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THE MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

MAY 06, 2026 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM PUBLISHED BY THE VERMONT JOURNAL VOLUME 01, ISSUE 44

Claremont reviews visitors center structural report

BY ANNE DEMPSEY
The Message

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Mayor Dale Girard opened the April 22 meeting of the Claremont City Council by requesting a moment of silence for council member Wayne Hemmingway's father, who passed away on April 18.

City Manager Nancy Bates announced that the assistant director of the department of public works, Ted Wadley, was named Supervisor of the Year by the New Hampshire Department of Public Works, that Fire Chief John Chamberlain was elected to represent the State of New Hampshire at the New England division, that the Claremont Police Department was awarded an \$84,000 Victims of Crime Act grant from the New Hampshire Department of Justice to continue the Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team (ACERT) program, and that Dylan Bastian was recently hired as the city's new business development

specialist for the planning and development office.

Bates then gave an update on the North and Main Street project, saying paving should be completed by May 5, depending on the weather. The water main work might not be finished until September or October, however, Bates added.

Bates also announced that anyone who wishes to open burn should call the fire department for more information.

Police Chief Brent Wilmot delivered a draft of an ordinance which would dictate the operation of the Claremont Motorsports Park. Wilmot requested that the council contemplate the draft of guidelines for deliberation. Mike Parks, who runs the Claremont Motorsports Park, spoke about his commitment to Claremont and his willingness to work with the community. During the public comment portion of this discussion, 10 people spoke of their connection with the motorsports park. Six speakers specifically

addressed the level of noise coming from the park and its effect on people's health. The other four stressed the positive aspects of the racetrack. The Motorsports Park has become a multigenerational activity for both fans and racers, and brings money into the community. Everyone who spoke expressed the hope that communication and cooperation could resolve any rifts in the city over the racetrack. After the council addressed their concerns about various points in the draft ordinance, Girard requested that each council member send their notes to Bates to be compiled. These notes would be sent to Wilmot, to be used in editing his draft ordinance. Then, a special council meeting would be called with Chief Wilmot to create an ordinance that would be agreeable to all present.

After reading the structural report about the visitors center completed by SGH engineering firm, Bates reported that the building showed no serious

structural concerns at the present time, though some small repairs were needed. However, the long-term use of the building was questionable. The slab on which the building was built has cracked due to unstable subsoil. The back end of the slab has sunk several inches, which makes opening and closing some of the doors and windows difficult. It will take an estimated \$200,000 to \$300,000 to repair these issues. Bates recommended monitoring the building for a year to determine if it is still sinking. The main question became whether to shutter the visitors center or to make repairs. The consensus among council members was to have staff in this building be moved to another building, as the costs to repair it were too high. Bates agreed to start looking for a new place for staff and to find out the cost of weatherizing the visitors center for the winter.

Kiwanis Big Online Auction a success



CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Kiwanis Club of Claremont held their annual Big Online Auction recently, a successful fundraiser and one of the biggest ways they make an impact to benefit and serve children in the greater Claremont community and Sullivan County. The bids and auction closed on April 18, and proceeds go to local children's charities.

More than 200 items were donated, including Claremont Brewfest tickets, rounds of golf at various golf clubs, a brand-new Stratocaster by Fender electric guitar, a boudoir photography session, a one-year membership to VINS, a one-year membership to Montshire Museum of Science, horse-drawn wagon rides in memory of Joan Baillargeon and Nancy Robitille, many gift cards to various local businesses, homemade

decor, and food items.

The Kiwanis thank sponsors, donors, and bidders of the auction. "A huge thank-you to everyone who bid, donated, shared, and supported this event. Because of you, we're able to continue giving back to kids and families right here in our community... We truly appreciate the incredible support – this community always shows up."

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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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 editor@vermontjournal.com

"The Last Dance" crowns a queen



Ryleigh Thayer, queen.
 Congratulations to all of the contestants for a great performance!



SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – "The Last Dance...Senior Style" was held on Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2. Miss and Mr. Congeniality, Ryleigh Thayer and Clayton Rousse, were named at the Friday-evening performance. The Saturday-evening performances crowned Ryleigh Thayer as queen. Thayer and two members of her court, Gracie Claffin and MaKaila Gallow, were recognized and awarded with scholarships.
 PHOTOS BY MARIE LAPLANTE

Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival



BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The annual Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival was held on Sunday, May 3. The chilly breeze still brought in a large crowd to explore birds, bugs, animals, and other wildlife exhibitions. Walks and presentations brought festivalgoers down onto the trails, immersing them in nature and exploration. Kids' activities splashed color throughout the



event with face paints, T-shirt dying, and creative bat masks. A group of food vendors rounded out the day, keeping attendees fed and warm.
 PHOTOS BY SHAWN TAE WEBB

Which retirement plan is right for your business? —

REGION – If you're a local business owner, a workplace retirement plan can be a powerful tool, helping you manage taxes, strengthen employee retention, and build personal financial security.

Many in your situation, however, assume retirement plans are complicated or only suitable for large companies. The reality is quite different. Today's retirement plan options encompass businesses of every size, from solo entrepreneurs to companies with dozens of employees. The key is understanding which plans work best for different kinds of businesses.

Three commonly used retirement plans for self-employed individuals or businesses without employees are as follows: (1) Simplified employee pension (SEP) plans are relatively straightforward, low-maintenance, lower-cost, and flexible on how much you contribute each year; (2) owner-only 401(k) plans are ideal if you're willing to accept additional cost and complexity in exchange for benefits like higher contribution limits and borrowing options; and (3) owner-only defined benefit plans work best for owners with high, steady income who want to maximize their retirement contributions and guaranteed retirement income. These

plans come with required annual funding and greater administrative complexity.

Businesses with employees can also consider an SEP plan, although it only allows for employer contributions. Other plan options include (1) The savings incentive match plan for employees (SIMPLE) IRA can work well for companies with 100 or fewer employees seeking a low-maintenance option. Employer contributions are required, and it has lower contribution limits compared to other plan types; (2) traditional 401(k) plans offer maximum flexibility by allowing both employee salary deferrals and employer contributions that

can be adjusted based on business performance. These plans have added costs and administrative responsibilities; (3) safe harbor 401(k) plans are ideal if you want to maximize your own retirement contributions without complex testing requirements and you're willing to make required employer contributions; and (4) a cash balance plan is often paired with another plan type, such as a 401(k), to allow greater retirement savings. It works well when you have a smaller company with high-earning employees and consistent cash flow, and you're comfortable making required contributions.

Each plan type involves different eligibility requirements, establishment deadlines, contribution limits, complexity, and costs. In determining a workplace retirement plan that's right for your business, you'll want to consider your number of employees, desired contribution levels, comfort with required employer contributions, and willingness to handle administrative responsibilities. And, of course, the goals for your business and your own retirement are important criteria.

Fortunately, you don't have to navigate this decision alone. A financial advisor can help you evaluate

the trade-offs among different plan types and select the option that best fits your situation. They can explain how various plans work and guide you through the setup process.

Starting a workplace retirement plan is an investment in your future, your business, and your employees. With professional guidance, you can find a plan that helps everyone build financial security while positioning your business for continued success.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Adviser. Edward Jones, member SIPC.

How does Farm on the River CSA work? —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A lot of people have heard of CSA farm share boxes, but aren't quite sure how it works. It's much simpler than you might think, and it might just forever change the way you eat.

Step 1: You join. You

sign up for the season at www.farmontheriver.com. Choose weekly or biweekly delivery, and choose your payment method. Pay in full, or in three or six installments. Now your share of the harvest is reserved for your family, and you

have your own farmers for the season. Boxes are sized to feed a family of four with produce for a full week.

Step 2: We grow your food. All season long, the crew at Farm on the River is growing certified organic vegetables for you on our beautiful farm in Springfield, Vt. Clean soil, water, and air. It's the very best place to grow food. We're seasoned farmers with more than 30 years' experience and pioneers of the organic farming movement. You can trust us to grow the most nutrient-dense and flavorful food for your family.

Step 3: We harvest fresh from our fields just for you. Our harvest crew is in the fields by 7 a.m. harvesting five days a week. Nothing

sits in storage. Everything is harvested fresh to order for your share.

