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Cota & Cota celebrates 85 years of local fuel service

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Vermont Journal

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – There is an old saying from back in the day, and it was called doing business “the old Yankee way,” meaning that you respect everyone, respect their property and opinions, and show courtesy, concern, and compassion for your neighbors and community.

These words, which can actually be found right on their website, remain the foundation of Cota & Cota Inc., a local business based in Bellows Falls and with other convenient offices in Brattleboro, Jamaica, Springfield, Ludlow, Manchester, and White River Junction. It has been a pil-

lar in the community since 1941.

Ken and Helen Cota had previously owned a 24-hour gas station in Bellows Falls before purchasing a kerosene fuel business after Ken went on a service call with the previous owner. Being a strong, take-charge kind of lady, Helen insisted her name also appear on the business name, and Cota & Cota was born.

In the early ‘60s Hugh Cota purchased the business from his parents after Ken had a serious back injury and could no longer physically operate the business. During the early years under Hugh, along with his three sons, the business grew exponentially after Hugh purchased his



Cota & Cota in Bellows Falls.

PHOTO BY JOE MILLIKEN

brother’s plumbing service in 1979 and merged that business with his burner service, allowing Cota & Cota to now offer plumbing, septic, and bathroom work as well as fuel service.

The expansions would continue over the decades, with new offices opening in Ludlow in 1982, Springfield in 1990, White River Junction in 2004, Brattleboro in 2009, and Jamaica in 2012.

In 1995, Hugh Cota officially turned the business over to his sons, Casey and Sean, and in 2011, Casey purchased the business from his brother. In 2016, Casey and Sean’s sister, Kelly Cota Tully, rejoined the family business.

Three generations of the Cota family have dedicated their lives to not only serving, but understanding their communities around them, which is one of the big reasons for not only their longevity, but their reputation as well. Additionally, Cota ownership has always strongly believed in treating both their customers and employees like family.

In celebration of 85 years in business, Cota & Cota is

offering three 850-gallon fuel giveaways, with the drawings set for early July. The deadline to enter the free fuel contest is June 26, and you can enter by visiting the Cota & Cota website, www.cotaoil.com.

USPS CUSTOMER

Rockingham hears proposal for mental health case management program

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Selectboard met on Tuesday, May 19, in the lower theater at the Rockingham Town Hall, for the second of two regular meetings scheduled this month. The board will continue the current schedule for June and July, meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Selectboard Chair Rick Cowan called the meeting to order and welcomed incoming Municipal Manager Aaron Patt. Patt’s first day on the job was Tuesday, May 26.

EMS Coordinator for the Rockingham Fire and Rescue Department Nick Cushman attended Tuesday’s meeting to present the selectboard with a proposal for a local outreach and follow-up program. No action was taken at the meeting, but a lengthy, informative discussion took place.

Cushman told the board he had been working full time in the Rockingham area for more than 20 years and had been able to take on a larger role during the merging of the fire and emergency departments of Rockingham, Bellows Falls, and Saxtons River.

After noticing some department needs over the past few months, Cushman spoke with residents and some fire department personnel, and worked with former public safety officer Ann DiBernardo to create the proposed plan.

Cushman reviewed current challenges and potential gains, including a chance to improve public trust, an opportunity for greater community engagement, and increased coordination and efficiency between public safety and community organizations. He mentioned they could apply for grants and other funding initiatives, and explore openings for future partnerships with local hospitals, behavioral health organizations, and wellness initiatives.

Rockingham Fire Chief Shaun McGinnis and deputy Ian Tuttle joined Cushman in praising this type of program, explaining the complexity of dealing with mental health crises, how draining they can be to the police and emergency departments, and how important it is to offer help to those who want it.

McGinnis reported, “One individual has been dealing with some addiction issues, which has led to some domestic violence issues. We are hoping to

move the individual into housing tonight.”

“When this happens, you can’t say ‘Oh, well, we’ll get back to you tomorrow,’” McGinnis said. “There is a huge gap in services here, and a lot of people just need to be led in the right direction, and that’s kind of what this is about.”

It was proposed that part of the new program’s funding could come from reallocating money from social services, funds earmarked for distribution to nonprofit case management services.

Alyssa Harlow, finance director for the town, questioned the legitimacy of funding a portion of the municipal government through the social services fund, and there was discussion about how, or if, there was another channel.

Vice Chair Amy Howlett reminded the room that, at a recent meeting, the board heard from Senior Solutions and had considered reallocating some of the funds to them. “I think Senior Solutions is the appropriate reassignment of those funds that the town voted at the annual meeting,” Howlett commented.

Cowan pointed out the proactive nature of what Cushman presented. “[With] the other agencies,” Cowan noted, “peo-

ple come to them. Nick actually goes to the people where they are when they need it.”

Harlow told the meeting that there was \$1,500 budgeted for safety officer expenses, which could cover a night’s stay in a motel or a bus ticket, for instance. “We also have the opioid money,” she added. “That’s not an endless bucket, but at least could maybe provide money for a stipend, and create a policy and see how we could help.”

Cowan ended the discussion saying there would be an agenda item at the next meeting and future, further discussion.

Moving on to a revolving loan fund (RLF) request, Cowan said he and Gary Fox, development

director, acted as an advisory committee to the selectboard regarding RLF funds disbursement, and were suggesting the board approve a loan to Bellows Falls Dental Care. Cowan relayed that this was a new dentist coming to the area, setting up in the former Bellows Falls Hospital dental location.

After meeting with the dentist, Dr. Hirving Henriquez, Cowan said the advisory committee was really impressed, and listed many of his qualifications before commenting, “He feels like a really good credit risk.”

One benefit mentioned was that Dr. Henriquez’s practice will accept

See **HEALTH** on Page 2

SAPCC seeks sponsors for annual Duck Run fundraiser

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) is inviting businesses, organizations, and community members to become sponsors of the 2026 SAPCC Duck Run, taking place on Saturday, June 27, from 4-7 p.m.

The Duck Run is SAPCC’s largest annual fundraiser and a beloved community event that brings families together for an afternoon of fun, connection, and entertainment. Admission to the event is completely free, thanks to the generosity of sponsors and supporters.

Funds raised through sponsorships help provide free food, family activities, live entertainment, community resources, and other attractions while ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent families from participating.

Sponsoring the Duck Run is more than supporting a community event. It’s an investment in local children, families, and the overall wellbeing of our community. Every sponsorship helps create an inclusive, welcoming experience for everyone. Contributions of any amount are welcomed and appreciated. Local businesses, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to participate and help make this annual tradition possible.

Community members interested in becoming a sponsor can donate online at www.sapcc-vt.org/call-for-duck-run-sponsors. Alternatively, checks may be sent to SAPCC, 80 Jack and Jill Lane, North Springfield, VT 05150.

For additional information about sponsorship opportunities, contact the Springfield Area Parent Child Center at 802-886-5242 or sapcc@sapcc-vt.org.

Springfield Rotary’s food drive a success

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Rotary Club’s Fill the Cart from the Heart Food Drive was held on Saturday, May 16, in the Springfield Shopping Plaza, to benefit the Springfield Family Center Food Shelf. Nine-hundred pounds of food and \$775 in monetary donations were collected. Thank you to Shaw’s for the location and a big thank-you to the greater Springfield community for all your generous donations to help your neighbors in need.

