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# THE VERMONT Journal SHOPPER EDITION

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VOLUME 65, ISSUE 22

## Fit Body Boot Camp hosts fourth Murph Challenge

BY JOE MILLIKEN  
*The Vermont Journal*

**WESTMINSTER, Vt.** – The Westminster Fit Body Boot Camp (WFBBC) recently hosted its fourth annual Murph Challenge event, which is a Memorial Day workout that’s participated in nationwide to honor the late Navy Lt. Michael “Murph” Murphy.

Murphy, who in 2005 was tragically killed in action in Afghanistan during Operation Red Wings, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroics and dedication to his country. The Murph Challenge holds the “challenge” title for a reason, as the workout traditionally includes a 1-mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 squats, and then a final 1-mile run.

“One of the things I love most about our event is that we make it accessible to everyone,” WFBBC owner Sarah Dumont said in a recent interview. “Participants can complete the full workout, a scaled version, a half version, or create their own variation based on their fitness level and abilities.”



Runners at the fourth annual Murph Challenge.

PHOTO BY CRAIG MELLISH

WFBBC members of all ages and abilities participated, from seasoned athletes to older adults in the Fit Body Forever program, all working out side by side. Operating as a “host location,” the event was also open to the public and drew some enthusiastic nonmembers to the event as well.

“We are quite proud to have hosted the event every year since 2023,” Dumont said. “What began as an opportunity to

honor Lt. Murphy has become one of our community’s most anticipated and meaningful events of the year.

“In just four years, 155 individuals have stepped up to the starting line of our Murph Challenge, each choosing to honor sacrifice through effort, resilience, and community. While the workout itself is physically demanding, the true purpose of the event is remembrance, sacrifice, and commu-

nity.”

Despite a steady rain throughout the morning of the event, the local community showed tremendous support and enthusiasm throughout the day. After a performance of the national anthem by local musician and Fit Body member Jan Sheehy, of The Milkhouse Heaters band, the legendary workout commenced. Though the rainy weather added an extra layer of difficulty to the task at hand, it also

echoed the resilience and spirit of the event itself and those who braved the elements to participate.

“What stood out the most, to me, was just the overwhelming sense of community that shines through during this event,” Dumont added. “Participants encouraged one other through every mile and every rep. Some completed the full workout, while others modified it to meet their individual needs, but everyone crossed the finish line while being supported by the people around them.”

“This event always serves as a reminder that the Murph is not about competition, it is about honoring sacrifice, embracing challenge, and coming together as a community. We were also fortunate to have local photographer Craig Mellish on hand to beautifully document the energy, emotion, and camaraderie of the event.”

WFBBC promotes and encourages people to become stronger, healthier, and more confident, and the Murph Challenge event is a wonderful ex-

ample of putting these important goals into action. For more information about the Murph Challenge and other upcoming events, visit [www.fitbodybootcamp.com/locations/westminster-vt](http://www.fitbodybootcamp.com/locations/westminster-vt).

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## Springfield Elks March Student of the Month

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – The Student of the Month program of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks recognizes young men and women for achievements in school and community life, hobbies, athletics, clubs, and community service. The Springfield Elks Lodge is pleased to recognize Mateo Fuentes, a junior at Springfield High School, as the Elks Student of the Month for March.

Fuentes, who is the son of Abel Fuentes and Sarah Taylor, of Springfield, is a very responsible student; he knows what he needs to do to be successful in school and will go out of his way to make sure he is reaching his goals. This shows often when he asks to assign places for flex instead of just leaving because he can. He is dedicated to his learning and takes ownership over his education. Fuentes is a

student you can trust to be an active participant and engaged in class work. These attributes also show outside of the classroom. Fuentes is passionate about varsity soccer and a leader on the field. He takes advantage of opportunities to play by doing pickup soccer and recruiting teammates to join. He also volunteers to help with youth soccer clinics.



Mateo Fuentes. PHOTO PROVIDED

In addition to soccer, Fuentes plays varsity basketball, varsity track and field – winning the Division 3 400-meter relay his sophomore year – participates in the broadcast club and the student-athlete leadership team for the VPA, and is a member of the National Honor Society.

We are pleased to honor Fuentes with the March Student of the Month Award.

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### DEADLINES

**The deadline for all content is Thursday at 4 p.m. for the following week’s publication.**

**EMAIL CALENDAR EVENTS**  
calendar@vermontjournal.com

**EMAIL ADS AND CLASSIFIEDS**  
ads@vermontjournal.com

**EMAIL PRESS RELEASES**  
editor@vermontjournal.com

Left to right: Karen Morse, Springfield Elks exalted ruler; Trisha Paradis, Springfield Family Center executive director; and Ruth Sargent, Springfield Elks leading knight.



PHOTO PROVIDED

## Springfield Elks award Ben & Jerry’s CAT grant

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Springfield Elks Lodge 1560 recently presented the Ben & Jerry’s Foundation Community Action Team (CAT) grant of \$1,000 to the Springfield Family Center Food Shelf.

All community food shelves struggle to stay stocked with food; Springfield Family Center is no exception. The homeless and impoverished sector of our community benefits from this center on an on-

going basis throughout the year. Monetary donations can be made online at [www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/KT9QM2YSKCWPY](http://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/KT9QM2YSKCWPY), or by mail to Springfield Family Center, P.O. Box 20, North Springfield, VT 05150.

## Springfield OLLI members attend state event

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Springfield Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) members attended a volunteer appreciation event on May 27, at the renovated Carriage Barn at Shelburne Farms, along Lake Champlain’s lakefront view across the lake to the Adirondack Mountains. The University of Vermont OLLI staff hosted the event to thank the many OLLI volunteers throughout

Vermont who make the OLLI programs so popular. The programs are designed for seniors 50 years of age and older, and provide opportunities for interesting programs on a variety of topics for seniors to learn “for the fun of it.” Springfield’s membership participation has doubled this last semester because of the local steering committee’s offerings of interesting and entertaining programs. Springfield’s

OLLI was one of the first created in the State of Vermont and has existed for 22 years. The event included networking with other members from throughout the state. There was also a demonstration about cacao with tasting of chocolate drinks and a cheese tasting of the Farmstead cheddar cheeses produced at Shelburne Farms.



Springfield OLLI members at Shelburne Farms. PHOTO PROVIDED

# Rockingham Meeting House opens for season

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Rockingham Meeting House, a National Historic Landmark, opened for the 2026 visitor season over Memorial Day weekend, welcoming visitors through Halloween to experience one of Vermont's most treasured historic landmarks.

Based on docent availability, the meeting house will be open for guided tours seven days per week, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

A meeting house has stood on this hilltop since 1774, and the present building, constructed by the community in 1787, is the largest surviving 18th-century public building in Vermont still substantially intact in its original as-built form, making it an extraordinary survivor of early American civic architecture.