Step 4: We wash, pack, and deliver to your neighborhood, or you can pick up at the farm. Your vegetables are gently washed in our food-safety-certified pack house, carefully boxed up, and ready for pickup at the farm or delivered to your chosen pickup location in Walpole, N.H., or, new this year, in Keene, N.H.

Step 5: You pick it up. Once a week, or biweekly if you choose, you collect your share. It takes five minutes to transfer the contents of your box into your own bags to bring home. No lines, no crowds, just easy self-serve pickup with long pickup windows that run until 8 p.m.

Going away or need to reschedule your pickup? No problem, we're happy to work with you to offer an alternate pickup date or a credit for use later in the season.

Step 6: You bring it home and everything changes. Open your share and see what the season brought you this week.

Read through our newsletter and select some recipes that sound good. We'll walk you through each step of washing, preparing, cooking, and storing the produce in your box. We're foodies first and foremost, so we understand busy lives and making the most of what's in your share.

That's it. No sad grocery store produce or waking up early to get the best selec-



A CSA box.

PHOTO PROVIDED

tion at the farmers market. Just a simple relationship between your farmer, your family, and a box of the freshest food you've ever brought into your kitchen.

And here's what nobody tells you about joining a CSA: It changes your relationship to your food. You start paying attention to what's in season, and you cook with more confidence. Cooking for dinner becomes the best part of the day instead of another thing on the list. Your family eats better and actually enjoys it, because it just tastes so good.

Our first harvest starts in June, and we can't wait to grow and eat well with you this season.

Bellows Falls Bike Project upcoming fundraisers

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Community Bike Project will host a movie screening fundraiser on Thursday, May 14, beginning at 7 p.m. (doors at 6:30 p.m.), at the Bellows Falls Opera House, featuring the movie "The Flying Scotsman," based on the true story of Graeme Obree. There will also be raffles in the lobby.

The Community Bike Project will also host its Pedals to the People fundraiser challenge from May 15 – July 15. Join this eight-week fundraiser where every mile makes a difference. Bik, walk, hike, kayak, etc., solo or as a team. The goal is to enjoy the outdoors, challenge yourself, and support the Bellows Falls Community Bike Project with chances to win some amazing prizes. For details and to sign up, visit www.givebutter.com/pedals-to-the-people-2026-fb2mm.

If a challenge is not your thing, you can still help by visiting the website above and clicking "Donate".

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing your success.

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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, May 15, 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 June 30, 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

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

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16					17		
18							19	20		
24	25	26		27			28	29	30	
31				32				33		
34		35		36			37			
38			39			40				
41	42					43		44	45	46
47				48	49	50				
51				52				53		
54				55				56		

ACROSS

1 Supergirl's first name
5 Platter
9 Author Tolstoy
12 Lay — the line
13 Cold War initials
14 Days of yore
15 Citrus producer
17 Avril follower
18 At hand
19 Unmanned plane
21 Apt. cooler
22 Rid of wool
24 Coconut juice
27 "Nova" subj.
28 Feed the piggy bank
31 Hearty quaff
32 Klutz
33 Actor Patel
34 Mater lead-in
36 Roman 1051
37 Big party
38 Chose
40 Undergrad deg.
41 Ford or Hudson
43 Parlor piece
47 PC key
48 Tangy, custard-like spread
51 Employ

DOWN

1 Pottery oven
2 Suit to —
3 Capital of Italy
4 Parka
5 Obligation
6 Medit. nation
7 Away from NNW
8 Words to live by
9 Picnic drink
10 Panache
11 Garfield's pal
16 "The Wall" network
20 B&O and others (Abbr.)
22 Burn with steam
23 LP player
24 Goat's cry
25 Under the weather
26 Throat-soothing drink
27 Not all
29 Bird doc
30 Cain's mom
35 Earth Day mo.
37 Nabob
39 10th U.S. president
40 "Gandhi" star
41 Kingsley
41 Move, as freight
42 Otherwise
43 Pop
44 Melody
45 Sea eagle
46 Paradise
49 Id counterpart
50 Pas' mates

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health

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

REGION – In a small town, you notice when a neighbor's routine has changed. Maybe an older person hasn't been out in their yard, someone misses a regular gathering, or a child just doesn't seem quite like themselves. Those small observations are part of what makes our community special.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and it offers a good reminder to listen to our intuition when something seems off.

Stable mental health takes the same care we give our physical health. Life brings challenges at every age, and just like physical illness or injury, mental and emotional challenges need attention too. Sometimes a little extra support can make all the difference.

Checking in on older

neighbors

As people grow older, they may find it difficult to adjust to age-related changes in their lives. Retirement, health concerns, or the loss of a spouse can change the trajectory of one's mental wellbeing.

Noticing the change in someone else is the first step. Investing time to visit, make a phone call, or even stop for a quick chat at the grocery store can help someone feel remembered and valued. It doesn't have to be a big gesture. Noticing them and taking the time to listen can mean more than you might think.

Helping young people feel heard

Children and teens are still learning how to handle life's ups and downs. Today more than ever, with the influence of social media in

young lives, children need real people speaking words of acceptance, affirmation, and belonging into their lives. They benefit from knowing they have adults around them who will listen and take them seriously.

It can be extra challenging when emotional problems show up as rebellion, sullenness, distancing, and anger. In children, behavior is communication. When behavior changes, the child is trying to tell you something they don't have the words to explain.

You can make a difference by staying present in their life and off your phone so there is space for both the everyday and the more meaningful conversations. Keeping constant routines, sharing responsibilities and chores, and acknowledging even their

small wins at least 10 times more often than you point out mistakes can help young people build confidence and resilience. Most importantly, they need to know it's okay to be themselves around you.

When challenges are more serious

For some families, mental health concerns are more than the stress and obstacles common to us all. Conditions like depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, or other ongoing challenges can affect daily life in significant ways.

Even so, there is hope. With the right support, many people are able to manage their conditions and continue to lead meaningful lives. Care often includes a mix of counseling, medical support, and strong connections with

others.

One of the most helpful things a community can do is reduce stigma. When people feel safe talking about mental health, they are more likely to reach out and get the help they need.

Support for caregivers and families

You might be surprised at how many people in our community care for a loved one, and that responsibility can be both rewarding and exhausting. Taking care of the mental, emotional, and physical needs of someone else takes a significant toll on the health of the caregiver as well. They often put their own needs last, even when they are running on empty.

Support is available. Organizations like New Hampshire Care Collaborative (NHCC) can help

connect families with resources, including information about respite care, and free education on Medicare benefits and options. You can call NHCC at 603-542-5177 to learn about what resources are available. There is no cost for the service.

Carrying it forward

Mental Health Awareness Month is a good time to start paying closer attention, but it shouldn't stop there. The habits that make a community strong are the ones we practice every day.

Looking in on a neighbor, taking time to listen, or reaching out when something doesn't seem right, these are small actions that add up.

Here in our community, those small actions are what keep us connected. And when we take care of each other, we all benefit.

Tai chi at Westminster Institute

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Ever wondered if tai chi is for you? Beginner classes are opening up in Westminster, in May. Seize this opportunity and find out if Senior Safe Tai Chi is for you.

Tai chi is all about mindful movement. Sometimes called "meditation in motion," the moves are slow, with an eye to enlivening the energetic pathways throughout the body, the same pathways called "meridians" in acupuncture. It is moving this energy, called "chi," that differentiates

tai chi from Western exercise. The health benefits of moving chi are the reasons health care professionals recommend tai chi to their patients, especially older adults.

Senior instructor Leslie Lassetter has been involved with tai chi locally for a decade. First, she studied with Ben Daviss, then with master teachers Gene Gaudreau and Jim Winner, of the Oriental Healing Arts Association.

What is the ongoing class like? We begin with a qigong warmup. Then, we work on "the form," a set of 24 choreographed moves.

Consistent attendance is necessary to learn the sequence of moves. Master "open the energy gates," then learn "flying diagonal." Master "brush knee," then learn "repulse monkey," and so forth.

