



the Best of
VERMONT
Summer Festival
SEE PAGE 10 FOR DETAILS



THE MESSAGE

OF THE WEEK

AUGUST 19, 2026 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM PUBLISHED BY THE VERMONT JOURNAL VOLUME 01, ISSUE 49

Claremont business owners voice concern with public drug use—

BY ANNE DEMPSEY

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Nicole Dermody, owner of Style House Salon, requested that the bench in front of her business be moved at the Aug. 12 meeting of the Claremont City Council, saying it has become a gathering place for people who were smoking, yelling, and using drugs. “Some customers are uncomfortable,” she said, with the second-hand smoke and the blocking of sidewalks. “This is not discrimination,” she continued. “Public spaces need to work for everyone – including business owners, customers, and families. I support recovery, housing, people with a second chance, but I also support people who get up every day, go to work, pay their employees, pay taxes, and invest money into their community. All of these people are a part of Claremont.”

Kelly Gillette, who has worked at Style House Salon since its opening, stated that she has seen public intoxication, domestic disputes, and even an overdose right outside the salon. She credits this in part to some of the clients at TLC Family Resource Center. TLC offers parenting and family support, basic needs assistance, and youth and teen programs. It also supports people in recovery. According to Gillette, it seems as though some users of the recovery programs are the cause of the problems in front of the salon. She expressed frustration with

how the police respond to phone calls from the salon. “The police just drive by,” Gillette said.

Ready, Set, Grow Child Care Center is just around the corner from the salon. The director, Molly Tremblay, voiced similar complaints. “I have 30 children, serving 11 families. There are people drunk on the stoop, screaming obscenities. Families are calling out of concern. I call the police. They sit in the Rite Aid parking lot and then say ‘I don’t see anything.’” The council asked interim City Manager Richard Bergeron to address these issues as quickly as possible.

Mayor Dale Girard also announced that, on Aug. 29, the Claremont Senior Center will host its annual car show from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Claremont Motorsports Park.

From there, a discussion proceeded regarding whether the city council should create an ad hoc committee to develop ordinances for the motorsports park. The issue arose because there was an event held at the motorsports park which was not authorized by the city. It was noted that Police Chief Wilmott had already committed to developing an ordinance. Therefore, the council voted not to form an ad hoc committee.

Bergeron stated that his top priorities are reviewing current items coming up on the agenda and filling City of Claremont staff positions. A moment of silence was offered for the



Claremont City Council hears from business owners and community.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CITY OF CLAREMONT

recent passing of Michael Richmond, who was very active in the American Legion.

The council then voted to appoint Christie Hawkins to Seat 6 on the Claremont Arts, History, and Cultural Resources Commission.

Next, Human Resource Director Shannon Thibodeau presented the merit-system document she developed for the non-union employees of the City of Claremont. Some members of the council wanted a further breakdown of certain job titles. Because of this, the council did not accept the document.

Two members of the Frances Towles Board of Trustees, Carlene Livingston and Larry Johnson, presented an update to the trustees’ bylaws. The council agreed that two residents, instead of one, could be members of the board, and that each trustee should serve for a period of three years.

The Parks and Recreation Department then requested that the council accept the \$10,000 which the Byrne Foundation granted to it in order to reduce registration costs for the four youth sports programs, to be equally divided between the soccer, football, basketball, and softball programs. The council voted to accept the grant.

Bergeron noted that there is approximately \$70,000 left to spend from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant. The LWCF is a federal program that supports the acquisition of land and the development or renovation of outdoor recreation areas. Bergeron reviewed several items for which the city could use these funds: plastic playground setups, ADA bathrooms in Veterans Park, a parking lot safety net to prevent damage to cars near playing fields, lighting for the tennis and pickleball courts, and ball-

field lighting.

The council suggested that funds be used for the ADA bathrooms, lighting at the tennis and pickleball courts, and as much ball-field lighting as possible after the completion of the first two priorities.

Bergeron also established that \$900,136 of the city’s fund balance could be used for capital improvement projects. He recommended that the roof of the Fiske Free Library be replaced at a cost of \$316,086, and that the Freedom Street project be completed at a cost of \$590,050. None of these expenses would impact the tax rate. The Freedom Street project refers to the replacement and stabilization of the water and sewer infrastructure between Freedom and Belding streets. The council agreed that the funds should be spent for these projects.

The Claremont City Council meets on the second and fourth Wednesday

days of each month, at 6:30 p.m., in the Claremont City Hall Council Chambers.

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8 High Street • PO Box 228 • Ludlow, VT
BILLING ADDRESS:
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PHONE NUMBER:
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WEBSITE:
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CONTACT US

SHAWN TAE WEBB
publisher@vermontjournal.com
ads@vermontjournal.com
NICK GIBERTI
editor@vermontjournal.com
calendar@vermontjournal.com
JOE MCCAFFREY
sales@vermontjournal.com
LISA STICKNEY
messagesales@vermontjournal.com
PAULA BENSON
billing@vermontjournal.com

DEADLINES

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

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Claremont Back-to-School Festival and movie screening —

CLAREMONT, N.H. –The Claremont School District’s Back-to-School Festival will celebrate the new school year on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Barnes Park in Claremont, N.H.

With a carnival theme, this festival will feature games, prizes, food and drinks, live music, and fun for the whole

family, and the Claremont Kiwanis Club will be handing out popsicles.

That evening, at 8:30 p.m., the Claremont Kiwanis Club will also sponsor a screening of the movie “Super Mario Galaxy,” at the Claremont Visitors Center, 14 North Street in Claremont, N.H.

Tri Town Collectors Club to hold next event in Charlestown —

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Tri Town Collectors Club will hold its next seasonal show featuring coins, paper money, vintage sports cards, stamps, postcards, and other collectibles on Saturday, Aug. 29, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Charlestown Senior Center, 223 Old Springfield Road in Charlestown.