Visitors this season will have the unique opportunity to see history being actively preserved. Important preservation work is underway as the com-



The Rockingham Meeting House.

PHOTO BY KAREN JARRET

munity prepares for major conservation construction, scheduled to begin in spring 2027. Work taking place this season includes a continued archaeological survey, reconstruction of the west driveway from Meeting House Road, restoration of the historic timber frame, stabilization of the building's original plaster and windows, and restoration of the historic graveyard picket fence.

This important work is

made possible through support from the National Park Service, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, the Town of Rockingham, and generous supporters who continue to contribute their time, talent, and treasure to help protect this extraordinary landmark.

The adjacent historic graveyard remains open to visitors daily from dawn to dusk for quiet reflection and respectful exploration.

Whether you are visiting for the first time, returning to a favorite local landmark, or simply looking for a memorable summer and fall destination, the Rockingham Meeting House offers a rare opportunity to step directly into early American history while witnessing preservation in action.

For tour information, special events, or volunteer opportunities, please contact [clg@rockbf.org](mailto:clg@rockbf.org) or visit [www.rockbf.org/rmh](http://www.rockbf.org/rmh).

# The Windham Foundation announces grant recipients

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Windham Foundation is a nonprofit based in Grafton, Vt., that works to strengthen Grafton and advance the vitality of rural communities in Vermont. The foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of its most recent round of grants.

Twenty-six Vermont-based nonprofits received a total of \$115,000 in financial support. Funded projects included programs focused on avian wildlife rehabilitation, statewide river conservation, workforce development, food assistance, economic development, and agricultural education. The full list of recipients

is: Benson Village Trust, Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Bull Creek Common Lands Inc., Central Vermont Adult Basic Education Inc., Connecticut River Conservancy, Food Connects, Green Mountain Conservancy Inc., Green Mountain Farm-to-School, Intervale Center, New England Kurn Hattin Homes, Lyndon Downtown Revitalization Corporation, Montpelier Alive, Neighborhood Connections, Putney Foodshelf, Salvation Farms, Springfield Family Center, St. Brigid's Kitchen and Pantry, Technology for Tomorrow Inc., Tri-Valley Transit, Valley Court Diversion Program, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Vermont Farms Food Center, Vermont River Conser-

vancy, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance, and The Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association.

"The Windham Foundation is very pleased to support these excellent organizations, all of which make a demonstrable impact in their communities," says Dan Lerner, executive director of The Windham Foundation.

The deadline for the 2026 fall grant cycle is Sept. 15, at 5 p.m. Focus areas include community arts, enhanced learning, mentoring, historic places and preservation, wellness, housing, outdoor activities, health access, and senior programs. Visit our website listed above for more information.

# "Poverty and Hunger in a Red State" talk

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join sociologist and Oklahoma native Robert Lee Maril for a compelling author talk based on his book "Hungry Oklahoma" on Saturday, June 20, at 11 a.m., at the Springfield Town Library.

Maril is a professor of sociology emeritus at East Carolina University and the author of nine books, including "Waltzing With the Ghost of Tom Joad: Poverty, Myth, and Low-Wage Labor in Oklahoma," which examines the myths and realities surrounding low-wage labor in the state.

Through stories gath-

ered during his time volunteering at a local food pantry, Maril introduces individuals like Norma, a woman recently displaced and living out of her truck, whose story reflects the fragile realities many face. These accounts illuminate how poverty shapes daily decisions, from what food can be safely purchased without refrigeration, to how families navigate housing instability.

In addition to these powerful personal stories, Maril situates poverty within a broader social and historical context, examining how institutions such as faith-based organizations, government systems, and

community aid networks both support and constrain those in need. His talk acknowledges the dedication of grassroots efforts while also challenging the structural inequalities and stereotypes that allow poverty to persist.

This program offers not only a deeper understanding of food insecurity and low-wage labor, but also a thoughtful call to action. Attendees will leave with a greater awareness of the complexities of poverty, and a sense of shared responsibility to imagine and advocate for meaningful change.

To sign up for a reminder, visit [www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar](http://www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar).

# ACE Aviation Academy returns

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The skies over Springfield will be active with the next generation of aviators this summer as the Aviation Careers Education (ACE) Academy returns to Hartness State Airport from July 27-31.

The five-day, hands-on program invites students ages 12-16 to step out of the classroom and into the cockpit. Hosted by the Vermont Aviation Advisory Council Inc. in partnership with the New England Soaring Association (NESAs) and the FAA, the academy is designed to bridge the gap between a love of flight and a future career in aviation and aerospace.

Students experience a packed schedule that includes science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) workshops; hands-on sessions in model rocketry, wing-rib construction, and sheet-metal riveting;

and introductory flights in gliders and various powered aircraft. On a day trip to Lebanon, N.H., students will visit the airport control tower, Cape Air, TSA, Lebanon Airport Management and Maintenance, Sharkey's Helicopters, White Mountain Holdings corporate flight department fixed-base operator Granite Air Center, and the DHART Medivac operation at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

At Hartness State Airport there will be presentations by Beta Technologies, GE Aerospace, Vermont State University's professional pilot technology program, Vermont Flight Academy, Scotts Miracle-Gro corporate flight department, and balloonist Paul Stumpf.

"Our goal is to introduce as many youth as possible to the vast world of aviation and aerospace careers," say organizers. To ensure broad

access, the program prioritizes new participants, offering them a first look at the principles of flight, navigation, and preflight safety.

Applications for the 2026 session are now being accepted, and families and students can find more information and download the application at the New England Soaring Association's ACE Academy website, [www.flynasa.com/ace](http://www.flynasa.com/ace).

ACE Academy is a nationally recognized program supported by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Vermont Agency of Transportation with assistance from the Hypertherm Hope Foundation and the Timken Company Charitable and Educational Foundation. ACE Academy serves as a critical pipeline for the aerospace industry, inspiring youth to pursue one of many careers in aviation and aerospace.



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# CROSSWORD

# COUPON CONTEST

## The Rules

Participants must complete the Crossword or the Sudoku puzzle and mail this page to The Vermont Journal, PO Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149. Must be received by Friday, June 12, 2026. Limit one submission per person.