What is seated tai chi? This class is a gentle workout similar to seated yoga. For those who cannot stand for an hour and/or those with health challenges, such as recovery from surgery, this is the class of choice. Regular attendance is helpful but not required. Note: The building is wheelchair accessible.

Two ongoing tai chi classes

begin in mid-May. They are held on Tuesdays, at 10:30 a.m., beginning May 12; and on Thursdays, at 5:30 p.m., beginning May 14. New students may join ongoing classes until mid-June.

The drop-in seated tai chi class will be held Tuesdays, at 12:15 p.m. Join anytime.

Please wear easy-to-move-in, comfy clothes and clean indoor shoes with nongripping soles. The cost of the class is de-

termined on a sliding scale; the first class is free. Classes are held at the Westminster Institute, 3534 Route 5, Westminster, Vt. For more information, call 802-722-3607 or email Westminstercaresvt@gmail.com.



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HCRS welcomes new staff



New HCRS staff hired in March.

PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's

community mental health agency, is pleased to welcome 12 new professionals who joined the agen-

cy during the month of March. These new hires will strengthen HCRS' services across Windham and Windsor counties as the organization continues to evolve and respond to growing community needs. With more than 550 staff working across more than 20 locations, HCRS brings on new team members each month to ensure continued access to high-quality care across the region. The latest additions reflect the agency's broad reach across southeastern Vermont, and its commitment to providing essential mental health, substance use, and developmental services to more than 4,000 people each year.

HCRS welcomes the following new employees: Elise Cherian, peer support advocate, Brattleboro; Dimitri Flamouropoulos, residential specialist, Bellows Falls; Maria Chicoine-Dominguez, school-based clinician, Hartford; Mariana Salas, behavioral interventionist, Kindle Farm School; Tatum Daily, case manager, Springfield; Jazz Brown King, residential specialist, Springfield; Carmella Richardson, community integration specialist, Bellows Falls; Savannah Ferland, community support specialist and police liaison, Springfield; Shea Harris, community support specialist and police liaison, Hartford; Haley Decelle, behavioral interventionist, Hartford; Rebekah Rounds, residential specialist, Brattleboro; and Ryan Henry, Janitor, Brattleboro.

These professionals bring unique talents and energy to their roles, and HCRS is proud to have them join the team.

Springfield Hospital General Surgery

“Right at the start of basketball season, I had to have emergency appendix surgery, and I was honestly worried about how it would affect my ability to get back on the court.

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CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

ALSTEAD, N.H.

Third Congregational Church UCC, River St.

Sunday worship begins at 11 a.m. Communion is the first Sunday of each month. For more information, email alsteadthirdchurch@gmail.com, call 603-835-6358, or go to www.facebook.com/Third-Congregational-UCC-Church-of-Alstead-NH-120645387960916.

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Brownsville Community Church, 66 Brownsville-Hartland Rd.

Sunday service is 9:30 a.m., held in the church with reduced occupancy or streaming online at www.facebook.com/brownsvillecommunitychurch and www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org.

Vision of Light Church of Spiritualism and Healing, P.O. Box 133, Windsor

The Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with Lay Pastor Dawn Hancy via Zoom. Sign up for the Vision of Light newsletter and Zoom links on Facebook @VOLChurch.

ATHENS, VT.

Community Christian Church of Athens, 126 Brookline Road

Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., and prayer meetings are held Wednesdays, at 7 p.m. If you have questions, call 802-869-2513. The 9:30 a.m. Sunday service is also streamed on Facebook Live at the Church's Facebook page.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.

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

Living Hope Assembly of God, 582 Rockingham Rd.

Pastor Brenda Farkas welcomes all to Sunday worship at 10 a.m., the message at 10 a.m. Livestreaming available at 10:30 a.m., at Living Hope Fellowship Facebook page and the Living Hope Fellowship YouTube channel. Services can also be found at www.sapatv.org and www.fact8tv.com.

United Church of Bellows Falls, UCC, 8 School St.

Worship service starts at 10 a.m. every Sunday. All are welcome to attend. Following the service, there will be a time of refreshments. Many other services are offered throughout the week. If you have any questions or want to learn more, call 802-463-4323, visit the church, or find them on Facebook.

CAVENDISH, VT.

North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Rd.

Worship is Sundays at 9 a.m., with pastor Carolyn Greenwood. Holy communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month. Call 603-477-6985, or visit www.facebook.com/UMCofNorthCharlestown for more information.

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. online or in person. Online services are on Facebook at 10 a.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Cavendish-Baptist-Church-258814894244302. More at www.CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

Charlestown Seventh-day Adventist Church, 242 Main St.

Saturday Services include Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service at 11:15 a.m. and a healthy lunch for all after the service. All are welcome, call 603-276-2383 for more information.

CHESTER, VT.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main St.

Services are on Wednesdays, from 5:30-6 p.m.; and on Sundays, from 10-11:30 a.m., both in person and by Zoom, followed by coffee hour. All are welcome. Handicapped accessible. For a link to the Zoom service or more information about services and events, please visit www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org.

Andover Community Church, 928 Weston-Andover Rd.

Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and worship service 10:45 a.m. For more information, go to www.andovercommunitychurch.org.

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

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

CLAREMONT, N.H.

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 99 Sullivan St.

Worship is Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday and Saturday at 5 p.m. in person. For more information, go to www.hroc.org.

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

Rd.

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

GRAFTON, VT.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St.

Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to www.graftoncommunitychurch.org or call 802-843-2346.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

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

Worship service is at 9:30 a.m. in person or online. Fill out a form at www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org to be sent a link to the live stream.

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.

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

United Church of Ludlow (UCC and Methodist), 48 Pleasant St.

Sunday services are held in person and streamed online at 10 a.m. Email unitedchurch@tds.net for more information. Visit www.unitedchurch.us to receive updates on services and meetings.

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

Weekly worship services are in-person. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for all ages, and Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday's prayer meeting is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.LudlowBaptist.org.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.

Sunday services are 9:30 a.m. in person. Services are still streamed at www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt. For more information, go to www.calvarylovesspringfield.com.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 90 Park St.

Sunday Liturgy is 9:30 a.m. and Saturday vespers at 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-2615 or Parish Council President Thomas Barton at 802-263-5719.

Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley St.

Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Springfield United Methodist Church welcomes everyone! The church can be reached at 802-885-3456.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.

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

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

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

WALPOLE, N.H.

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

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

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.

Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. Services are also available via Zoom. For links and updates, go to www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org.

WESTMINSTER, VT.

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

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in our historic church and on Zoom. We have a children's message each Sunday and following church is a time of fellowship in the Hall with coffee and snacks. For more information, call 802-518-0321, email us at westminstercongronline@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057.

WESTON, VT.

The Old Parish Church, 644 Main St.

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

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Grace I. Farnum, 2025

NAVARRRE, 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.

She is survived by her children Sharon Smart, Grace Nelson, Vickie Coyle, and Russell Farnum; and was predeceased by her son Harry Farnum Jr.

A graveside service will be held June 14, at 11 a.m., at Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt.

She will be deeply missed by her family and all who knew her.

Joanne Matthews, 1935-2026

HINSDALE, N.H. – Joanne Matthews, of Hinsdale, N.H., passed away on April 19, 2026, at the Jack Byrne Center in Lebanon, N.H.

Joanne was born on June 9, 1935, in South Reading, Vt., the daughter of Gerald Matthews and Beatrice (Stocker) Matthews.

Joanne worked at the Book Press in Brattleboro for many years, and she also served as president of the labor union.

Joanne was predeceased by her parents, her sister Sandra Stratton, her son Wendell Deuso Jr., and her daughter Valerie Dubiel.

Joanne is survived by her son Bruce Deuso, and daughters Lynn Cunningham and Lori Raymond, as well as her brother, Jerry Matthews, and sisters Juanita Sylvester and Nancy



Joanne Matthews, 1935-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

Lord. She is also survived by several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as nieces and nephews.

There will be a celebration of life scheduled at a later date.

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

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.



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

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

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TOWN OF LONDONDERRY VERMONT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Londonderry Development Review Board will meet at 100 Old School St at 5:30 PM on Wednesday May 20, 2026, to hold a public hearing for an application from Wylie Construction for a setback variance at the Berkowitz property at 2460 Under the Mountain Rd. Those interested in seeing the applications, submitting written comments, or attending the hearings remotely should contact the town's Zoning Administrator at zoningadmin@londonderryvt.org.

