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JULY 01, 2026 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 26

Springfield Selectboard holds two public hearings

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Prior to the start of the Monday, June 22, Springfield Selectboard meeting, the board conducted two public hearings with a full house gathered at the Springfield Town Hall, and more attending online. The first hearing was on the land-use ordinance, and the second was on the water and wastewater budget.

Mike Martin and Walter Martone from the ordinance committee were at the meeting to present the committee's report and red-line recommendations regarding the land-use development ordinance.

Martin told the meeting that the new ordinance was written to be more clearly understood by the public, and that "it maximizes residential, commercial, and agricultural land uses, [and] broaden[s] development within our community."

Martone commented, "This was the first time a

blended process was used. In the past, land-use ordinances were governed exclusively by state statute."

Residents including Heidi Trimbach voiced strong concerns over the section covering extraction of earth and mineral resources in residential and rural neighborhoods. The ordinance committee changed a previous condition that required blasting to occur at least 100 feet from any property line to now require a minimum distance of 500 feet from any property line. This was after the committee discussed and rejected a 1,000-foot option.

Trimbach stated that her "personal feeling" was that there should be no blasting at all allowed within residential neighborhoods. If total prohibition was out of the question, which it seemed to be, Trimbach requested that the distance required be 1,000 feet. "I think if you are blasting dynamite where people are living...that's the very least we can do," she stated.

Martin responded by

pointing to eight additional requirements the committee added under "operations" that included items such as dust control, noise containment, and regulated hours of operation. Any blasting work would require a plan and monitoring by a licensed, independent blaster, as well as real-time seismograph monitoring. Prior to these revisions, according to Martin, the standards for mineral extraction had remained unchanged for 30 years.

Kelly Burke, a member of the planning commission, remarked that these were conditions to be met by commercial businesses put in place to protect citizens, especially seniors and medically vulnerable individuals, as well as anyone who owns a home with a drilled well or an older stone foundation.

Other issues raised were how a quarry or other extraction would impact property values within a neighborhood, and the marketability of selling a home adjacent to this type

of operation. The potential loss of wildlife habitat was another concern voiced by residents.

The next steps will be for the selectboard to further review and modify the ordinance committee recommendations, file the new proposal with the town clerk, and share the changes with the planning commission. Then, a second public hearing will be held before the board adopts, amends, or rejects the ordinance. The matter was placed on the July 20 selectboard meeting agenda.

As the first public hearing adjourned, the meeting turned toward Town Manager Scott Pickup, who began the second hearing by saying, "Everything we are doing in the water/wastewater world is more expensive this year than last year."

Expenses are expected to increase approximately 7-8% due to inflated costs of chemicals and fuel, and a required investment in cybersecurity following an audit that identified significant vulnerabilities at both

plants.

Roy Farrar, water division superintendent for the Town of Springfield, reported that, while the water system remains in compliance, PFAS are present at advisory levels and future regulatory tightening may require treatment investments. Farrar emphasized that only a small portion of the town's 55 miles of main has been replaced to date.

The second public hearing concluded and the selectboard moved into their regular meeting. The agenda included an update on permits issued for local fireworks displays that would require event sponsors to notify nearby neighbors, coordinate with the police and fire departments, and observe explicit safety and noise conditions.

"While this review is underway," Pickup announced, "we have stopped issuing permits for local displays."

Additionally, the selectboard approved event permits for the Springfield Stars and Stripes Race to be

held on July 4, from 7-10 a.m., starting at the Toonerville Trail, and for Springfield Project Action to host a block party on Pearl Street, on July 25, from 12-3 p.m., that will involve a temporary road closure.

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Springfield Hospital awards Lovell Health Career Award to Maya Rentas

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Hospital and Southern Vermont Area Health Education Center (AHEC) are pleased to announce Maya Rentas as the recipient of this year's Dr. E. Sherburne Lovell Health Career Award. Rentas is a resident of Westminster, Vt., and a 2025 graduate of Bellows Falls High School. The Lovell Award contributes \$1,000 per year for four years toward a student's academic pursuit of a career in health and is funded by

community donations.

Lovell was a longtime physician at Springfield Hospital, and his daughters, Melissa Post and Elizabeth David, said, "While he was a man who never sought recognition for his service in the medical field or in the community, we know he would be honored to have this award named in his memory. We hope recipients of the award will share the same sense of wonder and commitment to service in the world of

medicine that he did."

Rentas attended the Southern Vermont AHEC's MedQuest program at Springfield Hospital in 2023, and recently finished her first year at the University of Vermont's College of Nursing and Health Sciences. She plans to use her education to go into the field of audiology. Rentas' enthusiastic personality and commitment to her education made her an outstanding candidate for the scholarship.



Left to right: Alysia Straw, MBA, BS, SHRM-CP, aPHR; Maya Rentas, scholarship recipient; and Robert Adcock, Springfield Hospital CEO.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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The deadline for all content is Tues., June 30, at 4 p.m. for the July 8 publication.

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Rockingham Cemetery Committee historical exhibit

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Rockingham Cemetery Committee, in collaboration with local historical societies and preservationists, is proud to announce the launch of a comprehensive public exhibit at the Rockingham Free Public Library. The exhibit offers an immersive look into the town's five municipal burial grounds, exploring how their distinct landscapes, iconography, and records document the social, cultural, and structural evolution of the region from the late 18th century to the modern era.

The exhibit includes broad regional preservation standards and deeply personal local history. Featured content includes an exploration of the renowned Rockingham School of stone carvers. Led by the Moses Wright family in the 1790s, the Rockingham School produced the fractured 1798 Samuel Walker slate headstone, which is part of the exhibit. Restoring the Samuel Walker stone is a project the Rockingham Cemetery Committee hopes to fund and complete, in alignment with the Secretary of the Interior's

Standards for Preservation. Visitors will also discover the fascinating history of "white bronze" zinc monuments manufactured by the Monumental Bronze Company, which remain remarkably well-preserved across the Oak Hill, Saxtons River, and Cambridgeport grounds.

A major highlight of the display is its focus on the human stories safeguarded within these historic spaces. Through personal interviews and oral histories, the exhibit showcases the Kinney family, of Saxtons River, demonstrating the unique value of localized record-keeping over generalized online databases. These narratives are accompanied by extensive document transcriptions and professional, timestamped assessment photography by local photographer Tricia Suriani, whose field imagery forms the bedrock of the town's current preservation and digitization initiatives.

"Cemeteries are enduring cultural landscapes; they tell the stories of our ancestors and serve as a direct indicator of civic pride," said the committee, echoing regional preservation principles. "This exhibit is

designed to spark a communitywide conversation about how these sacred spaces should be protected, funded, and utilized as public resources today."

Beyond historical education, the exhibit serves as a call to action for the community. The Rockingham Cemetery Committee is actively seeking volunteers to assist with seasonal landscape cleanup, grave marker restoration, and an ongoing collaboration with the public library to build a searchable digital database.

The exhibit is free and

open to the public during normal library hours. For more information on the exhibit, funding preservation projects, or joining the volunteer network, please contact the committee directly at Chair@RockinghamCemeteryComm@gmail.com.

The Rockingham Cemetery Committee invites the community to the opening reception on Saturday, July 11, at 12 p.m. Join us at the Rockingham Free Public Library for tea and cookies. See maps of the five Rockingham cemeter-

ies, learn about local family history, and see a historic tombstone that is ready for renovation.

Additionally, FACT TV's "The Feed with Mike and Marty" held interviews with guests Anne Manner-McLarty and Mary Kinney, the chair of the Rockingham Cemetery Committee and the matriarch of the Kinney family, whose history is explored in the exhibit. The interviews can be found at www.fact8.com/on-fact-tv/community-videos/the-feed/the-feed-rockingham-cemeteries.

54th annual Hackers Golf Tournament

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the return of its 54th annual Hackers Golf Tournament, taking place Thursday, July 9, at 12 p.m., at Crown Point Country Club in Springfield, Vt.

A longstanding regional tradition, the tournament is expected to welcome more than 20 teams

made up of both chamber members and nonmembers for an afternoon of friendly competition and community connection in a shotgun-start format.

Participants will compete for a variety of prizes, including net and gross scores, along with special contests throughout the course. Highlights include a hole-in-one contest sponsored by Casey Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Spring-

field, as well as contests for longest drive, closest to the hole, and putting champion.

The event isn't just for golfers. Community members and spectators are invited to gather at the popular Heckle Hole to cheer on players and enjoy the festivities. Additional activities include a 50-50 raffle, a lucky number game, and a

See **GOLF** on Page 2

Rockingham Library and FACT TV teen film camp

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Creative teens are invited to step behind the camera this summer during a weeklong teen film camp made possible through a partnership between the Rockingham Free Public Library and FACT TV. Taking place July 6-10, from 12-2 p.m. daily, the camp is open to ages 11 and older and offers a hands-on introduction to filmmaking, from storytelling and scriptwriting, to filming, acting, and editing.