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

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

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

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

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- Idle of Monty Python
- Homer's lament
- Grate
- Sprint
- Geological period
- Intro studio class
- Met melody
- Knee cartilage
- Cough drop flavor
- Valerie Harper sitcom
- Light brown
- Fluffy neck-piece
- Streep of "The Post"
- Patching up
- Lab eggs
- Witty one
- Wrigley product
- Proteges
- Accra's country
- Stein filler
- Zadora of "Hairspray"
- Huge success
- H.L. — (The Sage of Baltimore)
- Cites
- Comic actor Danny
- Oklahoma tribe
- Nonsense
- French 101 verb
- Military VIPs
- GI's address
- Marsh plant
- Dutch cheese
- Exceptional
- "The doctor —"
- Talkative
- Fiend
- Pitcher
- Hershiser
- Solo in space
- Actress Phylicia
- With the bow, musically
- Poker type
- Galileo's birthplace
- Pressing need
- Actor Linden
- Plead
- Soccer —
- Prior night
- Campaigned
- More, to Manuel
- Polish tennis star Swiatek
- Convent head
- "Today" rival, briefly
- Pint-sized
- Flavors
- K thru 12
- Tom Collins liquor
- Website invader
- Green sauce
- Urban haze
- Apportion
- Shortly
- L-Q bridge
- Designer Spade
- Literary Jane
- Must have
- British singer Rita

**DOWN**

- Dutch
- Exceptional
- "The doctor —"
- Talkative
- Fiend
- Pitcher
- Hershiser
- Solo in space
- Actress Phylicia
- With the bow, musically
- Poker type
- Galileo's birthplace
- Pressing need
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# COMMUNITY EVENTS

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June 1: Randolph  
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June 11: Bellows Falls  
June 12: White River Jct.  
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June 22: Barre  
June 25: Townshend  
June 26: Brattleboro  
June 29: Springfield

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# health & community

## Tai Chi Vermont workshop series

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Find tai chi at the intersection of structure and energy with “Moving from the Inside Out,” a series of in-person and online workshops offered quarterly throughout 2026.

Tai Chi Vermont instructors Jo Bregnard and Zhen Wolffe are hosting the workshops from the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road, from 1:30-3 p.m., on four Fridays this year. Each 90-minute session includes a recording of the class.

Play with what animates the movements of fall-

prevention tai chi – the Sun-style short form – and discover how enhancing your awareness can enrich practice time. During the second session, on June 5, the focus will be on the Level 1 movements: Commencement, Breathing In and Out, Single Whip, and Wave Hands in Clouds. Attendees need not have come to the first session in order to register for this one; each workshop stands alone, so come to one, two, or more. All are welcome, no prior tai chi experience is necessary.

Expect juicy conversation on meridians, anatomy, and more during these work-

shops. Recordings of each session will be available for those who can't attend live, as well as those who want to review the material covered.

Register at [www.taichivermont.org/register/p/enrichment-level-1](http://www.taichivermont.org/register/p/enrichment-level-1). Please wear comfortable clothing and flat, closed-heel and -toe shoes, and bring a full water bottle. Contact Bregnard if you have additional questions by emailing [jo@jobregnard.com](mailto:jo@jobregnard.com).

Tai Chi Vermont is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing safe and effective tai chi instructor training throughout the state. Learn more about Tai Chi Vermont by visiting [www.taichivermont.org](http://www.taichivermont.org).

## White River Junction VA receives top marks

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, Vt.** – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system in White River Junction, Vt., announced recently that it received a five-star rating in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' annual Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating report.

CMS' Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings are based on five categories: mortality, safety of care, readmission, patient experience, and timely and effective care. A higher

star rating, out of five, indicates better performance along these quality measures.

“Receiving a five-star rating from CMS is a reflection of the dedication our entire team brings to caring for veterans every day,” said Dr. Brett Rusch, executive director of White River Junction VA. “This rating underscores our commitment to delivering safe, timely, and high-quality care, and we are proud to contribute to VA's continued nationwide excellence.”

Nationwide, 78% of VA

hospitals that received a rating received an Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating of four or five stars in 2026.

This is the fourth consecutive year that VA has outperformed non-VA care, and the second year in a row that no VA hospital received a one-star rating. The percentage of VA hospitals receiving four or five stars has grown dramatically in the last two years: 67% in 2023, 58% in 2024, 77% in 2025, and 78% in 2026.

For more information, please contact Katherine Tang at [vhawrjpao@va.gov](mailto:vhawrjpao@va.gov).

## Practice tai chi without leaving your chair

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Learn the most popular style of tai chi right from your seat. Following the principles of safe and effective practice, explore the upper body movements of the Yang 24 sequence in an acces-

sible, simplified way with Tai Chi Vermont teacher and Springfield resident Jo Bregnard.

Whether you're looking for a wellness routine that fits your physical needs or an easier way to learn the world's most-practiced tai chi form, seated yang will engage your brain, awaken your core, and release tension. Each class will include qigong warmups and cooldowns, with the option to explore the movements standing. Even while seated, participants will work on deliberate weight transference, healthy posture,

relaxed breathing, body awareness, and movements to improve balance and agility.

Class meets for 12 Tuesdays, June 9 through Aug. 25, at 10 a.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse in Springfield, Vt., 21 Fairground Road, and via Zoom livestream online. Classes are 60 minutes, and timestamped recordings will be posted afterwards so you can access them on your schedule, whether you're able to attend the live session or not.

Visit [studio.jobregnard.com/product/94189](http://studio.jobregnard.com/product/94189) for complete details and to learn more about the various pricing options, including a monthly payment plan and pay-what-you-wish. A portion of your payment supports the Unitarian Universalist meetinghouse location during the cooling season.

No prior tai chi experience is required, all are welcome. For answers to specific questions, email Bregnard at [jo@jobregnard.com](mailto:jo@jobregnard.com).



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**June 12, 2026**

**Ludlow Community Center**

**10:00-1:00**

- Over 30 exhibitors focusing on health and wellness services for older Vermonters
- Free Lunch
- Free vegetable starter plants
- Free fruit/vegetables from Black River Produce

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# CALENDAR

# obituaries

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

**JUNE 5 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church Street, will hold their First Friday Fundraiser on Friday, June 5, from 5-6:30 p.m., to benefit the Bellows Falls Bike Project. The menu will include barbecued chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, green salad, chips, a beverage, and dessert. There is a small suggested donation.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Springfield GMC's classic car show will be held on Friday, June 5, from 5-8 p.m., at 429 River Street.

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

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Route 103 Auto's community car show will be held on Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at 3441 Vermont Route 10. There will also be a live band playing.

**JUNE 7 – BRIDGEWATER CORNERS, Vt.** – On Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m., Howard Coffin, Civil War historian and author, will present a program entitled "The Other Grant." Coffin will explore the life of Brig. Gen. Lewis Addison Grant, the longest-serving commander of the 1st Vermont Brigade. The program is presented by the Bridgewater Historical Society and will be held at the Bridgewater Grange, 129 Route 100A in Bridgewater Corners, Vt. The program is free and open to the public.

**JUNE 9 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Tai Chi Vermont-certified teacher Jo Bregnard will lead a weekly seated yang tai chi practice online and in person from the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road, on Tuesdays, June 9 through Aug. 25, from 10-11 a.m. All are welcome, and all classes will be recorded.