Mount Holly Select Board seeks Treasurer

The Mount Holly Select Board seeks to appoint a Treasurer to fill the position until the end of the current term in March 2027.

The Treasurer role includes the responsibility to keep the Town's financial accounts, investing Town funds, keeping a record of the taxes voted, paying the bills when orders to do so are properly submitted, supporting grant applications and reporting, and interacting with other Town officials to ensure that Town finances run smoothly. This position may be supported by an Assistant Treasurer also to be appointed by the Select Board.

This position is open only to those registered to vote in the Town of Mount Holly. Although the position can be performed remotely, ideally the appointee will be able to work in the Town Office for 1-2 hours per week.

Competitive candidates will have prior accounting, bookkeeping or municipal treasurer experience.

Interested candidates should submit a resume and letter of interest to the Mount Holly Select Board at mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com or by mail to PO Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758, or these can also be dropped off at the Town Office, 50 School Street, Mount Holly.

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF WINDHAM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Selectboard of the Town of WINDHAM proposes, pursuant to Title 19 Vermont Statutes Annotated, Chapter 7, and pursuant to vote by the Selectboard on its own motion, to take the following action with regard to the town highway set forth below:

1) To discontinue Monet Lane (Town Highway # 30) in its entirety; the property to return back to the abutting landowners; and

THEREFORE, pursuant to Title 19 V.S.A. Chapter 7, you are hereby notified that a site visit will be held by the Selectboard for the Town of WINDHAM on June 15, 2026 commencing at 4:30 p.m. at the Monet Lane road site.

The Selectboard shall reconvene in the Meeting Room at the Windham School Building, Windham, Vermont, after the site visit for a hearing on the matter. The hearing shall begin at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the Selectboard and interested persons return from the site visit. The purpose of the hearing shall be to hear all persons interested in said public highway discontinuance.

This hearing and site visit will be a joint hearing and site visit with the Town of Windham Selectboard as the highway, Monet Lane, exists in both towns, and each town desires to discontinue the roadway.

Dated at Windham, Vermont this 4th day of May, 2026.

SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF WINDHAM

NOTICE OF SALE TOWN OF CAVENDISH, VERMONT

NOTICE OF TERMS OF PROPOSED CONVEYANCE OF REAL ESTATE

On April 13th, 2026, the Selectboard of the Town of Cavendish approved the following terms for the sale of parcel # 1V20-117, 341 & 343 Greven Road Extension. This notice is published pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1061 to provide the public with notice of the terms of the proposed conveyance and of the citizens' right to petition for a vote to disapprove the conveyance.

TERMS OF PROPOSED SALE

In exchange for a lump sum payment in the amount of \$36,431.33, parcel # 1V20-117, 341 & 343 Greven Road Extension shall be deeded from the Town of Cavendish to Arnold Norton Jr.

CITIZENS' RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE

In accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 1061(a)(2) If a petition signed by five percent of the legal voters of the municipality objecting to the above proposed conveyance is presented to the municipal clerk within 30 days of the date of posting and publication of this notice, the legislative body shall cause the question of whether the municipality shall convey the real estate to be considered at a special or annual meeting called for that purpose. After the meeting, the real estate may be conveyed unless a majority of the voters of the municipality present and voting vote to disapprove of the conveyance.

Unless a petition is filed in accordance with subdivision 24 V.S.A. § 1061(a)(2), the legislative body may authorize the conveyance.

PERSON TO CONTACT

Additional information pertaining to this conveyance may be obtained by contacting Richard Chambers, Town Manager 802-226-7291 or cavtm@cavendishvt.org during normal office hours.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 9 –

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The North School Preservation Society will hold its first yard sale fundraiser of the season on Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., rain or shine, at 5 School Street. The sale includes household goods, tools, books, vintage items, collectibles, small appliances, and much more.

NEWPORT, N.H. – Dance to live country music on Saturday, May 9, from 2-5 p.m., at the Newport Moose Club, 18 Golf Club Road.

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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join the Springfield Humane Society in front of Shaw's, in the Springfield Plaza, on Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., for basket raffles and baked goods by donation.

MAY 12 –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center's first car show planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, at 6 p.m., at the senior center, 5 Acer

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Selectboard of the Town of LONDONDERRY proposes, pursuant to Title 19 Vermont Statutes Annotated, Chapter 7, and pursuant to vote by the Selectboard on its own motion, to take the following action with regard to the town highway set forth below:

1) To discontinue Monet Lane (Town Highway # 21) in its entirety; the property to return back to the abutting landowners; and

THEREFORE, pursuant to Title 19 V.S.A. Chapter 7, you are hereby notified that a site visit will be held by the Selectboard for the Town of LONDONDERRY on June 15, 2026 commencing at 4:30 p.m. at the Monet Lane road site.

The Selectboard shall reconvene in the Meeting Room at the Windham School Building, Windham, Vermont, after the site visit for a hearing on the matter. The hearing shall begin at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the Selectboard and interested persons return from the site visit. The purpose of the hearing shall be to hear all persons interested in said public highway discontinuance.

This hearing and site visit will be a joint hearing and site visit with the Town of Windham Selectboard as the highway, Monet Lane, exists in both towns, and each town desires to discontinue the roadway.

Dated at Londonderry, Vermont this 4 day of May, 2026.

SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

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.

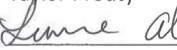
Selectboard of the Town of Londonderry


Thomas Cavanagh, Chair

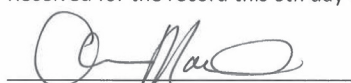

James Ameden, Jr., Vice Chair


Taylor Prouty


James Fleming


Leanne Alexander

Received for the record this 6th day of April 2026


Allison Marino, Town Clerk

Heights.

MAY 13 –

PLAINFIELD, N.H. – The Blow-Me-Down Grange's Humpday Luncheon will be served on Wednesday, May 13, from 12-1 p.m. The menu will be turkey a la king over rice, salad, and dessert. Proceeds from the event will benefit Liberty House for veterans in Manchester, N.H.

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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Rotary Club will be holding a Fill the Cart From the Heart Food Drive on Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., in the Springfield Shopping Plaza, to benefit the Springfield Family Center Food Shelf. Please come grab a bag and fill it with nonperishable food items or personal care products to help those in need. The Rotary Club will be set up by Shaw's in the plaza and hopes to see you there.

MAY 16 –

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – A spring migration bird walk cosponsored by Acutney Mountain Audubon Society, Weathersfield Historical Society, Weathersfield Parks and Recreation, WPLA, and Weathersfield Conservation Commission will be held on May 16, at 7 a.m., beginning at the Walsh Bird Sanctuary. Please email amas@vermontel.net to get directions and to register for the event. This event is free and open to all ages. The walk will be on forest trails with some steep sections, and is about 2 miles with a shorter option available for those who desire. Bring binoculars. No dogs. Parking directions will be provided upon registration. Carpooling is advised.

ALSTEAD, N.H. – Charles Andros, former New Hampshire and Vermont apiary inspector, will hold a beekeeping workshop on Saturday, May 16, from 1-4 p.m., at 18 MacLean Road. Topics of discussion will be finding queens, requeening colonies, pollen collection, swarm control, supering, and bee-venom therapy. Bring a veil if you have one,

as we shall be opening some colonies. Water and sunscreen are also a plus. We'll be inside if it is a rainy day. Registration is required. To register, email lindenamel@gmail.com or call 603-756-9056.

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.

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Plymouth Historical Society, at the former Plymouth Elementary School, will be open every Sunday afternoon, from 2-4 p.m. Watch for the "open" flag.

MONDAYS –

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS –

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

THURSDAYS –

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.

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

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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.

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home/storage unit clean outs, stump grinding, and refinishing/repairing gravel driveways. Serving Springfield, Vt. area. Call/text 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

DRIVING

Driving anywhere in the Chester, Ludlow, Mount Holly area, call Yana at 802-259-2226.

HAIRCUT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Disabled man seeking someone to give in-home haircut, preferably on a recurring

basis. Will pay market rate. Please call 802-885-6796.

