

Ads are due Tuesday, May 19 for the May 27 paper
We will be CLOSED May 25 Memorial Day

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Music on the Mountain – Page 11

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THE Vermont Journal

MAY 13, 2026 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 19

Family-run business celebrating 30 years named VNLA Retailer of the Year

BY PAULA BENSON
The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Curt and Martha Cowles, owners of Glebe Mountain Gardens in Londonderry, shared recently that they were awarded the 2025 Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association's (VNLA) Garden Center Retailer of the Year prize. As a certified Vermont horticulturist and 30-year member of VNLA, Curt was thrilled and proud to accept the prestigious award, his first from the association.

On Facebook, Curt and Martha wrote, "None of this would be possible without our loyal customers and our incredible garden center team. This is a wonderful way to start our 30th season."

The post received more than 200 likes and 66 comments from loyal customers, clients, and friends who have considered Glebe their "go-to" garden center for decades. The knowledgeable, helpful, and professional staff there extend a full customer-service ex-

perience to visitors of the garden center – listening, answering questions, and making suggestions.

"The people part is really fun," said Curt. "People come in and ask for advice...our customers are great. And people who come to the garden center are in a good mood. They come to look at plants and buy things for their house, and they leave in an even better mood. It is really cool."

Glebe also works with clients on garden and landscaping design, patio construction, and installation.

It does make for an enjoyable stroll, meandering among Glebe's huge selection of well-tended annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, herbs, and vegetables. The nursery also sells organic seeds and soil amendments, and there is a sweet gift shop on the property. The garden center occupies part of a lush, 29-acre parcel of land on Route 11 in Londonderry that Curt and Martha purchased in 1995. The following year, they opened the first iteration of

Glebe Mountain Gardens.

The Cowles met while attending the University of New Hampshire (UNH), where Curt was earning his horticulture degree. Curt's passion for growing and cultivating plants started with mowing his grandfather's lawn and learning techniques such as layering, a low-stress method of plant propagation.

Curt said his parents bought a ski house at Magic Mountain in the 1970s, and that is where his love of Vermont started. In the 1980s, the family moved to the farmhouse where Curt and Martha still live, and where they raised their three children.

Emily, their oldest, "wanted nothing to do with the nursery," Curt related. "Maggie, our middle daughter, worked in the garden center. And Sam, our youngest, works with me on the landscaping side of the business."

In the beginning, Curt recalled, "When it was just me and my shovel, I remember coming home in tears." When he finally was able to

hire some employees and purchase equipment, the business started really taking off.

Glebe opened for the 2026 season on April 24, officially kicking off its 30th year in business. The nursery's hours are 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., seven days per week.

According to Curt, "the garden center holds its own," but it has been difficult to find skilled workers to support the landscaping side of things. Curt began to realize he needed to switch gears. "Now," he announced, "we are expanding into the beer business."

That new side hustle, Twisted Horn Brewery, opened a taproom inside the gift shop that offers tastings and sells four-packs of craft beer, and merchandise like hats and T-shirts.

The Cowles started the brewery in 2024 with Martha's brother David and his wife, Jen, who had been brewing beer at home for 25 years in Massachusetts.

Twisted Horn Brewery is working on something new and exciting, as soon as the town approves an



Martha and Curt Cowles with their VNLA Garden Center of the Year award.

PHOTO PROVIDED

amendment to the town plan to designate the property as commercial rather than residential. That request will be presented to the Londonderry Selectboard, and once the proper permits are obtained, Curt said they plan to turn part of the garage into a seven-barrel brewing system to start brewing and serving beer on site. Vermont law states that establishments that serve alcohol must also sell food, and Curt is looking into bringing in a pizza oven.

The nursery and taproom are located at 3714 Route 11. Visit their website at www.glebemountaingardens.com or their Facebook page for more information, and stop by to congratulate the award-winning team and support a local business.

Ludlow residents concerned about temporary emergency personnel housing

BY NICK GIBERTI
The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Selectboard meeting on Monday, May 4, saw many Ludlow residents turn out to voice their concerns about the temporary housing for ambulance department personnel which has recently been placed next to the Ludlow Fire Station.

Several citizens voiced objections to the building, with concerns ranging from its aesthetic value – or lack thereof – to its reduction of available parking near the fire station, as well as its potential to block the view of fire engines pulling out of the fire station and onto Route 103. A recurring theme in the discussion was the feeling expressed by several residents that the building should have been placed near the current police and ambulance department building on West Hill Road.

Board member George Tucker explained that the emergency services building committee, on which he also serves, had recommended the purchase of the building due to the inadequacy of the current sleeping arrangements for Ludlow emergency medical personnel, which Town Manager Penny Wu described at a previous meeting in February as a small room with two single beds in a bay in the town garage, shared by male and female ambulance personnel.

"The bedroom that we provide is unacceptable," Wu told the meeting attendees. Noting that emergency medical personnel often work 12-24 hour shifts, during which they are asked to

perform a variety of high-stress tasks, Wu likened the quality of sleep they are able to get to the sleep one might get on a long airplane flight. "It is a liability waiting to happen," she asserted. Wu also felt that the lack of separate sleeping quarters for men and women was a problem, explaining that a senior loss consultant for the Vermont League of Cities and Towns who saw the previous sleeping quarters "could not believe that we ask male and female [personnel] to sleep in that room."

In response to a question from board member Scott Baitz about insurance and flood hazards for the building, Tucker explained that the building is not currently located in the flood plain of the Black River, and that previous water damage to the fire station during the 2023 flood came almost entirely from the washing out of the earthen railroad bed above Off the Rails, since replaced with riprap, which is more effective in controlling drainage.

Urging them not to become bogged down in dealing with the pushback about the temporary housing, Ludlow resident Ryan Silvestri, who previously served on the planning commission, said he hoped the board would instead focus on the larger issue at hand: namely, the town's aging emergency services buildings, which are in need of imminent replacement. "I really hope that this trailer doesn't become a distraction from...other difficult decisions that you all are going to have to make, like, very

rapidly," Silvestri said.

Moving on, the board approved a bid in the amount of \$15,400 submitted by First Due, for what was described by Wu as a modern digital platform for fire and EMS recordkeeping, and approved increased transfer station fees.

The transfer station residential fees will be increased by \$5 beginning in July, bringing the price of a new permit to \$30, an additional permit to \$15, and an extra roll of bags to \$30. There price per pound for waste weighed on the scales was also increased from 10 cents per pound to 15 cents per pound. Transfer Station Manager Patti Potter noted that the fee structure had not been updated since 2019, and that transfer station costs have increased dramatically since then, particularly the cost for the purple bags which residents must use to dispose of their trash. While there was some discussion devoted to whether or not the bags could be eliminated, it was determined that alternatives, such as the punch card system in use in other towns, would create unacceptably long lines at the transfer station in a town the size of Ludlow, particularly during the peak of the winter ski season.

The board also reviewed proposed increases to zoning and construction permit fees. Planning and Zoning

See **LUDLOW** on Page 2

Route 100 in Plymouth to close for two weeks

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – Vermont Route 100 will be closed at Bridge No. 112, which passes over Tinker Brook in Plymouth, beginning on Thursday, May 29, at 7 a.m. The closure is scheduled to end on Friday, June 12, at 7 a.m. This 14-day closure is required for the Plymouth Emergency Bridge Replacement project. The contractor will be performing work at the bridge site during this period.

A signed detour route via Vermont Route 100A

will be in place for the duration of the closure. The detour adds approximately nine minutes to travel time.

Travelers should also be aware that Vermont Route 100 at Bridge No. 116 in Bridgewater is scheduled for a separate 40-day closure from approximately Aug. 12 – Sept. 25. More details will be shared as that closure approaches.

Possible daily lane closures with flaggers are in effect now through approximately May 28. Please expect minor delays in the area before the full closure begins.

Londonderry discusses meetings –

BY SHAWN TAE WEBB
The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – At their May 4 meeting, the Londonderry Selectboard discussed their upcoming special town meeting, which was held Monday, May 11, at 6 p.m., to vote on raising \$81,000 in taxes to pay the salary and benefits for a full-time general office manager. The results will be published in next week's edition of The Vermont Journal, and online at www.vermontjournal.com.

Town Administrator Aileen Tulloch reported that renovations at the town hall are underway. Residents will notice that the windows are boarded up, "which is a good thing," she stated, as they

are being repaired. Tulloch also announced that Stevens & Associates recently had a site visit at the town hall, and is in the beginning stages of the master plan for the renovations and repairs.

The new logo design for the town was presented again, with edits suggested to remove the covered bridge and the church, and to incorporate imagery of the town hall. The board also agreed that removing the extra verbiage would give it a cleaner look and allow the design to be scaled down for documents and paperwork without losing the legibility of the text. The new logo will keep all town documents and emails, and the website, consistent in their branding.

The board then heard

See **DERRY** on Page 2

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DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is **Tuesday, May 19 at 4 p.m.** for the May 27 publication.