Throughout the week, participants will explore every stage of the filmmaking process, from developing characters and writing scripts, to storyboarding, filming, acting, and editing. Working together as a production team, teens will take on roles such as director, actor, camera operator, sound technician, producer, and editor while creating their own original short films. The camp will conclude with a special movie premiere where

families can celebrate the completed films and the accomplishments of the young filmmakers.

The camp is free, but registration is required, and space is limited. For more information or to register, contact the Rockingham Free Public Library at 802-463-4270, email youthservices@rockinghamlibrary.org, or visit the library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

Annual Strawberry Supper at Westminster First Congregational Church

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The community is warmly invited to gather for a traditional New England summer favorite, the Strawberry Supper, hosted by the First Congregational Church of Westminster, on Saturday, July 11.

Guests will enjoy a hearty homemade ham dinner featuring baked ham, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls with butter, and refreshing

beverages. The evening will conclude with the highlight of the season: delicious local strawberries served as a sweet summer dessert. The supper will be offered in two seatings, at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m., with a welcoming atmosphere for families, friends, and neighbors to come together and celebrate the summer season.

Tickets are available in advance and seating is limited. Community members are encouraged to purchase

tickets early to reserve their places. To reserve tickets, or for more information, please email strawberrysupper@gmail.com or call 603-707-6461.

Join us for an evening of delicious food, community fellowship, and one of summer's sweetest traditions. Come enjoy a delicious homemade meal, sweet strawberries, and the warmth of community at this beloved summer tradition.

Springfield Rotary learns about Rotary's impact in Kenya

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield rotarians recently welcomed Susan Burnett, who shared the inspiring story of how a friendship formed more than 20 years ago grew into a series of Rotary projects that are

transforming lives in Kenya's Isiolo region.

Burnett highlighted the work of the Bethlehem Morning Star Rotary Club's Women in Action group, the efforts of which began when bead artist Wendy Ellsworth traveled to Kenya with a \$5,000 grant and befriended a local woman named Naka-

ochum. Their friendship endured through the years, and Nakaochum later named her daughter Wendy in honor of her American friend.

When Nakaochum lost her home in a fire in 2020, Bethlehem rotarians Ray and Donna Holton helped organize support. As they learned more about the community's challenges, rotarians saw an opportunity to create a broader impact through Rotary Foundation grants and partnerships.

A community assessment in Isiolo revealed significant health care needs and helped lead to the formation of a new Rotary Club in the region. In 2022, a team that included Past District Governor Janet Kolepp, Holly Sachdev, and Ellsworth traveled to Kenya to meet with

community members and identify priorities.

Their efforts resulted in an \$85,000 Rotary Foundation Global Grant to improve maternal and child health care at the Ngaremara Health Dispensary. The project includes solar power, computerized medical records, new latrines, and an electric fence to keep wildlife away from the facility.

The team also supported local schools by purchasing desks and painting blackboards, while the Hope Center Orphanage received a large water storage tank and food supplies.

Burnett shared several powerful examples of Rotary's impact. "Little Wendy" is now attending a private Catholic boarding school thanks to Rotary support.

Her younger sister, Christine, was rescued from a child marriage at age 14 through Rotary connections and is now pursuing her education.

Another project grew from a chance introduction to a school in need of major repairs. Rotarians funded improvements including a new roof, electrical upgrades, solar power, foundations, windows, tile floors, and exterior painting, creating a safer and more welcoming learning environment for students.

Burnett noted that the work continues through the dedication of the Bethlehem Morning Star Women in Action group, which regularly seeks Rotary Foundation grants and other funding opportunities to address health care, education, and

economic needs identified by local residents and Rotary partners in Isiolo.

What began as a friendship between two women has evolved into an ongoing international partnership that demonstrates Rotary's ability to create lasting, sustainable change. The presentation offered Springfield rotarians a compelling example of how personal relationships, local leadership, and Rotary's global network can come together to improve lives around the world.

The Springfield Rotary Club meets Tuesdays, at 12 p.m., at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center, and welcomes guests interested in learning more about Rotary and its service projects both locally and internationally.

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GOLF
 From Page 1

ball drop, providing plenty of opportunities for everyone to participate. Guests can also make a day of it by visiting the air-conditioned pub to watch practice flights ahead of the weekend's acrobatic competition, held at Springfield Hartness Airport, before returning to join fellow attendees for the tournament's luau dinner (RSVP requested). A limited number of foursomes remain available. Businesses and organizations looking to gain visibility while supporting the community are encouraged to consider hole sponsorship opportunities. For registration, sponsorship information, or additional details, contact the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce at info@springfieldvt.com or 802-885-2779.

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LAHS summer art programs

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Londonderry Arts and Historical Society (LAHS) is pleased to announce that it has lined up a wonderful variety of art exhibitions, classes, and activities for both children and adults this summer.

Thanks to grants from The Thrifty Attic and The Community Fund of Londonderry, our popular Pop-up Art led by local artists will be held at the Custer Sharp House every Saturday, from July 4 – Aug. 9. Meet the artists in the studio of the Custer Sharp House every Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The drop-in art classes are for all ages. Classes are free of charge, and all materials are provided. There's no need to register. Just stop by with friends or family for some creative fun.

In July, artist and teacher Bev Foster will offer an exploratory drawing class for children. Class will meet Monday, July 6 – Friday, July 10, from 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., and will explore drawing with pencils, chalk, charcoal, colored pencils, and nature objects. The cost of the class includes all materials and a simple snack. Contact Foster at missbev1958@gmail.com for information and registration.

Art teacher Casey Junker Bailey returns in August for her popular Art With the Masters class for kids. Class meets Monday, Aug. 3 – Friday, Aug. 7, from 1-3:30 p.m. This year, children will explore a wide variety of materials and artistic styles as they create drawings, paintings, collages, and sculptures inspired by the works of famous artists through the ages. Join Bailey to make Giacometti sculptures, Renoir still lifes, flowing Frankenthaler paintings, color-filled Ted Harrison landscapes, and more. The class will culminate with a celebratory art show for family and friends. The cost of the class includes all materials and a daily snack. Contact Bailey at 802-289-4360 or email caseyjunkerbailey@gmail.com for information and class registration.

In addition to classes, there will be ongoing exhibitions of art and history at the Custer Sharp House throughout the season. A calendar of events can be found on the website of the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society, www.lahsvt.org.

Springfield Community Band to play show tunes

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Band, under the direction of Nick Pelton, will present a concert on Tuesday, July 7, at 7:30 p.m., at the Hartness House, 109 Front Street, Springfield, Vt.

The evening will feature familiar, exciting, and well-loved music from Broadway musicals, including “Phantom of the Opera,” “The Greatest Showman,” “Wicked,” and “Chicago.”

The featured performance of the evening will be vocalist Grace Thompson singing a medley of familiar selections from “The Sound of Music.”

Bumbles Birria will be serving food, and the inn's bar will be open for drinks. Please bring a chair.

Please note that the program could change due to unforeseen circumstances. Also, in the event of rain, please consult the band's Facebook page. Rain decisions will be made by 2 p.m. the day of the concert.

bar will be open for drinks. Please bring a chair. Please note that the program could change due to unforeseen circumstances. Also, in the event of rain, please consult the band's Facebook page. Rain decisions will be made by 2 p.m. the day of the concert.

Cavendish concert season begins

CAVENDISH, Vt. – The Town of Cavendish and the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association (CCCA) invite the public to join in an evening of fun on the Svec Memorial Green in Proctorsville, on Wednesday, July 8, at 6 p.m. The annual Cavendish summer music series begins with the sounds of Gypsy Reel.

Gypsy Reel is well known for high-energy, stirring music rooted in the Celtic tradition. They rock their audiences with an exciting synthesis of world rhythms and influences from three continents. Based in Ludlow, the band is no stranger to the Cavendish music series; many fans find this concert to be a highlight of the season.

Join your friends and neighbors in front of the gazebo on the Green. Bring a blanket or a comfortable chair, have a picnic, or just lie back on the grass and relax. Murdock's Restaurant and Singleton's General Store offer take-out food options and are located on or near the Green. It's a fun way to enjoy the summer weather and reconnect with old friends or make new ones.

As always, the concerts are free and open to the public. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the Proctorsville Fire Hall, an intimate space with good acoustics.

For more information on the concerts and to see what else the CCCA is up to, visit www.cavendishccca.org or email cavendishcommunityconservation@gmail.com.

Thanks to Gassetts Group, home designers and builders in Ludlow, Vt., for sponsoring this concert on the Green.

Fletcher Memorial Library Music on the Lawn

LUDLOW, Vt. – Wrap up your Independence Day weekend with a concert on the lawn at Fletcher Memorial Library, Monday, July 6, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The Mount Holly Folk Club will perform a mix of favorite folk songs. Bring your chairs and blankets for a wonderful late afternoon of music. Inclement weather will bring the concert inside at the library, located at 88 Main Street in Ludlow.