YARD SALE

MOVING SALE, Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., at 184 South Street, Springfield, Vt. Rain or shine. Everything must go.

WANTED

CLAREMONT, N.H. - I am looking for a fuse box for a 1996 Chevy Geo Metro LS, 4 cylinder with manual transmission. Call 919-772-3832 or email cindy-cool09@yahoo.com.

Magris Talc offers college scholarships

REGION - Magris Talc is now accepting college scholarship applications for the 2026-2027 academic year. Two \$2,500 scholarships are available for students of the greater Ludlow area (Springfield, Chester, Andover, Mount Holly, etc.) in their last year of homeschool or high school, who are choosing to pursue either a four-year bachelor's degree or two-year technical or trade program.

To qualify, students must be entering a field of study

that would qualify in one of the following disciplines: earth or natural sciences; mining; engineering; environmental studies or management; health and safety; or the industrial trades, such as mechanical, electrical, welding, HVAC, and plumbing.

Applicants must submit an essay describing their

interest in the field they are entering, how that interest developed, and what their plans are for the future. Essays must be accompanied by a cover letter with all contact information and submitted to Magris Talc, c/o Scholarship Committee, 73 East Hill Road, Ludlow, VT 05149. The application deadline is May 30.

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@trsu.org or 802-875-2146.

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DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB)

WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL
Westminister, Vermont

Legal Notice

The Westminister Development Review Board will meet at 6:00 pm on **Monday, June 1, 2026** to consider the following:

Application # 26-30 **Luis Gaullpa (Owner) & Eli Reed (Applicant)** property located at 3366 & 3338 US Route 5. The Owner & Applicant are requesting a Change of Use - To establish Lodging / Bed & Breakfast and Restaurant in Westminister, Vermont. This Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 445 Village District Zone; & Article IX Historical Preservation Overlay** of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Application # 26-31 **Kyle & Shari Pierce (Owners)** property located at 82 Rathbun Rd. The Owners are requesting a Garage with a "Waiver of Dimensional Requirements" in Westminister, Vermont. This Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 312 Waiver of Dimensional Requirements; & Section 447 Rural Residential District Zone** 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 Westminister Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5 Westminister, Vermont 05158, Monday - Thursday from 7:30 am - 4:30 pm.

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT **PROBATE DIVISION**
Windsor **Unit** **Docket No.: 26-PR-01487**

In re ESTATE of: Marilyn Brochu

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Marilyn Brochu
Decedent

Date of Weathersfield 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: 4-27-26 Signature of Fiduciary

<small>Executor/Administrator</small>		<small>Mailing Address</small>
Donald R. Brochu		c/o Parker & Ankuda, PC, PO Box 519
<small>Phone Number</small>	<small>Email</small>	<small>City, State, Zip</small>
802-885-2582		Springfield VT 05156

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal - The Shopper

Publication Date: May 6, 2026

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windsor County, Probate Division

Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green
Woodstock VT 05091

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

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(12/9/26 - 52)

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May 23 11-12:30 Artist Demo - **Handmade Books**
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(07/15/26 - TFN - 13)

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(03/17/27 - 52)

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(09/16/26 - 26)

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(06/17/26 - 13)

opinion

LEGAL NOTICES

Dear Editor,

This letter is to enthusiastically endorse Wendy Levy for president of the Bellow Falls Village Trustees. She is smart, capable, creative, caring, responsible, aware of the issues, and, most importantly, aware of the suffering of others, with the compassionate intent to alleviate that suffer-

ing.

Yes, as someone who has known Wendy for many years, I do enthusiastically endorse her candidacy.

Paid for by Michael Gigante, Ph.D.
Bellows Falls, Vt.

Dear Editor,

I decided to run for Chester GM School Board and passed all my info to the town in order. Chester had a forum for all the candidates who were running for public office. The moderator asked candidates the questions, and we all answered, giving the public why you should vote for us. It went well and The Chester Telegraph was there to report and take photos for questions they were going to ask. I and many others have had issues with The Chester Telegraph and how and why they do their reporting on articles. Their articles on candidates were, let's say one-sided, and filled with specific words to call attention to the editors/blog views or candidates they supported.

The Chester Telegraph not only printed articles in support of my opponent, but also printed articles to not vote for me. I was interested in getting on the school board and dealing with very important issues coming our way. Chester had its voting on March 3, and the results came in. I had lost the race 287-259; I lost by 28 votes.

Freedom of speech seems

to be served by The Chester Telegraph as they see fit. (1) By supporting a candidate who had ethics issues. (2) Publishing a direct article to not vote for his opponent, me. I did nothing and this hurt my votes. (3) Not printing my answers as I submitted them to the six questions that The Chester Telegraph had asked. Instead The Chester Telegraph editor, who I went back and forth with, answered my questions with "Declined to answer" for all six questions. I submitted my reply to the six questions in time to be printed in my posting running for GM School Board. So, I ask again, freedom of speech is the right to freely stomp on another's freedom of speech if you are a well-established editor?

I then filed and read my formal complaint to our town selectboard to remove them as a paper of record. Four out of our five selectboard members voted to keep The Chester Telegraph paper of record and find my complaint to be irritating and a waste of their time and infringing on freedom of press. Freedom of speech for me, yes or no? I now find The Chester Telegraph to be

not a paper, not a blog, but a tabloid, with what and how they edit and report. This is what we want our Town of Chester to be represented with by paying them?

I have asked The Chester Telegraph to please print what I had answered for my questions over and over again. They did not do this. At the selectboard meeting, The Telegraph stated it is their paper and they can print what they want. First of all, they do not meet the guidelines of paper of record and do not have a printed copy of a paper. If they can print what they want as claimed, then why ask anyone questions?

So, to that end, my response that I asked The Telegraph to put in for each of my six questions was, "No comment here. I will be happy to answer any questions in person at the Fullerton Inn on Feb. 28, at 5:30, p.m. Sincerely, Randy Miles." The Telegraph put in "Declined to answer" for all six questions. This was another in-person open forum.

I gave a slight hint that I was not comfortable with The Chester Telegraph and left it to the voters to decide, not the editor of The Telegraph. Do you think there is a difference between what the editor of The Telegraph answered to my questions and what I submitted to them, to put in place of each of the six questions? Does The Telegraph have more of a right to print my answer for me than me? Did The Telegraph have any influence on the voting?

Sincerely,
Randy Miles
Chester, Vt.

Dear Editor,

At a recent Chester Planning Commission meeting, Kellen Appleton and Allison Hopkins from the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission shared a statistic that stopped me cold. Chester's average age is rising one year for every two that pass. At that pace, within 30 years, our average resident will be 65 or older.

The numbers confirm it. In 2020, Chester had 745 residents over 65 and only 532 under 18. Our median age climbed from 41.9 to 50.5 in just 20 years. For the first time in modern memory, we have more seniors than school-age children.

An aging population is one of the clearest signals of a community under strain. In any healthy society, we make a bargain: We care for the old through Social Security and Medicare. We care for the young through public schools. In between, working-age adults produce, build, raise families, and keep a town alive.

That balance is breaking here. Chester is losing children, and a major reason is housing constraint. Act 181 was designed to loosen land-use barriers and create housing where infrastructure supports it. The goal is not growth for its own sake. It is to give younger families a reason to move in, and

to give older residents the option to downsize.

That is why I struggle with Act 73.

Act 73 is presented as a path to efficiency through education consolidation. But even the state's own redistricting task force reported it did not find evidence that mergers on this scale would reliably lower costs, improve outcomes, or expand equity. Vermont has been down this road before. An analysis of Act 46 found that merged and unmerged districts ultimately spent about the same, just in different ways.

And those analyses miss the soft costs. In Chester, our schools are woven into daily life. Some kids walk. Some ride bikes. Many families have short drives. If consolidation pushes students farther away, the cost does not disappear. It shifts from the state ledger onto working families: longer drives, more fuel, more wear on vehicles, more lost time.

Meanwhile, we face a more immediate crisis. Chester's Green Mountain Unified School District (GMUSD) budget – \$19.34 million – failed at the polls in March. Superintendent Layne Millington has warned that substantial cuts would produce only small tax reductions. The district has already begun contemplating reductions in force. That means firing teachers.