Visit [studio.jobregnard.com/product/94189](http://studio.jobregnard.com/product/94189) for pricing details and to sign up.

**JUNE 13 – LUDLOW, Vt.** – The Black River Academy Museum (BRAM) Alumni Day will be held on Saturday, June 13, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, cake, and ice cream will be served. There will also be live music. This event is held in coordination with the Alumni Association.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – The Springfield Humane Society, 401 Skitchewaung Trail, will hold a nail trim clinic for dogs on Saturday, June 13, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**JUNE 15 – LUDLOW, Vt.** – Lunch will be served at the Black River Senior Center, 10 High Street, on Monday, June 15, at 12 p.m. Chef Fonz, of Castle Hill Resort, will be making chicken marsala, with chocolate cream mini-pies for dessert. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. Free cash bingo will follow. All ages are welcome.

**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.

**PERKINSVILLE, Vt.** – The Perkinsville Community Church, 35 Church Street in Perkinsville, Vt., will be hosting live music every first Sunday, from 4-5:30 p.m. This is a free event, but donations will be accepted each month to go towards local charities. Please keep an eye out for upcoming shows, they will be posted each month on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/PerkinsvilleChurch](http://www.facebook.com/PerkinsvilleChurch). Any questions, or to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to [churchperkinsville@gmail.com](mailto:churchperkinsville@gmail.com).

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

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – The Fletcher

## Wanda Lee Potwin Murphy, 2026

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Wanda Lee Potwin Murphy, 77, of Ludlow, Vt., died on May 26, 2026, at The Meadows in Rutland, Vt., surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Lebanon, N.H., the daughter of Harold Potwin and Irene Dube Potwin. Wanda grew up on a dairy farm in Hartland, Vt., along with her three siblings. She attended Hartland Elementary School and graduated from Hartford High School in White River Junction, Vt. Wanda was blessed with two children: John Jennings, of Apple Valley, Minn., and Angela Murphy, of Proctorsville, Vt.

Over the years, Wanda was employed by Bausch & Lomb Optical, Ludlow Insurance Agency, and McCullough Insurance Agency. She enjoyed her conversations with local people and visitors to Ludlow when she worked at several area restaurants – The Hatchery, Trappers, and DJ's.

Wanda married John F. Murphy Jr., her husband of almost 37 years, on Sept. 30, 1989. In her early years, she liked traveling to Myrtle Beach, Minneapolis, and several locations in Maine. She loved spending time with her daughter Angela and especially with her grandsons, Mathew and Ethan. Wanda was a generous and caring person. She was a strong woman and faced many challenges after a brain injury in 2012.

Wanda is survived by her husband, John; her daughter,

Angela Murphy; her son, John Jennings; her brother Greg Potwin and his wife, Linda; and her six grandchildren, Mathew Finn Murphy and Ethan Alosi Murphy, and Geena, Haley, Felicia, and Michaela Jennings. Wanda is also survived by several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents; her sister, Lorraine Lindsey, and her husband, Ned; and her brother Ron Potwin and his wife, Janet.

We would like to thank everyone in the special care unit at The Meadows for their passionate care of Wanda. Thank you also to Bayada Homecare and Bayada Hospice for their heartfelt care over the last few months. Prior to her stay at The Meadows, Wanda had several wonderful in-home caregivers who assisted with her care and became great friends.

A funeral mass will be held at the Church of the Annunciation, 7 North Depot Street, Ludlow, Vt., on Friday, June 5, at 11 a.m. Burial will immediately follow at Pleasant View Cemetery, 43 High Street.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Rutland Regional Ambulance, 275 Stratton Road, Rutland, VT 05701; or Fletcher Farm – Create Together Program, 611 Route 103 South, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Arrangements are being handled by Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home, Brandon, Vt.

## Helena R. Massey, 1955-2026

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Helena Rose Massey, 70, died May 17, 2026, at her home in Ludlow, Vt. She was born Oct. 15, 1955, in Pittsfield, Mass., the daughter of Thomas C. "Neil" and Margaret (Murray) McGarry. She lived in and attended schools in Pittsfield, Stockbridge, North Adams, and Hyannis, Mass., graduating from Barnstable High School, Class of 1973, North Adams State College with a Bachelor of Arts, and Western New England College School of Law with Juris Doctor in 1984.

Helena passed the bar exam in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Vermont, all on the first try, and held law licenses in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Helena was an administrative assistant with the Law Firm of Melvin Fink P.C. in Ludlow, Vt., for several years.

She is survived by her loving husband Roger James "Jim" Massey; her nine siblings, Frances McGarry (Dimitrios Erotokri-



Helena Massey, 1955-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

takis), Margaret McGarry, J. Allen McGarry (Diane), Mary McGarry-Newman (Doug), Katherine McGarry (Keith Ganz), Neil J. McGarry, Elizabeth (McGarry) Sheehan (Jay), Patricia (McGarry) Lawyer (Aresh), and Edward J. McGarry; nine nieces; eight nephews; 21 cousins; her lifelong friend Peggy (Hall) Laurie (Steve); and many dear friends.

Services will be held at the convenience of the family. Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., is assisting with arrangements.

## Tia Rosengarten, 1939-2026

**WESTON, Vt.** – Tia Rosengarten, a devoted wife, mother, and philanthropist, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 24, 2026, at the age of 86. Tia was born on a snowy day in December 1939, in Bryn Mawr, Pa. – a beginning that seemed to reflect both the quiet beauty and inner strength she carried throughout her life.

Guided by her Christian faith, she touched countless lives with her generosity and genuine care. Tia was a devoted mother and philanthropist. Her passion for animals, education, and human rights reflected her deep compassion and commitment to making the world a better place. She found great meaning in supporting causes she believed in and extended her kindness not only to those close to her, but to the broader community as well. Her presence brought comfort, her laughter brought light, and her values will continue to inspire those who knew and loved her.

Tia enjoyed knitting, weaving, and quilting, finding joy in creating with her hands and expressing care through the things she made. These quiet, creative pursuits reflected her patience, thoughtfulness, and love of craftsmanship, and many will cherish the pieces she created for years to come.

Tia is survived by her daughter, Christine Darcas; her sons, Peter Rosengarten Jr. and Mitchell Rosengarten; and her grandchildren, Nathalie, Katherine, Etienne, and Gray. She is reunited with her beloved



Tia Rosengarten, 1939-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

husband of 57 years, Peter. A service to celebrate Tia's life will be held on Saturday, July 11, at 10 a.m., at the Old Parish Church in Weston, Vt., with reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made in her memory to the Dorset Equine Rescue, the Springfield Humane Society, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, or the American Indian College Fund. Tia Rosengarten will be deeply missed, but her love and legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. May she rest in peace.