The Mount Holly Folk Club, started in 2008 by Claudine Languille, of Gypsy Reel and Touchstone, is made up of local community members with the love of music in common. This group meets weekly in Mount Holly, playing folk music at the Mount Holly Community Center. You may have seen them perform during the Mount Holly summer music concerts, and many of the musicians also play solo at local farmers markets and Mount Holly Cider Days.

Leave your chairs in your car after the fireworks and join us at the library on Monday, July 6, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. This program is free and open to the public. For more information on this or other library programs, please call 802-228-8921 or visit www.fmlnews.org.

Bandwagon Summer Series presents Las Guaracheras

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present Las Guaracheras, an electrifying all-female salsa sextet from Cali, Colombia, on Sunday, July 5, at 6 p.m., at Cooper Field, 41 Sand Hill Road in Putney. Gates open at 5 p.m. Food will be available from Saffron Restaurant.

Routed in the rich musical traditions of Cali – widely regarded as a global capital of salsa – Las Guaracheras have been redefining the genre since their formation in 2017. The six musicians blend Afro-Caribbean rhythms with influences from Colombia's Pacific coast, creating a vibrant and contemporary sound that is both deeply rooted in tradition and boldly forward-looking.

The group's distinctive instrumentation features percussion, piano, bass, vocals, and the rarely spotlighted vibraphone. Their performances are fueled by improvisation, giving each musician the opportunity to shine as both soloist and collaborator.

Beyond their musical virtuosity, Las Guaracheras are committed to amplifying women's voices in a genre historically dominated by men. Through original compositions and inventive arrangements, they explore themes of resilience, identity, unity, and empowerment. “We are strength, unity, love, sisterhood, music,” the band says. “We are Guaracheras.”

“Within the stereotypes of what is conceived as ‘Latino,’ where physicality is often emphasized, Las Guaracheras make a statement through what we feel in our music, our instruments, and our sound,” the group explains. Their songs celebrate the contributions of women to Latin music while offering a fresh perspective on both its lyrical and sonic traditions.

Las Guaracheras have performed at festivals and venues throughout Latin America and North America, earning acclaim for high-energy shows that combine sophisticated musicianship with joyful audience engagement. Whether delivering driving salsa grooves or exploring jazz-inflected improvisations, the band invites audiences into a celebratory experience where every beat carries the spirit of community, creativity, and connection.

Tickets can be purchased discounted in advance, or at the gate. Children younger than 12 enter for free. Advance tickets and information are available at www.nextstagearts.org.

“My Lady of Whims” at Next Stage Arts

PUTNEY, Vt. – The Vermont Suitcase Company returns to Next Stage Arts on Friday, July 10, with “My Lady of Whims,” an original theatrical adventure inspired by the wit, excitement, and visual storytelling of classic silent films. Doors open at 7 p.m., and showtime is 7:30 p.m. Next Stage Arts is located at 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. Tickets are available at www.nextstagearts.org.

With his annual fundraising gala fast approaching, a councilman faces a crisis: Where is his daughter? If the newspapers discover she has been spending time with artists and free spirits down by the docks, his political ambitions could be ruined. Enter Otto, a hired gun tasked with bringing her home before scandal erupts. But Louisa the maid has plans of her own

and sees an opportunity to claim the reward for herself.

Packed with action, intrigue, romance, international affairs, and plenty of comedy, “My Lady of Whims” captures the charm and exuberance of silent-era storytelling while bringing a fresh, contemporary spirit to the stage.

The Vermont Suitcase Company has become known for creating inventive, family-friendly productions that blend humor, movement, and storytelling into unique theatrical experiences.

For more information and tickets, visit www.nextstagearts.org.



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home & community

Local knowledge still matters when choosing a realtor

REGION – In today’s digital world, it’s easy to believe that buying or selling a home is as simple as scrolling through listings online. While technology has made information more accessible than ever, there is one thing no website or algorithm can replace: local knowledge.

A realtor who truly knows the community brings value far beyond opening doors and completing paperwork. They understand the neighborhoods, schools, local regulations, market trends, and the unique qualities that make one property more desirable than another.

In many communities, real estate values can vary dramatically from one street to the next. A local realtor knows why. They understand which roads are publicly maintained, where future development is planned, how seasonal traffic affects certain areas, and which neighborhoods appeal to different types of buyers. These are details that often don’t appear in online listings.

For buyers, this knowledge can help avoid costly mistakes. A local realtor can explain differences in taxes, zoning, utility services,

flood zones, homeowner associations, and municipal regulations. They can recommend trusted local inspectors, lenders, contractors, and service providers who have established reputations within the community.

For sellers, local expertise is equally important. Proper pricing requires more than comparing square footage and the number of bedrooms. Experienced local realtors know which home features buyers in their market value most, how seasonal trends influence demand, and how to position a prop-

erty to attract qualified buyers. They understand what marketing strategies work best for the local audience while also reaching buyers outside the area.

Perhaps most importantly, local realtors are invested in the communities they serve. They support local businesses, volunteer with civic organizations, sponsor youth sports, participate in charitable events, and often serve on community boards. Their success is directly tied to the health and vitality of the neighborhoods where they live and work.

This commitment creates

relationships that extend well beyond the closing table. Many local realtors become lifelong resources for homeowners, providing recommendations, market updates, and guidance whenever questions arise.

While national real estate websites offer valuable tools, they cannot replace firsthand experience and personal relationships. Real estate remains a local business, and every community has its own character, opportunities, and challenges.

Whether buying your first home, selling a family property, or investing in

real estate, working with a knowledgeable local realtor provides insight that simply can’t be downloaded. Local expertise helps clients make informed decisions with confidence – turning a real estate transaction into a successful long-term investment.

After all, houses are everywhere. Understanding the community they’re in is what truly makes the difference.

Written by Suzanne Garvey, broker/owner, Mary W. Davis Realtor & Associates.

Melendy property restoration project update

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Melendy property restoration project continues to make steady progress thanks to the generosity of community members, volunteers, and local businesses. To date, \$33,000 has been raised toward the project’s overall goal of \$95,000.

For many years, the former Melendy property has stood at a prominent location in the center of South Londonderry. As the building continued to deteriorate, church and community leaders saw an opportunity not only to remove a neglected structure, but also to transform the site into an attractive and useful commu-

nity asset. The restoration project will help improve the appearance of the village center, create additional public parking, and provide a welcoming green space that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

The project focuses on the removal of the former Melendy house and the restoration of the property at 53 Middletown Road. Once completed, the site will provide additional parking for use by the Town of Londonderry and visitors to the town hall. Plans also include expanding the lawn and landscaping surrounding the church and Middletown Road, as well as creating a display for the church bell that was salvaged after the church fire in 2010.

Several important milestones have already been completed: the purchase of the property for \$12,500; back taxes, corrective deeds, closing costs, zoning, a mylar survey, and legal expenses, costing a total of \$9,281.93; and the removal of porches, a woodshed, and cinder-block structure, at a cost of \$6,570.75.

In addition to financial contributions, the project has benefited from significant donated labor and services. Volunteers and community partners have helped by cutting and removing trees, removing more than 100 tires from the property, handling hazardous waste removal, and providing trucking services for debris and waste disposal.

Financial contributions are still needed to help reach the project’s \$95,000 goal. Donations may be made online through the project’s GoFundMe page at www.gofundme.com/ff/safe-and-welcoming-space, or mailed to First Baptist Church – Property Project, P.O. Box 278, South Londonderry, VT 05155.


Businesses and individuals willing to donate equipment, trucking, landscaping services, or other assistance are encouraged to contact Pete Cobb at 802-275-2166 to be added to the volunteer and donor list.




The deteriorating house on the Melendy property in South Londonderry.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Thank you to everyone who has contributed time, resources, and financial support. Together, we are creating a safer, more welcoming space that will benefit both the church and the wider Londonderry community for years to come.




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Rotary receives grant for Okemo Valley Swiftwater Rescue Team

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) received a Global Grant to fund the Okemo Valley Swiftwater Rescue Team (OVSRT) in the amount of \$62,922. The grant will fund training and equipment to outfit 15 emergency personnel in techniques for making rushing-water and other technical rescues while remaining safe themselves. Safety for our local emergency personnel was a key factor in receiving the Global Grant from Rotary International (RI).

The grant is part of the emergency response recovery program of Rotary International. It was funded by a collaboration of Rotary clubs from Ludlow and the surrounding area; individual rotarians in southern Vermont and Swellendam,

South Africa; a club in Moinabad, Telangana, India; the Rotary District of Southern Vermont and New Hampshire; and the Rotary International World Fund.

After the devastating flood in 2023, the Ludlow Rotary Club received numerous generous donations for flood recovery. As a club, it decided to keep \$15,000 of those donations for a project that would benefit all four communities served by the club. When the technical rescue team was selected to receive the funds, it was suggested that those funds could be enhanced by the new RI emergency response grants, if international partners could be found. The club has spent the past year and a half securing the necessary partners and putting the funding together with Ben Whalen, vice president of the Technical Rescue Squad.