If we start cutting teachers to squeeze a budget into place, we weaken one of

the very things that makes a town attractive to new families. The enrollment data makes this vivid. Two Rivers Supervisory Union has lost 22% of its students in five years – from 919 in 2020, to 721 in 2025. Chester-Andover alone dropped from 241 to 211.

Cutting schools will not reverse that trend. It will accelerate it.

If Vermont wants intelligent growth, it cannot invite housing development with one hand while undermining local schools with the other. Strong schools are not a side issue. They are one of the core reasons families choose a community.

Before we cut teachers in the name of efficiency, we should exhaust smarter alternatives: shared services, better sourcing, bulk purchasing, regional contracts, and creative partnerships that reduce costs without reducing quality.

Chester votes again on May 12. For many homeowners, the added cost is closer to the price of a fast-food breakfast each month than the financial catastrophe some fear. In return, we keep teachers in classrooms and preserve one of the strongest assets that still draws young families here.

Vote "yes" on the GMUSD budget. Our town's future depends on it.

Sincerely,
Carl Henshaw
Chester, Vt.

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.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD TAXPAYER NOTICE

The fourth and final installment of the 2025-2026 Town & Town School District Taxes is due and payable May 15, 2026. Payments can be made as follows:

- In person or through the mail. Allow extra time for mail delivery.
- Dropped into our mail slot located in the white door that faces Main Street or into the mail slot located in the door on the second floor at the top of the outside stairs.
- Electronically on the town's website at <https://springfieldvt.gov>. A fee is charged for this method of payment.

Payment receipts available in person or by including a stamped self-addressed return envelope or an email address. Town Hall is open M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Barbara A. Courchesne, Treasurer, CVT.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF READING, VT – HIGHWAY DEPT

The Town of Reading VT is seeking an Equipment Operator/Truck Driver/Laborer for the Town Highway Department. The position is for an energetic individual that is seeking full-time secure long-term employment. The position is 40 hours per week. (4) 10-hour days, May to October and (5) 8-hour days November to April. However, a flexible schedule during the November to April period is a must and may include nights, weekends and holidays, as well as overtime. The applicant must be able to pass a random pre-employment drug test and understand that the position also includes random drug and alcohol testing by the State of Vermont. Applicants must possess a current valid CDL license, have a clean driving record, and be dependable and willing to be on call during winter hours. Experience with the operation of heavy equipment such as a bucket loader and road grader as well as equipment such as chain saws, and welders etc. a plus. Manual labor and some heavy lifting is required. The knowledge and ability to do some mechanical repairs is also a plus. This job includes an excellent starting salary range of \$20.00 to \$26.00 per hour depending on experience, and a benefit package including vacation, insurance and retirement contribution.

Questions should be referred to Bob Allen, Chair of Selectboard at (802)-296-1124 or rkallen@myfairpoint.net

Send application, resume and references to: Town of Reading, PO Box 72, Reading, VT 05062 Attn: Selectboard, OR e-mail to Selectboard@readingvt.net

Dear Editor,

I am grateful to Captain Claude Weyant for his letter in the April 22 edition advising cyclists, especially children, of the safety measures and traffic laws they should observe. All of his advice is correct and useful. But what bothers me is that it makes cycling sound inherently dangerous, and places all of the responsibility for road safety on the cyclist.

The officer is completely right to empha-

size the rules of the road that minors may not know but of which they should be aware: yielding to pedestrians, slowing down and being cautious at intersections, making signals, etc.

If only all drivers met this standard! My point is that our traffic law enforcement officers would do well to ensure that all of the vehicular traffic obeyed these principles. My experience, as a cyclist and as a driver (as nearly all adult cyclists are), is that most Vermont drivers are careful and considerate when encountering bicycle riders.

But all cyclists live in dread of the distracted driver, especially the one looking at their phone and

texting as they drive. We can't tell child cyclists to avoid these drivers; they're just out there, a lethal menace.

We rely on our sheriff's department and police departments to reinforce the message to drivers that they are the ones in charge of a potentially deadly object, and they have to operate it responsibly, with due consideration to more vulnerable but equally entitled road users. Which means not checking the phone while they drive.

I look forward to Captain Weyant's letters to the editor driving home that message.

Yours faithfully,
Matt Seaton
Cavendish, Vt.



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North Walpole Village District Hydrant Flushing

The North Walpole Water Department with the assistance of the North Walpole Fire Department will be flushing hydrants throughout the Village District starting at 9 AM on Saturday, May 9th, 2026.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Bob Mcguirk, Water Operator at 603-313-5422.

North Walpole Village District
Board of Commissioners

Town of Plymouth, Vermont Highway Department Position Available

The Town of Plymouth has an opening in its Highway Department effective July 1, 2026. This is a full-time, year-round position. Duties will include snow plowing, sanding and salting roads, road construction, maintenance and other related duties. Applicant must hold a valid VT CDL and have experience operating a dump truck with a plow and sander.

Competitive salary as well as a great municipal benefits package to include health & dental insurance, retirement plan, paid holidays, and paid vacation. Overtime is required in the winter for storm events and compensation is 1.5 times the hourly rate.

Please submit a completed application to the Plymouth Town Clerk's Office at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont 05056 or email clerk@plymouthvt.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Plymouth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PROS TO KNOW

real estate

What to look for when buying a house

REGION – If you're looking to buy a home, here are some general rules that can help you find a home that works for you now and in the future.

Search for the right price

Price will ultimately dictate what you can buy. While looking at homes above your price range can be fun and provide you with a sense of the market, it also can set you up for disappointment if you fall for a home outside your price range.

Prioritize the location

Location is one of the most important things to consider when buying a home, but 23% of buyers report finding it difficult to find a home in their desired location.

Here are a few things to consider:

Proximity to downtown – Homes closer to core downtown areas tend to be more expensive, thanks to their shorter commutes. According to Zillow research, in 18 of the 35 large metro areas included in the analysis, buyers should expect to pay more for a home within a 10-minute rush-hour drive to the downtown core. However, keep in mind that home values in this bracket are also growing more slowly in much of the country as more buyers shift to remote work and place a lower value on shorter commute times.

Community attributes – If you want the ability to walk to restaurants and shops, see if you'll be close enough by walking or biking the distance to town. Spend time exploring the area, checking out nearby parks and nearby attractions. If you prefer solitude and don't mind driving, consider homes that offer

more privacy, perhaps in locations off the beaten path.

School district quality – Zillow understands that a parent looking for a new home wants to do everything they can to ensure the best possible educational situation for their child, and choosing a home that feeds into schools that support their children in all the right ways is part of that process. You should visit the local schools to gather your assessment of the education and programs.

Flood zone status – Homes located in high-risk flood zones require special insurance coverage beyond the typical homeowners policy.

Home orientation on property – Think about what the daily experience of living in the home might feel like. Does it get enough sunlight, or too much? Are you a comfortable distance from the neighbors? Consider the distance and difficulty of traveling from the driveway to the front door and whether seasonal changes will turn features like a steep driveway into a hazard.

Think long term

Zillow research shows that the typical homeowner stays in their home for 14 years before selling. Make sure the home meets your long-term goals and plans.

Bedrooms and bathrooms – If you plan to grow your family in the near future, make sure the new home can accommodate your plans, whether it's an extra room for a new child, an in-law suite for parents, or a guest bedroom for visitors or rental income. If you plan to work remotely, consider whether you need designated office space or a flexible space that can serve

as a workspace. If you're transitioning to retirement, think about how much space you'll want.

Outdoor space – Most buyers consider outdoor space important. Do you want a place for parties, kids, and pets? How about a garden? Do you want private space, or close proximity to a park or community garden?

Potential to personalize – Many buyers look for a home that's move-in ready, so they can avoid costly repairs and updates, especially right after moving in. If you want to infuse the home with your personal style, you might want to avoid homes that can't be changed enough to fit your preferences or those with recent upgrades that are selling for top dollar.