## Lynne Beverly celebration of life

**JAMAICA, Vt.** – A celebration of life for Lynne Beverly, who passed on April 4, 2026, will take place at River and Rye Restaurant, 3894 Vermont Route 30 in Jamaica Village, on Sunday, June 14, at 11 a.m.

Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, hosts the Black River Grief Support Group on the second Monday of every month, from 1-2 p.m. This is a safe space for individuals

to share their experiences, find comfort, and learn coping strategies after a loss. Offered by Black River

See **CALENDAR** on Page 6

### OBITUARIES:

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

### CHURCH SERVICES:

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

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## MY HEALTHY VERMONT

### HYPERTENSION WORKSHOP

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

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

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

Provided by:  
**Black River Good Neighbor Services**

# calendar

## LEGAL NOTICES

Good Neighbor Services.  
For more information, call  
802-228-3663.

**TUESDAYS –**  
CLAREMONT, N.H. –  
Cribbage is played at the

Claremont Senior Center, 5  
Acer Heights, on Tuesdays,  
at 1 p.m. For more  
information, call 603-543-  
5998.

CLAREMONT, N.H. –

Men's pool games are  
played every Tuesday  
and Thursday, from 9  
a.m. – 12 p.m., at the  
Claremont Senior Center,  
5 Acer Heights. All men  
are welcome. For more

information, call 603-543-  
5998.

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

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

of Black River Good  
Neighbor Services. For  
more information, contact  
Vicki at 802-376-3388, or  
Krey at 802-228-3663.

**FRIDAYS –**  
W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. –  
Pizza night is held every  
Friday, from 5-7 p.m.,  
at the West Townshend  
Country Store, 6573  
Vermont Route 30, West  
Townshend, Vt. There will  
be live music provided  
by a different local artist  
each week. For more  
information, visit [www.westtownshend.org](http://www.westtownshend.org), call  
802-874-4800, email  
[info@westtownshend.org](mailto:info@westtownshend.org),  
or message the store on  
Facebook.

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

### HELP WANTED TOWN OF READING, VT – HIGHWAY DEPT

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

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

Send your resume and references to: Town of Reading, PO Box 72, Reading, VT 05062 Attn: Selectboard, OR e-mail to [Selectboard@readingvt.net](mailto:Selectboard@readingvt.net)

### Okemo Mountain Road Closed

The upper portion of the Okemo Mountain Road from the Base Lodge area to the summit will be closed to public access between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, 2026 and Sunday, June 7, 2026 for the Killington Sports Car Club Time Trials.

### TOWN OF LONDONDERRY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Town is seeking proposals for three construction jobs at the Town Office and Town Garage located at 100 Old School Street. To see the proposal please see our RFP page on our Town Website: <https://www.londonderryvt.gov/rfps> Proposals are due by 2:00pm on July 2, 2026.

### TOWN OF LONDONDERRY VERMONT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Londonderry Development Review Board will meet at 100 Old School St at 5:30 PM on Wednesday June 17, 2026, to hold a public hearing for :

- An application from Jeff and Lisa Yrsha for a two-lot subdivision of land they own at 6930 Vt Rt 100
- An application from Mt Rose Property Mgt for a deck in the conservation district on land owned by Bankman & Olszewski it 219 Pierce Ridge Rd

Those interested in seeing the applications, submitting written comments, or attending the hearings remotely should contact the town's Zoning Administrator at [zoningadmin@londonderryvt.gov](mailto:zoningadmin@londonderryvt.gov)

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Sections 4464(a)(1)(c) and 4471(a), participation in the local proceedings is a prerequisite to take any subsequent appeal.

### Landgrove PC/ZBA Hearing

The Landgrove Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet at the Landgrove Town Hall, 88 Landgrove Rd at 5:30 PM on June 18 to hear an application for a front setback variance at 66 Nichols Rd in the RR District. Those interested in seeing the application, submitting written comments, or attending the hearing remotely should contact Landgrove's Zoning Administrator at: [zoning@landgrove.vermont.gov](mailto:zoning@landgrove.vermont.gov).

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.



SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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### Village of Ludlow Water/Wastewater Assistant Operator

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

This individual will be required to:

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

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

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

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

To Apply:

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

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

\*The Town & Village of Ludlow is an Equal Opportunity Employer\*

STATE OF VERMONT  
WINDSOR COUNTY, SS.

### NOTICE OF SALE FDW Enterprises, LLC Parcel # 312021

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by the Town for the years 2024 and 2025 remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described land in Town to wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to FDW Enterprises, LLC by Warranty Deed of Michael J. Wood, dated April 6, 2023, and Recorded in Book 238, Page 203 of the Town of Chester Land Records.

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at the Town Office in Chester, Vermont, a public place in said Town, on the 30th day of June 2026, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Dated at Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, this 26th day of May 2026.

Attest:  
Julie Hance  
Collector of Town and  
Town School District Taxes

STATE OF VERMONT  
WINDSOR COUNTY, SS.

### NOTICE OF SALE Amy Pratt and Jonathon Pratt Jon K. Spaulding Parcel # 232017.200

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by the Town for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described land in Town to wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Amy Elinor Pratt, Jonathon R. Pratt, and Jon K. Spaulding by Warranty Deed of Arthur F. Fournier, Trustee of the Restatement of Trust of the Arthur F. Fournier, Sr. Revocable Trust Agreement Dated January 10, 2011, dated July 19, 2013, and Recorded in Book 147, Page 118 of the Town of Chester Land Records.

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at the Town Office in Chester, Vermont, a public place in said Town, on the 30th day of June 2026, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Dated at Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, this 26th day of May 2026.

Attest:  
Julie Hance  
Collector of Town and  
Town School District Taxes

STATE OF VERMONT  
WINDSOR COUNTY, SS.

### NOTICE OF SALE Jo Ann Richardson Larry Dan Emerson Parcel # 412003

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by the Town for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described land in Town to wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Jo Ann Richardson, Executor and Larry Dan Emerson by Decree of Distribution of Marion L. Emerson, Estate. Dated September 4, 1996, and Recorded in Book 81, Page 429 of the Town of Chester Land Records.

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at the Town Office in Chester, Vermont, a public place in said Town, on the 30th day of June 2026, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Dated at Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, this 26th day of May 2026.

Attest:  
Julie Hance  
Collector of Town and  
Town School District Taxes

STATE OF VERMONT  
WINDSOR COUNTY, SS.

### NOTICE OF SALE 467 Depot Street, LLC Parcel # 585056

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by the Town for the years 2024 and 2025 remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described land in Town to wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to 467 Depot Street, LLC by Trustees Deed of Ronald P. Farrar Successor Trustee of the Arthur P. Farrar and Aili R. Farrar Revocable Trust Dated July 20, 2001, dated March 4, 2022, and Recorded in Book 228, Page 8 of the Town of Chester Land Records.

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at the Town Office in Chester, Vermont, a public place in said Town, on the 30th day of June 2026, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Dated at Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, this 26th day of May 2026.