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Ludlow Rotary successful 68th annual Penny Sale —

LUDLOW, Vt. — The Ludlow Rotary Club is thrilled to announce the overwhelming success of its 68th annual Penny Sale. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our local business community and the enthusiastic participation of our neighbors, the event was a resounding success.

The proceeds from this year's sale will allow the Ludlow Rotary Club to award \$12,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors from Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth, and Cavendish. These scholarships represent our commitment to supporting the next generation of leaders in our community. Additional proceeds benefit local com-

munity projects.

This year's event saw a record number of prizes distributed to lucky winners. Highlights included sought-after ski passes, high-definition TVs, bicycles, fishing rods, and premium apparel. Winners also took home significant cash prizes, numerous gift cards to local establishments, and a delightful assortment of Mary Meyer stuffed animals.

"We are deeply moved by the continued support of the businesses that donate year after year," said Sharon Bixby, of the Ludlow Rotary Club. "It is their generosity that makes it possible for us to provide these substantial scholarships to our local students. The hustle and

bustle of the sale truly pays off for the entire community."

The Ludlow Rotary Club extends its heartfelt thanks to every business and individual who contributed to making the 68th annual Penny Sale a night to remember.

The Ludlow Rotary Club is a service organization dedicated to improving the local community and supporting international humanitarian efforts through fellowship and service. The Ludlow Rotary Club meets Tuesdays, at DJ's Restaurant in Ludlow, from 12:15-1:30 p.m. To learn more about the club, ask any rotarian.

Weston Pop-up University seventh successful year —

WESTON, Vt. — Weston Pop-up University, the community-based, month-long offering of fun classes in Weston, closed its seventh year at the end of March. The leaders of the effort met recently to review this year's program and begin making plans for next year. Yes, Weston Pop-up will be back.

The idea is to offer interesting and fun classes taught by locals to draw community folks together and out of their homes in the sometimes-

dreary late months of winter. Taught by local professionals in a variety of fields, former teachers, and hobbyists, the classes this year ranged from focaccia baking to the science of waves, fun limericks, to American sign language, Knitting 101 to Basic First Aid, and several more. More than 200 students learned something, met their neighbors, and had some fun in the 12 classes offered this year. Weston Pop-up is grateful to Gladys' Kitchen

at The Hub and Walker Farm Theater for providing venues for classes this year.

Stay tuned next February for news of the eighth year of Weston Pop-up, to be held in March 2027. Lead organizer Laura Katz says, "We're talking about a new slate of classes for next year, repeating some old favorites and also trying some new ones. Car Mechanics for Women, anyone?"

Okemo Valley Women's Club —

LUDLOW, Vt. — The GFWC Okemo Valley Women's Club met for their April meeting on Monday, April 13, at the Black River Senior Center in Ludlow. Nineteen women were in attendance, with an additional three members joining via Zoom.

The speaker for the meeting was Julie Lynn-Wood, presenting "What's the Buzz?" Owner of the Golden Stage Inn in Proctorsville, Lynn-Wood is a bee expert and beekeeper. She explained that several of the reasons for keeping bees are to collect beeswax and royal jelly, extract propolis,

and, of course, to gather the honey. Just one beehive can produce 20-150 pounds of honey. Lynn-Wood has also found that when she is with the bees, she has increased energy and focus, and improved relaxation. She explained the different types of hives, how they are constructed, and how the bees enter and exit the hives. Then, the clubwomen were shown several beehive frames with honeycomb intact. Lynn-Wood described the interaction between the different types of bees which live communally in the hive, existing as a colony or super organism,

and the job each bee has to ensure the health of the hive.

Following Lynn-Wood's enlightening and fascinating presentation, the club held a business meeting to discuss past and future community efforts, including recent and future fundraising efforts and scholarship programs.

The GFWC Okemo Valley Women's Club meets monthly from September to May. There will be no business meeting in May, when the club holds its annual banquet.

The next meeting of the Okemo Valley Women's club will be Monday, Sept. 14. Anyone interested in attending may contact President Sally Scarp at 407-242-0901, Membership Chair Cynthia Mischel at 802-282-4225, or any member.

Cavendish Town Office staff get dirty



CAVENDISH, Vt. — New Cavendish Town Clerk Michael Murphy and Assistant Clerk Jen Leak joined volunteers from Cavendish Streetscapes to rehabilitate three gardens surrounding the town office. Overgrown shrubs were clipped, weeds were yanked, and everyone put in a solid day of work last Saturday. This was teamwork to benefit the community.

thanks workers Jen Leak, Michael Murphy, Bruce McEnaney, Herb Eddy, Billy McNamara, Shirley Clark, and Doris Eddy. Watch for further improvements to the town office gardens.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Black River Flood Resilience Plan update and survey —

REGION — The towns of Plymouth, Ludlow, and Cavendish are developing a flood resilience plan for the Black River corridor. The plan will serve as a roadmap for identifying and implementing projects that reduce flood impacts and support long-term community resilience. To share your thoughts or access the survey, visit www.arcg.is/H1ubH0.

Please note, this survey is intended to identify concerns or gaps, not to vote on projects.

Using community input gathered at a public open house along with site visits, documentation of past efforts, flood damage data, and coordination with town leadership, the project team has identified a list of potential flood resilience projects across the three towns. The project team used a set

of prioritization criteria to evaluate and score all identified projects. While all projects will be included in the Flood Resilience Plan with details on scoring, only a small number will advance to conceptual design.

We are sharing the project list and prioritization approach to confirm we're on the right track and to identify any major concerns or missing considerations before moving forward.

LUDLOW

From Page 1

Director Erin Ladd told the selectboard that these fees had not been updated in 20 years. After studying surrounding towns similar to Ludlow, including Killington, Woodstock, and Stowe, Ladd developed a fee structure and submitted it to the board. The proposed fee structure can be viewed in the selectboard's May 6 meeting packet at the Ludlow town website, www.ludlow.vt.us.

Tucker added that town taxpayers have effectively been subsidizing development due to the low permitting fees not covering the cost of the

man hours it takes for town employees to work on development projects. Tucker said that the increased fees were designed to ensure that "if there is another [development project the size of] Jackson Gore...the hundreds, if not thousands of staff hours that went into that project is not on the taxpayer burden."

The board also appointed Matthew Bellantoni to the planning commission to fill the seat vacated by Judy Pullinen, an incumbent who had been reappointed at the previous meeting in a somewhat contested appointment process. A motion at that meeting to appoint Bellantoni to the commission was revised prior to its adoption to instead keep Pullinen in her seat.

Speaking in his capacity as the town's assessor, Silvestri reported to the board that the townwide reappraisal process had determined an increase in Ludlow's Grand List value from \$1.6 billion to \$2.6 billion, or 62%. Silvestri said this increase is on par with what is being seen in other towns in the area and across the state.

Finally, Wu informed the board that she was reviewing previous discussions and drafts of the short-term rental registry ordinance put before the board in 2025, and would be bringing it before them for discussion at an upcoming meeting.

The Ludlow Selectboard will hold their next meeting on Monday, June 1, at 6 p.m., at the Ludlow Town Hall.

DERRY

From Page 1

from Esther Fishman, who announced the 50th anniversary celebration for the Mountain Valley Health Center, which will be held at the clinic on Saturday, June 20, from 11:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m. Overflow parking will be available at Flood

Brook School. "It's a good thing to have the clinic in our little town for 50 years," Fishman said proudly.

The board moved to approve the closure of Spring Hill Road for the duration of the work to be done on a culvert under the road, which is anticipated to take place in the late summer.

The warning for the public hearing to discontinue Monet Lane was signed. Monet Lane exists in both Londonderry and Windham, so a joint meeting will take place, with board members and interested residents able to attend to voice any concerns or agreement to discontinue the roadway. A site visit at Monet Lane will be held on Monday, June 15, at 4:30 p.m., with the public hear-

ing to follow at the Windham School building, at approximately 5 p.m., when all interested parties return from the site visit. The results of the meeting will be reported that evening at the Londonderry Selectboard meeting.

A soft launch for remote meetings via Zoom occurred on May 4. A Zoom link for meetings will now be available on the town's website, www.londonderryvt.gov, and on the meeting agendas moving forward. It will be a permanent link, which allows it to be bookmarked for ease of use.

The Londonderry Selectboard meets on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 6 p.m., at the Londonderry Town Office.