Shown here, from left to right, are rotarians Ed Mc-



The Springfield Rotary’s food drive was a success. PHOTO PROVIDED

Quaide, Alan Englander, and Past President Deb Ashley Newton, Bob Flint, and Cox.

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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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Springfield Rotary hosts presentation on Colombia Fulbright experience

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Lisa Mobus recently shared insights from her Fulbright program experience in Colombia during a presentation to the Springfield Rotary Club.

Mobus, a Riverside Middle School teacher, visited South America last July through the Distinguished Awards in Teaching Research Program. She previously spoke to Rotary members about educational research programs, but this presentation focused more broadly on Colombia itself, including its geography, politics, and people.

During her talk, Mobus shared several photographs illustrating the country's diverse climate regions, comparing Bogotá's cooler, rainy conditions with the warmer climate of Medellín. She also highlighted Colombia's colorful culture through images of local cityscapes and artwork.

Mobus also addressed questions from audience members regarding safety and how Americans are treated in Colombia. She said she never experienced animosity during her



Lisa Mobus presents to the Springfield Rotary Club.

PHOTO PROVIDED

visit and noted that while she took normal precautions, she always felt safe throughout her stay.

The Springfield Rotary Club is part of a global network of Rotary clubs dedicated to community service and civic leadership. Springfield Rotary Club continues to host speakers who inform, inspire, and connect members to meaningful service opportunities both locally and beyond.

The Springfield Rotary Club meets every Tuesday,

at 12 p.m., at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center. For more information, visit www.springfieldvtrotary.org.

FOSTL Spring Book Sale

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Friends of the Springfield Town Library (FOSTL) will be holding their annual book sale on Saturday, May 30, at the Springfield armory, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The armory is located at 224 Fairground Road, next

to the town garage. Thanks to our generous community, we have received a large number of donations in the genres of fiction, biography, history, nature, and children's books. We hope to see you there.

FOSTL is a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization. Its purpose is to maintain

an association of community members interested in good library service, fostering closer relations between the Springfield Town Library and town residents, and supporting the programs and outreach efforts of the library. A strong group of friends can make a good library great.

“Ask Your State Representatives” at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Residents are invited to attend an upcoming community forum on Wednesday, June 17, at 6 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library, offering a valuable opportunity to connect directly with State Reps. Alice Emmons and Kristi Morris.

During this event, attendees will hear the latest legislative updates, gain insight into current initiatives, and engage in meaningful dialogue about the priorities and concerns impacting the region. The forum is designed to encourage open conversation, giving community members the

chance to ask questions, share perspectives, and stay informed about state-level decisions.

All residents are encouraged to participate in this important discussion and make their voices heard.

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

Springfield Garden Club beautifies downtown



Left to right: Karen Vatne, Diane Kemble, Gary Richardson, Glenna Richardson, Deanna Dexter, Nell Hughes, Sandy Peplau, Carol Cole, Deb Smith, Bonny Andrews, Lynn Likus, Cheryl Pierce, and Ann Herrick. Missing from photo: Barb Riotte, Izzy Messinese, Adrienne Faulhaber, Carol Eramo, Dolores Kuhn, Rosann Sexton, Mari Csiszer, Lauren Dundin, Lindsay Rounsefell, Margaret Nickerson, Pat Townsend, Alicia Jenks, Josh Browning, and Pam Jarvis.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Plaza team. Left to right: Mary Csiszer, Rosann Sexton, Lynn Likus, Josh Browning, Deanna Dexter, Bonny Andrews, Dolores Kuhn, and Sandy Peplau.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Town hall team. Left to right: Ann Herrick, Carol Eramo, Izzy Messinese, Barb Riotte, and Adrienne Faulhaber

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June 4: Windsor	June 15: Putney	June 26: Brattleboro
June 5: South Burlington	June 18: Bethel	June 29: Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On sunny and warm May 20, 26 members of the Springfield Garden Club donned their yellow T-shirts and hats to carry out their civic beautification mission. They planted annuals in 20 planters and window boxes along Main Street and three garden beds at the Springfield Town Hall, the plaza, and the Blue Star Memorial by Valley Street. They were assisted at the town hall garden this year by Springfield High School Student Council member Izzy Messinese as part of a community outreach effort. Dedicated teams will weed and hand water these areas all summer long.

HEALTH

From Page 1

Medicaid, which Fox said had been an original intent of the hospital's dentist's office. "And now [Dr. Henriquez] is fulfilling that need." It was anticipated the new service will be operational within several months. The board approved the RLF loan in the amount of \$100,000.

Other items covered included the hiring of Jarrod James as recreation director, and a reminder to village residents that guidelines require covered compost, citing recent rat issues. Also, the highway department will begin to paint crosswalks next week, with plans to repaint those located in The Square again in the fall.

The next Rockingham Selectboard meeting will be held on June 2, at 6 p.m.

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arts & entertainment

Baklava Express at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present Baklava Express on Friday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney.

Brooklyn-based Baklava Express creates vibrant, high-energy music that evokes the atmosphere of an open-air Mediterranean market. Blending ancient and modern instruments, the ensemble performs original compositions rooted in Turkish, Greek, Armenian, Arab, Mizrahi, and Sephardi musical traditions, while naturally weaving in touches of jazz, flamenco, rock, and Ottoman classical music.

Led by oud player and composer Josh Kaye, the group crafts music that feels both timeless and contemporary. Their self-produced sophomore album, “Sabá-ba,” released this spring, reflects a band that has fully grown into its collaborative sound – joyful, fluid, improvisational, and deeply lived-in.

“For ‘Dávka,’ our first album, released in 2023, we went into the studio after having only played a few gigs

as a group,” says Kaye. “But for this recording, everyone’s been in the band for at least three years, so we’re playing music that we’ve performed hundreds of times. It not only sounds tighter, but we had much more freedom to improvise and make arrangements on the fly.”

While deeply informed by ancient musical traditions, Baklava Express is not a traditional music ensemble. Instead, the band creates new music inspired by the sounds and cultures surrounding them in contemporary Brooklyn neighborhoods and communities.

The music also reflects Kaye’s personal journey. Born in London and raised musically on jazz, Jewish liturgical music, and early swing recordings, Kaye eventually discovered the oud after encountering Arab musicians in his Brooklyn neighborhood. What began as a chance encounter outside an Egyptian barber shop evolved into a profound musical calling.

The resulting music transcends cultural borders while remaining grounded in hu-

man connection. Instrumental and open-ended, the compositions invite listeners to find their own stories and emotions within the music.

“This music is about having a meeting place for everyone,” says Kaye. “An instrumental song could mean anything to any person. I hope organically it becomes a meeting place for anybody who wants to listen.”

Baklava Express has earned praise for its cross-cultural approach and emotionally resonant performances. Artists Central called the group “a unique and innovative sound,” while World Music Central described the ensemble as “a profoundly moving experience that transcends geographical borders and musical conventions.”

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., with doors opening at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are discounted if purchased in advance. Tickets and more information are available at www.nextstagearts.org.

Raku pottery class

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the Vault is excited to offer a raku pottery workshop with Andrew Berends on two consecutive Saturdays, June 6 and 13, from 12-4 p.m. each day. Register by Saturday, May 30.