The Okemo Valley Swiftwater Rescue Team is composed of emergency personnel from Cavendish, Ludlow, Mount Holly, and Plymouth. Whalen indicated the equipment and training will help protect the emergency personnel of all four communities, many of whom are volunteers, in addition to the public, who face danger in the face of increasing severe weather and related hazards. Many of those trained recently said it was the best training they had ever had.

The LRC meets most Tuesdays for lunch in Ludlow. The LRC is small and is always looking to welcome new members. If you would like to attend a meeting and learn how you may “serve humanity” while enjoying the fun and fellowship of others, please contact Kevin Barnes at 802-558-0479 or any rotarian.



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James D. Carr, 1926-2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – James D. Carr was born on Feb. 1, 1926, in West Halifax, Vt., the son of Donald and Lu (Brown) Carr. He attended schools in West Halifax and Putney. At age 14, he dropped out of school and went to work on a farm in Putney for room and board, for 50 cents a week. He moved to Bellows Falls with his family at age 15, and worked at Hubbard, Parker, and Small, grading eggs. At age 17, he began working as a truck driver for Saint Johnsbury Trucking, and worked there until he was drafted into the Army at age 18.

He proudly served in direct combat in Germany and France during World War II, from 1944 to 1946, including fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. He recounted that when he returned home in 1946, he received \$20 per week from the State of Vermont for one year.

He married Gloria (Tolaro) Carr on Oct. 14, 1950, in North Walpole, N.H. They lived their entire married lives in Bellows Falls and celebrated their 75th anniversary in October 2025.

Jim was employed as a dispatcher for Gay's Express, Saint Johnsbury Trucking, and Quinn Freight Lines. His last 21 years of employment were spent as a maintenance engineer for Rockingham Memorial Hospital.

In 1970, he earned his GED, celebrating the achievement with his daughter, who graduated from high school that year. He was a member of the Bellows Falls Fire Department for 38 years, retiring in 1988 at the rank of deputy chief.

Jim was a seventh-generation Vermonter with a wry sense of humor and wit and a strong work ethic. He was well known for his handyman, woodworking, and chair-caning skills, and his chairs are owned by many people throughout Vermont. He could fix anything and was a tremendous help to his daughter over the years in the renovation and upkeep of her old



James Carr, 1926-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

house in Huntington.

One of the ultimate highlights of his later years was traveling to the World War II Memorial alongside his loving son. This unforgettable trip honored his legacy of sacrifice and created an enduring bond of gratitude that will never be forgotten.

He was a loving and devoted father to his son, Jim, and daughter, Jeanine, and grandfather to his granddaughter, Emilie. He was predeceased by his father, his mother, and his brothers, Rupert and Loren. He is survived by his loving wife, Gloria; his daughter, Jeanine; his son, James (Alice); his granddaughter, Emilie (Seth); his great-grandchildren Teddy, Audrey, and Beckam; and his nieces and nephews. We will miss him more than words can express, but are eternally grateful that he was part of our lives. The family thanks the Veterans Administration and many wonderful caregivers, who provided tender, loving care to him so that he could spend his final days at home.

Donations in his memory to Bayada Hospice, 1222 Putney Road, Suite 107, Brattleboro, VT, 05301 will be appreciated.

A graveside service will take place on July 18, at 11 a.m., at Oak Hill Cemetery in Bellows Falls, Vt.

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

Margaret Gallagher, 1950-2026

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – On Jan. 15, 2026, Margaret Rose Palmer “Peggy” Gallagher passed away after a long illness, surrounded by her daughters. Born on Dec. 5, 1950, to Isabel (Thomas Ross) and Walter Palmer, she was raised in Charlestown, N.H. She was a cheerleader at Fall Mountain Regional High School and went on to the University of New Hampshire in Durham, N.H., where she received her bachelor's degree. After graduation, she worked as a social worker until she had her two daughters, Shannon and Erin.

Peggy was active in the community, in her children's schools, and at church. She was a parishioner of St. Catherine's Catholic Church and was instrumental in the Foster Grandparents Organization. While her children were in school, she worked as an aide at many local elementary schools. She loved her family, cooking, listening to music (singing along to it off key), animals of all kinds, fashion, sewing, movies, popular culture, and whatever her daughters' interests were.

She is preceded in death by her parents, and survived by her daughters, Shannon and



Margaret Gallagher, 1950-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Erin Gallagher; sister, Catherine (Palmer) Armstrong; two grandsons, Rex Walter and Timothy Oscar McQueen; one nephew; and seven nieces.

A memorial service will be held for Peggy on Friday, July 10, at 9:30 a.m., at the Charlestown Memorial Chapel in Charlestown, N.H. A Mass will follow at St. Catherine's Catholic Church, at 11 a.m., with a graveside service immediately following. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for contributions to be made in her name to your favorite mental health, children's, or animal charity, or the PTA at her grandson's school, Grady A. Brown Elementary in Hillsborough, N.C.

Benito J. Natale, 1931-2026

LUDLOW, Vt. – Benito J. Natale, 95, passed peacefully at the Gill Odd Fellows Home in Ludlow, Vt., on June 7, 2026. He was born on April 8, 1931, in Glens Falls, N.Y., the first son of Antonetta (Corsini) and Angelo Natale. He attended St. Mary's Catholic School and graduated from Hudson Falls High School.

Ben worked at the A&P Supermarket after his father died, in order to support his mother and two younger siblings, until he married Jane Eckler in 1955. He was accepted into the General Electric apprentice machining program, and the couple moved to Schenectady, N.Y., in 1956. He moved into GE management, eventually working in the safety office. He accompanied his boss to General Dynamics in Quincy, Mass., in 1979, moving the family to Pembroke, Mass. Ben worked in the Quincy plant and eventually in Groton, Conn., for Electric Boat. Throughout the years, Ben took courses and earned his degree in safety engineering.

Ben and Jane leave behind four children: Denise, a chiropractor in Vermont; Peter, an electrical tech in New York, his wife, Gail, and children, Dana (Mike) and Jason (Danielle); Tom, a retired forester in New Hampshire, his wife, Barb, and daughter, Kelcie; and Mark, chief estimator for a steel company, and his daughters, Ashley (James) and Gabi (John); his four great-grandchildren, Aria, Benjamin, Austin, and Gavin; many nieces and nephews; and his cousin, Sister Mary Louise, 99, at Greymore Convent in New York. Ben is predeceased by his wife, his parents, and his siblings Rachel, Jimmy, Angelo, and Emilio.

Ben and Jane had a great and loving life together raising their children. They were amazing dancers, participating in national square-dancing



Benito Natale, 1931-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

conventions several times a year, plus three or four nights a week at their local clubs. Ben was a master beekeeper and a member of Plymouth County Beekeepers Association (PCBA) in Plymouth, Mass., and Windham County Beekeepers (WCB) in Windham, Vt. He was an amazing artist, using his skills to create wood turnings, and to build furniture and wooden toys. He loved to take trees down, and sometimes had them cut into slabs to build something, or cut out a burl from which to turn a bowl. He kept the Pembroke trails clear and helped anyone who asked him for help repairing something, building something, or learning something. Ben mentored many people – from square dancers to new beekeepers – over the years, including his children. He was proud to have made many wooden improvements for St. Thecla's Church.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Plymouth County Beekeepers, www.plymouthcountybeekeepers.org, or the Windham County Beekeepers, www.windhamcountybeekeepers.com.

There will be a celebration of life at Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., on July 11, and in Massachusetts, on July 25. Please contact the family for details, as they are not completed at this writing.

Judith N. Torney, 1937-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Judith Nancy Torney, 89, passed away peacefully on June 21, 2026. Born on March 17, 1937, in Elkader, Iowa, she was the daughter of Carl and Sophia Reineke. Throughout her life, Judy was known for her kindness, quiet strength, and deep love for her family.

Judy graduated from Decorah High School in 1955, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business education from Luther College in 1959. She worked for Honeywell in Minneapolis, Minn., before marrying James Torney on Oct. 5, 1963, in Decorah, Iowa. Together, they shared more than 60 years of marriage, and, in 1970, moved to Springfield, Vt., where they raised their children, Peter and Susan. Judy later worked for the Springfield School District from 1975 until her retirement in 1999.

Family was always at the center of Judy's life. She enjoyed cooking and was happiest when everyone was gathered around the table. She had a lifelong love of classical music and was a devoted Boston Red Sox fan; if a game was on, she could often be found listening to the radio. She enjoyed life's simple pleasures, like a walk or a crossword puzzle with Jim, and especially treasured time spent with her children and grandchildren.

