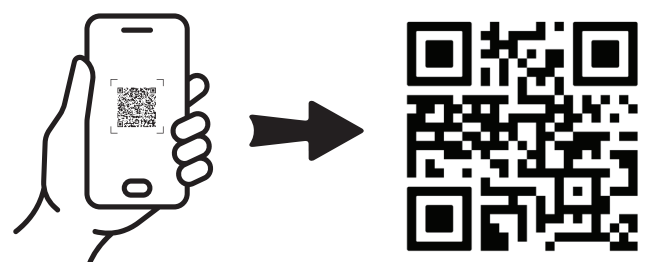
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