Berends will be teaching the exciting Japanese firing technique known as raku. Raku is a 16th-century technique developed in Japan for making tea-ceremony ware. It has been developed in this country to produce really interesting pottery. The firings take about an hour, and you get a finished piece at the end. Raku is a fun, exciting technique, where pots are fired to 1,840 degrees, pulled out of the hot kiln, and manipulated with sawdust and water to change the look of the glazes. The glazes can be metallic, and/or have a crackle effect, making each piece truly unique

and one-of-a-kind. We will also fire pots with an exciting new technique known as horsehair raku, which creates interesting designs on the clay. The raku firings can be done indoors or outdoors, depending on the weather.

The class will include wheel-throwing, slab-making, and extruding instruction. The first day will include making all types of clay work, and the second day will be glazing and firing all the pots in the raku tradition. Emphasis will be on being creative, and learning the basics of pottery, including making the work, glazing, as well as firing. The class is geared towards teens through adults, and limited to four students.

Berends has been a master potter for over 30 years, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, as well as a Master of Fine Arts from Montana State University. He worked

with a Spanish folk potter for a year, and was also a guest artist-in-residence at Anderson Ranch in Snowmass, Colo. Upon moving to Vermont in 1988, he became a professional production/ art potter, and has exhibited internationally, as well as being represented by over 180 galleries nationally.

The cost of the workshop is discounted for gallery members, and includes 25 pounds of clay, glazes, and firing costs in a gas-fired kiln. Wear old clothing, and bring pottery tools if you have them. Directions to Berends’ studio in Springfield will be given at registration.

Gallery at the Vault is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email gallervault@vermontel.net, or visit Facebook, Instagram, or www.gallervault.org. Gallery at the Vault is accessible.

Ludlow Area Sport Trails now Okemo Valley Trails

LUDLOW, Vt. – Ludlow Area Sport Trails (LAST) has officially rebranded as Okemo Valley Trails (OVT), reflecting the organization’s growing commitment to creating inclusive, accessible outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the Okemo Valley. The new name better represents the organization’s broader regional vision and its mission to connect more people to trails, outdoor spaces, and active lifestyles year-round.

OVT, which is a local chapter of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA), has begun work on a new mountain bike and multiuse trail network at Fletcher Farm in Ludlow, with the first phase expected to be completed by the end of the summer. The trail system is being designed for mountain biking, but welcomes hikers, trail runners, and dog walkers, with opportunities for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in winter.

If you’ve already biked or walked the “Back 40” trails behind the Ludlow Community Center, then you’ve seen the kind of quality, sustainable, and fun trails that OVT builds. This trail network will ultimately connect to the Fletcher Farm trails via a connector trail that is in the planning stages.



Volunteers work on mountain biking trails in Ludlow. PHOTO PROVIDED

OVT is also relaunching efforts to develop a recreation path through Ludlow connecting to Proctorsville. Similar projects were explored in the past, but faced significant logistical challenges. Today, however, the organization believes the project is more viable than before thanks to new state-level resources, growing support for active transportation infrastructure, and the success of several recreation path projects across Vermont over the past decade.

The proposed recreation path would provide a safe, accessible connection between the villages of Ludlow and Proctorsville for walking, biking, running, and other nonmotorized uses, while further strengthening the region’s recreational infrastructure and community connectivity.

“These projects represent an exciting opportunity for the Okemo Valley,” said OVT organizers. “We want to create outdoor spaces and trail systems that are welcoming, accessible, and beneficial to both residents and visitors while helping strengthen community connections throughout the region.”

OVT is currently seeking volunteers and community partners to support trail work, carpentry, planning, fundraising, marketing, community outreach, and other initiatives as these projects move forward.

For more information, or to get involved, visit www.okemovalleytrails.org or email info@okemovalleytrails.org. To join, visit www.vmba.org.

Jazz Center Sextet performs

PUTNEY, Vt. – Twilight Music and Next Stage Arts Project launch the 23rd Twilight on the Tavern Lawn series of folk, world, jazz, zydeco, bluegrass, pop, and Americana music summer concerts on Sunday, May 31, with the Vermont Jazz Center Sextet. The seven-concert series continues every other Sunday through Aug. 23. All concerts begin at 6 p.m., in downtown Putney, on the Putney Tavern lawn – bring a lawn chair or blanket – or at Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill, in case of rain. The series is sponsored by Next Stage, the Town of Putney, and many Putney-area businesses and organizations. The concerts are free to the public, donations are accepted, and food will be available. For more information, call 802-387-5772

or visit www.nextstagearts.org.

The Vermont Jazz Center Sextet is the Vermont Jazz Center’s (VJC) community outreach ensemble. Through weekly rehearsals, the group has developed programs which are performed in schools, assisted-living homes, and libraries, bringing live jazz into less formal settings. Through these performances and clinics, people who might not attend

concerts at the VJC are given the opportunity to hear and learn about the music of Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Art Blakey, and others, with original music and arrangements often written by members of the ensemble. The VJC Sextet is Rob Freeberg (trumpet), Bill Ballard (alto saxophone), Ron Kelley (tenor saxophone), Cathy Martin (piano), Wim Auer (bass), and Steve Rice (drums).



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health & community

Mount Ascutney Hospital named on “critical access hospitals to know” list

WINDSOR, Vt. – Mount Ascutney Hospital and Health Center (MAHHC), a member of Dartmouth Health, has been named to Becker’s Hospital Review’s 2026 “100 critical access hospitals to know” list.

Critical access hospitals like MAHHC play a unique role in the American health care system, providing essential services close to home while operating with limited resources. Becker’s noted that the hospitals included on the list are expanding access to specialty

care, reducing the burden of patient travel, and bringing meaningful improvements to community health.

Since its establishment in 1933, MAHHC has built a reputation for patient-centered care and deep community connection throughout the region. The hospital has strengthened services and access to care through initiatives like expanded walk-in care hours; recruitment of six advanced practice providers and a general surgeon; and institution of key administrative roles and programs like director of

quality and safety, director of community health, and a hospitalist program.

Through its affiliation with Dartmouth Health, patients also have access to specialty services, including ophthalmology surgical care provided locally at MAHHC.

“This recognition is a testament to the extraordinary dedication of every provider, nurse, and team member at Mount Ascutney Hospital,” said Matthew R. Foster, CEO and president of MAHHC. “As a critical access hospital, we’re proud to ensure that

trusted, expert care remains rooted right in our community.”

In addition to this recognition from Becker’s, the hospital was also named a Best-In-State Hospital by Newsweek in 2024.

Becker’s Hospital Review developed the list through editorial research and nominations, referencing rankings and recognitions from organizations including the



MAHHC is built on patient-centered care. PHOTO PROVIDED

National Rural Health Association and the Chartis Center for Rural Health. Hospitals do not pay for inclusion on the list.

The full list is available at www.beckershospitalreview.com/rural-health/rural-lists/100-critical-access-hospitals-to-know-2026.

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“Healing with Music, Nature, and Love”

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Community members are invited to an evening of reflection, music, and conversation with author and musician Michael Skinner at an upcoming presentation titled “Lessons Learned from Trauma and Abuse:

Healing with Music, Nature and Love.” The event will take place Tuesday, June 2, from 6-7 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street, Springfield, Vt.

Drawing from his newly released memoir, Skinner will share personal reflec-

tions and insights on healing from trauma, abuse, and mental health challenges. The presentation explores pathways toward resilience and growth, moving beyond survival toward a life of thriving.