Judy is survived by her daughter, Susan (Dave) Hillis;



Judith Torney, 1937-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

her son, Peter (Carrie) Torney; her granddaughter, Monica (Kyle) Lizotte; her grandson, Matthew (Shawna) Baird-Torney; and her four great-grandchildren, Easton Baird-Torney, Hazel Baird-Torney, Avery Lizotte, and Harrison Lizotte. She is also survived by her niece, Lynda (Richard) White, and her nephew, Richard Shepherd.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Sophia Reineke; her beloved husband, Jim, in 2025; and her sisters, Bernice Reineke and Maxine Shepherd.

Judy will be remembered for her kind heart, her quiet strength, and her unwavering love for her family. She found joy in life's everyday moments, and had a special way of making people feel welcome and cared for. Her love, wisdom, and gentle spirit will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

Hans J. Roth, 1935-2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – A brilliant, kind, and gentle soul has gone on to his eternal life.

Born in Dusseldorf, Germany, on June 18, 1935, Hans Josef Roth passed away two days before his 91st birthday, on June 16, 2026.

Hans had a tumultuous childhood living in pre- and post-war Germany. His father passed away due to a train accident when he was only 3 weeks old, leaving his mother, Maria, to raise him and his two older sisters. He suffered from polio prior to the development of the vaccine. During the upheaval of war, Hans was separated from his mother twice, during which time he had no knowledge of her whereabouts. The first time, she was missing for three weeks. But for the kindness of a high-ranking Soviet officer, whom Maria had covertly fed during his captivity, she would have been sent to Siberia. They were reunited and began an arduous 230-mile trek to the U.S. occupation zone. This became a life-defining moment for Hans, and he often recalled the days of walking, climbing trees by day to hide from capture, and the dangerous river crossings. Maria was again separated from Hans for nearly two years, when she went back to search for Hans' sister Helga. She and Helga were captured by Soviets and sent to a prison camp.

In 1953, he emigrated to the United States at 18 years old and was soon after drafted into the U.S. Army to serve in Korea. Despite not yet being a citizen, Hans served proudly during the closing months of the Korean War and received his honorable discharge.

Having trained as an apprentice machinist in Germany, he took a job as a tradesman. He worked diligently, receiving his GED, a Bachelor of Science and master's from Long Island University, and a master's in business from the University of Pittsburgh. He ultimately rose to be the vice president the Metco Division of Perkin-Elmer, a Fortune 500 company.

Hans married Marianne Suppa in 1957, and they had a daughter, Jody Cheryl. He later married the love of his life, Rosemarri. He became the father of her two children, Heidi and Stacey. Together, Hans and Rosemarri travelled the world for business and pleasure, visiting 62 countries and 47 U.S. states, exploring Ankor Wat in Cambodia, swimming under the waterfalls at Iguazu Falls in Brazil, and even dancing with Imelda Marcos, wife of the then-president of the Philippines. He had a rich and full life.

In 1984, he and Rosemarri chose to relocate to Vermont, as Hans was an accomplished skier. He spent many hours on



Hans Roth, 1935-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

the slopes with his daughter Stacey, enjoying the pastoral setting and the opportunity to commune with nature.

Hans is survived by his beloved Rosemarri; his daughters Stacey, Heidi, and Jody; his adopted son, Tony; as well as his nine grandchildren, Michael, Kyle, James, Paula, Jonathon, Kathryn, Amelia, Alex, and Andrew. He was grandfather-in-law to Amanda Piccione, who blessed him with his first great-grandchild, Atlas Wolfgang. He was also a surrogate father to Heidi and Danny Martinez, Robert and Mable Pappalardo, and Lisa Ngo. He is also survived by his niece, Alice Routhert; and his nephews, Perry Oswald, Roy Seaman, and Perry Seaman. He will be deeply missed by lifelong friends Edgelard Schmittz and Helen Burkhart.

He was predeceased by his parents, Mattias August and Maria Roth; his sisters, Mathilda Seaman and Helga Oswald; as well as his dear friend Rosario Sal Ventimiglia, who passed away in December.

The family extends its heartfelt gratitude to Jeanne Audet, for her months of devoted care to Hans. She became a part of the family. Sara Lawrence gave care and support, and shared wonderful memories of Hans' close friendship with Ralph Lawrence. Bayada Hospice provided constant medical services and support all these many months. Sincere thanks to Kyle Wegner, Melissa Trainor, Emily Lynds, Dan Jones, and many others.

There will be a celebration of life at the Rockingham Meeting House, 11 Meeting House Road in Rockingham Vt., on Aug. 8, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in his memory to either Rockingham Meeting House, ATTN: Walter Wallace, P.O. Box 370, Bellows Falls, VT 05101; or Bayada Foundation, 1222 Putney Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

“They can exist side by side, grief and love, and they do every day.”

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

Merleen A. Wilder, 1951-2026

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Merleen Ann Wilder, 75, of South Londonderry, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, June 19, 2026. Merleen, or “Mert,” as she was lovingly known, was born Feb. 11, 1951, at Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, to the late Lawrence and Helen (Bendig) Wilder. She attended Londonderry-area schools and was a 1969 graduate of Leland and Gray Seminary in Townshend. Over the years she worked at the Peabody House, Adams Market, Derry Town Market, and the Londonderry Inn, before venturing into the world of self-employment as a house cleaner. Her children and grandchildren brought her the greatest joy, and she was always excited to share stories about her grandchildren with her friends. She was also an avid animal lover, being a caregiver to several pets over the years.

Merleen was loved by all who knew her and became friends with everyone she met. Her warm and friendly spirit

and positive outlook on life, even while battling cancer, resonated with every person who had the privilege of meeting her. The world was most certainly a brighter place with her presence, and her loss will be felt by all who loved her.

Merleen was predeceased by her parents; her brothers, Robert and David; and her best friend and companion of 45 years, Wendell Johnson. She is survived by her daughters, Tracy Danforth (William), of Canaan, N.H., and Dawn Massey (Glenn), of Andover, Vt.; her son, Matthew Wilder, of Brattleboro, Vt.; her six beloved grandchildren, Isaiah and Ethan Danforth, Owen and Brodie Massey, and Lucas and Emma Peeters; and several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad or Neighborhood Connections. Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield will be handling the arrangements. Per Merleen's wishes, there will be no services.

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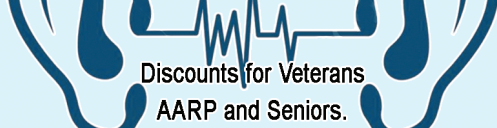


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LEGAL NOTICES

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 3 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls will not hold a First Friday Fundraiser in July. The next First Friday Fundraiser will be a barbecue held on Friday, Aug. 7.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The All-Country Band will play at the Charlestown Senior Center's summer concert series on Friday, July 3, from 6:30-8 p.m. This concert is sponsored by VFW Post 8497. The senior center is located at 5 Acer Heights. Please bring a lawn chair, your friends and family, and a few dollars for refreshments and/or the 50-50 raffle.

JULY 4 – LUDLOW, Vt. – America's 250th birthday celebration in Ludlow, Vt., will be held on Saturday, July 4. Join us for a day of patriotic, fun community spirit. The schedule is as follows: 9 a.m., Liberty Tree dedication at the Community Center (lawn of the former Black River High School building); at 10 a.m., a parade through downtown, starting at Benson's Chevrolet and ending at Veterans Park; 11

a.m. – 2:30 p.m., festivities at Veterans Park, including a barbecue, music, singing, and 1776-era dancing. Meet George and Martha Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and others; 6-9:30 p.m., festivities at the Okemo Resort base area, including food, live music, and fireworks. There is still time to be in our 1776-themed parade. To be in the parade, contact cochairs Kim Lampert at 802-228-4000 or kimberlylampert@bensonschevy.com, or Penny Wu at 802-228-2860 or pwu@ludlow.vt.us.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Stars & Stripes 7.4K and 4K run and walk will take place at the Toonerville Trail, at 8:30 a.m. This event is a fundraiser for the Springfield High School cross-country program. Advance registration is discounted at www.runlikeardy.com/races/starsstripes. You may also register the day of the run.

JULY 11 AND 12 – WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Garden enthusiasts and nature lovers are invited to explore some of Westminister's most beautiful gardens during the 2026 Westminister Garden Tour,

taking place Saturday, July 11, and Sunday, July 12, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. This year's tour will feature the gardens of Gordon and Mary Hayward, the Westminster Center School, Hawksong East, and Signal Pine Gardens. Guests will also enjoy a sapling demonstration by Mark Ragonese and a performance of Flea Circus by Sandglass Theater, all included with admission. Tickets can be purchased at go.evnt.com/3682961-0?pid=10935. Children ages 16 and under are admitted free. Tickets are valid for both days of the tour, rain or shine. This is a wonderful event that also supports the mission of Westminster Cares.

JULY 11 – JAMAICA, Vt. – TommyFest will be held on Saturday, July 11, at 2 p.m., on Pikes Falls Road in Jamaica, Vt. TommyFest is a nonprofit organization devoted to providing free musical instruments to anyone ready to start, continue, or improve their musical journey. Learn more at www.tommyfest.fun.