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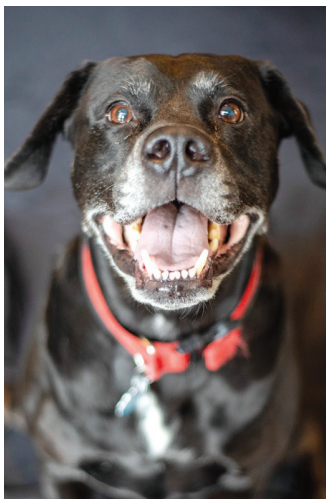
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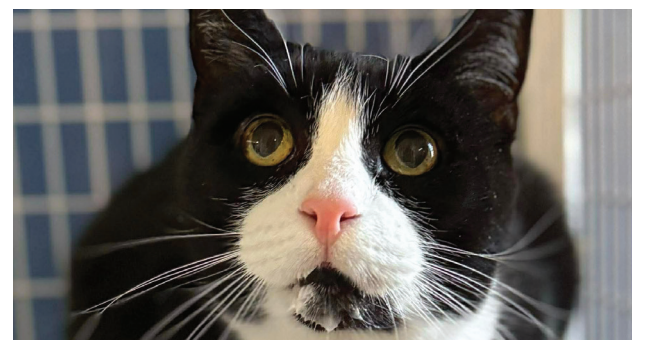
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health, local, opinion

Chair yoga classes

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – May’s monthly chair yoga class at the Springfield Town Library, on Friday, May 15, at 10 a.m., will honor the animals all around us exploring the beauty of spring – cows, birds, fish, and more. Join in person at 43 Main Street or online to learn accessible movements you can do right from your seat.

Chair yoga meets the third Friday of every month for 60 minutes. With attention to brain boosting and nervous system nourishment, each month’s practice will leave you feeling mobile

yet grounded.

Classes are led by Jo Bregnard, a 500-hour certified yoga teacher with additional certifications in tai chi, acupressure, meditation, and more. Bregnard leads group and private sessions through her virtual studio, where she enjoys weaving lessons learned from the natural world into practice time.

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

Springfield Town Library cardholders can contact

the library at 802-885-3108 or stlib@vermontel.net to receive a coupon code for free online access. Those without a library card can visit www.studio.jobregnard.com/product/88980 for complete details on additional pricing options and to sign up for online access. Either way, you’ll get eight chair yoga videos recorded at the Springfield Town Library as soon as you register.

If you need further information, email jo@jobregnard.com.

To the Editor,

As a registered nurse (RN) and the spouse of a stroke survivor, I have seen our health care system from both sides – professionally and personally. Nothing prepared me for how difficult it can be to access coordinated care after a stroke.

When my husband survived an ischemic stroke, we were grateful for rapid emergency treatment. Like most families, we believed that discharge from the hospital meant a recovery plan was in place. We assumed neurology follow-up, rehabilitation guidance, medication oversight, and care coordination would naturally follow. That assumption was wrong.

What I have learned is that for many stroke patients, the greatest barriers

begin after they leave the hospital. Families may face unanswered calls, delayed specialist appointments, fragmented communication between providers, unclear responsibility for follow-up care, and missed opportunities during the most critical window for recovery. For stroke survivors, lost time can mean lost function, lost independence, and preventable complications.

What many Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers do not know is that they have access to an independent advocacy resource when health care systems fail to respond. Acentra Health serves as the Medicare Beneficiary and Family-Centered Care Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) in many regions. The QIO can help patients and families with quality-of-care concerns, discharge appeals, service termination appeals, and urgent advocacy when medically necessary care is not being appropriately addressed. The Acentra Health website is www.acentraqio.com.

In my husband’s case, admission to the emergency department in a regional comprehensive stroke center did not translate into effective follow-up care. The critical window for re-

covery was spent in calls and messages that were mostly left unanswered. Regrettably, I was unaware of Acentra Health and their role in advocating for safe and effective health care.

These services exist to protect patients, but too many families never hear about them until months after opportunities for recovery have been lost.

As both a nurse and a caregiver, I believe patients deserve more than emergency intervention. They deserve continuity, accountability, and a clear path forward after stroke.

If you or someone you love is struggling to access follow-up care, rehabilitation services, specialist oversight, or answers either during or after a hospitalization, know that you have rights, and you have options outside the health care system itself.

Stroke recovery should not depend on how hard a family can fight to be heard.

Sincerely,
Susan Boyer, DNP, RN, FAAN
Health care advocate and care partner
Weathersfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

My name is Deborah Wright. I am running for Bellows Falls Village President this May 19. It is a position I have held in the past, proudly serving the community. Bellows Falls, as all of you know, is the beating heart of Rockingham, a welcoming place for all with so much to offer and so much more in its future with the right leadership. I believe that is myself.

In the last decade I have consistently done my homework and honored my oaths to my community, in every instance. My municipal experience is extensive: Bellows Falls Village Trustees Board, as both president and trustee; Rockingham Planning Commission, as both planning chair and commissioner; along with many appointments to committees and subcommittees since 2011. As a 23-plus-year business owner in Bellows Falls in the utility-construction industry, my business expertise provides background in finance, attracting candidates, negotiating, and road safety unmatched by the other candidates.

In addition, I am a Rockingham justice of the peace, a member of Rockingham’s Thermal

Energy Network (TEN), and an active voting member of both The Vermont League of Cities and Towns’ (VLCT) equity committee and the Vermont Opioid Settlement Committee. I listen to every citizen in Rockingham and its villages to understand their concerns, allowing me to formulate clearly what next steps are needed to provide a stronger, safer future for our residents. I also provide direction to citizens for next steps to address their concerns.

In addition to the points mentioned above, I possess more years of experience, honed by time, have a better understanding of the challenges we face, and the vision to find solutions to these challenges, all while reducing the burden on our taxpayers by eliminating waste and redundancies. If your home needed improvements, would you simply go to your bank and ask for more money? Or would you first determine what frugalities and course corrections could be made to achieve your goals and then create a path to accomplishing them with the least resources needed? I do feel the current board is out of touch with its voters.

Thus far, a list of accomplishments: While serving on the village board I have

moved the needle many times, from the fire department’s early transformation from a union entity (which ironically paved the way to its current municipal structure); to the conceptualization of the Firemen’s Memorial Park as a planning grant brick-and-mortar project; to the push for a mechanism to create a forward-thinking, biologically sound wastewater alternative to sludge hauling with the sludge-drying system.

If this was not limited in scope and time, I would include a few of my future improvement ideas for Bellows Falls. Above all else, I love Bellows Falls and its people.

What we need: lower property taxes and utility rates, measured housing construction, improved community safety, fair and equitable treatment of all citizens in Bellows Falls, and alternative energy plans to provide a safety net for future hazardous events.

Bellows Falls needs a strong, forward-looking president who will guide its trustees to make the best choices for all its citizens. Please provide me with the opportunity to demonstrate this for all residents at the polls on May 19.

Paid for by
Deborah Wright
Bellows Falls, Vt.

Dear Editor,

How many times are we expected to be shocked by the unlawful, despicable behavior of police in the Upper Valley? When law enforcement officers are accused of domestic violence. When leadership is tied to allegations of sexual harassment. When the very people entrusted with protecting our communities are the ones accused of causing harm.

In the Upper Valley, these are not isolated headlines – they are a pattern.

Within the last six months, Windsor County Sheriff Ryan Palmer was charged with multiple felonies and misdemeanors related to sexual misconduct and misuse of public funds; detective Tim Meenagh from the Hanover Police Department was charged with domestic violence; and Chief Alex Lee, of the Newport, N.H., Police Department, lied about an affair during an investigation and continues to operate as Newport police chief, while the other officer involved was fired.

These actions by local police should force a reckoning. Instead, we see the same tired cycle: quiet investigations, limited transparency, and a public left to wonder whether accountability will ever truly come.

Survivors of domestic and sexual violence are watching. And what they are seeing is a system that asks them to report abuse to institutions that cannot – or will not – consistently police their own. That is more than hypocrisy. It is a failure of duty.

We cannot claim to take violence seriously while tolerating it within the ranks of those sworn to prevent it.

We cannot ask survivors to come forward while sending the message that power protects its own. And we cannot continue to excuse these incidents as rare when they continue to surface again and again. Palmer’s behavior and reputation was well-known before being hired as Windsor County Sheriff, and yet, he was hired – promoted even – anyway.

Survivors in our communities deserve better. They deserve law enforcement agencies that are transparent, accountable, and willing to confront misconduct directly – not quietly manage it. Anything less is a betrayal of public trust and misuse of public tax dollars. Our communities deserve better leaders and safety from predatory men in power. If police want the public to trust them, they must show us that they are, indeed, trustworthy. As of now, that is fully in question in the Upper Valley.

Sincerely,
Dr. Karen Harker
Sexual assault survivor and concerned citizen
Springfield, Vt.



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obituaries

Harriet L. Brooks, 1931-2026

BROOKLYN, N.Y. – Harriet Lenore Brooks, 94, died at home on March 28, 2026. She was born on Oct. 5, 1931, in Brooklyn, N.Y., the only child of Wilburt and Rose Nidich Schumacher. Harriet graduated from Midwood High School. She attended Brooklyn College, studying engineering, until she met her future husband, Thomas Reed Brooks, on the way to a political convention. They moved to Massachusetts, where Thomas attended Harvard University. After he graduated, they moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., where they raised their three children, Christopher Norman Brooks, of Lancaster, Pa.; William Frederick Brooks, of White River Junction, Vt.; and Karin Louise Pugh, of Ocala, Fla. The family lived in their beautiful brownstone in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn, spending summers and holidays at their home in Andover, Vt. Harriet eventually returned to school and graduated with honors from New York University, where she majored in history. Harriet worked in various political nonprofit organizations, ending her working career as an office manager at an investment firm in Manhattan.