The program will include a short reading from Skinner’s memoir, live music woven throughout the presentation, and time for conversation and audience questions.

Designed with care and sensitivity, the event follows

a trauma-informed, choice-centered, and community-focused approach, creating a thoughtful and supportive environment for attendees. The presentation is best suited for adult audiences.

Community members interested in themes of healing, personal growth, music, and the restorative power of nature are encouraged to attend. To sign up for a reminder, visit www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar.

MY HEALTHY VERMONT

HYPERTENSION WORKSHOP

Registration is now available: This small-group workshop led by a trained health coach is designed to provide support and skills to help people take control of their blood pressure. Participants learn the basics of managing high blood pressure, including help with medications, quitting tobacco, healthy eating, physical activity and stress management. Free of charge.

Meeting weekly, starting June. 3 – July. 22, 2026, 9:00 am - 10:30 am. Ludlow Community Center.

TO REGISTER: Contact: Caitlin Moroney, at 802-859-5913 or Krey Kellington at 802-228-3663.

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Fifth annual Age Successfully Fair

LUDLOW, Vt. – Senior Solutions, area agency on aging for southeastern Ver-

mont, in partnership with Black River Good Neighbor Services, of Ludlow, Vt., will be hosting the fifth annual Age Successfully: A Health & Benefits Fair on Friday, June 12, at the Ludlow Community Center, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. This event is free and open to the public, and there will be a free lunch.

This fair is an opportunity for older Vermonters to learn about and sign up for wellness-based goods and services, with more than 30 exhibitors scheduled to appear.

Older Vermonters and their caregivers in our community often are unaware of all the opportunities that are available to them. This fair offers a “one-stop shop” to find the services best suited for their needs. Exhibitors this year include Senior Solutions, Black River Good Neighbor Services, AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Network, AgeWell, Bayada, Beacon Bank, Black River Valley Senior Center, CarePatrol Vermont, Dartmouth Cancer Center Community Outreach & Engagement, Dartmouth Health Home Care, Efficiency Vermont, Equipose Occupational Therapy, Green Mountain RSVP, HomeShare Vermont, Live in Home Care FCP, Ludlow Parks and Recreation, The Moover, NorthStar Health, Ludlow Health Center, Rutland Regional Medical Center, Senior Medicare Patrol Vermont, Seniors Helping Seniors, SEVCA, Sharing Housing Inc., Springfield Area Adult Day Services, Tai Chi Vermont, Turning Point of Windham County, United States Veterans Administration, Vermont Adult Learning, Vermont Assistive Technology Program, Vermont Center for Independent Living, Vermont Department of Health, Visiting Angels, Windham and Windsor Housing Trust, and more.

For questions and more information, please contact Susan Peters at 802-885-2655, Ext. 2112, or speters@seniorsolutionsvt.org.

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June 12, 2026
Ludlow Community Center
10:00-1:00

- Over 30 exhibitors focusing on health and wellness services for older Vermonters
- Free Lunch
- Free vegetable starter plants
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CHURCH

obituaries

Wayne G. Gomez 1950-2026

CHESTER, Vt. – Wayne Gordon Gomez, 75, passed away at The Gill Odd Fellows Home, on Wednesday, May 20. He was born in Springfield, Vt., to Joaquin and Jennie (Gordon) Gomez, on June 29, 1950.

He had various professions, from machine shops, to auto mechanics, to lift operations at Okemo Mountain.

He enjoyed nature, hunting, fishing, camping, dancing, and having a good time.

Wayne is survived by his four children, Christie Hamel, of Williamstown, Vt., Katie Gomez, of Rutland Town, Vt., Jennie Gomez, of Maine, and Joe Gomez, of Pennsylvania; his sister Sheila Stanton; three grandchildren; one great-grandson; and many nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his parents and his siblings



Wayne Gomez 1950-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

Richard Gomez, Bryan Gomez, Janet Gomez, and Jacqueline Gilman.

A funeral service will be held at Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., on Monday, June 1, at 1 p.m., with a graveside service to follow.

Please make any charitable donations to The Gill Odd Fellows Home in Ludlow, Vt.

United Church of Ludlow to celebrate support of bell restoration with party

LUDLOW, Vt. – The United Church of Ludlow is throwing a “Ring Out Love” community celebration on Sunday, June 7, from 2-4 p.m., to thank the community for its support of the church’s newly restored, historic church bell.

Local favorite Sammy Blanchette (www.sammyblanchette.net) will provide music at the festive outdoor event. There will also be family-friendly games and ice cream on the lawn of the church, at 48 Pleasant Street in Ludlow. The highlight of the day will be the opportunity for people to pull on the rope and ring the 1,200-pound church bell, which was cast by the Holbrook Bell Foundry of East Medway, Mass., in 1839. In the event of rain, the celebration will be moved inside.

The United Church held a \$50,000 fundraising campaign in 2024 and 2025 to fund the bell repair, to which church and community members have generously donated \$52,455 so far, with more than \$60,000 pledged. The funds have been used to repair the disintegrating supports on the bell, install a new sound system, make external repairs to the building, and donate to local aid organizations and neighbors in need.

The United Church of

Ludlow, built in 1891 as the Congregational Church of Ludlow, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as one of the only churches in Vermont constructed in a fully mature expression of shingle-style architecture. Its Congregationalist congregation was organized in 1806, and in 1930 it merged with a Methodist congregation to form a union congregation called the United Church of Ludlow. The bell itself has a fascinating story, which can be found on the United Church website. Bellmaker Maj. George Holbrook was actually apprenticed to Paul Revere, and the historic bell was valued at more than \$100,000 14 years ago.

In early 2025, the members of the United Church of Ludlow voted to become an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ (UCC), welcoming lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+) and all marginalized people into the full life of the church. They also voted to become a Reconciling Congregation of the United Methodist Church.

Over the years, the United Church has become a community gathering place in Ludlow, hosting concerts, events, dinners, game nights, and meetings of local nonprofit organizations.

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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.

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

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

Robin M. Key, 2026

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Robin M. Key, 72, of Londonderry, Vt., died on April 30, 2026, after a brief illness. Born in Evanston, Ill., she was a respected landscape architect and the founder of RKLA Studio in Manhattan.

After graduating from the University of Vermont with a degree in plant and soil science in 1977, she continued her academic training in landscape architecture at Cornell University. In 1982, she and her husband moved to Jane Street in Manhattan, where they lived for 42 years. Robin practiced as a landscape architect in Greenwich Village while raising three children and subsequently founded RKLA Studio in 2003. As her business grew, so did her interest in public works and larger city projects, including St. Patrick’s Cathedral on Fifth Avenue, Tavern on the Green in Central Park, and Serviam Gardens, an affordable housing project in the Bronx.

In 2010, Robin joined the board of trustees of The Olana Partnership, a New York State historic site on 250 acres in Hudson, N.Y., that preserves the work and landscape of the American painter Frederic Church, foremost of the Hudson River School in the late 19th century. In April, as cochair of Olana, Robin helped to host a gala event for 400 people at the Metropolitan Museum of Art to begin the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Church’s birth.