JULY 13 – LUDLOW, Vt. – As part of the Fletcher Memorial Library's 125th anniversary, the Friends of Fletcher Memorial Library are developing a 2027 calendar which will feature photos of Ludlow and be sold in the fall of 2026. All proceeds will be used to support the library. We are looking for photos that showcase some aspects of Ludlow: our beautiful mountains, lakes, flowers, wildlife, and quaint village. Stop by the library at 88 Main Street in Ludlow for more information and an entry form. The deadline to submit photos is July 13.

Any questions, or to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to churchperkinsville@gmail.com.

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

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

LUDLOW, Vt. – Meet on Depot Street in downtown Ludlow every Sunday through Oct. 11, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., to shop at our vibrant farmers market. Find a variety of local produce each week, along with fresh baked goods, handmade crafts and gifts, cold beverages, live music, and more. We can't wait to see you for fresh food, community, and fun.

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.

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.

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

TUESDAYS – 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.

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 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard will be at the Rockingham Library on Thursdays, from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. Both beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome.

GRAFTON, Vt. – A free playgroup for children from newborns to age 5 will be held at Grafton Elementary School on Thursday mornings, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Activities will include songs, games, and arts and crafts. Contact Heather with any questions at 802-843-4792.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Certified instructor Helena Wu will teach tai chi classes every Thursday, from 9-10 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street in Ludlow. Classes are free, and are limited to 10 participants. Registration is required. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 802-228-7421, or Helena Wu at 802-289-7369.

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

CLAREMONT, N.H. – If you are interested in playing or learning the game of mahjong, please come to the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Fridays, at 1p.m. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Come show off your masterpieces at the Claremont Senior Center Knitters Group, on Fridays, from 1-3 p.m., at 5 Acer Heights. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Shoot trap every Friday, at 5:30 p.m., at Precision Valley Fish and Game Outdoor Range, located at 2879 Route 106 in Perkinsville.

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.

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.

DAILY – REGION – If you want to drink that's your business, but if you want to stop, that's ours. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at www.aavt.org or call your local hotline at 802-802-2288 and join a meeting.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

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

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 July 15, 2026, to hold a public hearing for:

An application from Polly Henshaw for a side setback variance for an addition at 289 Barker Rd

An application from Taylor and Lana Prouty for a new storage building and a retail use at 49 Hell's Peak 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

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.

RECURRING EVENTS

SUNDAYS – 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.

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT
Windsor Unit

PROBATE DIVISION
Docket No.: 26-PR-02178

In re ESTATE of: Christopher FitzGerald

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Christopher FitzGerald
late of Springfield
Decedent
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: 6/20/26
Signature of Fiduciary:

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

Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal
Publication Date: July 01, 2026
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Unit
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green
Woodstock, VT 05091

WARNING FOR THE LONDONDERRY TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Londonderry, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall, 139 Middletown Road, South Londonderry in Londonderry, on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 6:00pm to act on the following Articles, namely:

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

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

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

Dated at Londonderry this 15th day of June 2026.

Selectboard of the Town of Londonderry

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

Received for the record this 15th day of June 2026

Allison Marino, Town Clerk

LEGAL

opinion/classifieds

LTE: BRGNS thanks rummage sale volunteers and supporters

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Black River Good Neighbor Services, an amazing weekend provided the backdrop for our 2026 Gigantic Spring Rummage Sale at Fletcher Farm, which was an outstanding success. We are most grateful for the support from our community.

Starting weeks in advance, so many volunteers worked tirelessly setting up this fundraiser. Their dedication and commitment to our community truly supports the organization's core values. Simply put, this sale, a huge undertaking, could not happen without devoted volunteer efforts; and we certainly do have that. Thank you very much, each and every one of you.

Among the many dedicated volunteers who worked at this event, we must include the board of directors, who also work behind the scenes to keep things "look-

ing good" for shoppers. And, speaking of shoppers, we really want to thank everyone who attended and shopped the sale, making it so very successful.

Please know that your dollars go directly to support our programs, which include a food shelf, clothing, and financial and disaster assistance to those in need, and which serve the towns of Ludlow, Mount Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville, and Plymouth.

For more information about Black River Good Neighbor Services, please visit our website at www.brgn.org, call us at 802-228-3663, or visit us at 37B Main Street, Ludlow.

Sincerely,
Krey Kellington, Executive Director
Black River Good Neighbor Services

BUYING/SELLING

BUYING-SELLING Coins, Paper \$\$, Vintage Sports Postcards, Comics. See our displays at antique centers in Chester and Quechee. Open 7 Days. 802-379-2353. House calls available.

CLEAN OUTS + MORE

EZ-Dump Enterprises has a 15-yard dump trailer available. We're also here for heating equipment, appliance removal, home/storage unit clean outs, stump grinding, and refinishing/repairing gravel driveways. Serving Springfield, Vt. area. Call/text 802-376-1168 or email ezdumplib@gmail.com.

FOR RENT

WESTON, Vt. - Attractive one bedroom. Landgrove Road. Walk to center. \$1,200 monthly plus security. References requested. Call Chris at 302-762-4626 and please leave a message.

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW, Vt. - CAREGIVER - COMPANION, six hours per weekday during ski season for mildly handicapped wife. Kindly call or text 717-215-9703 or email rayhedger@hedgerandhedger.com.

WANTED

CAVENDISH, Vt. - Horse literate person wanted to assist lady carriage driver several times a week in Cavendish. 802-226-7364.

Our Place food drive

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - As a part of the 250th anniversary celebration, Our Place Community Food Center will provide an opportunity to help those in need with a food and funding drive during Saxtons River Fourth of July festivities. This is a joint effort between Our Place and the Saxtons River Little Free Pantry.

"The number of people turning to Our Place for a meal or groceries is growing," says Our Place Executive Director David Billings. "Making a financial gift is the most helpful thing you

can do. We buy in bulk and at a discount, so the dollar you spend on canned or packaged food goes further when combined with other funding."

Food and cash gifts may be brought to the Our Place van, which will be parked on Main Street beside the Saxtons River Community Free Pantry, on Saturday, July 4, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monthly or one-time gifts may also be made online at www.ourplacevermont.org, or by mailing a check to Our Place, P.O. Box 852, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY AMERICA

It's Independence Day in our beloved America today and the little children are waving American flags all through
This beautiful day and

The land of freedom bright and bold
A nation's spirit strong and old and

With liberty's flag a story told and
America forever beats inside our heart's
And

For all the brave men and women
Who fought for this day our beloved
4th of July today and we'll celebrate them
In a very special and loving way and

The bells of freedom loudly ring and
A brand new chapter fresh and new

With liberty's flag a story told and
America forever and always we love you
And our dreams have come true with
A land of hope and brave for me and you
And our land of freedom bright and bold and

We'll stop and pray for our loved ones on this very special Independence Day who have sadly passed away and there forever inside our hearts on this special Independence Day and

So God bless all Americans on this Independence Day as we celebrate our beloved 4th of July today and may every American have a beautiful and blessed and happy peaceful Independence Day.

Written by David P. Carroll.

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TOWN AND VILLAGE OF LUDLOW, VERMONT
Planning & Zoning Department
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Zoning Clerk
Part-Time | 20 Hours Per Week

About the Position
The Town and Village of Ludlow is seeking a motivated and detail-oriented individual to join our Planning & Zoning Department as a part-time Zoning Clerk. This is an excellent opportunity for someone interested in local government, land use planning, or municipal administration. The Zoning Clerk will provide essential administrative and clerical support to the Planning & Zoning Director and the Development Review Board (DRB), helping to ensure the efficient processing of permits, applications, and public meeting materials. This is a part-time position at 20 hours per week. Schedule is flexible within normal business hours and will be determined in coordination with the Director.

Key Responsibilities

- Receive, log, and file zoning and land use permit applications; maintain accurate permit tracking records.
- Assist with records management, including organizing and maintaining physical and digital files.
- Conduct basic research and records lookup in support of permit review and compliance inquiries
- Assist in preparing agendas, packets, and meeting materials for the Development Review Board (DRB) and Planning Commission.
- Answer and direct incoming phone calls; respond to general inquiries from applicants, property owners, and the public.
- Greet walk-in visitors and provide initial assistance or referrals.
- Assist with data entry, correspondence, and general office tasks as directed.
- Support posting of public hearing notices and other required notifications.
- Assist the Director with special projects and other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- High school diploma or equivalent required; associate's degree or coursework in public administration, planning, or a related field preferred.
- Prior administrative, clerical, or office experience required; municipal government experience a plus.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook) and general office equipment.
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.
- Ability to interact professionally and courteously with the public, applicants, and staff.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and work independently with minimal supervision.