Lifestyle amenities – As you evaluate homes, consider your hobbies and what makes you happy. For example, if you love to cook, pay special attention to the kitchen. If you like to run for exercise, are there trails or pleasant streets to traverse? Think about your current living situation, what you love about living

there, and what you would change.

Assess property condition

Television makes home renovations look easy, but in reality, they can be anything but. If you're a first-time buyer who has never undertaken a home project, you may want to steer clear of a home in serious disrepair. Here are the three major categories of property condition.

Move-in ready – A move-in ready home is new, close to new, or has been recently renovated. Such homes also may be called "turn-key."

Needs repair – A home that needs minor updates might have cosmetic issues you'd like to change or have some dated mechanical systems that could be updated for energy savings. If you're curious, consult with a contractor to get an idea if upgrades are affordable for you.

A home in need of major repairs is often priced lower than other similar homes due to the money and time it will take to improve it. You might enjoy personalizing the home, but consider that the return on invest-

ment for a major renovation isn't 100%, and extensive repairs could delay your move-in date. If you find a home in great condition with the exception of an outdated kitchen or bathroom, you could update the space while living there or move out briefly while the work is being done.

Check condition of costly systems

Regardless of a home's condition, make sure your inspector checks major systems and mechanicals in the home to ensure they're in working order. If the inspector finds issues, consider asking the seller to repair them before closing or offer you a credit so you can fix them yourself. Be especially alert for the following issues, which can cost thousands to repair or replace: a damaged roof; older furnace or HVAC system; flooding, water damage, or mold; old insulation, which may contain asbestos; plumbing issues/leaks; exterior cracks; uneven floors; and inefficient windows.

Don't focus on minor cosmetic details

No house is perfect, so try not to get hung up on little imperfections. Cosmetic changes are fairly easy and relatively affordable to make, such as paint, hardware, furnishings, and landscaping.

It's easy to get distracted by clutter. Try to see beyond the seller's stuff, since it'll all be removed by the time you move in. Picture the house as a blank canvas for your belongings.

Stick with your must-haves

There's a big difference between wants and needs when shopping for a home, so it might help to create a list for each. For instance, a shorter commute may be a must-have, but smart-home features are a nice-to-have.

You may be that lucky buyer who finds a house that checks all the boxes, but chances are you'll have to make some compromises. If you do, make sure you've got your needs covered.

Written by Val Jordan. Provided by Zillow Group.

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arts & events

OUTDOOR

“The Greatest Film Adaptations of All Time”

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Tuesday, May 12, at 6 p.m., join author Marty Gitlin for his presentation “From Book to Screen: The Greatest Film Adaptations of All Time,” from “The Wizard of Oz,” to “Wicked,” and everything in between.

Author and pop-culture historian Gitlin will show snippets of such classics as

“The Wizard of Oz,” “Gone With the Wind,” “To Kill a Mockingbird,” “Breakfast at Tiffany’s,” “The Graduate,” “The Godfather,” “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” “Jaws,” “The Color Purple,” “Shawshank Redemption,” “Jurassic Park,” “Forrest Gump,” and “Wicked.” Gitlin will play film adaptation trivia with the patrons along

the way. Gitlin will have autographed and personalized copies of his books available after the program. This presentation is both enlightening and entertaining, so please join us. To sign up for a reminder, visit www.springfield-townlibrary.org/calendar.

Summer sand volleyball returns to Chester

CHESTER, Vt. – Get ready to serve, spike, and socialize as the Chester sand volleyball community gears up for another exciting season at Thomas Field. Running from May through October, this vibrant local league invites players and spectators alike to enjoy everything summer evenings in Vermont should be: active, social, and full of energy.



Chester Volleyball members play at Thomas Field. PHOTO PROVIDED

Whether you’re a seasoned competitor, looking to meet new people, or simply hoping to try something new, there’s a place for everyone on the sand. The league offers a variety of ways to get involved: Tuesday night, 6-on-6 league play (currently full, a testament to the league’s popularity); Thursday evening, 4-on-4 league play; Friday night, free pickup volleyball open to all skill

levels; and Sunday afternoon, competitive doubles pickup for those looking to elevate their game. In addition to weekly play, a series of tournaments will be held throughout the season, bringing even more excitement and competition to the courts. The setting at Thomas Field is part of what makes this league so special. With

three well-maintained sand courts, a pavilion with restrooms, and an outdoor fire pit that becomes a natural gathering spot on cooler evenings, it’s more than just a place to play; it’s a place to connect. Players come for volleyball, but they stay for the community. Whether you’re diving into the sand for the first time or chasing a championship, the Chester sand volleyball league offers a welcoming, high-energy environment where everyone can feel at home.

Stop by, bring a friend, and be part of something special this summer. For more information on league registration, tournament dates, or general inquiries, visit Chester Vermont Volleyball League on Facebook, email chestervtvolleyball@gmail.com, or stop by Thomas Field during scheduled play times.

“Gone Guys” to screen at Springfield High School

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m., the documentary film “Gone Guys” will be screened at the Springfield High School auditorium, followed by a community discussion featuring the film’s

creators, Superintendent Peter Burrows, and current Springfield High School students. This documentary explores the reasons why, over the past 50 years, boys and young men have steadily disengaged from school,

work, and broader society, and why they’re falling behind academically, struggling with loneliness and isolation, and facing rising rates of substance abuse and suicide. This screening is free and open to the community.

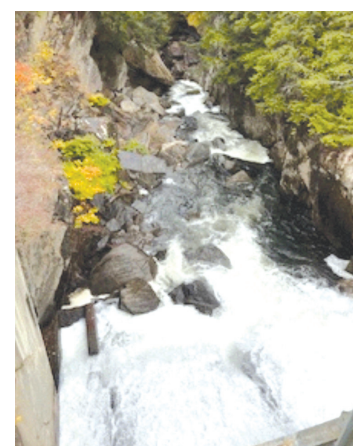
Explore the Cavendish Gorge

CAVENDISH, Vt. – The Cavendish Gorge is a spectacular natural feature. Join Cheryl Cox, retired geologist and science educator, on Saturday, May 16, at 10 a.m., to learn about the site’s formation and the glacial history of the area. Starting at the sand and gravel pits, we will view the gorge from below, then walk up to the dam at the top of the gorge.

Road, just off Route 131 in Cavendish. There is plenty of parking at the station, as well as along the road. Be sure to wear shoes suitable for hiking on uneven terrain and tick-preventive clothing. This event will only be cancelled in the event of heavy rain.

To register or for more information, contact Bonnie at bdajemig@gmail.com, or visit www.cavendishccca.org. This event is part of the Walk and Talk series sponsored by the

Cavendish Community and Conservation Association (CCCA). You can visit the CCCA Facebook page or website to find out more about upcoming activities.



Looking down at the Cavendish Gorge. PHOTO BY RON EMIG

Local 6K in Chester supports clean water access

CHESTER, Vt. – The Global 6K for Water will take place on Saturday, May 16, at 9 a.m., beginning and ending at the Green Mountain Church, 469 Main Street in Chester. This event is part of a worldwide effort through World Vision to bring clean water to communities in need. Participants can walk, run, or bike the 6-kilo-

meter distance, which represents the average distance many people, often children, walk each day to collect water for their families. Now in its ninth year, the Chester event continues to build momentum. Organizers hope to grow participation this year and welcome more individuals, families, and local groups to get involved. Funds raised through the

Global 6K for Water support sustainable clean water solutions that improve health, education, and daily life for children and families around the world. The event is open to all ages and fitness levels. To register, visit www.global6k.worldvision.org/teams/40179. For more information, email Rebekah Martens at rebekah.martens1@gmail.com.

Twilight Music presents John Gorka at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Twilight Music presents acclaimed singer-songwriter John Gorka in concert on Sunday, May 17, at 7 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org.

Described by Rolling Stone as “the leading singer-songwriter of the New Folk movement,” Gorka has spent decades captivating audiences with his rich baritone voice, evocative songwriting, and deeply human storytelling. From his early days at the

legendary Godfrey Daniels coffeehouse in Pennsylvania, to international tours across the U.S. and Europe, Gorka has built a career grounded in authenticity, craft, and emotional resonance. With 11 critically acclaimed studio albums and collaborations with some of the most respected artists in folk music, Gorka’s songs explore themes of love, resilience, justice, and hope. His latest release, “unentitled,” continues this tradition. Reflecting on the album, Gorka notes, “Writing songs is my way of trying to make some sense of the world... It is my desire that some of these songs will make you feel that you aren’t the only one going through a rough patch... and that there are better days ahead.”