Harriet was a person of strong opinions and fierce loyalties. She loved read-



Harriet Brooks, 1931-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

ing, political discussions, theater, gardening, food, fine wines, and traveling. At the top of Harriet's joys in life was her family.

Harriet is preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Thomas R. Brooks; her great-grandson Oscar Reed Pugh; and her great-granddaughter Evelyn Sarah Pugh. She is survived by her children, Christopher (Lynn), William, and Karin (David); her seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 13, at 11 a.m., at Pleasant View Cemetery in Ludlow, Vt., with a light lunch following at 41 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston, Vt. All are welcome to join us to remember Harriet.

In honor of Harriet and in lieu of flowers or donations, please consider planting a tree or a garden.

Harold J. Rockhill Jr., 1931-2026

LUDLOW, Vt. – Harold Joseph Rockhill Jr., 94, passed away on Feb. 16, 2026, at Duke University Hospital. He faced his final days with quiet determination and grace. Harold spent the last years of his life in Ludlow, Vt., where he was surrounded by steady love and support.

Born on May 17, 1931, in Trenton, N.J., Harold lived a life defined by loyalty, faith, generosity, and deep devotion to family. At the center of his life was his beloved wife, Constance E. Rockhill. Their 65-year marriage was the foundation of his world. He was predeceased by his parents, Harold J. Rockhill Sr. and Frances H. Halladay; and by his wife, Constance. He is survived by his daughters, Lori and Melissa; his son-in-law, Bill; and his three grandchildren, Laura, Scott, and Jarett. Time spent with family and friends brought him great joy.

As a member of the Ludlow community, he joined the American Legion Post 36. Harold proudly served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He enlisted and entered active duty in 1951, and served in the New Jersey Air National Guard with the 108th Fighter Wing.

He built a long career with United States Steel and later Griffith Electric Supply in Trenton. A man of faith, he was a long-time member of Hamilton Square Baptist Church and later the First Presbyterian Church.

Harold was deeply committed to Freemasonry and



Harold Rockhill, 1931-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

an active member of Gothic Lodge No. 270 F&AM in Hamilton Square. He served as worshipful master in 1983, and as lodge trustee from 1981-1985, later continuing his service as chaplain. He was also a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and served as grand sword bearer of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey from 1992-1993.

Harold enjoyed traveling, golfing, and talking with people. He rarely met a stranger. Building and flying model airplanes brought him particular satisfaction. In later years, he followed NASCAR with enthusiasm and never lost his appreciation for life's simple pleasures.

A celebration of his life will be held on May 16, at 11 a.m., at American Legion Post 36 in Ludlow, with interment at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hightstown, N.J.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Harold's memory to American Legion Post 36, 133 Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149; and Black River Good Neighbor Services, 37B Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Donald M. Goodrich graveside service

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – A graveside service with military honors for Donald M. Goodrich Jr., 77, who died Feb. 19, 2026, will be held Saturday, May 16, at 1:30 p.m., at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Proctorsville, Vt. The Rev. Charles Bostock will officiate.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., is assisting with arrangements.

Dean F. Goodwin celebration of life

WESTON, Vt. – A celebration of life for Dean Foster Goodwin, 74, who died on Dec. 23, 2025, will be held on Saturday, May 30, at 11 a.m., at the Old Parish Church in Weston, Vt. The Rev. Jon Bliss will officiate.

There will be refreshments and fellowship at Weston Priory Visitors Center, 58 Priory Hill Road, Weston, Vt., immediately following the service.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., is assisting with arrangements.

Norman Robertson graveside service

GRAFTON, Vt. – Norman Robertson, who passed away on Jan. 1, 2026, will have a graveside service on Saturday, May 16, at 1 p.m., at the Houghtonville Cemetery in Grafton.

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

Harry S. Jacobs, 1958-2026

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Harry S. Jacobs, of Charlestown, N.H., passed away on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at Springfield Hospital. Harry was born on Oct. 20, 1958, in Keene, N.H., to Frank and Dorothy (Clough) Jacobs. For many years, Harry operated his own business as a carpenter and was known by many for his skillful work.

Harry always enjoyed a bourbon with the boys. His passion and career was working with wood as a carpenter and craftsman. Harry loved to be on his grill or cooktop putting together an amazing meal. Harry was most at home with said bourbon around a campfire waiting for a chance to throw out one of his famous one-liners. Harry always had perfect timing with his quick wit.

Harry had a deep love for his cats and a true appreciation for the outdoors. He loved any chance to hunt and fish with his boys and grandchildren.

Harry also had a passion for the open road, whether it be traveling to new places, riding his dirtbikes, or admiring classic trucks he one day wanted to have.

Harry is survived by his loving wife, Darlene Jacobs; his son Ben Jacobs; his stepson, Chris Wilkinson; his stepdaughter, Becky Wilkinson; his grandchildren, Levi Jacobs, Aurora Putnam, Zach (Taylor) Phelps, Noah (Jasmine) Wilkinson, Isaac Wilkinson, and Grace Wilkinson;



Harry Jacobs, 1958-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

his loving great-grandchildren; his brothers, Rod Jacobs and Dave Jacobs; his sisters, Nancy McAdams, Carol Shaw, and Maggie Ryan; and multiple nieces and nephews.

Harry was predeceased by his parents, Frank and Dorothy Jacobs; his son Jon-David Jacobs; and his nephew Patrick Shaw.

Harry leaves behind a legacy of love, hard work, and, most of all, integrity.

Though his time here feels far too short, the impact he made on all of us will never fade. He is deeply loved and will forever be profoundly missed.

Calling hours were held Saturday, May 2, from 1-3 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

In lieu of Jim Beam, please feel welcome to send flowers to the funeral home.

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

Diane M. Considine, 1953-2026

LUDLOW, Vt. – Diane Marie Considine, 72, passed away April 26, 2026, at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, very suddenly.

Diane was born in Springfield, Vt., on May 7, 1953, the daughter of Frank H. and Lillian V. (Place) Considine.

She attended Proctorsville Elementary School through eighth grade. She then went to Chester High School, where she graduated from Green Mountain Union High School in June of 1971. After a short time living in Oklahoma, she moved back to Vermont, living in Springfield until she bought a place and moved to Ludlow, Vt.

Diane was employed by Mack Molding Co. in Cavendish, Vt., where she worked for more than 40 years until her retirement.

She had an unending love for her family and the friends she met along the way. She had a very positive presence and never had a harsh word about anyone. She was always welcoming and kind to whomever she met. She always would lend a hand if needed and never asked for anything in return.

She enjoyed being outside, whether relaxing down back in the screen house listening to nature, camping at Hapgood Pond, or by the calming waters fishing. She had a love for birds, especially the hummingbirds; she was really looking forward to their return. Diane liked working with flowers. She would every spring be out planting them in her whiskey barrels. She also had a love of books, and always had one she was reading. She enjoyed murder mysteries. James Patterson and Harlan Colbin were just a couple of her favorite authors, of which there were many. She would take all the kids camping throughout the summer, making special memories with them. She thought of each and every one of them as if they were her own, giving them unconditional love. She always made the holidays special and really enjoyed Easter time. She would pre-



Diane Considine, 1953-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

pare and hide hundreds of Easter eggs filled with money and prizes for all the kids to find. She also had goody bags for all. These are just a few of her ways of showing her love.

Diane is survived by her sister and best friend, Debra Considine Bixby, of Ludlow, Vt.; her nephews, Kevin M. Bixby, of Rochester, N.H., Timothy J. Considine, of North Springfield, Vt., and his wife, Jennifer, and David R. Considine, of Ludlow, Vt.; her great-nephews, Gabe Considine, Dawson Meyette, Owen Bixby, Carter Tanner, and Grant Cooper; her great-nieces, Kimberlyn Considine, Taylor Meyette, and Harper Bixby; her special (adopted) niece, Tracy Trzeoiara and her husband, Jan; her special (adopted) great-nieces, Karissa Trzeoiara and Amanda Potter; her special (adopted) great-nephew, Devan Potter; and many cousins. She loved each and every one of them with all her heart.

Diane was predeceased by her parents; a brother, Donald R. Considine; a niece, Jennifer L. Bixby; and a dear best friend, Carol A. "Pedro" Edmands.

Per her wishes, there will be no wake or funeral service. We will be doing a casual celebration of life/cookout gathering in her memory. It will take place on June 20, at 11 a.m., at 14-15 Tuckerville Parkway, Ludlow, Vt.