Compensation & Benefits

- \$20-\$25/hour commensurate with experience
- Able to earn accrued part-time sick leave based on the State of Vermont's percentage for each hour worked in every pay period.
- 13 paid holidays per year

Additional Information
For additional information about this position contact Ms. Erin Ladd, Director of Planning & Zoning at: 802-228-4870, or email erineladd@ludlow.vt.us

How to Apply
Interested applicants should submit the following to the Town and Village of Ludlow, Planning & Zoning Department:

- A cover letter describing your interest in the position and relevant experience
- A current resume

Submit in person, by mail, or email* to:
Town and Village of Ludlow, ATTN: Town Manager Penny Wu
PO Box 359, 37 Depot Street, Ludlow, VT 05149
• pwu@ludlow.vt.us

Application Deadline: Open until filled. First review of applications will begin July 1st.
The Town and Village of Ludlow is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
2026 Regional Plan

The Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC) will hold the second of two public hearings on Monday, July 27, 2026, at 12:00 noon in the Windsor Town Offices at 29 Union Street in Windsor, VT on the draft 2026 Regional Plan, which is intended to address the requirements of Act 181 and will replace the 2022 Regional Plan. The intent of this plan update is to meet the new requirements in 24 V.S.A. §4348a as well as to meet the requirements of an "Enhanced Energy Plan" in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §4352.

The MARC is authorized by the Vermont Municipal Planning and Development Act [24 V.S.A. §4348] to develop, adopt, and amend a regional plan. The draft 2026 Regional Plan includes proposed state designated areas (i.e., Centers and Neighborhoods) and proposed Tier 1B areas that, if approved by the Vermont Land Use Review Board, will provide Act 250 exemptions for certain housing projects. The draft 2026 Regional Plan is available for review under the "Publications" section on MARC's website: <https://www.marctv.org/2026-regional-plan.html>. For more information or to request a hard copy of the draft plan, please contact MARC staff at (802) 674-9201.

yellow page **BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

\$175 for 13 Weeks • \$275 for 26 Weeks • \$425 for 52 Weeks
Prices are based on a 20 word listing. An additional 50 cents for each word thereafter.

Art Crafts Gifts

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Discover your creative side - Workshops, studio hours, youth camps, and private events for everyone!
Ludlow, VT 802-228-8770 www.CreateTogetherVT.org
(12/9/26 - 52)

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Art, Crafts, Gifts, Exhibits & Workshops
68 Main St., Springfield VT 802-885-7111 galleryvault.org
OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5
Open Wall - On the Wild Side until July 15.
A Watery World in Wood Carvings by Tom Franklin
Carvings of whales, narwhals, dolphins, puffins, and loons.
Coming Soon: Deborah Holmes (July 1), Russell Porter (July 23)
(07/15/26 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

A & J'S TREE SERVICE
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(07/22/26 - 13)

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Navy Seabee Veteran owned. We pride ourselves on customer service, and getting the job done right the first time. We are looking to book up our season. Decks, custom tile shower, siding, doors, windows, drywall, foundation repair, you name we do it. Check us out on Instagram @nedthehammer. Ned Mortensen, cell 802-376-3275, edwin.mortensen@gmail.com.
(03/17/27 - 52)

PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION
Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville.
802-558-5267.
(08/12/26 - 13)

Campground

CATON PLACE CAMPGROUND
2419 EAST ROAD, CAVENDISH VERMONT
SEASONAL SITES AVAILABLE FOR 2026 + 2027! REASONABLE RATES!
802-226-7767, Catonplacecamp@gmail.com.
Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites!
(08/26/26 - 13)

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FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC
Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(08/12/26 - TFN - 52)

Masonry

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(08/19/26 - 13)

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Fireplaces, chimneys and liners, chimney sweeps, patios, walls, steps, restoration and repairs. Fully insured, free estimates. Contact Gary Moore at 802-824-5710 mooremasonry802@gmail.com.
(10/07/26 - 26)

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GREEN BEE LAWN & GARDEN
We're Different- Our organic lawn and garden care brings peace of mind for the family, friends and critters using your yard. Our Commercial Electric equipment is clean and quiet, so you can relax while we do the hard work.
Fence Installations - Expert, best-quality fence installations with references available. Call Today!
Driveway Repairs & Drainage Work- Does your driveway need some TLC? Call Green Bee!
We're **fully insured, reliable and priced right**. Reach Out Today to secure your spot in our 2026 schedule! Phone, text or email: 802-289-1968, greenbeelawns@gmail.com
(09/16/26 - 26)

celebrate america 250

FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVITIES

ACWORTH, N.H. -

The Town of Acworth will mark a historic milestone in America's story with "Acworth Celebrates," a communitywide celebration honoring the 250th anniversary of the United States, to be held on Saturday, July 4, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Acworth Town Common by the Acworth Town Hall.

This family-friendly event will bring neighbors and visitors together for an afternoon of patriotism, history, and community spirit. Festivities will include a potluck picnic, local vendors and crafts, live music, and readings from America's founding documents, along with other activities celebrating the nation's founding and Acworth's role in that shared heritage.

Community members are encouraged to participate in the potluck picnic and coordinate dishes in advance. Attendees can register their potluck item and see what others are bringing at www.perfectpotluck.com/AUPO0832.

The celebration is sponsored by the Acworth Community Project, which is still seeking vendors and volunteers to help make this landmark event a success. For more information, or to inquire about volunteering or vendor participation, please

contact Michael Aron at michaelaron66@yahoo.com or 603-843-7887.

Mark your calendars and plan to join friends and neighbors as Acworth celebrates 250 years of American independence with food, music, history, and community pride.

BROWNSVILLE, Vt. -

On July 4, 1776, the final version of the Declaration of Independence was formally approved by the Continental Congress. The document announced the separation of the 13 North American British colonies from Great Britain. July 4 became the national holiday known as Independence Day. During the early years of the republic, Independence Day was commemorated with parades, oratory, and toasting in ceremonies that celebrated the existence of the new country.

The first person to read the Declaration of Independence in public was Col. John Nixon. Nixon read the Declaration on July 8, 1776, at noon, to an assemblage of citizens after its adoption. He was from Philadelphia and served under George Washington. More information about the first public reading of the declaration can be found at www.civicsforlife.org/first-public-reading-of-the-declaration-of-independence.

reading-of-the-declaration-of-independence.

On July 4, at about 1 p.m., on the steps of Story Memorial Hall in West Windsor, resident poet Peter Money, in costume, will read for us the Declaration of Independence, and Elisha Huebner will play "The Star-Spangled Banner" for us on his trumpet.

Start the day on July 4 with the 1976 and 2026 Brownsville time capsule event, followed by an abundant community breakfast at Brownsville Community Church. Then, next door in the Tribute Park Pavilion, there will be lively, wear-off-the-calories line dancing for all ages. From 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., there will be the very special America 250 exhibit, crafty vendors will be selling their wares, important local groups will be sharing important information, and a book sale will be taking place. Outside, there will be music and the sweet aromas of grilled goodies by the Moonlighters, finger lickin' fried chicken by Rollin' Rooster, and luscious ice cream concoctions by Sunny Day Scoops. Grab a fruit smoothie prepared by the West Windsor Fast Squad volunteers to enjoy during the Grand Brownsville Independence Day Parade, where you'll see, among many other entries, several colonial characters and floats commemorating America 250.

Memories will be made on July 3, on Ascutney Mountain, where folks will enjoy music, food, and the Grand America 250 fireworks.

CAVENDISH, Vt. -

Two-hundred-and-fifty years ago, many colonists learned about the Declaration of Independence by hearing it read at their local coffee houses. One of the earliest readings took place at the Merchant Coffee House in Philadelphia.

People of all socioeconomic statuses went to these establishments for their favorite beverage, food, and, most importantly, the news of the day. The seeds of revolution were planted in the coffee houses of the day.

The Cavendish Historical Society (CHS), in conjunction with Super Roasted, 73 Depot Street in Proctorsville, Vt., will be reenacting how many colonists first heard about the declaration. A special reading will take place on July 4, at 9 a.m., at Super Roasted - a great way to kick off the nation's 250th birthday.

Continuing the 250th party, CHS, with the help of community members Becky Plunkard, Shirley Clark, and Cavendish Town Elementary School (CTES) sixth graders, have been placing painted rocks throughout the town. You'll find them in the cemeteries, at the graves of Revolutionary soldiers, in town parks, and at various historic locations. The search begins on July 3, and goes throughout the summer. Please take all the pictures you want, but leave the rocks until the fall.

All the rocks are painted red, white, and blue with the exception of three. Honoring both the flag of the Green Mountain Boys and Vermont's first flag as an independent republic, it is now the official flag of the Vermont Army and Air National Guard. The flag is green, with a canton (the rectangular emblem in the upper left corner) of blue with 13 white stars. See if you can find all three.

For more information, call 802-226-7807 or email margocaulfield@icloud.com.

CLAREMONT, N.H. -

Independence Day celebrations in Claremont begin on Friday, July 3, from 1-5 p.m., with a block party on Pleasant Street in downtown Claremont. The celebrations



Rocks decorated in Cavendish for America's 250th anniversary. PHOTO PROVIDED

will include food vendors, pop-up shops, local artisans, and live music. There will also be a touch-a-truck event, games and crafts for kids, and a scavenger hunt with a grand prize valued at \$1,000, which will be awarded at city hall.