This daylong series of hobby activities is packed with fun for the whole family. Besides the usual offerings,

there will be many special guest dealers with displays of postcards, political buttons, and vintage and modern sports cards. There will also be a free hobby giveaway table geared especially toward children.

There is no admission charge, and anyone wishing to set up a free card table to sell their material may do so by contacting Joe Fuller at 802-379-2353 or pepsijoseph@yahoo.com.

How are we doing? —

REGION – As we approach our first anniversary at The Message of the Week, we want to hear from you. How are we doing?

If you’re a reader, what do you enjoy most, or what news do you look for first? Are our papers easy to access, or in locations from which they are easy to pick up? Are you participating in any interactive pages, such as our monthly Puzzle Page contest?

For advertisers, we’d love to get your opinion. Is the printed marketing supporting your business? Are you happy with locations in which the papers are accessible?

Please let us know what you think and provide us with your feedback. We’d appreciate sharing your response in celebration of our upcoming anniversary. We thank our readers and advertisers for all of your

support of our free community newspaper, and we look forward to many years to come.

You can email your feedback to Publisher Shawn-tae, at publisher@vermontjournal.com; Editor Nick, at editor@vermontjournal.com; message us on Facebook at The Vermont Journal; or mail a letter to P.O. Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149. We look forward to hearing from you.

Puzzle page winner

Congratulations to Jayda Golden, of Andover, for winning our puzzle page contest drawing! Jayda has selected the \$75 gift certificate to New American Grill. Look out for our next puzzle page contest in our Sept. 9 paper for your next chance to win.

Weekly SUDOKU												
Answer												
5	1	6	4	8	3	7	9	2				
2	4	7	5	1	9	3	6	8				
8	3	9	6	7	2	4	5	1				
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9	7	3	8	5	1	2	4	6				
7	5	1	3	9	8	6	2	4				
6	9	8	2	4	5	1	7	3				
3	2	4	1	6	7	9	8	5				

King Crossword												
Answers												
Solution time: 26 mins.												
COM	AHA	LAMES										
IMO	LAD	UHAUL										
GED	FIDUCIARY											
AGE	ALICE											
RAMA	EEL	TBAR										
	LCD	APIARY										
AORTA		FLAME										
FRIARY	ACT											
TSAR	EDU	SEEM										
JUDICIARY	TUDE	LVII										
AFISH	DEE	ERE										
GOPRO	SYD	STIS										

Dartmouth Health immunization leader recognized for contributions to public health

LEBANON, N.H. – Bryan L’Heureux, a systemwide leader in immunization coordination and planning at Dartmouth Health, has been named the 2026 Immunization Champion for New Hampshire by the New Hampshire Immunization Program (NHIP). The national award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to promoting immunization and protecting public health.

The award is presented by the Association of Immunization Managers and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

NHIP selected L’Heureux as New Hampshire’s 2026 recipient.

L’Heureux was selected from a pool of health-care professionals, community advocates, and other immunization leaders for his contributions to public health in New Hampshire, through his work coordinating immunization efforts across Dartmouth Health.

L’Heureux was recognized



Bryan L’Heureux. PHOTO PROVIDED

and presented with the award during NHIP’s quarterly conference call on Aug. 12.

Claremont Harvest Market Days seeks farmers, vendors

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Come sell your fresh produce or prepared food at Harvest Market Days in Claremont, hosted by The Apiary.

Harvest Market Days is held Sundays, from

1-4 p.m., from Aug. 23 – Oct. 11, at Runnings, 403 Washington Street in Claremont. You can apply to be a vendor at www.tinyurl.com/HarvestDays2026Application.

For more information,



Join the Claremont Harvest Market Days.

PHOTO PROVIDED

email TheApiary603@gmail.com.

Summer vendor market



Support small local businesses at the summer vendor market.

PHOTO PROVIDED

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Shop local and support small businesses on Sunday, Aug. 30, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., at Monarch Farms, 519 Jarvis Hill Road in Claremont, N.H.

Discover unique finds

from more than 20 local vendors from across New Hampshire and Vermont. Items for purchase will include handmade goods, plants and garden items, specialty foods and treats, unique gifts, clothing and

accessories, home decor, and artisan creations.

It is free to attend the market. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors for a day of shopping, supporting local businesses, and finding amazing treasures.

Pizza Hut partners with Sullivan County Humane Society

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Pizza Hut in Claremont, N.H., is partnering for a fundraiser with Sullivan County Humane So-

ciety. Twenty percent of all purchases made on Wednesday, Sept. 16, from 4-10 p.m., will benefit the humane society. If ordering online, use the

promo code HUTGIVES.

Pizza Hut is located at 227 Washington Street, Claremont, N.H., and can be reached by phone at 603-543-1243.

Fence erected at Cornerstone Charter School

NEWPORT, N.H. – The playground fence at Cornerstone Charter School is going up quickly thanks to hard work from Ultimate Fence Company LLC. We can’t wait to see our students playing, learning, and making friends in this beautiful space very soon.

Looking for a school that encourages active play and outdoor learning opportunities? Check us out and apply today at www.cornerstone-cs.org. We still have some spaces available.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Garden club dedicates Liberty Tree

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On June 30, more than 60 people gathered at the Crown Point Country Club, in Springfield, Vt., to celebrate the planting of a Liberty Tree by the Springfield Garden Club (SGC). This event, in turn, was part of a larger effort to plant 250 Liberty Trees across the nation by July 4, the 250th anniversary of the birth of our nation.