In Diane's name and memory, please feel free to make any donations to the Lucy Makenzie Humane Society, 4832 Route 44, Brownsville, VT 05037, due to her love of her beloved kitties, her boys, Jazz and Storm.

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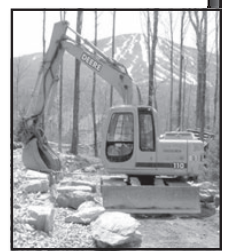
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calendar

MAY 15 –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join online or in person at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street, on May 15, at 10 a.m., for a 60-minute chair-yoga practice. Learn accessible movements that you can do right from your seat, leaving you feeling mobile, grounded, and focused. This month's postures will honor the animals of spring. Walk into the library and join live in person for free; there's no need to preregister. For online access, which includes all recordings, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/88980 to choose from among a variety of registration options.

MAY 16 –

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.

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.

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS, Vt. – The Bridgewater Grange, 129 Route 100A,

will host bingo on Saturday, May 16. Doors open at 5 p.m., game time is 6:15 p.m. Concessions will be available. All are welcome.

MAY 18 –

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will host their May lunch on Monday, May 18, at 12 p.m. The menu will be sliced ham, scalloped potatoes, and dessert. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. Free cash bingo will follow the lunch. All are welcome.

MAY 22 –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – AARP Tax Aide volunteers will be at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Friday, May 22, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., to assist qualified New Hampshire property owners in applying for the property tax relief program. No appointments will be taken – this will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Household adjusted gross income requirements are \$37,000 or less for a single taxpayer, or \$47,000 or less for those married filing jointly/head of household. Please bring a copy of form 1040 for tax year 2025 (or income documents if you did not file federal income tax forms) and your property tax bill for the last quarter of 2025.

MAY 23-24 –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join the Springfield Humane Society at their shelter, 401 Skitchewaug Trail, on May 23 and 24, from 9-3 p.m.,

for their annual Memorial Day yard sale.

MAY 23 –

BRIDGEWATER, Vt. – The Bridgewater Historical Society, located in the Old Brick Schoolhouse, 12 North Bridgewater Road, opens for the season on Saturday, May 23, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. This season's exhibit looks back at the history of Bridgewater through photographs, stories, and artifacts loaned or donated to the historical society. Admission is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities.

NEWPORT, N.H. – Gerry Grimo & the East Bay Jazz Ensemble will be performing at the Newport Opera House, 20 Main Street, on Saturday, May 23, from 7-9:30 p.m., to celebrate 50 years of performing throughout New England. A cash bar and refreshments will be available. To purchase tickets, or for more information, visit www.newportoperahouse.com, call 603-863-2412, or email info@newportoperahouse.com.

SUNDAYS –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Loyal Order of Moose will be hosting a community breakfast on the first and third Sunday of every month, downstairs at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, from 8-10 a.m. All you can eat for a minimal cost.

MONDAYS –

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

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

TUESDAYS –

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

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Tai Chi Vermont certified teacher Jo Bregnard will teach a new tai chi form, bafa wubu, online and in person, Tuesdays, from April 7-May 26, from 10-11 a.m., at the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road. Sponsored by Senior Solutions. All are welcome. Head to the meetinghouse or, for access to the livestream or recording, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/92447.

WEDNESDAYS –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds bingo every Wednesday afternoon. You must be at least 55 years old, and purchase your

cards by 12:45 p.m. Games begin at 1 p.m. Concessions are available until the game begins. We average around 30-40 seniors who love to attend, visit with their friends, and try to win a little extra money.

THURSDAYS –

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

FRIDAYS –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join us online or in person at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street, at 10 a.m. every third Friday through September 2026, for a 60-minute chair yoga practice. You'll learn accessible movements that you can do right from your seat, leaving you feeling mobile, grounded, and focused. Walk into the library and join live in person for free; there is no need to preregister. For online access, which includes all recordings, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/88980 to choose from among a variety of registration options.

SATURDAYS –

WESTMORELAND, N.H. – Books & More Thrift Shoppe, 9 South Village Common behind the brick church, is open every Saturday (except May 30), from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., featuring a selection of adult, young adult, and children's books; games, puzzles, household items, office supplies, pet items, crafts, fabric, yarns, sewing and knitting items, small appliances, gardening tools, and more; as well as a book nook and children's area.

NOTICE OF AN UPCOMING WESTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD HEARING

Kirk and Catherine Goodwin have submitted an application for a minor subdivision for land they own at 26 Dale Rd.

KCM Builders has submitted an application for a setback variance for an addition at a house owned by the Swift Family Irrevocable Trust at 68 Trout Club Rd.

The Weston Development Review Board will hold a hearing on these applications at the Weston Town offices and on zoom on June 3, 2026 starting at 5:00 PM.

Those interested in seeing the applications, submitting written comments, or finding out how to attend the meeting online should contact the Zoning Administrator at: Town of Weston P.O. Box 98, Weston Vt. 05161 or Zoning@westonvt.org.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

TOWN OF WESTON ROAD CREW

The Town of Weston seeks to add full-time, year-round member to our Road Crew. We take pride in maintaining the Town's equipment, roads, and facilities and creating improvements where we can, the successful applicant will be team players willing to do their best and learn along the way.

Candidates are required to hold a VT Driver's License, have a High School diploma or equivalent and a valid CDL Class B Driver's License, successfully pass a background check, and participate in drug testing.

This position has benefits, including health care, and a retirement package. The position is eligible for overtime.

Mail or return your resume to: Town of Weston PO Box 98 Weston VT 05161 or drop off at the Town Office. You can also email the application to selectboard@westonvt.org Applications will be reviewed as received with the position open until filled. The Town of Weston is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Town of Weston, Vermont Town's Board of Listers Position Opening

The Town of Weston is seeking a responsible, detail-oriented individual to serve as its Town Lister. Would you like to get to know your Town better, become a lister!

Duties include:

- Determine the fair market value of all the Town's real estate.
 - Assess changes in property value
 - Hear grievances from property owners
 - Work with the State to implement statewide programs
- The Town's Board of Listers meet once a week on Thursday.

Applicants should be:

- Must be a town resident
- Organized and professional
- Comfortable with communicating with residents

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest to: Email: selectboard@westonvt.org

Or mail to: Town of Weston P.O. Box 98, Weston, VT 05161

Applications accepted until position is filled. For more information, contact the Town Office at 802-824-6645

TOWN OF CHESTER REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL INVERTER REPLACEMENT PROJECT JEFFREY WELL FIELD SOLAR PROJCT

The Town of Chester is soliciting proposals from qualified Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) firms or electrical contractors to remove, replace, and commission new, high-efficiency inverters at the existing Town of Chester Jeffrey Well Field ground-mount solar facility located in Chester, Vermont. The goal is to maximize energy output and ensure long-term reliability for the remaining life of the plant. The successful contractor will provide all labor, materials, equipment, and services required to perform a "turn-key" inverter replacement.

Please contact the Chester Town office by calling (802) 875-2173 or julie.hance@chestervt.gov for a complete copy of the Request for Proposal.

All bids should be clearly marked "RFP Town of Chester Inverter Replacement Project" and should be forwarded to the Town Manager's Office, 556 Elm Street (P.O. Box 370) Chester, VT 05143, or via email to julie.hance@chestervt.gov on or before 3:00 p.m. on May 27, 2026.

TOWN OF CHESTER, VERMONT www.chestervt.gov NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF CODE OF ETHICS INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCE

On May 6, 2026, the Selectboard of the Town of Chester, Vermont, reviewed for adoption a "Code of Ethics Investigation and Enforcement Ordinance". This notice is published pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1972 to inform the public of the adoption of this ordinance and of the citizens' right to petition for a vote to disapprove the adoption of this ordinance.

CONCISE SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

The purpose of the Ordinance is to enact procedures for the investigation of complaints that allege a municipal officer has violated Vermont's Municipal Code of Ethics and the enforcement in instances of substantiated complaints, including methods of enforcement and available remedies.

The full text of the ordinance may be examined at the Chester Town office at 556 Elm Street in Chester, Vermont, and may be examined during regular office hours.

CITIZENS' RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE

Title 24 V.S.A. § 1973 grants citizens the right to petition for a vote at a special or annual Town Meeting to disapprove the adoption of the ordinance by the Selectboard. To exercise this right, citizens must present to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk a petition for a vote on the question of disapproving the adoption of the ordinance signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the Town's qualified voters. The petition must be presented within forty-four (44) days following the date of the adoption of the ordinance. Unless a petition requesting a vote is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973, the adopted "Code of Ethics Investigation and Enforcement Ordinance" shall become effective sixty (60) days from the date of said adoption.

PERSON TO CONTACT

Additional information pertaining to this ordinance may be obtained by contacting Julie Hance, Town Manager at 556 Elm Street, P.O. Box 370, Chester, VT 05143 or by calling (802) 875-2173 during regular office hours.