Robin was elected a fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2018. She served on the Stewardship Council of the Cultural Landscape Foundation of Washington, D.C., and was on the advisory board for the Noguchi Museum in Queens, N.Y. The latter continues an intriguing relationship her family had with Osamu Noguchi



Robin Key, 2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

when he came to rural Indiana from Japan as an adolescent with no particular ties to family or country.

Robin and her family own a 300-acre farm in southern Vermont. Here, Robin built her own gardens focused on perennials for cold climates, native trees, and shrubs. With her husband, much of the property was established as a working tree farm, producing timber and maple syrup. Robin guided the construction of miles of hiking and ski trails, large fields and ponds, and stonework in collaboration with Dan Snow, a well-known dry-stone sculptor.

Robin was an exceptionally generous person in both her personal and her professional life. All her friends loved working with her because of her curiosity about the natural world and her knowledge of what grows underfoot and nearby.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, David M. Key; their children, Mckenzie, Lindsay, and Ely Key; and four grandchildren.

Robin’s love infused and sustained her family. She is missed by all for her warm spirit, but also for her iron commitment to making the world a more beautiful place.

A service will be held on May 30, at 2 p.m., at the Peru Church in Peru, Vt., where gifts can be made in lieu of flowers.

Shirley Cooper graveside service

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A graveside service for Shirley Cooper, who died on Feb. 25, 2026, will take place at Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt., on Sunday, June 14, at 2 p.m.

William Slade graveside service

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A graveside service for William “Bill” Slade, who died on April 4, 2026, will take place at Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt., on Saturday, June 13, at 1 p.m.

Daniel K. VanAmberg, 1946-2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Daniel K. VanAmberg was born to Harold “Ken” and Margaret “Peggy” VanAmberg on Dec. 17, 1946, in Detroit, Mich., and passed Jan. 22, 2026, in Bridgeport, Conn., after a brief illness. Soon after graduating Utica High, he joined the U.S. Navy Submarine Service in 1966. He retired with rank E-8 senior chief petty officer on July 30, 1990.

On Aug. 8, 1966, he married Bonnie Ann Kathan, who passed suddenly in 1989, leaving Dan with his two sons, Mike and Chris.

In August 1990, Dan joined the Brattleboro Police Department as a dispatcher, retiring on Jan. 1, 2009.

Dan met his wife, Gina, in 1990, and they were married on Aug. 21, 1993. Dan

and Gina enjoyed 33 years together watching their blended family grow. Mike married Ann and had two children, Ian and Sarah. Chris married Karen. Sonia married Rick and had two children, Kylie and Logan. David (Jessie) had a set of twins, Reese and Reagan. Lynne, now married to her own Dan, gave us two grandsons, Andrew and Nicholas. Lynne is grandma to our two great-grandsons, Greyson and Connor.

As per his wishes in 2016, he was entrusted to Quinnipiac University and the trustworthy hands of Dr. Jesse Gomes.

Memorial services will be held at the American Legion in Bellows Falls, Vt., on June 6, from 12-2 p.m. All are welcome to share thoughts and memories.

Mildred Smith graveside service

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A graveside service for Mildred Smith, who died on Jan. 19, 2026, will take place at Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt., on June 13, at 10 a.m.

Letter to the Editor: Remembering Tyler Gilbert

Tyler Gilbert was 12 years old when his life was brutally and suddenly taken away on Aug. 4, 2021. In a matter of just a few seconds, his life was stolen from him. He had just graduated sixth grade in June and would be starting middle school with his friends in late August, at Brattleboro Area Middle School. Who would think that Tyler would be violently killed by someone who was supposed to protect him, nurture him, and love him? No more baseball games, no more playing with friends, no more birthday parties, no more riding his four-wheeler or going to MMA fights; no girlfriend, high school graduation, fiancée, wedding, children...

In order to keep Tyler’s memory alive, his mother has established a scholarship fund at Brattleboro Union High School which, to date, has awarded \$5,000 to graduating seniors wishing to continue their education. Please consider donating to this wonderful cause.

Checks can be made payable to the Tyler Gilbert Memorial Scholarship Fund and mailed to Windham Southeast Supervisory Union, ATTN: Jodi Nutting, 53 Green Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

If you wish to help sponsor the Tyler Gilbert Memorial Softball Tournament being held May 30 and 31, at Living Memorial Park, please make checks payable to Jean Gilbert, at the same address as above. All net proceeds from the softball tournament will be placed into the Tyler Gilbert Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Come join us on May 30 and 31 to enjoy a few softball games and partake in a 50-50 raffle, some great raffle prizes, and food by Mama T’s and 802 Soul Kitchen.

“In one moment, I lost my son, and my heart still mourns the life we shared together.”

– Christie Gilbert

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 28 – LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, 2051 North Main Street, will hold its first community lunch of 2026 on Thursday, May 28, at 12 p.m. Chef Patty Pettit, assisted by expert sous-chef Eris Proctor, will be once again preparing a sumptuous feast for all, consisting of roast pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, apple sauce, salad, and dessert. Our servers will cater to your every need. All are welcome. A free-will offering will be gathered. Sorry, there is no takeout available. For more information, call the church office at 802-824-6453.

MAY 30 – WESTMORELAND, N.H. – An America 250 celebration will be held on Saturday, May 30, at 9 South Village Common, from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. This will be a full day of 18th-century historical activities and locations from which to enjoy the festivities. Activities will include a color guard; a reading of the Declaration of Independence; a food wagon; “Life in 1776”; self-guided tours of historical homes built before 1820; open houses at the fire station, Westmoreland United Church, Park Hill Meeting House, Corner School, and Union Church; Pow Wow Rock; a cemetery scavenger hunt for Revolutionary

War veterans’ headstones; an ice cream social; and a performance by the Westmoreland Town Band. For more information, visit www.westmorelandhistorical.society.org.

JUNE 2 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Republican Town Committee will hold a caucus on Tuesday, June 2, at 4 p.m., in the meeting room of the Rockingham Free Public Library, to nominate candidates for the office of justice of the peace and to transact any other committee business. Please attend if you are able. If you have any questions, call 802-463-9881. You may also attend via Zoom at www.us02web.zoom.us/j/89820717370?pwd=ONZxVbx1VPVXVknOM0mN9ubm266aVD.1, meeting ID: 898 2071 7370, passcode: 449601.

JUNE 5-6 – CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will hold its annual indoor/outdoor yard sale on Friday, June 5, and Saturday, June 6, from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. both days.

JUNE 6 – BRIDGEWATER CORNERS, Vt. – The Bridgewater Grange, 129 Route 100A, will host bingo on Saturday, June 6. Doors open at 5 p.m., game time is 6:15 p.m. Concessions will be available. All are welcome.

JUNE 7 – BRIDGEWATER CORNERS, Vt. – On Sunday, June

7 at 2 p.m., Howard Coffin, Civil War historian and author, will present a program entitled “The Other Grant.” Howard will explore the life of Brig. Gen. Lewis Addison Grant, the longest-serving commander of the 1st Vermont Brigade. Grant led the brigade in most of its great moments during the Civil War, including the defense of Banks Ford in the Chancellorsville campaign, the remarkable Wilderness stand, and the Petersburg breakthrough. The program is presented by the Bridgewater Historical Society and will be held at the Bridgewater Grange, 129 Route 100A in Bridgewater Corners, Vt. The program is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities.

RECURRING EVENTS

SUNDAYS – 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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness Airport in Springfield. The Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force tasked with the mission of supporting America’s communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. Cadets as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of

volunteers.