Gorka’s career has included performances at Austin City Limits, Mountain Stage, and eTown, as well as collaborations and shared stages with artists such as Nanci Griffith and Mary Chapin Carpenter. His songs have been recorded by numerous musicians, further cementing his influence within the folk canon. “Gorka is widely heralded for the sophisticated intelligence and provocative originality of his songs,” writes The Boston Globe. With a reputation for weaving wry observations with poignant narratives, his live performances offer an intimate and moving experience.

This concert is part of Twilight Music’s ongoing series highlighting exceptional roots and folk artists in an intimate setting.

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MOTHER'S DAY

arts & events

Dave Alvin and Jimmie Dale Gilmore at BFOH —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — Roots music legends Dave Alvin and Jimmie Dale Gilmore are bringing their soulful blend of country, blues, folk, and guitar-bashing rock 'n' roll to the Bellows Falls Opera House (BFOH) on Saturday, May 9.

A few years back, Grammy-winning Alvin and multiple-Grammy-nominee Gilmore decided to join forces and play some music together. Although Texas-born Gilmore was twice named Country Artist of the Year by Rolling Stone, and California native Alvin first came to fame in the hard-rocking rhythm and blues band The Blasters, they discovered that their musical roots in old blues and folk music were exactly the same. Naturally enough, that led to collaboration, and the duo have recorded two critically acclaimed albums, "TexiCali" and "Downey to Lubbock," and have toured behind both, rocking the stage with a full band.

As they hit the road in 2026, this time they are billing themselves as the Almost Acoustic Duo. Friends for more than 30 years, their lively shows feature songs from the duo's albums, as well as classic original com-



Dave Alvin (left) and Jimmie Dale Gilmore.

PHOTO BY ROMAN CHO

positions from their individual albums, while swapping songs, telling stories, and sharing their life experiences on stage.

"Jimmie and I have been extremely blessed," muses Alvin. "People will go with us through a lot of our musical moods, because a good song can be done a million different ways."

Joining the duo will be, as Alvin recently put it, "rock and roll legend, guitarist, writer, songwriter, garage DJ, Patti Smith bandleader, and all-round solid cat" Lenny Kaye. Kaye, at age 78, has just released his debut

album, and was recently the subject of a long feature in "Rolling Stone."

So, what should audiences expect? Alvin reports from the road, "Mr. Kaye joined us on guitar for more than a few songs, and we had a good ol' rocking and rolling blast. Afterwards, he happily exclaimed, 'I guess we're a band now!' You never know, Mr. Kaye. Stranger things have happened."

Both Gilmore and Alvin have played Bellows Falls before; Gilmore as part of the Green Mountain Express music train and Alvin as headliner at the late, great Roots on the River music festival. This show is being presented by Ray's the Roof Productions.

The Bellows Falls Opera House is located at 7 Village Square, Bellows Falls, Vt. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and showtime is 7:30 p.m. To purchase tickets, or for more information, visit www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com.

"Visions Unbound" art opening at the Great Hall

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — Join us for an exciting evening of creativity and inspiration at the opening of "Visions Unbound: A Collective in Color," featuring the innovative works of three local, talented artists. The opening reception will take place on Friday, May 15, at 5 p.m., in the Great Hall, at 100 River Street, Springfield, Vt., and the exhibition will remain open throughout the remainder of the month.

This unique exhibition showcases the work of Ryan Curtis, Blair D.W.E., and Scott J. Morgan.

Curtis is an experimental artist who melds various mediums to create art, objects, and experiences. Curtis' work draws from photography, digital collage, alternative print-

making, and mixed-media painting, offering a fresh perspective on the boundaries of art.

Blair D.W.E. is a surrealist artist known for challenging conventional thought processes through subconscious renderings. Working primarily with oil paint, Blair's artworks invite viewers to explore primal emotions, creating a dialogue that reflects the darker sides of human nature.

Morgan is a dynamic abstract artist who works predominantly in oil. Morgan crafts paintings inspired by the traditions of storytelling, improvisational music, and vibrant dialogues, achieving intriguing compositions that captivate and resonate.

"Visions Unbound" promises to be a thought-provoking event, merging diverse artistic expressions

that explore the depths of color and emotional resonance. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the artists, engage in discussions, and experience the transformative power of art in a communal setting.

In addition to the art, enjoy wine available for sale, a live DJ to set the mood, and delicious Korean barbecue food available for purchase inside.

Don't miss this chance to immerse yourself in a colorful collective that transcends traditional boundaries. We look forward to welcoming you to an evening of artistic exploration and connection.

For more information, please contact Springfield on the Move at springfieldonthemove@gmail.com, call 802-885-1527, or visit www.springfieldonthemove.com/events.

Emily Margaret Band at Chester Town Hall

CHESTER, Vt. — On Friday, May 15, at 7 p.m., Emily Margaret Band takes the stage at Chester Town Hall as part of the Emerging Artists Series, highlighting musicians who combine exceptional musicianship and songwriting with exciting live performances.

Emily Margaret Band creates R&B-flavored pop and jazz-rock coupled with soulful storytelling and intimate, stirring vocals. Seven Days Vermont describes their songs as having "nuance and sophistication, and show-

ing the dynamic, velvety voice of lead singer and songwriter Emily Margaret." Their performances include original songs together with classics from artists they love, including Amy Winehouse, Joni Mitchell, Stevie Wonder, and Bill Withers.

The band, including Nate Potter on lead guitar, Lewis Wells on bass, Lucas Majer on drums, and Samadhi Mathes on saxophone, released an EP in 2025, recorded at Vermont's own Guilford Sound studio, of which Emily said, "We couldn't have asked for a better first recording experience." Emily studied at

the Institute for the Musical Arts, whose cofounder Ann Hackler said that Emily "is one of the most dedicated and expansive young artists to come out of our programs, and we're excited to hear her EP. Come out and catch a rising star."

The concert is presented by Upstairs at Town Hall, an all-volunteer nonprofit community group. The show is free, and all are welcome. Chester Town Hall is located at 556 Elm Street, Chester, Vt. For additional information about this event, please email upstairsattownhall@gmail.com.

Kray Van Kirk with John Fealy at Stage 33 Live

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — A fine fingerstyle guitarist with a precise baritone roaming from Alaska, Kray Van Kirk set his doctorate in fisheries population dynamics modeling aside to write songs, tell stories, and summon heroes. Van Kirk is not the average crying-in-your-coffee singer-songwriter; he's a charming, Quixotic, decidedly eclectic character.

"We are driven by myth and the seasons of the heart," he says, "and the stories are all true. The quest is to journey inside, find what burns at the core of your soul, and bring it back into the light. Everyone gets to be the hero. Nobody is left behind."

His song "Thunderbird" resurrects the phoenix in an empty desert diner in the American Southwest. "The Queen of Elfland" plucks Thomas the Rhymer from the English-Scottish border in 1250 and drops him and the Queen into a subway car. "The Library Song" has Superman moonlighting among the stacks. "Rosa and Hector" ride through Sherwood Forest on canes and a wheelchair. "The Midnight Commander" celebrates an

insane old man leading the City of New York to take up arms — and underwear — against hatred.

Van Kirk's newest album, "Empire," was released in February.

Fealy is a Vermont folk singer, and his acoustic music, made on finger-style steel string guitar, banjo, ukulele, and piano, is rooted deep in his heart and aims to share his love of humanity, nature, and the greater forces of life. He's a father, husband, and a dedicated street outreach worker — and also the lead singer of the band Ox Child.

Van Kirk and Fealy will play at Stage 33 Live in Bellows Falls, Vt., on May 17, in a 3 p.m. matinee. Tickets can be purchased discounted in advance at www.stage33live.com, or at

the door if available. Advance tickets guarantee entry. Only 40 tickets will be sold. Advance sales will close at midnight the day before the show, or when 40 tickets are sold.



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