This story begins in 1775, in Boston, Mass., where Patriots would gather below an old elm tree known as the

Liberty Tree near Boston Common to discuss their dissatisfaction with British rule. The British sought to disrupt these gatherings and cut the tree down in August of that year. That, obviously, did not deter the Patriots, who went on to defeat the British in the Revolutionary War that involved the Crown Point Road.

Skip to 2023, when the Sons of the American Revolution formed the 250th SAR Liberty Tree Program with the goal of planting 250

disease-resistant Princeton elm trees, with at least one in every state. As of today, 325 Liberty Trees have been planted in 47 states. The tree in Springfield is the 291st tree to be recorded and one of only three in the State of Vermont.

Just this spring, SGC member Karen Jarret notified the garden club about the Liberty Tree project. It was enthusiastically embraced by the club, which quickly formed an ad hoc committee. In trying to decide where to install it, the Crown Point Country Club (CPCC) came to mind, as the historic Crown Point Road passes through it and the site is accessible to the public. The CPCC graciously agreed to welcome the tree on its premises. The tree was then ordered through Woodbury Florist, and it was planted by them on June 7, at the CPCC near Crown Point Road Marker No. 14.

June 30 brought a little rain, but still brought a full house to join in the dedication ceremony. Mike Martin started off by stating the CPCC was honored to be the permanent home of the Liberty Tree, and then introduced the SGC president,

Adrienne Faulhaber, who led the program. Faulhaber welcomed representatives from the Crown Point Country Club, the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Springfield, Springfield on the Move, the Springfield Art and Historical Society, the Charlestown VFW, The Fort at No. 4, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Springfield Reporter, WCAX Channel 3, Woodbury Florist, the Rockingham Historic Preservation Society, and the Crown Point Road Association; local veterans; and the public. Tim O’Hearne from the Charlestown VFW then led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance while reenactors in costume from The Fort at No. 4, Eric and Barbara Bye, held up a 1776-era flag.

Next, Karen Oehl, pastor of the United Methodist Church in Springfield, led the singing of the national anthem. Jeff Taft-Dick, an unofficial CPCC historian and SGC member, gave a brief history of the Crown Point Road and noted that Leland Lawrence, a founding member of the CPCC, suggested that the CPCC be named after the historical road. Taft-Dick also told an interesting story about President Dwight Eisenhower being given an honorary membership to the CPCC; the president ordinarily did not accept memberships to clubs, but made an exception because of the history involved. This was followed by a dedication prayer by Karen Oehl, who asked that the act of planting this tree be received as a “pledge of commitment to liberty and justice for all.”

The progress of the Liberty Tree project can be followed at www.piedmontchapter.org/Pages/NSSARLiberty-TreeProject.htm.



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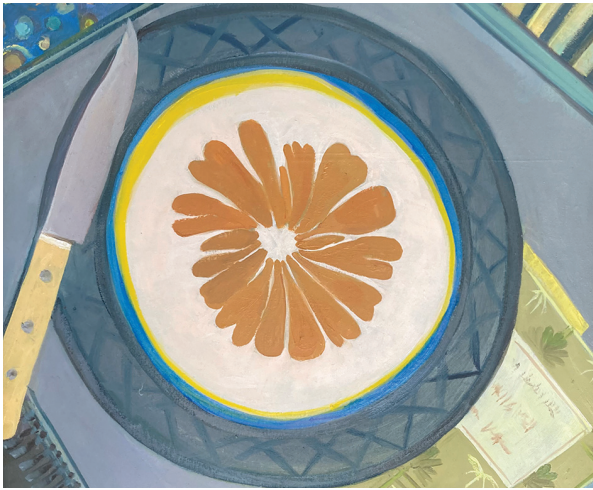
arts & events

New artwork on display at Canal Street Gallery —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Canal Street Art Gallery presents new artwork from Nancy Fitz-Rapalje, Kim Grall, and Edward Kingsbury III, open Aug. 21 – Oct. 11. Join the gallery on Aug. 21, from 5-7 p.m., for Bellows Falls Third Friday and an opening reception for the artists. All gallery events are free and open to the public; for wheelchair accessibility, call 802-289-0104.

Fitz-Rapalje, based in Bellows Falls, Vt., presents paintings from some of her familiar subjects, such as floral still lifes, peaches, and apples. Made in her calculated, geometric style of brushstrokes, Fitz-Rapalje employs her well-known top-down perspective, thereby flattening the background and focusing on placed objects. Fitz-Rapalje, referring to her paintings as “sketches,” describes her practice of painting quickly from observation as “a quick drilling of the eye and a short alla prima battle.” For the artist, the finished painting then becomes a reminder of that day when she really looked, and thus is reinvigorated to do it again.

Grall, based in Westminster Station, Vt., creates two- and three-dimensional artworks expressing the artist’s connection with nature



“Pomelo” by Nancy Fitz-Rapalje.

PHOTO PROVIDED

through the use of many natural materials which the artist grows, forages, and makes herself, such as beeswax; earth pigments; plant-based, handmade papers; raw fleece; leaves; feathers; and grasses. Most recently, Grall is making marbled, handmade papers. The artist also uses techniques such as pyrography, painting, and collage to make representations of scenes from the world, focused on birds, bugs, amphibians, and native plants where the wetland meets the forest.

Kingsbury, based in Keene, N.H., shows new abstract acrylic paintings, studies in color and pattern and the practice of making art as prayer. The resulting paintings are Kingsbury’s

abstract representation of God. The artist’s paintings are intricate line-made structures layered with opaque and translucent color, and all-over applications creating luminous woven surfaces.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street in historic downtown Bellows Falls, Vt., and is open Tuesday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.; and the third Friday of every month, from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information about the above solo shows, visit www.canalstreetartgallery.com, call 802-289-0104, or email artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com.