MONDAYS – CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds line dancing every Monday night, at 7 p.m., with Dorianne Lescord. Free for members, small entry fee for nonmembers. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds chair yoga every Monday morning, at 9:30 a.m., with Brianna Renner. Free for members, small entry fee for nonmembers. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Women’s pool games are played every Monday, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights. Come be a part of this fun activity with likeminded women. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, hosts a writers group on the first and third Monday of every month, from 5-6:30 p.m. Are you interested in sharing your work and receiving feedback from other writers? Join us. Bring three pages to share. Hosted by Catherine Martin. For more information, call 802-228-8921.

TUESDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Tuesday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at

bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAYS – LUDLOW, Vt. – A gentle yoga flow class with strength building with bands and body to reconnect to your center, build strength, and invite ease into your body and mind will be held Wednesdays, from 9-10 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street. All levels welcome. Mats and blocks available. Contact Lori Wright at loriwright163@gmail.com or 603-401-8123 to register, or with any questions.

THURSDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Thursday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

CHESTER, Vt. – The Black River Memory Cafe is held on the first Thursday of each month, at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 313 Main Street, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The memory cafe is free to attend, 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. For questions, please call 802-885-2669 or 866-673-8376, or email memorycafe@seniorsolutionsvt.org.

TYSON, Vt. – The Tyson Ladies Aid Library Association meets the first Thursday of each month, typically at the Tyson Library. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and meetings start at noon. New potential members are always welcome. Please call Janine Norman at 802-228-8764

for more information or to verify meeting location.

CHESTER, Vt. – Knit Knite at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common Thursdays, from 5-8 p.m., and via Zoom, from 7-8 p.m.

WALPOLE, N.H. – Alcoholics Anonymous women’s meeting, a 12-step recovery program for women who have a desire to stop drinking, is happening every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the St. John’s Episcopal Church at the corner of Westminster and Elm streets in Walpole, N.H. For more information, call Viva at 802-732-8330.

FRIDAYS – SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Main Street Arts, 35 Main Street, will hold the “Originals & Traditionals” Open Mic Night on the fourth Friday of every month, from 7-9 p.m., hosted by musician Putnam Smith. Sign-ups begin at 6:30 p.m. All material should be original or “traditional” (i.e., in the public domain). Each performer can perform two songs or up to 10 minutes, whichever comes first. If you have any questions, please contact Smith at putnamsmith@gmail.com.

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – The Townshend Farmers Market, located at the West Townshend Country Store, 6573 Vermont Route 30, is held on Fridays, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., with a great group of vendors, both returning and new, ready to share their wares. Pizza and tacos will be available starting at 5 p.m.

SATURDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield VFW Post 771, 191 River Street, will host burger nights on the first and third Saturdays of every month, from 5-7 p.m., downstairs in the canteen. These events are open to the public.



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TOWN & VILLAGE OF LUDLOW DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing before the Ludlow Development Review Board will be held on Monday, June 8, 2026 at 6:00 P.M., in the Francis J. Heald auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot Street, and via Zoom, to hear the following applications:

- Okemo 5, LLC | Application #510-25-CU, Amd. #1 | Application is for an amendment to modify Condition #5 of the November 17, 2025 DRB decision regarding number and location of required parking spaces. Additional parking is available via Village Zoning Section 530.3. This project is in the Village Residential-Commercial district.
- MDB Properties, LLC | Application # FHR-26-002 & CU-26-003 | Application is for a non-substantial improvement to an existing structure located within the floodway, requiring both Flood Hazard Review and Conditional Use Approval. The applicant proposes a 6-foot rear extension to accommodate three (3) existing car wash bays only. The property is located within the Village Residential-Commercial District.
- Ludlow Realty Investments, LLC | Application # VAR-26-002 | Application is to renovate existing vacant third floor into three (3) 1bed/1bath apartments requiring a variance for minimum lot size. Parking is provided per Village Zoning Section 530.3(2). This project is in the Village Residential-Commercial district.

The meeting Agenda will be available on Ludlow’s Web page, www.ludlow.vt.us with the Zoom ID and the URL link.

Additional information about this application is available in the Planning and Zoning office at the Town Hall.

Erin Ladd
Director of Planning & Zoning

Village of Ludlow Water/Wastewater Assistant Operator

The Village of Ludlow Water and Sewer Department is seeking a professional, highly motivated and responsible person to join our team. He/She/They must be reliable, eager to learn, have a professional attitude and possess a strong work ethic.

This individual will be required to:

- Have a High School Diploma or GED
- Have & maintain a valid driver’s license and reliable transportation
- Live within a 30-minute radius of Ludlow, VT
- Have the ability to work with our industry’s tools to perform routine maintenance in all types of weather conditions
- Have basic math and computer skills to handle lab work / input computer data - knowledge of Microsoft Word/Excel along is a plus but not required
- Possess strong communication & customer service skills
- Must follow established procedures and routines to assure that the water and wastewater treatment plants continue to run at high standards while following all Town/Village safety policies.
- Have the ability to listen, understand and carry out written and oral instructions.
- Provide on-call coverage as assigned, including rotating weekends and possible nights and holidays during emergencies.

Water and Wastewater treatment experience, along with Vermont Water and Wastewater Certifications is preferred, but is not required. However if successful candidate has no certifications, then this individual will be required to obtain Vermont Class 3 Water, Class D Water and Grade 3 Wastewater Certifications WITHIN TWO YEARS of employment.

Room for advancement is available and is based on work performance and professionalism.

Benefits/Compensation: Dental/Disability/Health/and Life Insurance coverage, and a VMERS- administered pension plan. In addition, the successful candidate will receive paid sick, personal, holidays and annual vacation leave. Pay range is \$28.00 - \$32.00/hour, commensurate with experience and certifications.

To Apply:
Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to:

Penny Wu, Municipal Manager
Town of Ludlow
PO Box 359
Ludlow, VT 05149

The Town & Village of Ludlow is an Equal Opportunity Employer

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS of LONDONDERRY

Notice is hereby given in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 4111 that the undersigned listers within and for the Town of Londonderry have this day completed the abstract of individual lists (abstract) of property owners as of the first day of April 2026.

The listers have lodged an abstract 2026 Grand List on this same day in the office of the clerk for the inspection of taxpayers.

On the 5th day of June 2026 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, the Listers will meet at the Londonderry Town Office to hear taxpayers aggrieved by the actions of the listers from whom timely grievances have been received.

To be timely, such grievance must be in writing and received (postmarks will not be accepted) by the close of business on the 5th day of June 2026.

At the close of grievance hearings, the listers shall make such corrections in the abstract as were determined upon hearing or otherwise.

Unless cause to the contrary is shown, the contents of said abstract will, for the tax year 2026, become the grand list of the town of each taxpayer named therein.

Signed in the County of Windham on the 21st day of May 2026.

Londonderry
Listers: Sandra Clark, Marge Fish, & Alex Alberti
Assessor: Jeremiah Sund

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81528007943>

Meeting chat link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/jc/81528007943>
Meeting ID: 815 2800 7943

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LEGALS

opinion & classified

Dear Editor,

I'm sharing the following statement from Vermont Friends of Israel regarding the recent vandalism of a Jewish woman's storefront in Proctorsville, Vt.