LEGAL NOTICES



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THE VERMONT JOURNAL
THE VERMONT JOURNAL SHOPPER EDITION
THE MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

BUYING/SELLING

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repairing gravel driveways. Serving Springfield, Vt. area. Call/text 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

East Hill Rd. Furniture, household items, tools, some antiques and collectibles. Anything not sold will be free on Monday, May 25.

ESTATE SALE

ANDOVER, Vt. - Estate sale Saturday and Sunday, May 23 and 24, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 770

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.

Job Opening - Londonderry Transfer Station

The Town of Londonderry, Vermont is accepting applications for part-time (5 hours per week) Transfer Station Attendant to work on weekends. Backhoe experience preferred.

Applicants are asked to submit a required Employment Application, which can be found in the Employment section of the Town web site: <https://www.londonderryvt.gov/> employment.

Submit via email to townadmin@londonderryvt.org or mail to: Town of Londonderry, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155.

Position opened until filled. The Town of Londonderry is an equal opportunity employer.

NOTICE OF HYDRANT FLUSHING Cavendish Municipal Water System Monday, May 18th, through Wednesday, May 20th, 2026 During the hours of 8 am to 5 pm

System users are reminded that: Flushing hydrants may cause temporary discoloration and turbidity of the water. We apologize for any inconvenience to our users, however this very important system maintenance procedure must be conducted each spring and fall. The flushing program allows the pipes to be purged and the hydrants checked for proper operation. Users are advised to avoid drinking the water or washing clothes (especially whites) while discoloration is in evidence. Following hydrant flushing in your area, users should run cold water until it clears before resuming normal use. It is also a good idea to flush residential water heaters after the water clears following a hydrant flush in your area. Thank you for your cooperation,

Cavendish Municipal Water System
For additional information call 802-226-7291

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.

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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

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT Windsor Unit PROBATE DIVISION Docket No.: 26-PR-01932

In re ESTATE of: Richard Jacobs

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Richard Jacobs Decedent
late of Springfield Decedent's Town of Residence

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: May 5, 2026 Signature of Fiduciary

Executor/Administrator	Mailing Address
David Jacobs	c/o Parker & Ankuda, PC, PO Box 519
Phone Number	City, State, Zip
802-885-2582	Springfield, VT 05156
Email	
parkerankuda@vermontel.net	

Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal
Publication Date: May 13, 2026

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Unit
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green Woodstock, VT 05091

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(12/9/26 - 52)

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Open Wall Exhibit: A Burst of Color, A World of Wonder
Hand-painted Silk Scarves Boho Bunnies by Terri Flowers
May 23 11-12:30 Artist Demo - **Handmade Books** with Debora Stuart
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(07/15/26 - TFN - 13)

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(03/17/27 - 52)

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(05/27/26 - 13)

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(08/12/26 - TFN - 52)

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(06/17/26 - 13)

real estate

PROS TO KNOW

Stay in the home you love with a reverse mortgage

REGION – Home is more than where you live. It's where life happens, routines feel familiar, and comfort is already built in.

That's a big reason so many older adults choose to stay where they are. According to Pew Research, 93% of U.S. adults aged 65 and older live in their own home or apartment, and 60% of those who live at home want to remain there as they age. The question becomes how to make that work financially over time.

A reverse mortgage is one option that may help homeowners 62 and older use

their home equity to create more flexibility while continuing to live in the home they love.

What is a reverse mortgage?

A reverse mortgage is a loan for homeowners 62 and older that allows them to borrow against a portion of their home equity. Instead of making a monthly mortgage payment, the loan is repaid later, typically when the home is sold or is no longer their primary residence. That may allow them to eliminate an existing monthly mortgage payment, access part of their

home equity for available funds, and/or stay in their home while creating more room in their monthly budget.

How it can support aging in place

Aging in place often means more than simply staying put. It also means making sure your home continues to fit your needs over time. Some homeowners use a reverse mortgage to consolidate their current mortgage and reduce monthly expenses, cover day-to-day costs in retirement, and/or fund updates that make the home safer or easier to live in.

For homeowners who have built significant equity, this can be one way to use that value without taking on a new monthly mortgage payment.

What to know before moving forward

A reverse mortgage

works differently than other home loans, so it's important to understand what comes with it. The home must remain your primary residence; you must continue to pay property taxes, homeowners insurance, and maintenance costs; and the loan balance increases over time as interest ac-

crues.

This type of loan is not about selling your home. It's about using a portion of the equity you've built in a way that may better support this stage of life.

If staying in your home is the goal, your equity may be more than something you've built – it may

be something you can use. And, for homeowners 62 and older, a reverse mortgage can offer a way to stay where you are, with more flexibility for the years ahead.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, PrimeLending, Ludlow, Vt.

Wardsboro Public Library's annual plant sale

WARDSBORO, Vt. – It has been a longstanding annual tradition that the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend is the day of the plant sale at the Wardsboro Public Library. This year, the sale will be held on Saturday, May 23, at 9 a.m., rain or shine, and will run un-

til 1 p.m. There is always a bake sale tent, and the library's used book barn will be open as well.

The event "From Our Gardens to Yours" is an array of hardy perennials and small shrubs that residents have taken from their own gardens and donated to the library for the sale. Additionally, flats of colorful annuals, such as petunias, marigolds, and geraniums, fill the old market cart and trailers out on the library lawn. Veteran shoppers at the sale know that the usual sellouts every year are the coveted and hard-to-find Gilfeather turnip seeds and seedlings, as well as the locally sourced tomato and herb seedlings.

This year, the library's trustees have enthusiastic volunteer support for the plant sale from the Grow Garden Club in Wardsboro. Local master gardeners from the club are at the sale all day to answer every buyer's questions: Sun or shade? Wetland or dry? Tall or low-growing?

All the proceeds from the plant sale, bake sale, and book sale fund programming, books, events, and supplies at the Wardsboro Public Library. The library serves year-round and seasonal residents in Wardsboro, Stratton, Jamaica, and other nearby towns. For more information, visit www.wardsboropubliclibrary.org.



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spring gardens bloom

In the Garden offers wide variety

CLAREMONT, N.H. – In the Garden Greenhouses opened for the season on April 17, with a huge inventory and selection of plants, flowers, shrubs, and accessories. Colorful varieties include perennials, annuals, hanging baskets, and succulents, as well as fruits, vegetables, and herbs. They also carry potting soils, fertilizer, mulch, pots, window boxes, and other planting needs.



In The Garden Greenhouses.

PHOTO PROVIDED

One review states, “In the Garden Greenhouses is a gem that stands out as a charming destination for garden enthusiasts...highlighted by a welcoming, helpful staff. Each

visit offers pleasant, budget-friendly discoveries.”

Known for their friendly staff and wide variety of healthy plants, In the Garden is open seven days per

week, from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., and is located at 16 Old High Bridge Road in Claremont, N.H. Stop in today and “love your garden.”

Backyard composting at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Saturday, May 16, at 11 a.m., join the Springfield Town Library for a composting program led by Andy from Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management.

This program provides an

overview of composting, including different composting systems and how the composting process works. Participants will learn what materials to add and what to avoid, along with common troubleshooting tips. The talk also includes practical

guidance on timing, helping attendees understand when to take specific actions for successful composting.

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

Dig and Donate to the Wardsboro Public Library

WARDSBORO, Vt. – The Wardsboro Public Library’s annual plant sale is taking place on May 23. The event planners are asking for advance donations of perennial plants and flowers, and small shrubs from residents who are thinning their garden beds or have a surplus. The types of plants that sell well at the plant sale are the hardy flowering varieties of iris and hybrid day lilies, as well as pots of violets, bee balm, and Shasta daisies.

The emphasis in gardening is always on native varieties, but every gardener enjoys seeing some interesting, noninvasive plants in their flower beds as well. Small shrubs such as hydrangea, dogwood,

evergreens, and easy-maintenance ornamental grasses are also welcome for the sale.

On the library’s entrance porch, there are many sizes of empty flower pots to take for transplanting. Plants should be dug and potted, and kept watered at least two weeks prior to the day of the sale, or during the first two weeks of May, ideally.

The potted plants should be clearly identified with a tag naming the type of

plant and color of bloom, and can be dropped off at any time on the following days at the machine shed at the front of the library’s red barn; look for the “drop-off” signs. The drop-off days are Tuesday, May 19 – Friday, May 22, at 170 Main Street in Wardsboro.

The plant sale is sponsored by the trustees of Wardsboro Public Library and Grow Garden Club as a fundraiser for the library.

Starting a garden

REGION – Spring has finally arrived, and with it comes a renewed sense of excitement to try something new. If you have been thinking about starting a garden, this is a great time to give it a try.

Whether you want to transform a corner of your backyard, build a raised bed, or grow food in pots on the porch, turn that interest into your first harvest.