LAHS issues open call for artworks

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Londonderry Arts and Historical Society is pleased to announce its annual Local Artist Show at the Custer Sharp House, 2461 Middletown Road in Londonderry. This year we are excited to open the show up to crafters, and welcome any and all crafts, including jewelry.

The show opens on Sept. 5, with an opening party on Sept. 11, from 5-7 p.m.

We are looking for artists who would like to join us. Please bring framed art or other types of art, ready to display or hang. We prefer

wire on the back if possible. Please put the name of your piece, medium used, and your information (name, address, phone number, and email address) on the back of your piece. If you are a crafter, you may bring a rack or something to use for display. We do have some spaces that will work well for displaying.

The requirement is 30 by 30 inches maximum size. We will also accept needlework, jewelry, cards, and matted prints.

Receiving dates will be Saturdays and Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.,

through Aug. 22. You must fill out either the online form, or bring the physical form listing your name, address, phone number, title of the work, and medium. Please also label the work on the back. Pickup will be during the week following closing.

For more information, contact Bev Foster at 802-558-1211 or missbev1958@gmail.com, Trystan Bates at lahs1780@gmail.com, or Valerie Johnson at 802-875-3865 or valjean43@vermontel.net.

Fairy House builders, volunteers

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Nature Museum in Grafton is preparing for its biggest event of the year, the Fairy House Festival, to be held on Saturday, Sept. 26, and Sunday, Sept. 27. People from all over New England travel to Grafton to explore the enchanted Fairy Trail and see the magnificent village created by our local school classrooms, neighbors, organizations, and businesses.

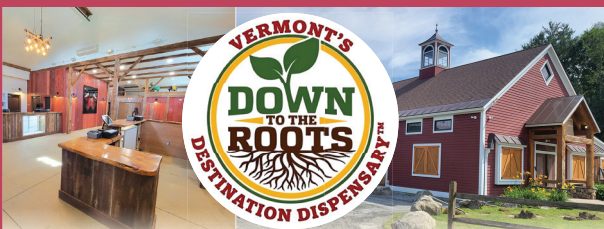
This festival and fundraiser is only possible due to the imagination and generosity of our community, and we invite you to join us as a builder or event volunteer to help us host this regional treasure.

This year, we’re excited to welcome the community to our new native gardens and gathering spaces. We have returning performers, and visitors can also look forward to expanded local merchants and food options. The theme for this year’s festival is “Village Life.”

Student volunteers can receive community service hours for their efforts helping a local nonprofit. Learn more about volunteering at www.nature-museum.org/fairy-house-festival/volunteer. You can also learn

more about being a builder at www.nature-museum.org/fairy-house-festival/builder.

Festival ticket sales begin in mid-August. Please plan to purchase your tickets online ahead of time.



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FOLA to screen classic “Safety Last”

LUDLOW, Vt. – It’s a cinematic image so powerful, people who’ve never seen the movie instantly recognize it; Harold Lloyd hanging from the hands of a huge clock, from the climax of his silent comedy “Safety Last” (1923), has emerged as a symbol of early Hollywood and movie magic.

See for yourself with a screening of “Safety Last” on Saturday, Aug. 22, at 7 p.m., in the Heald Auditorium at the Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot Street in Ludlow, Vt.

Presented by the Friends of Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA), the screening will feature accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based composer who specializes in creating live music for silent film presentations. Admission is free and all are welcome to this family-friendly event. Donations are accepted at the door to support the Friends of Ludlow Auditorium.

“Safety Last” follows young go-getter Lloyd to the big city, where he hopes to make his mark in business, then send for his small-town sweetheart. His career at a downtown department store stalls, however, until he gets a chance to pitch a surefire publicity idea: Hire a human fly to climb



The iconic clock tower scene from “Safety Last.”

PHOTO PROVIDED

the building’s exterior. But when the human fly has a last-minute run-in with the law, Lloyd is forced to make the climb himself, floor by floor, with his sweetheart looking on. The result is an extended sequence filmed without trick photography that blends comedy and terror, holding viewers spellbound.

Lloyd, along with Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton, is regarded as one of the silent screen’s three great clowns.

Lloyd’s character, an ambitious young man ready to struggle to win the day, proved hugely popular in the 1920s. While Chaplin and Keaton were always favored by the critics, Lloyd’s films reigned as the top-grossing comedies throughout the period.

Rapsis will create a musical score for the film live during its screening, in the manner of theater organists during silent cinema’s peak years in the 1920s.

“For most silent films, there was never any sheet music and no official score,” Rapsis said, “so creating original music on the spot to help the film’s impact is all part of the experience.”

“That’s one of the special qualities of silent cinema,” Rapsis continued. “Although the films themselves are often over a century old, each screening is a unique experience – a combination of the movie, the music, and the audience reaction.”

For more information on this screening, call 802-228-3238. For more information on the music, visit www.jeffrapsis.com.

Poetry reading at the Grafton Public Library —

GRAFTON, Vt. – Please join the Grafton Public Library on Tuesday, Aug. 25, from 6:30-8 p.m., for an evening with three Vermont poets, as part of our ongoing Neighbor-to-Neighbor Discussion Series.

Battleboro poet Tim Mayo will read from his latest poetry collection, “Muscle Memories of Love and Disaster,” exploring grief, loss, mortality, the suffering and

hopes of the mentally ill, and the rebirth of falling in love late in life.

Grafton poet Nancy Richardson’s poems concern the politics and personalities of our time. Richardson’s book “An Everyday Thing,” about the shootings at Kent State University, was named one the 100 best independent books of 2018 by Kirkus.

And our third voice, known to many in the area, offers this invitation: “Bill Toomey, a Grafton man,

has been writing what he thinks is poetry for all his life. But is it? He invites you to judge.”

There will be time for a Q&A session after the readings, and signed copies of books will be available for purchase. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is strongly suggested for this event, as seating is limited and the program will not be recorded. Please email librarian@graffton-publiclibrary.org to register.