Attest:  
Julie Hance  
Collector of Town and  
Town School District Taxes

# LEGALS/PROS

# opinion/classified

Dear Gov. Scott, Lt. Gov. Rogers, Sen. Major, and Rep. Kimbell,

My name is Rick Martin. I am the owner of Chloe's Market, aka Plymouth Country Store, in Plymouth, Vt.

The market has become the centerpiece of the village center in Plymouth, as the primary business on Route 100 between Killing and Okemo that provides fuel, groceries, a deli, and beer/wine. We serve hundreds of customers each day and are a major stopping point for tourists, adding much-needed revenue to the local economy.

In fall 2024, I attended a selectboard meeting at the Town of Plymouth's offices where representatives from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) presented a plan to repair bridges in the area. One of the major concerns raised was that there were no plans to have a one-lane access put in place during construction. Not one of the representatives even considered this matter. We were told AOT would come back with a more comprehensive plan to address our concerns.

This closure will cause severe damage to workers at the store, who cannot drive and depend on local rides to get to their workplace. We all understand the need to repair our bridges and roads, but there must be contingency plans in place to mitigate safety concerns, economic losses, and the impact on residents.

None of this has been done. In fact, several residents were told not to worry about the construction, as it would not affect them. Well, that turned out to be a whopper of lie now. This is a poor reflection on elected officials who approve such projects without considering the devastating impact on the local economy and the people who voted them into office.

We were hoping to come to a resolution that will ensure that the much-needed bridge repairs are completed without sacrificing the livelihood of residents and businesses. These closures on Route 100, especially the one planned to close over the Labor Day weekend, will be a death knell for many businesses. This is our busiest time of the year, and my employees may be out work if I have to close the business due to poor sales, as I will not be able to afford to pay them.

Gas prices are through the roof, and people are now being expected to shoulder another financial burden forced upon

us by the State of Vermont. Shame on all the elected officials who have done nothing to stop this madness and get VTrans under control.

There is an election coming up, and this will be high on the agenda for those of us who will not forget that Plymouth residents were thrown to the wayside just to use FEMA money to fix bridges and cause such economic devastation to the local business community.

Sincerely,  
Rick Martin, President  
Chloe's Market  
Plymouth, Vt.

Dear Editor,

On behalf of everyone involved in the Bellows Falls Rotary Club's second annual Adult Spelling Bee, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the many sponsors, donors, volunteers, participants, and community members who made this year's event such a tremendous success.

What began as a fun and friendly competition is becoming a meaningful community tradition – one filled with laughter, camaraderie, and an incredible spirit of generosity. The enthusiasm shown by local businesses, organizations, teams, and audience members reminds us just how strong and connected our community truly is.

Most importantly, support for the spelling bee is also support for the

work Rotary does throughout our community. All funds raised through Rotary events help support local service projects, student scholarships, youth and literacy initiatives, community programs, and so much more. Rotary's mission is rooted in "service above self," and every sponsorship, donation, bribe purchased, and team registration helps us continue to give back.

We are especially grateful to our sponsors, whose generosity helped make the event possible. Their support reflects the generosity and community spirit that helps our community thrive. We are also incredibly grateful to the Bellows Falls Moose for the generous use of their facility and for helping provide such a welcoming space for this community event. Major sponsors for the event included Riverside Dentistry, Allen Brothers, Edward Jones, J&H Hardware, and 802 Credit Union. Additional sponsors include Eva

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## LOST & FOUND

LUDLOW, Vt. – Chafing dish pan: I'm hoping to reach the nice couple who bought a chafing dish at my recent yard sale in Ludlow. One part (the lower pan) was left on the table. You'll need it! Stop by to pick it up, and leave a note if I'm not home. Thank you!

## YARD SALE

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Yard sale June 5,6,7, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., rain or shine. Eclectic mix, too many items to mention. 864 High Street, Cavendish, Vt.

Dear Editor,

The Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) wishes to thank the many community members who supported our recent drive to collect back-to-school items for the Pine Ridge Reservation, home to the Oglala Lakota Nation in southwest South Dakota. The reservation spans 1.7 million acres. The nation faces severe challenges – constantly ranking as one of the poorest areas in America. The school districts simply do not have money for any school supplies for the children.

The donation of crayons, glue sticks, and erasers will be combined with other items and placed in backpacks to be delivered to the reservation. Rotary Clubs in the entire District 7870 are contributing to this community service project

for our country, so it will certainly have a significant impact. The children will certainly be better equipped to attend school and learn at the start of the school year. We also greatly appreciate the businesses that were our drop-off points: Belmont Country Store, Benson's Chevrolet, Chloe's Market, Ludlow Insurance, Fletcher Memorial Library, M&T Bank, and Singleton's Store. You are all greatly appreciated for your part in this project.

Contact any Rotarian if you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Ludlow Rotary Club and all we do, or stop in for a visit as our guest on Tuesdays, at noon, at DJ's Restaurant.

Sincerely,  
Ludlow Rotary Club

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

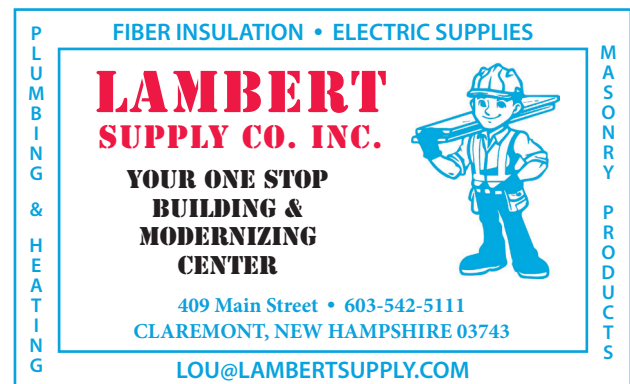
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# home & outdoor

# REAL ESTATE

## Tips to win a bidding war

**REGION** – I’ve seen it happen to homebuyers before: They fall in love with a house, only to lose the bidding war and have to start the process over. But the right strategy could make all the difference in getting your offer accepted. Read on for my top tips to help you win at the negotiating table.

**Know your budget**  
It can feel awkward to talk about money, especially if you’re not confident in your budget. But, when it comes to knowing what you can afford to spend on a home, a guesstimate isn’t good enough. A mortgage calculator can help you understand what your monthly payment could look like and what could fit comfortably into your spending

plan. If you want to know exactly what you could afford, I can help you get preapproved for a mortgage. This could give you a fuller picture of your budget and help your offer look better to sellers when they know you have the funds to back it up.

**What you need to get pre-approved**  
Having your key financial documents ready to go when you apply can help speed up the preapproval process. The basic documents you’ll need include two years of W-2s or 1099s; your two most recent paystubs from the past 30 days; additional income records (social security, disability, child support, alimony, etc.); two months of bank statements for all financial

accounts; and a copy of your driver’s license.