Festivities will continue at Monadnock Park, from 6-10 p.m., with live entertainment from Jester Jigs Band, games and crafts, a dunk tank, and local food trucks and vendors. The evening will conclude with Claremont's famous fireworks show, beginning at 9:30 p.m.

On Saturday morning, July 4, there will be family fun on the visitor center green.

In addition, winners of the Claremont Historical Society's "250 Years of America" art contest from Disnard and Maple Avenue elementary schools, Claremont Middle School, and Stevens High School will have their pieces displayed at the Claremont History Museum, 26 Mulberry Street.

LONDONDERRY, Vt. -

The Londonderry Arts and Historical Society is launching its Pop-up Art series on July 4, at the Custer Sharp House, on Middletown Road in Londonderry. Thanks to grants from The Thrifty Attic and The Community Fund of Londonderry, our popular Pop-up Art, led by local artists, will be

held at the Custer Sharp House every Saturday, from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., from July 4 - Aug. 9.

On Saturday, July 4, art teacher Casey Junker Bailey will open the series with her famously fantastic hats. Join Bailey before or after the parade to create wearable sculpture, suitable for celebrations of all kinds. Like all of our pop-up programs, the workshop is free, fun, and suitable for all ages. All materials are provided; there is no need to register. Just stop by with friends or family for some creative fun.

On the following two Saturdays, July 11 and July 18, local art teacher, professional artist, and muralist Kim Ray will lead a collaborative bluebird mural workshop, offering participants a unique opportunity to sketch, paint, and learn about the beauty and ecology of eastern bluebirds. The event is completely free of charge, and all necessary art supplies will be provided.

Located at the historic Custer Sharp House, 2461 Middletown Road, the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of the Londonderry community while fostering contemporary cultural experiences through art exhibitions, educational workshops, and community events. For more information, visit www.lahsvt.org.

FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND
AT MAGIC MOUNTAIN

BLACK LINE TAVERN **MAGIC MOUNTAIN**

THURSDAY 7/2:
FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT 9PM

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE!

LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE:
 7/2: GLENN ROCKS BAND 7-9PM
 7/3: SAMMY BLANCHETTE 4-7PM
 7/4: MARTEL BAND 6-9PM

ALSO FEATURING **MUSICAL BINGO FRIDAY NIGHT AT 7PM** **SINGO**

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FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVITIES

Celebrate the 4th of July and the 250th anniversary in your community. PHOTO PROVIDED

LUDLOW, Vt. –
On Saturday, July 4, Ludlow will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence with a grand parade, a historic 1776-style celebration, and other events.

There will be a Liberty Tree dedication on the Black River High School lawn, at 9 a.m. The nation's first Liberty Tree was a historic elm tree in Boston, Mass. When England imposed the Stamp Act, the colonists declared, "Taxation without representation," and the seeds of revolution were sown. That original elm served as a gathering place and a witness to the birth of a new nation.

Soon, Liberty Trees spread throughout the colonies, becoming powerful symbols of resistance, community, and hope. Ludlow's Liberty Tree is a white oak, planted in recognition of our nation's 250th anniversary and Ludlow's 265th anniversary. It will stand for generations as a symbol of our town's rich history and community spirit.

At 10 a.m., our grand parade will commence, beginning at Benson's Chevrolet and going through downtown Ludlow.

Following the parade, head over to Veterans Park on Main Street for a Johnny Murphy barbecue, live music, dancing, and family-friendly festivities. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson will be there for a meet-and-greet.

From 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., festivities will be held at Veterans Park. Step back into 1776 and recite the Declaration of Independence with

Thomas Jefferson. There will be music and patriotic songs, period dances, and birthday cake with George and Martha Washington.

In the evening, from 6-9:30 p.m., at the Okemo base area, there will be food vendors, live music by Rustie Bus, and fireworks launched from Okemo at dusk.

To be in the parade, contact one of the event co-chairs: Kim Lampert, 802-228-4000 or kimberlylampert@bensonschevy.com, or Penny Wu, 802-228-2860 or pwu@ludlow.vt.us.

PLYMOUTH NOTCH, Vt. –

Americans from across the country will gather in Plymouth Notch, Vt., from July 2-4, as the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation host a major national celebration of America's 250th anniversary at the birthplace and boyhood home of President Calvin Coolidge.

The three-day celebration, "America 250 at the Notch," will feature a civic ceremony, music, student debates, living-history performances, and opportunities for public participation, all centered on the enduring principles of the Declaration of Independence.

"To spend the Fourth of July with Calvin Coolidge is especially meaningful," said Matthew Denhart, president of the Coolidge Foundation. "A century ago, President Coolidge led America's 150th anniversary celebration and delivered

what many regard as the finest modern speech on the Declaration of Independence, "The Inspiration of the Declaration."

Visitors are invited to explore the historic village where Coolidge was born, raised, and sworn in as president in 1923. The events will also celebrate the birthday of Calvin Coolidge, the only president born on the Fourth of July.

Highlights include the following:

Coolidge Cup National Speech & Debate Tournament, July 2-4 – Nearly 100 of the nation's top high school students will gather in Plymouth Notch to compete in the Coolidge Cup National Championship. Students will debate questions of constitutional government and deliver historic speeches. Members of the public are invited to serve as citizen judges or attend rounds as spectators.

America 250 Orchestra Evening, July 3, at 6 p.m. – A 26-piece orchestra conducted by John M. Masko will perform beloved American favorites, including marches by John Philip Sousa and

Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," complete with live cannon fire, courtesy of the Vermont Civil War Hemlocks. Guests are invited to bring picnic dinners and gather at the historic site for this tented performance.

Naturalization ceremony, July 4, at 10 a.m. – Experience one of America's most moving civic traditions. Join us as 50 individuals take the Oath of Allegiance and become U.S. citizens in a public ceremony presided over by Judge Mary Kay Lanthier.

Public reading of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, at 11:30 a.m. – Vermont's 80th governor, James Douglas, will lead visitors in a community reading of the Declaration of Independence on the Plymouth Notch Village Green.

Ceremonial procession and wreath-laying, July 4, 12 p.m. – Members of the Vermont National Guard and the Coolidge family will lead a procession to the Coolidge gravesite, where a wreath sent by the White House will honor America's 30th president. Direct descendants of Calvin and Grace Coolidge will read selections from Coolidge's landmark speech "The Inspiration of the Declaration."

Additional information, schedules, and opportuni-

ties to participate are available at www.coolidgeevent.com/America-250.

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. –

The Saxtons River Fourth of July Committee is excited to announce this year's celebration, Saturday, July 4, on Main Street in the Village of Saxtons River, Vt. This year marks the 81st Fourth of July celebration in Saxtons River, and the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Everyone loves a parade, and this year's theme is "Once Upon a River." Everyone is invited to enter, and the best parade entry will receive a \$500 prize. The parade entry form may be found at www.srvfourth.org/parade.

The day starts with the Firecracker 5K run, and a 9-mile or 14-mile bike ride, called the "Tour des Villages," with routes towards Grafton. To commemorate the 250th anniversary of its signing, Mike Peller, head of school for Vermont Academy, and a special guest will read the Declaration of Independence from the band stand, starting at 12 p.m.

At 11 a.m., American Legion Post 37 will open the parade with this year's Grand Marshals Denny

McArdle and Berta Martin, followed by decorated bikes, vintage cars, a fife-and-drum corps, emergency vehicles, floats, and so much more. After the parade, there are activities for all ages, including the firefighter's water polo contest, cotton candy, a dunk booth, a hula hoop contest, an egg toss competition, a bounce house and other kids' games, great food, and live, local musicians up on the bandstand. The celebration ends with pickup softball and pickleball games at the Saxtons River Recreation Area.

Local artist Whitney Barrett created this year's collectors T-shirt design, and, new for this year, a collectable pin. The designs capture the magic that happens in our beloved village and the theme "Once Upon a River." T-shirts will be available at the street fair on July 4, while supplies last. The price helps cover expenses associated with this daylong event.

A full schedule of the day's events can be found at www.srvfourth.org/schedule.



Spend The 4th Of July In Ludlow, VT
Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with a Historic 1776-Style Celebration On July 4th, 2026!

9:00 AM
Liberty Tree dedication on the Black River High School lawn

10:00 AM
Parade From Benson's Chevrolet through downtown Ludlow

11 AM - 2 PM Veteran's Park Festivities
Step back into 1776!

- Recite the Declaration of Independence with Thomas Jefferson
- Music & patriotic songs, period dances, BBQ
- Birthday cake with George & Martha Washington

6 PM - 9:30 PM Okemo Base Area

- Food vendors
- Live music by Rustie Bus
- Fireworks launched from Okemo at Dusk

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