Start by observing your space. The success of your garden depends on the sun, as most vegetables need at least six to eight hours of direct sunlight to thrive. Once you identify your sunniest spot, assess your soil; it is your garden’s best asset. There is still time before the season begins to submit a soil test (visit go.uvm.edu/soiltest for details) and adjust soil pH and fertility if needed. If you start your new garden in raised beds or containers, look for a high-quality raised bed or potting soil mix.

You do not need expensive tools to get started. A few basics will get you through your first season. A sturdy hand trowel is essential for digging and transplanting. Gardening gloves protect your hands from the soil and come in a wide variety of styles. To take care of weeds in your garden, a hand cultivator is useful, but may not be necessary if you’re working in containers. Finally, a watering can or hose nozzle will keep your garden hydrated.

When selecting vegetable plants for your garden, focus on high-yielding and fast-growing options. This will maximize your harvest with fewer plants and give quick results.

Radishes are a fun choice for new gardeners. They go from seed to harvest in less than a month. Another rewarding choice that continues to grow all season is cut-and-come-again lettuce. Snip the outer leaves for dinner and the plant will keep growing.

What would summer be without fresh tomatoes? With hundreds of varieties available, there is a tomato plant for every garden. Look for a determinate variety to keep the size manageable. These tomato plants will generally reach 3 to 4 feet in height and require a cage or support structure. If space is a limitation, look for varieties bred specifically for growing in pots. The plant tag will provide the specific information needed to make an informed choice.

Basil, oregano, thyme, and chives all grow well in containers and grow quickly, making them a valuable ad-

dition to your garden. These hardy herbs are convenient, taking up very little space and providing an accessible harvest easily within reach.

Whatever you decide to include in your garden, consistent care ensures the best results. Check your plants daily for pests and disease. Water them at their base at the soil line to keep the moisture where it’s needed most.

Remember, gardening is a learning process. Keeping some basic notes will help you notice patterns and remember what worked over the season. These notes will be your best resource when planning for next year’s garden.

Start with a few of your summertime favorites, keep it simple, and enjoy the satisfaction of a harvest you grew yourself.

Written by Andrea Knepper, University of Vermont Extension master gardener.

arts & entertainment

Pinske's Rising Tide presents comedy showcase at BFOH

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Pinske's Rising Tide is bringing the laughs to the Bellows Falls Opera House on Thursday, May 21, with a high-energy regional comedy showcase featuring 15 comics, two featured performers, and a headliner, all in one night.

The show is built around a rapid-fire format: Each open-mic comic gets three minutes to deliver their best material, keeping the energy up and the audience locked in from start to finish. Hosting commentary for the first half will be provided by a three-

person panel of Barre Pinske, Aaron Richter, and Mindy Bean, keeping the night loose and conversational between sets. Featured comics Bitsy Biron, of Springfield, Vt., and Nathaniel Allen, of Lacomia, N.H., will round out the lineup before Boston's Sarah May closes the show as headliner.

Dummerston-based musician Josh Allen will warm up the crowd before the laughs begin.

The showcase grew out of two years of relationship-building across the regional comedy scene by Ches-

ter artist and comedian Barre Pinske. "I've been pleasantly surprised by how funny, nice, and supportive of each other the comics really are — wherever I go," Pinske said. Last December, Pinske opened Rising Tide, a performance space inside his Chester gallery. Comics have been traveling more than an hour to attend the open mics. "I thought it would be cool to bring my new friends to the big stage," he said.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to support the Chester Food Shelf. Tickets are available at the door.

New Bernadine Custer Sharp paintings at LAHS

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Londonderry Arts and Historical Society (LAHS) is pleased to announce the acquisition of seven previously unseen paintings by noted 20th-century artist Bernadine Custer Sharp. These works will be featured alongside selections from the society's permanent collection in LAHS's first exhibition of the season.

Custer Sharp was an accomplished painter, illustrator, and Works Progress Administration muralist who made her home in Londonderry. Upon her death in 1991, she bequeathed her residence and an extensive collection of her artwork to



Bernadine Custer Sharp painting. PHOTO PROVIDED

ings come from the estate of David Parsons Jr., of East Dorset. Parsons' parents were close friends of Custer Sharp and collaborated with her during the founding of the Southern Vermont Arts Center. Among the new additions is a portrait of composer and artist Carl Ruggles seated at the piano.

The exhibition will run from May 23 – June 7 and will be open Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., or by appointment.

For more information about upcoming exhibitions, classes, and events, please visit www.lahsvt.org.

LAHS. Much of her work reflects the people, landscapes, and character of the Londonderry community. The newly acquired paint-

New work by Joey Morgan at NXT Gallery

PUTNEY, Vt. – NXT Gallery at Next Stage Arts presents "Forgotten Not Gone," a powerful new exhibition by Brattleboro-based artist Joey Morgan. An opening reception will be held on Sunday, May 24, from 5-7 p.m. The public is invited to experience this deeply personal and visually arresting body of work and to meet the artist.

"Forgotten Not Gone" features a suite of 12 mixed-media collage works born from the remnants of "Have You Ever Loved Me?," a previous project that was largely destroyed in a flood. From this loss, Morgan constructs a new narrative shaped by fragmentation, memory, and transformation. The resulting works carry visible traces of their past – where absence becomes as mean-

ingful as presence.

While "Have You Ever Loved Me?" explored a highly public unraveling – centering on a politician's on-camera suicide and media betrayal – "Forgotten Not Gone" shifts inward. Reassembled from salvaged drawings, the collages reflect more intimate ruptures and the complexities of personal connection. The works invite viewers into a space where meaning is fluid, and interpretation becomes part of the artistic process.

Morgan's multidisciplinary practice is grounded in drawing, with a strong emphasis on materiality. Her work navigates the intersections of image, object, and projection, creating dynamic "gaps" that function like synapses, animating the space between elements. Drawing from fleeting or overlooked moments, her imagery hovers



A piece by Joey Morgan. PHOTO PROVIDED

between clarity and ambiguity, offering an experience that is both immediate and evolving.

Since relocating to Brattleboro in 1998, Morgan has incorporated the textures and sensory details of the region into her work. Though rooted in a singular voice, her pieces ultimately take shape through viewer engagement, shifting with perception and presence.

Morgan's work has been exhibited extensively across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia. She has represented Canada at major international exhibitions, including the Sydney Biennial and 96 Containers in Copenhagen, and has shown at prominent institutions such as the National Gallery of Canada, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, and the Vancouver Art Gallery.

"Forgotten Not Gone" will be on view May 8 – Aug. 9. The Next Stage Gallery is open during events, by appointment with the artist, or by contacting Next Stage Arts at info@nextstagearts.org or 802-387-0102.

Celebrate the opening of this compelling new exhibition and experience the resilience of art transformed through loss.

Tim Weed launches novel "The Gatepost" at Next Stage Arts

PUTNEY, Vt. – Tim Weed will celebrate the publication of his highly anticipated new novel "The Gatepost" with a launch party and reading on Tuesday, May 26, at 6 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, located at 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. The event is free and open to the public; advance RSVP is encouraged at www.nextstagearts.org.

"The Gatepost" is a gripping work of literary fic-

tion that blends elements of mystery, science fiction, and the supernatural. The novel follows Esme Weatherhead, who returns to her rural Vermont home 20 years after her father's unexplained disappearance. As she begins writing his story, Esme uncovers a hidden world of cryptic journals, psychedelic experiments, and a long-lost cave buried deep in the forest. With the help of a local geologist, she embarks on

a search that challenges the boundaries of reality and leads to profound revelations about love, loss, and the resilience of life itself.

The evening will feature a reading from "The Gatepost," a conversation with the author, and an audience Q&A. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

Weed – whose previous novel, "The Afterlife Project," received widespread acclaim, including a starred review from Library Journal – is known for his imaginative storytelling and exploration of the natural and metaphysical worlds. In "The Gatepost," he expands this vision into a thought-provoking narrative that merges time travel, ancient cosmology, and psychological suspense.

A frequent speaker at literary conferences and festivals nationwide, Weed has published work in Literary Hub, The Millions, and The Writer's Chronicle. He serves on the core faculty of the Newport Master of Fine Arts in creative writing, and is cofounder of the Cuba Writers Program. He lives in Putney, Vt.

This special launch event offers readers a unique opportunity to engage with an acclaimed author and celebrate the arrival of a bold new work of fiction.

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music on the mountain

FUN(D) RUN, BIG WEEKEND – MAY 15-17

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Phoenix presents the third annual Music on the Mountain (MOTM), a weekend of world-class music, immersive programming, and community experiences. In partnership with Divided Sky Foundation, presenting their fifth annual Fun(d) Run, a spirited 5K, with all proceeds benefiting Vermont addiction recovery programs. Join us for a family-friendly, substance-free weekend, May 15-17, at the base of Okemo Mountain in Ludlow, Vt.