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community news

Neighborhood Connections health fair –

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Neighborhood Connections will be holding its second annual Living Well Health & Wellness Fair on Friday, Aug. 28, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., rain or shine. The event will be held at the Londonderry Marketplace, 5700 Route 100 in Londonderry Vt. Free local produce and a free barbecue will be available on site. The fair is an opportunity for visitors to learn about wellness-based goods and services. A dynamic group

of exhibitors has confirmed attendance to bring awareness of benefits and health services to the Mountain Town communities. Confirmed exhibitors include the Alzheimer’s Association, Bone Builders, Care Patrol, the Climate Action Office, Dartmouth Cancer Center, Dartmouth Health Home Care, Economic Services, Efficiency Vermont, Go! Vermont, Home Matters Caregiving, Live-In Home Care, Mountain Towns Recreation, M&T

Bank, Northshire Day School, SEVCA, Smokey House, Springfield Hospital, Turning Point, Tai Chi Vermont, and United Way of Windham County. There will also be demonstrations of tai chi and Bone Builders which anyone can join. For more information, please contact Suzanne Burge, Neighborhood Connections outreach and events coordinator, at 802-824-4343 or Suzanne@ncvermont.org.

OLLI fall 2026 schedule —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is pleased to announce its fall 2026 programs. The first program, on Tuesday, Sept. 15, will be about Ira Allen and the Green Mountain Frontier, presented by Vermont historian Kevin Graffagnino. Registration is now open, and you can register online at www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield. You must pre-register and prepay to attend. Registration and payment cannot be accepted at the event. You can preregister now for the full series as a member. Beginning Aug. 25 and continuing throughout the semester, you may register for individual programs if you wish to choose only certain ones to attend. OLLI is run by local volunteers who believe in providing interesting educational and cultural programs to the community. Springfield OLLI is in its 23rd year and has contin-



Local OLLI volunteers.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ued to grow in popularity over the years. It serves the greater Springfield area, with members coming from a wide area encompassing southern Vermont and New Hampshire. It is a nationwide program which provides learning “for the fun of it” at an affordable price for older adults. Vermont’s OLLI is supported by the University of Vermont. The group meets on Tuesdays, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center in Springfield. Following is a look at the other programs. More detail can be found at the above website. On Sept. 28, Nadine Buddbill will discuss her father’s legacy with “The Poetry of a Place and its People: David Buddbill’s ‘Judevine.’” On Oct. 13, “Eyes to the Sky” with Candace Hess, co-sponsored by the Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society, will highlight hawk-watcher volunteers in California and a look at the local Putney Mountain hawk-watchers. On Oct. 27, Garrett Graff, historian and journalist, will discuss “The Midterm Elections and Beyond: America’s Path Forward.” On Nov. 17, Ethan Tapper, forester and ecologist, will discuss “The Forest Year” and give an in-depth look at his new book by that title. On Dec. 1, Mark Breen will return for his 15th annual presentation to the group as “The Singing Weatherman,” combining his passion for meteorology and music by presenting his collection of songs about the weather. Come join this exciting educational OLLI group to learn about interesting details on a variety of topics.

Diversion in conversation

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join Brandon Sheridan, Jon Bautel, and Beth Kopp from Valley Court Diversion Programs (VCDP) on Tuesday, Sept. 1, at 6 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library, for an engaging panel discussion, in which they will share insights into restorative justice, diversion programs, and the real-world impact of their work. The conversation will explore challenges, successes, and the importance of community-based approaches to justice, followed by an opportunity for audience questions and dialogue.

Sheridan, tamarack and pretrial services coordinator, joined VCDP in April 2025. He is a passionate advocate for mental health treatment and restorative justice, with years of experience supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental health challenges. Bautel, balanced and restorative justice case manager, is committed to fostering personal growth and strengthening community resilience. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling at the University of the Southwest. His background includes restorative justice, mediation, and youth advocacy, with experience facilitating programs across Michigan.

Kopp, driver’s license suspension and adult diversion case manager, joined VCDP in winter 2025 as a license reinstatement and diversion specialist. Previously working with the Vermont Treatment Court, she brings valuable experience and a continued dedication to restorative justice practices as she takes on new challenges. Together, they offer a thoughtful, restorative approach to supporting individuals and building stronger communities. To sign up for a reminder about this program, visit www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar.

Windham County Humane Society “Hot Firefighter Pet Calendar” —

REGION – The Windham County Humane Society (WCHS) just announced that presales are open for its highly anticipated, first ever “Hot Firefighter Pet Calendar” for 2027. WCHS teamed up with five local fire departments – Wilmington, Rockingham, Dummerston, Whitingham, and Brattleboro – to create a professional calendar featuring animal heroes posing with shelter dogs and cats that’s as hot and adorable as it sounds.

“I think this is a great idea to help the animals at WCHS, and I’m proud our department is involved,” said Wilmington Fire Department Chief Scott Moore. “We’re all animal lovers, and we’re happy to help the animals at the Windham County Humane Society however we can,” said Dummerston Fire Department Deputy Chief Leon Dunbar. Calendars are on sale now at www.windham-countyhumane.org. Calendars will arrive to WCHS by Oct. 15, and can be picked up at the shelter or mailed to you for a fee. “I had high hopes for this calendar, but it’s 1,000 times better than I dreamed,” said WCHS Marketing Manager Violet Zarriello. “We wanted to keep it fresh and interesting, so we staged cre-