"Today, a Jewish woman's storefront in rural Vermont was vandalized with antizionist graffiti.

"This was an anti-Jewish hate crime, and it is the predictable consequence of a political campaign in Vermont that demonizes Israel and pressures local communities to treat Jews and Zionists as equivalent to Nazis.

"The Apartheid Free Pledge promoted by the Palestine

Solidarity Coalition does not exist in a vacuum. It is part of a national campaign presented locally as grassroots activism.

"When antizionist activists tell people that Jews with deep spiritual, cultural, and familial ties to Israel are 'baby killers' and 'genocide supporters,' it sends a dangerous signal that intimidation against them is understandable, deserved, or even justified.

"History teaches us where this goes. First come campaigns of dehumanization, slogans, pledges, and public shaming. Now a Jewish woman's storefront has been vandalized in rural Vermont. Synagogues in

Vermont have been sent death threats. Swastikas are found on Vermont school walls. Jewish students are bullied.

"What comes next if this is not confronted?"

Vermont Friends of Israel commissioned Hexagonal Sentinel to document this pattern of demonizing rhetoric in Vermont media. The report is available at www.vfi.org/antizionism-in-vermont/jcs-brattleboro-newspapers.

The shop owner, Denise Gebroe, shared the following statement: "I was shaken to find my storefront vandalized with antizionist graffiti, but I am okay and will not be

broken. This was an act of intimidation directed at me because I am Jewish. I made Vermont my home because I love it here, but it does not feel the same as it once did. Incidents like this are happening more than many people realize, and most go unreported. I fear for the future of the Jewish community here, and Jewish friends of mine have already left. This was an anti-Jewish hate crime."

Sincerely,
Mark Treinkman, President
Vermont Friends of Israel

Dear Editor,

When people need medical care, they should not assume they must wait weeks or months simply because their regional medical center says no appointments are available. Patients have a right to ask questions, seek alternatives, and learn where timely care may actually be available.

Too often, patients are told only that a clinic is "booking out" without being informed that other hospitals, specialty practices, telehealth providers, urgent care systems, or regional medical centers may have earlier openings. Many people – especially older adults and those with serious medical concerns – do not realize they can call elsewhere, request outside referrals, or ask their insurance company for assistance locating available providers.

Health care systems should be helping patients navigate access to care, not leaving them to figure it out alone. If one office cannot provide timely care, patients deserve honest guidance about other options. Delayed evaluation and treatment can worsen outcomes, increase stress, and ultimately create more costly medical problems.

Patients and families should feel empowered to ask, "Where else can I be seen sooner? Are there other affiliated providers?"

For myself, I would rather drive than wait. After an October 2025 stroke, my husband's initial vision evaluation was scheduled for July 28, 2026! He was more than 50% blinded, but evidently, vision assessment was not a priority. We drove to Albany, N.Y., for assessment in January.

If I had known in November that the credentialed comprehensive stroke center would not provide timely and effective care, I would have started scheduling him elsewhere and started his post-stroke therapy in a timely manner. But regrettably, they were not transparent about the delay, and therapy did not start until I found an outside agency (Weeks and Gowen Physical Therapy – they are great). He has now graduated from physical therapy with measurable vision improvement. I am left to wonder how much more improvement

might have been gained if therapy had started during his subacute phase, as clinical guidelines direct.

Sometimes the fastest path to effective care is not the nearest medical center. Patients must learn to advocate for themselves and not to accept unnecessary delays without exploring alternatives.

Sincerely,
Susan Boyer, DNP, MED, RN, FAAN
Windsor County resident
Health care proxy

PERU PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING

Ramsey Gourd Architects, Joe Patt and Christie Silvester has submitted an application for an approximately 2750 sq. ft. guest house on the southern portion of the property at 504 Main Street, Peru Vt. The Peru Planning Commission will hold a hearing on this application at 5:30 on June 3, 2026, at the Peru Town Offices.

Those interested in seeing the applications or submitting written comments should contact the town's Zoning Administrator at Zoning@peruvt.org

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(2)(b)(c) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

David Kiernan
Peru Zoning
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ROCKINGHAM REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE

The Rockingham Republican Town Committee will hold a caucus on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 in the meeting room of the Rockingham Town Library at 4:00 p.m. to nominate candidates for the office of Justice of the Peace.

Please attend if you are able and if you have any questions you may contact Donald Taylor at 802-463-9881.

Donald Taylor
Rockingham Town Committee Chair

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
WINDHAM UNIT DKT NO. 26-PR-01379

In re ESTATE of: ROBERT SIRACUSE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Robert Siracuse, late of WINDHAM COUNTY, VERMONT:

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the descendant, or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the date 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 as described above within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 05/19/2026

/s/ Robert J. Kropp
Executor
c/o Moore Law Offices, LLC
P.O. Box 50
Bellows Falls, VT 05101
(802) 463-4327
assistant2@moorelawvt.com

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal – The Shopper

Publication Date: May 27, 2026

Address of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court
Probate Division – Windham County
30 Putney Road, 2nd Floor, Brattleboro, VT 05301

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12-1:30 Reception for Tom Franklin

Outside Inside, Nature & the Imaginal paintings by Gil Perry
Open Wall Exhibit: *A Burst of Color, A World of Wonder*
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real estate

PROS TO KNOW

Buyer's market or seller's market?

REGION – If you've been watching the housing market lately, you may be wondering whether we're in a buyer's market or a seller's market right now.

For the past few years, sellers have had the clear advantage. Homes moved fast, competition was intense, and buyers often had little room to negotiate. Now, in many areas, the market is starting to feel more balanced. This can change how both buyers and sellers approach their next move.

Seller's market vs. buyer's market

A seller's market happens when there are more buyers than homes for sale. In

that kind of market, sellers tend to have more leverage, and buyers often face faster-moving decisions and stronger competition.

A buyer's market is the opposite. It happens when there are more homes for sale than active buyers, which can give buyers more options and more negotiating power.

Most markets are not fully one or the other. They usually fall somewhere in between, and that is what we're seeing more often right now.

What today's market means for buyers

For buyers, a more balanced market can create more flexibility. That

may mean more homes to choose from, more time to make a decision, more room to negotiate on price or closing costs, and/or a better chance of finding a home that fits your needs.

That does not mean buyers should assume every seller will negotiate, but it does mean the process may feel more manageable than it did when inventory was tighter and competition was at its peak.

What today's market means for sellers

For sellers, this kind of market does not remove opportunity, but it does make strategy more important.

In a highly competitive seller's market, homes often sold quickly with less effort. In a more balanced market, pricing correctly from the start matters more. So does making sure your home shows well and stands out against the competition.

Homes are still selling, but sellers may need to ad-

just expectations and pay closer attention to current local conditions.

Why the local market matters most

Housing market conditions can vary widely by city, neighborhood, and price range. While one area may still lean heavily toward sellers, another may be giving buyers more leverage.

That is why national headlines only tell part of the story. What matters

most is what is happening in the market where you plan to buy or sell.

I understand the local market, pricing trends, and how quickly homes are moving to provide you with a clearer picture of the opportunities in front of you. Let's work together to create a plan based on your goals, not just the latest headlines.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, PrimeLending, Ludlow, Vt.