The three-day weekend will provide a family-friendly destination mountain experience uniting live music, movement, recovery, and community. Creating environments where artists and fans can gather without alcohol or drugs fosters deeper connection, sustainability, and access, particularly for those in recovery, those choosing sobriety, and families often excluded from traditional music settings.

The weekend is family-friendly and open to all, offering wellness activities, a kids' fun zone, recovery meetings, local arts vendors, food trucks, and community moments.

The festivities all take place at Okemo Mountain Resort's Jackson Gore, just 1 mile from Divided Sky's 46-bed residential recovery program, where individuals struggling with addiction receive compassionate care through a unique, affordable, and multifaceted approach including the 12 steps, mindfulness, embodied activities, and more.

FUN(D) RUN
Saturday, May 16, at 9 a.m.

The fifth annual Divided Sky Fun(d) Run will be prefaced by a pre-5K stretch, from 8:30-9 a.m., at the Jackson Gore Ice House. Launched before the Divided Sky Residential Recovery Program opened its doors, the race is produced in partnership with Antelope Running Club as a means to raise funds for the Divided Sky Foundation while encouraging individuals in early sobriety to incorporate physical activity into their recovery. Virtual registration is also available.

MUSIC ON THE MOUNTAIN
Saturday, May 16, from



Join the Fun(d) Run.

PHOTO BY JAY BELSKY



Enjoy Music on the Mountain.

PHOTO BY JAY BELSKY

throughout the weekend, with a dedicated family area, scenic chairlift rides to the summit, the Okemo Mountain coaster, and mini golf, transforming the festival into a true mountain adventure. All events are family-friendly, and guests are encouraged to bring chairs, picnic blankets, and refillable water bottles, and to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Big Weekend.

INFORMATION

More information and a full lineup of events can be found at www.musiconthemtn.com/weekend.

Tickets for the full weekend are available at www.bigweekend.org or www.musiconthemtn.com.

12-8 p.m.

The genre-blending four-piece rock band Eggy and groove-driven, organ-forward trio LaMP, featuring Scott Metzger (JRAD), join returning artists Ray Paczkowski and Russ Lawton (Trey Anastasio Band, Soule Monde).

Electric bassist and songwriter Karina Rykman returns with her vibrant stage presence and infectious sound. MOTM veteran Anders Osborne joins Jackie Greene for a special duo set, and Daniel Donato and Natalie Cressman are back as artists-at-large, joined by Jennifer Hartswick, appearing for the first time.

New this year is 2ŁØT, blending electronic production, jazz fusion, and high-energy improvisation, plus a special appearance by The Trombone Shorty Foundation Band, which brings a dynamic ensemble of emerging New Orleans musicians, showcasing bold brass, funk, and soul

while representing the next generation of the city's rich musical tradition. Saturday's music will be emceed by Dave Manheim, of the Dopey Podcast.

As the sun sets, the celebration continues with the Big Weekend All-Stars After Party, bringing together a rotating cast of weekend artists for an evening of improvisation-driven collaboration. Participating musicians include Karina Rykman, Brian Murray, Jimmy Law, Daniel Donato, Scott Metzger, Ray Paczkowski, Dezron Douglas, Joe Dyson, Jennifer Hartswick, and Natalie Cressman, forming a one-of-a-kind all-stars ensemble.

A FULL-MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE

Friday, May 15 – Sunday, May 17

The Big Weekend kicks off on Friday evening with Divided Sky Foundation hosting "Minstrels and Mocktails," an intimate dinner concert gathering

of friends and supporters, featuring special alumni musical guests Sean Leahy and Kate Gaffney. Tickets for this event are very limited.

Immediately following the dinner, The Phoenix will welcome guests with the "Campfire Jam," an acoustic, in-the-round concert, where Anders Osborne and Daniel Donato will be joined by Jackie Greene.

On Sunday, the weekend concludes with a relaxed acoustic brunch, featuring Murray's Law (Brian Murray and Jimmy Law) and Vermont guitarist Evan Jennison, offering a reflective and communal close to three days of music and mountain connection.

Beyond the stage, the Big Weekend offers immersive, all-ages programming throughout the resort. The Phoenix will host daily hikes; yoga sessions; gratitude meetups; a screening of "Sober," The Phoenix documentary; and a large-

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Bandwagon Summer Series returns with new format

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts is excited to announce the return of the Bandwagon Summer Series for its 2026 season, reimagined to deliver an even more vibrant, immersive, and community-driven experience across eastern Windham County from June through September.

Now in its seventh year, the Bandwagon Summer Series continues its tradition of transforming local fields, farms, and parks into joyful hubs of music, culture, and connection. In response to community feedback and the success of past seasons, this year's series has been thoughtfully redesigned to feature nine dynamic events,

including four minifestival-style gatherings that bring multiple artists together for lively afternoons and evenings of music, puppetry, circus arts, food, and shared experience.

"What I love about Bandwagon is the joy of it – the dancing, the kids, the feeling that the whole community showed up. My vision for this year is to deepen that: fewer events, but richer ones, with more artists, more organizations, and more ways to connect. This is community-building through the arts, and I can't wait to see it unfold," said Natalie Dreyer, executive director of Next Stage Arts.

Bandwagon holds a spe-

cial place in this community; for many, it's how they first walked through Next Stage's doors. We heard you: You want to dance, you want the energy of a live band under an open sky, you want something that feels like a real celebration. That's exactly what this season delivers, with a musical range that spans continents and genres, from local favorites to artists who will stop you in your tracks.

Concertgoers can find the full lineup and ticketing options at www.nextstagearts.org. In keeping with Next Stage's mission to build community through the arts, kids under 12 attend free, and each event includes

a kids' play zone. Next Stage also distributes complimentary series passes to all public libraries in Windham County. Local food and drink vendors will be on site at every performance. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket or fold-up chair to enjoy the outdoor events. All venues strive to be accessible, and we encourage anyone with specific access needs to contact Next Stage in advance so we can help ensure a comfortable experience.

In addition to Bandwagon, Next Stage Arts is proud to now present Twilight on the Tavern Lawn under its organizational umbrella. Celebrating its 23rd sea-

son, this beloved free concert series kicks off May 31 and continues every other Sunday through Aug. 23. Featuring folk, world, jazz, zydeco, bluegrass, pop, and Americana, Twilight concerts begin at 6 p.m., on the Putney Tavern lawn, or indoors at Next Stage in the event of rain. The series is presented in partnership with the Town of Putney and local sponsors, with donations welcomed.

Next Stage will also continue its indoor programming throughout the summer in its air-conditioned theater on Kimball Hill, offering audiences additional opportunities to engage with the arts.

Series passes for the 2026 Bandwagon Summer Series are available now at www.nextstagearts.org. Tickets for individual events go on sale May 1. Early booking is encouraged.

The 2026 Bandwagon Summer Series is made possible by generous support from The Brattleboro Reformer, Lawson's Finest Liquids, Landmark College, Oak Meadow, The Commons, Putney Diner, Barr Hill, Southern Vermont Solar, The Greenwood School, Vermont Plank Flooring, Putney Inn, Putney General Store, 802 Credit Union, Against the Grain, The Richards Group, and the Putney Food Co-op.

VPCA Dedication Award

REGION - Chief Deputy Claude Weyant would like to announce that Deputy Jackson Howe and K9 Kye were awarded and presented with the 2025 Vermont Police Canine Association (VPCA) Dedication Award at the K9 Ball in Burlington, on May 2.

The Dedication Award is given to the VPCA K9 team that engages with their community and surrounding communities through their canine work. Howe has been attending public demonstrations and visiting more than a dozen schools and



Deputy Jackson Howe and K9 Kye receive Dedication Award.

PHOTO PROVIDED

preschools with K9 Kye, building positive relation-

ships between law enforcement and the public of all ages. The canine team engages with up-to-date canine training standards throughout the year, which results in illicit narcotics being taken off the streets and a promoting a positive public of image law-enforcement canine units. The VPCA consists of roughly 46 canine teams in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Local residents form Indivisible Two Rivers Area

REGION - Residents from Andover, Cavendish, Chester, Ludlow, and Springfield have come together to form Indivisible Two Rivers Area, a local chapter of the National Indivisible Movement. Indivisible Two Rivers Area supports civil rights; the right of workers to organize, join labor unions, and engage in collective bargaining; universal health care; immigrant rights; voting rights; and the election of progres-

sive candidates. The group pursues its goals through outreach, education, rallies, demonstrations, and other nonviolent actions.

Indivisible Two Rivers Area works collaboratively with other Vermont chapters and organizations across the country to fight attacks on human rights and against initiatives such as Project 2025 and other attempts to weaken or destroy democracy.

Two Rivers Area Indivisible members meet monthly, at rotating locations in the

participating communities, to collectively establish goals, priorities, and action items. Our process values the participants' diversity of experience, backgrounds, and opinions to reach consensus through lively but civil dialogue.

Folks who share these values are invited to join. For additional information, email indivisible.tworiversarea@gmail.com, and/or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/2031169307467399.

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