Rockingham volunteer firefighters with kittens from the Windham County Humane Society’s Hot Firefighter Pet Calendar.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ative scenarios, including a dog picnic, a doggy spa day, and a kitten ‘library.’ Each photo is guaranteed to make you smile.” WCHS’ goal is to raise \$30,000 for shelter pets with calendar sales. “Every calendar you purchase will provide essential care, supplies, and services to the thousands of animals we have the privilege of caring for each year,” said WCHS Executive Director Maya Richmond. “This is a fun and creative way to help the animals while showing some love to our amazing first responders. We’re so grateful for their kindness, and to our community for supporting everything we do.” WCHS does more than just adoptions, and every service is funded by donations. It offers spay/neuter services, vaccine and nail trim clinics, microchip-

ping services, flea and tick preventatives, a pet food pantry, and wellness appointments for Pet Care Assistance (PCA) clients. Already in 2026, WCHS has placed 465 pets in new adopted homes and performed 995 spay and neuter surgeries. It has taken its services mobile with vaccine clinics, and offered free spay and neuter surgeries to Tri-Park residents. Animals arrive at WCHS as strays, owner surrenders, transports from other states, or when they are removed from an unsafe situation by animal control. Many are sick, almost all need vaccines and spay/neuter surgery, and every single one needs extra tender love and care before they are ready to meet their new families. Animals stay at WCHS for as long as they need to be before finding their forever homes.



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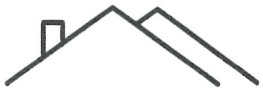


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SERVICES

obituaries

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Open Bible Baptist Church, 168 Cemetery Rd.
Sunday services are being held in the church. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m., Sunday morning service is 11 a.m., and the afternoon service is 1:30 p.m. Wednesday evening service is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at 802-674-2266 or visit www.obbcvt.org.

ATHENS, VT.

Community Christian Church of Athens, 126 Brookline Road
Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., and prayer meetings are held Wednesdays, at 7 p.m. If you have questions, call 802-869-2513. The 9:30 a.m. Sunday service is also streamed on Facebook Live at the Church's Facebook page.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church St.
Traditional Baptist Services held Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Handicap accessible. 802-463-3220.

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

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

St. Charles Church, 31 Cherry Hill St.

Masses are held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, at 7 a.m.; Wednesday, at 7 p.m.; Saturday Vigil Mass, at 4 p.m.; and Sunday, at 9 a.m. For more information, call 802-732-8721.

CAVENDISH, VT.

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.
Sunday services are 10 a.m. online or in person. Online services are on Facebook at 10 a.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Cavendish-Baptist-Church-258814894244302. More at www.CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St.
Sunday service starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 603-826-3335.

Charlestown Bible Church, 37 Hammond Rd.

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7 p.m. To hear a sermon or learn more go to www.charlestownbiblechurch.org. Call 603-826-5121 for more info or to request a personal Bible study.

Charlestown Seventh-day Adventist Church, 242 Main St.

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

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.

Worship is Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, including online streaming, go to www.chesterbaptist.org.

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

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

CLAREMONT, N.H.

Union-St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 133 Old Church Rd.
Weekly service of morning prayer or Holy Communion held on Sunday, at 9:30 a.m.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S. Londonderry
Worship service is Sunday at 10 a.m. at the church. Services will still be live streamed at www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html. For more information, visit www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org or call 802-856-7266.

LUDLOW, VT.

Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green, 99 Main St.
Weekly worship services are in-person. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for all ages, and Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday's prayer meeting is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.LudlowBaptist.org.

Tyson Community Church, Corner of Route 100 and Dublin Rd., opposite Echo Lake Inn

Services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. No service last Sunday of the month. For more information, email Ann Rose at 802-259-3016.

MOUNT HOLLY, VT.

Village Baptist Church, 32 Church St.

We welcome all to come and worship with us Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-259-2440.

PERKINSVILLE, VT.

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5, Weathersfield Bow

Sunday services are 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study and prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-546-4902.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

First Congregational Church, UCC, 77 Main St.

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in person. Singing is encouraged! For more information, call 802-885-5728, email fccucc@vermontel.net, or go to www.firstchurchspringfield.org.

North Springfield Baptist Church, 581 Giddings Street, North Springfield.

All are welcome and invited to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. For more information, please email the church office at office@nsbcvt.org, or call 802-886-8107. We are handicap accessible.

WALPOLE, N.H.

First Congregational Church of Walpole UCC, 15 Washington Sq.

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, or via Zoom. For Zoom links, please call 603-756-4075. For more information, go to www.walpolenhucc.org or www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH.

WESTMINSTER, VT.

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

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

Arnold Knowlton, 1944-2026



Arnold Knowlton, 1944-2026.

PHOTO PROVIDED

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Arnold Knowlton, cherished husband, devoted father, beloved grandfather, and Vietnam veteran, passed away peacefully on Aug. 7, 2026, after a courageous battle with an illness. Born on Dec. 12, 1944, in the picturesque town of Lancaster, N.H., Arnold's life was a testament to resilience, love, and unwavering dedication to those he held dear.

Arnold graduated from Groveton High School in 1962, graduated from Plymouth State College in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in teaching, and graduated from Hesser College in 1976 with an associate's degree in business science. After a short time in teaching, he changed his profession to food service, which he did until he retired. After he retired, he drove for the Moover, transporting people to their appointments.

Arnold was the treasured son of Clement and Eva Knowlton, of North Stratford, N.H., who preceded him in death. He shared a remarkable life journey with his beloved wife, Lorraine (Gagnon), to whom he was devoted for 58 long and happy years. Their marriage, which began on Sept. 12, 1968, was a beacon of true joy and happiness, and together they built a life filled with cherished memories and lasting love.

A man of quiet strength and boundless love, Arnold leaves behind a legacy through his children, Jessica, Jennifer, Scott, and

Christopher. His brothers were Stephen and Roger. His family was his pride and joy, and he was a constant source of guidance and support. Arnold's gentle spirit and kind heart also touched the lives of his 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, who will carry forward his values and love in the years to come.