Efficiency VT Best of the Best awards

S. BURLINGTON, Vt. – More than 840 people gathered for the 2026 Better Building by Design (BBD) conference recently, the region's premier design and construction conference held each year by Efficiency Vermont. Ten organizations were honored with Best of the Best awards for leadership and innovative projects, including the event's first-ever award recognizing a workforce development program.

Architects, designers, builders, contractors, and more from across the northeast gathered at the DoubleTree Hotel & Conference Center in South Burlington, from May 6-7. The theme for this year's event was "Tight Margins, Bold Moves: Building for Affordability, Efficiency, and Electrification." The 10 Best of the Best award winners whose work demonstrated the themes of this year's BBD are Vermont Adult Learning's

Energy Works Program (statewide), Workforce Development Innovation; Lamos Electric (Franklin), Efficiency Excellence Network Partner of the Year; Johnstone Supply (Williston), Efficiency Excellence Network Leadership Award; Champlain Housing Trust and Evernorth for the 10th Cavalry Apartments (Colchester), Affordable Housing Innovation (Multifamily Homes); Cathedral Square for Reid Commons (St. Albans), Performance Excellence (Multifamily Homes); Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity for 41 Central Street (Randolph), Affordable Housing Innovation (Single-Family Homes); Bellwether Craftsmen and New Frameworks for Rose Hill Lane (Shelburne), Performance Excellence (Single-Family Homes); Geobarns LLC, for Farmer and the Bell (Woodstock), Commercial Resilience Champion; Duncan Wisniewski Ar-

chitecture, Alburgh Family Clubhouse (Alburgh), Small Business Innovation; and Studio III Architecture and Scott + Partners Architecture, BETA Technologies Production Facility (South Burlington), Large Business Innovation.

Attendees shared the latest in energy efficiency practices, strengthened professional connections, and shared insights across nearly 50 conference workshops. More than 60 exhibitors, nonprofits, and other organizations offered interactive learning with building materials, heating systems, and other technologies that improve how homes and buildings use energy.


"Vermont is meeting the energy challenges we face together – collaborating with electric utilities, supporting our weatherization partners, and working with educators, trainers, and employers to grow our climate workforce," said Peter Walke, Efficiency Vermont's managing director, in comments opening the annual event.

Efficiency investments made in 2025 saved Vermonters more than 49,000

megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity, or enough to power more than 700 homes for a decade, Walke noted. Those investments will save Vermonters \$139 million over their lifetime. "It takes coordination across the supply chain and a skilled workforce to design, install, and service these projects to make this kind of durable affordability happen."

This year's BBD keynote speaker was Ellen Kahler, the executive director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF). Kahler's more than two decades leading VSJF make her one of the most influential Vermont voices on sustainable economic development and workforce advancement.

"Building anything well, whether it's a building or a business, takes good leadership, clear communication, a healthy organizational culture, and strong teamwork," Kahler said in an address focused on affordability and resilience in an uncertain market. "You can't control global or national markets...taking care of what you can control will enable you to navigate the uncertainty that will always be there."



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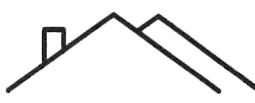
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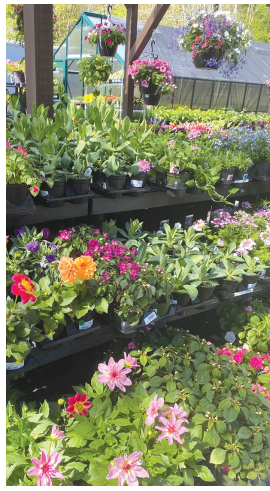
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PHOTOS PROVIDED

The new rule of summer yard care: Let the dogs out

REGION – May is not only prime lawn and gardening time, it's also National Pet Month – the perfect time to celebrate your furry friends and get them back outside to play. A great backyard is more than a place for shade and fun; it's a sanctuary that should offer total peace of mind for the whole family, which includes your pets, too.



Maintain your lawn, keeping it pet-friendly. PHOTO PROVIDED

As outdoor routines shift into high gear, small decisions in how you maintain your yard can have a big impact on your four-legged friends. Luckily, you don't have to choose between a yard that looks beautiful and one that's safe for use around your pets. With the right approach, you can keep your space looking its best while letting the dogs out.

These few thoughtful adjustments can help get your outdoor space in shape for a full season of play.

Rethink what's in your yard

For most dogs, the backyard is their favorite room in the house. Pet-friendly maintenance solutions help keep it a place for play and discovery.

"It's critical for pet parents to keep their pets in mind when choosing lawn or weed control products," says Dr. Marty Becker, Spruce Weed & Grass Killer Alli-

ance member, veterinarian, and pet-wellness expert. "Pets groom themselves and don't bathe as frequently, meaning whatever they're exposed to can remain on their skin and fur for a long period of time."

Weed control without the worry

Maintaining your yard doesn't have to mean sacrificing peace of mind. Weed control options like Spruce Weed & Grass Killer offer an alternative for pet owners looking to simplify their routine. Made with 10 simple ingredients, it's safe for use around people, pets, and bees when used as directed, so your dog can reclaim the yard – playing, rolling around, and exploring every corner – while you keep your yard looking its best all season long.

With visible results in as little as one hour, and dead weeds in just one day, you can spend more time with the people and pets that matter most, rather than on yard work. Plus, it's

backed by the Best Friends Animal Society, SPCA Cincinnati, and Fear Free Happy Homes, so pet owners can feel confident using it in their outdoor spaces.

Create a space they'll love

A pet-friendly yard goes beyond lawn and garden care. Designating areas for play, providing shaded spots for rest, and regularly checking for hazards like sharp debris can help create a space where pets can roam freely.

Whether it's National Pet Month or any time of the year, small changes can go a long way in creating a backyard that works for everyone. By choosing smarter ways to prep your space now, you can ensure your four-legged family members spend less time sidelined and more time enjoying the sunshine. After all, a beautiful yard is best enjoyed when every member of the family is free to roam.

Article provided by StatePoint.

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Beaver Pond Farm offers fresh produce

NEWPORT, N.H. – Located on the John Stark Highway between Newport and Claremont, N.H., Beaver Pond Farm is a family-run farm offering fresh, high-quality produce and local products. Our retail store sits just five miles from each town and is easy to get to from anywhere in the Upper Valley.

As a diversified farm, we grow a variety of crops and raise livestock, ensuring sustainable practices that support both the land and our community.

Becky (McDonough) Nelson represents the eighth generation of her family to own and work the land at Beaver Pond Farm. Her husband, Ben, oversees farm production, and together they have continued the family tradition since 1984.

Over nine generations, the farm has passed through the hands of both men and women, each dedicated to preserving its legacy. Today, 238 acres of our land are permanently conserved, protecting the farm's rich agricultural heritage for future generations.

In 1984, Becky and Ben partnered with Becky's parents, Fred and Norma McDonough, to officially establish Beaver Pond Farm. What began with baked goods and vegetables sold from a cart soon expanded, leading to the opening of our farm store in 1989. While much has changed over the centuries, our dedication to quality, sustainability, and tradition remains as



Becky and Ben Nelson.

PHOTO PROVIDED

strong as ever.

In May, we're featuring fresh, locally sourced wild fiddleheads, asparagus, and spinach. Don't miss our seasonal farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, grass-fed beef, baked goods, maple syrup, hay, pumpkins and squash, and Christmas trees and wreaths.

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