**Create a buying plan**  
It’s not uncommon for homebuyers to become emotionally attached to a home after the first showing. That’s why it’s important to have a buying plan in place so that when you find the right home, you are prepared to make an offer. A smart buying plan includes (1) defined boundaries and priorities – list your non-negotiables and decide what you are willing to compromise on; and (2) preparing a strategy – understand

how competitive your target neighborhood is by asking questions like “how often do homes get multiple offers?” and “what is actually getting accepted right now in my price range?”

**Make your offer an easy “yes”**

When housing markets get competitive, things can start to move fast. And sellers aren’t just choosing the highest offer; they’re looking at offers that feel certain and easy to close. The best way to win a bidding war is to remove friction and make your offer easy to ac-

cept. Start by meeting the seller on their timeline. This can look like asking if they have a preferred closing date or being flexible if they need extra time to move after closing. When your timeline fits their plans, your offer could become easier to accept with fewer hesitations.

Avoid adding anything to your offer that could give a seller a reason to hesitate. Extra requests (like including appliances), added conditions (like early move-in/possession), or asking for

seller-paid concessions (like paying for repairs) could make your offer feel more complicated compared to others. Instead, focus on keeping your terms straightforward, with clear and realistic timelines for inspections and closings.

The next time you go house hunting, don’t just go with the flow. Have a plan in place so that you can make a confident offer when opportunity comes.

*Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, PrimeLending, Ludlow, Vt.*

## SoVerA Isaac Newton talk

**PERKINSVILLE, Vt.** – Join the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group (SoVerA) for its June meeting on Tuesday, June 9, at 7 p.m. The lecture will be available as a Zoom meeting, but will also be held in person at the 1879 Schoolhouse, 1862 Vermont Route 106 in Perkinsville, Vt. The Zoom link is [www.zoom.us/j/94691230307](http://www.zoom.us/j/94691230307).

This link can also be found on the SoVerA website, [www.sovera.org](http://www.sovera.org).

The presentation is entitled “My Favorite Brainiac, Sir Isaac Newton.” The presenter will be Cale Shipman, who says that the presentation “is targeted towards a nontechnical audience. It attempts to hu-

manize the man, the myth: Isaac Newton.”

Shipman describes himself as a member of any amateur astronomy group that will have him as a member. He is currently the outreach chair for the Lowcountry Stargazers of Charleston, S.C. He is a former National Park Service employee, and states that

his intent is to present as though he were giving the sort of campfire lecture he gave back in his Park Service days.

If the weather cooperates and people are interested, there may be an opportunity for some star gazing at Hoisington Field, which shares a parking lot with the 1879 Schoolhouse.



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day. We will look for rubs, scrapes, scent markings, tracks, and more. We will follow a simple process that begins with observation and ends with creating a master list of who left these signs that you can take with you out on your next adventure.

In the event of heavy rain, contact the CCCA at the email address above to find out if the event has been postponed.

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# arts & entertainment

## River Theater Co. presents “Charlotte’s Web” at Fort at No. 4

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – River Theater Co. will present a benefit theater production of E.B. White’s classic family favorite “Charlotte’s Web,” adapted for the stage by Joseph Robinette, on location at The Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown, N.H., on June 13, June 14, and June 20, at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. each day; and on June 21, at 2 p.m.

This is the fourth production River Theater will have produced at The Fort, following sold-out shows of “A Christmas Carol,” “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” and “The Crucible.”

“Each production is unique and offers an immersive experience for the audience. We’re excited to bring a family production in the warmer months this time around,” says director Heidi Fagan. “We’ll start outside the Arable’s house using one of the buildings in The Fort as the background, and then the whole audience will move to Zucker-

man’s barn, where a whole cast of animals – and one spider – will welcome Wilbur to the farm. Then we’re off to the county fair, and we hope to create a nostalgic feel as the audience moves to that location. Finally, we come back to the outside of the Zuckermans’ barn for the wonderful ending.”

The cast of 28 local actors have started rehearsing at the town hall theater. Rebecca Stewart, who owns Pins and Needles Garment Co. in Charlestown, will be designing the costumes for the production. “I’m excited to work with Rebecca as we come up with a design that suggests the personification of each animal as well as the 1940s vintage look that we hope to bring to the production,” Says Fagan. The cast includes Kimberly Rohberon as Charlotte; Alexis Johnson as Wilbur; Arley Kaehler as Fern; Jeff Semprebon as Mr. Arable; Cyndi Stevens as Mrs. Arable; Keira Landers as Avery; Susan

Burnett as Edith Zuckerman; Mike Cirre as Homer Zuckerman; Robert Veale as Lurvy; Kayleigh Stevens as Goose; Madeleine Regan as Gander; Jade Mitchell as Templeton; Lily Bishop as Sheep; Rebecca Meeks as Lamb; Janet “Jet” Gage as the announcer; Finley Schofield, Lorelai Putnam, and Ryleigh Smolnik as baby spiders/ensemble; and Elizabeth Blackwell, Luna LeBlanc, Sophia Mann, Olivia Lemieux, Ella Regan, Willa Durrett, Natalie Johnson, and Hannah Landers as ensemble.

The production is a benefit for both nonprofits, The Fort at No. 4 and River Theater Co. Discounted tickets are available for families. Tickets and information can be found on the Fort at No. 4 website, [www.fortat4.org](http://www.fortat4.org). Information can also be found at [www.rivertheatercompany.com](http://www.rivertheatercompany.com).

## Stage 33 Local Curator Series

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Stage 33 Live is running a Local Curator Series of shows this summer, turning over the room to local heroes and letting them call the shots. The first one is Ezra Holloway, born and bred just around the corner from Stage 33 Live in Saxtons River, Vt. He’s assembled a rousing selection of three young, rising bands – A Few Fine Gents, Technicolor

LTD, and Man Made Tragedies – who will bring heat and energy on Sunday, June 7, starting at 7 p.m.

A Few Fine Gents is a fusion jam band based in Westchester, N.Y., known for improvisational jams and blending genres.

Technicolor LTD is a crunchy Brattleboro band influenced by ‘90s alt post-rock, post-hardcore, and post-punk.

Man Made Tragedies is a

well-established and ambitious power trio known for their live shows of original music that blend punk energy with raw emotion.

Tickets are discounted in advance through [www.stage33live.com](http://www.stage33live.com), or can be purchased at the door as available. Advance tickets guarantee entry. Only 40 tickets will be sold. Advance sales will close at midnight the day before the show, or when 40 tickets are sold.

## FOLA announces summer and fall events

LUDLOW, Vt. – Friends of Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA) has put together a schedule of events for some major programs this summer and fall.

The offerings will begin with the annual and popular Silent Movies Festival on Saturday, Aug. 22. This season, the main feature will be a hilarious movie, “Safety Last,” starring that silent movie comedian Harold Lloyd, who may be seen hanging from a flagpole far above the street. The festival will begin with a funny short called “Liberty” featuring the silent version of Laurel and Hardy. Jeff Rapsis will return to play the background music to both films with his marvelous music to support the movies.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, Ludlow will see the return of the Enerjazz orchestra that promises to provide music to get those dancing feet moving, along with some real old-timers’ music that get feet stomping and smiles on your face. The orchestra, featuring 17 great musicians, will also feature melodies that will remind the audience

of the great jazz age.

With an election coming up in November, FOLA will continue its forum for the general election with Vermont Senate candidates for Windsor County, plus the candidates seeking the Ludlow, Mount Holly, and Shrewsbury house seat. This event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15, and the moderator will be Jim Alic. Questions will be asked concerning property taxes, school reorganizations, and numerous events currently demanding attention.

While these events are definitely planned, FOLA program director Scott Stearns indicated that additional events may be scheduled during this period. Additionally, a Christmas program is being considered.

Stearns also indicated that FOLA hopes to show the opening game of the World Cup on June 12, as well as the final championship game, scheduled for July 19. This is all subject to the consent of the cup’s leadership to permit

such coverage. If approved, times will be announced in the future.

All events will be held in the Heald Auditorium at the Ludlow Town Hall. They will begin at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m., unless otherwise specified. As usual, these events are free, but donations are appreciated to help underwrite the cost of the events. For more information, call 802-855-8896.



Members of the Enerjazz orchestra. PHOTO PROVIDED

## Community croquet on St. Luke’s back lawn

CHESTER, Vt. – Once again, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church – the gray church at 313 Main Street in Chester, Vt. – will be holding free community croquet on its back lawn every Thursday evening from June 4 through July 30, from 6-7:30 p.m. Cornhole and badminton will also be available to the public. All outdoor activities are offered to adults and children 10 and older who are accompanied by a parent. Children under 10 who can comply with the rules may play if supervised by a parent. While the nine-week session starts on June 4, people are encouraged to attend as many games as

possible. Teams will be organized on site. No special skill or experience is required for this program, but players are asked to wear all white or a white shirt.

The community croquet program is part of St. Luke’s healthy living initiative. There is no charge for the program, which will include nonalcoholic drinks and light refreshments. Spectators are welcome, and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, bug repellent, and croquet sets and mallets, if available.

Upon registration, participants will receive the game rules, diagrams for the three backyard croquet fields, and

other helpful hints. St. Luke’s volunteers will lay out the fields, coach, teach, referee, explain scoring, and keep statistics. St. Luke’s has modified the Palm Beach U.S. Croquet Association Rules over the years to make community games easier, clearer, and more social. At the end of the season, a potluck awards banquet traditionally takes place.

Come celebrate summer with community croquet at St. Luke’s. For more information, please contact Joann Erenhouse at 802-289-4230 or at [joannenhouse@gmail.com](mailto:joannenhouse@gmail.com).

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 16 Morningside Lane, Charlestown, NH

**Pride Whistlestop Tour!**  
 Bring your FAB self to the Brattleboro Station  
 Arrive @ 12pm for Guest Speakers - Performers  
 Greet Train Passengers @1:02pm!

**Sunday June 14, 2026**

Join Us for

- Community
- Entertainment
- Photo Booth
- Rolled Ice Cream from Mama T’s Sweet Spot

**HAPPY**

- Moxie Hart
- Jack Rose
- Circus Nefarious
- Derrick Miller-Handley
- PRIDE**

Local communities throughout VT & NH gather at Amtrak train stations to celebrate Pride month & the LGBTQ+ community.

In Brattleboro, we gather to show solidarity and support. Bring your community spirit & join us!

We will be welcoming passengers, listening to guest speakers & enjoying music/performances by local LGBTQ+ folks & allies.

This is an all ages, substance free event.

**OVER 2000**  
 BROKEN-IN TIRES  
**MANY SETS OF 4**  
  
**CANON TIRE**  
 I-91, Exit 8, Ascutney, VT  
**802-674-5600**  
**NEW TIRES TOO!!**



# River Valley Technical Center

"Educating Today's Students for Tomorrow's Careers"

The River Valley Technical Center in Springfield, VT is proud to recognize our Outstanding Students from Quarter Three of the 25-26 school year. River Valley Technical Center students of the quarter consistently demonstrate excellence in their academic performance, technical performance, dependability, problem solving, organization, collaboration, communication, and work ethic.



**Andrew Alexander**  
Horticulture & Natural Resources I  
GMUHS  
Chester, VT



**Ryan Birmingham**  
Pre Technical Studies  
GMUHS  
Chester, VT



**Rebekah Bowen**  
Criminal Justice II  
FMRHS  
North Walpole, NH



**Jake Buswell**  
Criminal Justice I  
FMRHS  
Walpole, NH



**Tatiana Charon**  
Health Science II  
BFUHS  
Rockingham, VT



**Ryan Gould**  
Adv. Manufacturing/Engineering II  
SHS  
Springfield, VT



**Khloe Hale**  
Pre Technical Studies  
GMUHS  
Londonderry, VT



**Madison Hamlin**  
Culinary Arts I  
SHS  
North Springfield, VT



**Quinn Jasinski**  
Adv. Manufacturing & Engineering I  
SHS  
North Springfield, VT



**Mary Margaret Jones**  
Carpentry I  
Homeschool  
Saxtons River, VT



**Kaylee Kelley**  
Human Services I  
BFUHS  
Westminster, VT



**Oliver Losee**  
Industrial Trades I  
SHS  
North Springfield, VT



**Lola McGinnis**  
Health Science I  
BFUHS  
Bellows Falls, VT



**Marian Naidoo**  
Business Man. & Entrepreneurship I  
GMUHS  
Cavendish, VT



**Lucas Orchitt**  
Information Technology I  
GMUHS  
Chester, VT



**Connor Perry**  
Horticulture & Natural Resources II  
BFUHS  
Athens, VT



**Christopher Pratt**  
Business Man. & Entrepreneurship II  
BFUHS  
Bellows Falls, VT



**Benjamin Rumrill**  
Carpentry II  
BFUHS  
Athens, VT



**Maddox Schoff**  
Industrial Trades I  
SHS  
Springfield, VT



**Liam Taylor**  
Audio Video Production II  
BFUHS  
Rockingham, VT



**Addison Terry**  
Human Services II  
BFUHS  
Bellows Falls, VT



**Morgan Vaughn**  
Audio Video Production I  
SHS  
North Springfield, VT



**Gabe Winther**  
Information Technology II  
BFUHS  
Westminster, VT



**Caleb Young**  
Culinary Arts II  
SHS  
Springfield, VT