Arnold's life was marked by a profound sense of community and generosity. He was known for his warm smile, genuine kindness, and ability to connect with people from all walks of life. His presence enriched the lives of many, and his memory will be cherished by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Arnold Knowlton will be remembered as a man of great integrity, love, and unwavering dedication to his family and community. His absence leaves a void that will be deeply felt, but his legacy of love and kindness will remain a guiding light for all who knew him.

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calendar

UPCOMING AUG. 21 –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Wild Goose Players will perform “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown: The Musical” on Friday, Aug. 21, at 6 p.m., at the Waypoint Center, 17 Depot Street. Admission is free for children and by donation for adults.

CHESTER, Vt. – Join the Springfield Humane Society for a grill and chill at One Credit Union in Chester, 569 Route 103 South, on Friday, Aug. 21, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Gerry Grimo & The East Bay Jazz Ensemble will perform at the Charlestown Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Friday, Aug. 21, from 7-9 p.m. Small suggested donation. There is a large dance floor and comfortable seating. Snacks will be available, BYOB.

AUG. 22 –
LUDLOW, Vt. – The Okemo Valley Women’s Club will hold its fundraising yard sale and bake sale on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., on the lawn in front of the Okemo Mountain School, 53 Main Street. The yard and bake

sale is one of several annual fundraising activities which the club holds to benefit its many community projects. The support it receives for these events benefits the entire community.

AUG. 23-25 –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River Street, will present the exciting play “Heaven’s Gates & Hell’s Flames” on Aug 23, 24, and 25, at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-4261.

AUG. 23 –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Wild Goose Players will perform “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown: The Musical” on Sunday, Aug. 23, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., at the Waypoint Center, 17 Depot Street. Admission is free for children and by donation for adults.

AUG. 25 –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield on the Move (SOM) will host its annual meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 25, at 5 p.m., in the Great Hall, 100 River Street. Everyone in the community is invited to attend, to find out what’s new with Springfield on the Move. Attendees will learn about SOM’s mission and vision for the coming year, discover exciting projections and initiatives, and engage with fellow community members to share ideas. Springfield Co-op will be catering the event, and there will also be other delightful provisions to enjoy. Don’t miss this opportunity to

connect and contribute to the future of Springfield.

AUG. 27 –
LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Second Congregational Church of Londonderry’s next community lunch will be served on Thursday, Aug. 27, at 12 p.m. The menu will be barbecued chicken, corn on the cob, potato salad, baked beans, and dessert. Our servers will cater to your every need. All are welcome. A free-will offering will be gathered. No takeout will be available. The Second Congregational Church is located at 2051 North Main Street (Vermont Route 11). For more information, call the church office at 802-824-6453.

AUG. 29 –
LUDLOW, Vt. – The Springfield Humane Society will be holding its third annual adoption event at Okemo Mountain Resort’s Ice House on Saturday, Aug. 29, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Okemo’s annual Fall Into Winter celebration will be held on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bring your family and friends as we welcome the transition from fall to winter with festive activities, delicious eats, and community spirit. Admission to the event is free, but you can purchase Fall Activity tickets in advance online at www.okemo.com/explore-the-resort/activities-and-events/okemo-events.aspx, or onsite during the event.

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. –

Join the South Londonderry Free Library for a late-summer open house on Saturday, Aug. 29, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. We will have art workshops, music, games, food, and fun. The library is located at 15 Old School Street in South Londonderry, Vt. Come see our delightful library and join in the festivities. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center’s annual car show will be held on Saturday, Aug. 29, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Claremont Motorsports Park, 282 Thrasher Road in Claremont, N.H. Registration for vehicles (driver and one passenger) is from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., for a small fee. Trophies will be awarded at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the gate, kids 12 and younger enter for free. There will be a DJ, door prizes, T-shirts, and a 50-50 raffle. Proceeds will benefit the Claremont Senior Center. Drone operators must have permission to fly during the event.

RECURRING SUNDAYS –

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

WEDNESDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Knitting with Friends at Six Loose Ladies

on the Chester Common, Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

THURSDAYS –
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.

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

SATURDAYS –
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.

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders, and mortgagees of property in the Town of Londonderry, in the County of Windham, and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Mountain Energy of Vermont, Inc., f/k/a Green Mountain Energy Systems, Inc., by Warranty Deed of Edward J. Duff and Barbara M. Duff, dated September 4, 2009, and recorded on September 4, 2009 in Book 65 at Page 95 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #104011, E-911: 3590 VT Route 100)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 16th day of September, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Be advised that the owner or mortgagee, or the owner’s or mortgagee’s representatives or assigns, of lands sold for taxes and assessments shall have a right to redemption for a period of one year from the date of sale pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5260.

Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 12th day of August, 2026.

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Jennifer Repinski by Quitclaim Deed of Scott Repinski dated March 25, 2019 and recorded on April 2, 2019 in Book 83 at Page 729 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #104020-500, E-911: 0 Old Farm Rd)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 16th day of September, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Jean Rogers Smith, as Trustee under agreement with Rochester H. Rogers and Lois S. Rogers, dated December 12, 1949 for the benefit of Fergus S. Smith, by virtue of:

1. Warranty Deed of Herbert O. Smith, dated July 10, 1972 and recorded on July 14, 1972 in Book 32 at Page 78 of the Londonderry Land Records;
2. Warranty Deed of Gordon M. Moodie and Helene Moodie, dated September 26, 1977 and recorded on September 27, 1977 in Book 36 at Page 311 of the Londonderry Land Records; and
3. Warranty Deed of Robert Praeger Venner, dated August 18, 1979 and recorded on October 3, 1979 in Book 38 at Page 259 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #027006, E911 address: 340-342 Melendy Hill)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 16th day of September, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Be advised that the owner or mortgagee, or the owner’s or mortgagee’s representatives or assigns, of lands sold for taxes and assessments shall have a right to redemption for a period of one year from the date of sale pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5260.

Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 12th day of August, 2026.

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders, and mortgagees of property in the Town of Londonderry, in the County of Windham, and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Melonie Bohen and Corey W. Stoddard by Executor’s Deed of Linda A. Smith, Executor of the Estate of James E. Adamson, dated May 22, 2013 and recorded on May 28, 2013 in Book 69 at Page 521 of the Londonderry Land Records. Reference is made to the Quitclaim Deed of Corey W. Stoddard to Melonie Bohen dated December 29, 2021 and recorded on March 29, 2022 in Book 94 at Page 672 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #063004, E-911: 105 Williams St.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 16th day of September, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to the Peter S. Brosnan and Susan N. Brosnan by Warranty Deed of Peter S. Brosnan and Susan N. Brosnan dated September 15, 2005 and recorded on September 17, 2005 in Book 62 at Page 367 of the Londonderry Land Records. Reference is made to the Warranty Deed of John Hart to Peter S. Brosnan and Susan N. Brosnan dated August 20, 2002 and recorded on August 30, 2002 in Book 59 at Page 389 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #036060-700, E-911: 0 Under the Mountain Rd)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 16th day of September, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Be advised that the owner or mortgagee, or the owner’s or mortgagee’s representatives or assigns, of lands sold for taxes and assessments shall have a right to redemption for a period of one year from the date of sale pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5260.

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Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders, and mortgagees of property in the Town of Londonderry, in the County of Windham, and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to the Estate of Peter S. Brosnan by Quitclaim Deed of Citizens Bank, N.A. dated February 13, 2024 and recorded on April 16, 2024 in Book 99 at Page 647 of the Londonderry Land Records. Reference is made to the Easement Deed of US Bank Trust National Association to the Estate of Peter S. Brosnan dated June 11, 2024 and recorded on June 24, 2024 in Book 100 at Page 243. (Parcel #036051-100, E-911: 3380 Under the Mountain Rd.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 16th day of September, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Be advised that the owner or mortgagee, or the owner’s or mortgagee’s representatives or assigns, of lands sold for taxes and assessments shall have a right to redemption for a period of one year from the date of sale pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5260.

Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 12th day of August, 2026.

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

LEGALS

opinion/classifieds

Dear Editor,

Kendra Rickerby’s letter of Aug. 12 about the Vermont Department of Education encouraging the use of AI in Vermont school systems and in the classroom is built on deceptive grounds. She has succumbed to one of the ploys the Wall Street gamers use to keep the AI bubble from bursting.

It was Wall Street hedge funds that invented “Democrats for Education Reform” when George W. Bush instituted the “Race to the Top.” Its purpose was not to promote better education, but to profit from the creation of the standardized testing industry. It is now the tech industry which is seeking to find some sort of profitability in a consistently unprofitable wild goose chase by tapping into the last vast reservoir of public funding: the public education industry.

The first test of AI as a help to students proved it a massive failure. A UMass study showed so, www.gazettenet.com/2025/11/07/use-of-ai-in-the-classroom-doesnt-lead-to-higher-grades-umass-study-says. And, to quote Elizabeth Laird, director of the Equity in Civic Technology Project at the Center for Democracy and Technology, “Our research shows AI use in schools comes with real risks, like large-scale data breaches, tech-fueled sexual harassment and bullying, and treating students unfairly.”

As for using it in school administration, there are two fatal flaws.

First, just like driverless cars, it will never have the subtlety of information processing that the human brain has. Just like the Waymo taxis on the streets of Los Angeles, it will need a

human operator to correct its deficiencies from moment to moment.

Second, to even promote AI as a solution is to completely miss Vermont’s real problem with education: The system as it is focuses on cost effectiveness rather than educational effectiveness. Nobody educates anybody well by focusing on costs. Humans are too diverse in essence to be treated like parts on an assembly line. The individualized approach to each one is necessary, and the people who understand that are teachers. Rather than prioritizing costs, we should give the teachers what they need.

One of the few high government officials to realize the value of education was Reagan’s Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinburger. When strategists suggested that Head Start be

eliminated so the money could be used to build more missiles, he squashed the idea. He knew how valuable Head Start was. Thirty years later, a study confirmed what Weinburger had felt: Adults who had attended Head Start programs in their toddler years had led far more law-abiding lives than their peers, consistently.

It is time to break the Wall Street profit-and-loss shackles. We must stop evaluating education by a balance sheet, empower teachers to use their professional skills, and judge by the long-term results: where the children arrive decades later.

Sincerely,
Chuck Gregory
Springfield, Vt.

A fed bear is a dead bear

REGION – In Stowe recently, the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife authorized the killing of a bear that had grown dangerously comfortable seeking food around people from homes and businesses. If the past few years are any indication, by the end of summer we will have had to put down or provide similar authorizations for dozens more bears to end acute conflicts that threaten human safety.

No one wants this outcome for Vermont’s bears, but when Vermonters fail to put proactive coexistence measures in place before bears learn that our homes and villages are good places to find food, this is the predictable outcome. This challenge is not limited to Stowe or even to mountain towns. Except for the Champlain Islands, if you live in Vermont, you live in bear country, and Vermonters are collectively failing our bears.

We say “collectively” because whole communities teach bears where to find food, not just individual households. It is tempting to blame one family’s birdfeeder or one business’s dumpster, but bears are more adaptable than this. Our neighborhoods need to be in lockstep taking down birdfeeders when

the snow melts and keeping trashcans and totes stored inside until immediately prior to pickup on trash day, and our downtowns need to present a unified front of well-secured dumpsters.

A bear that finds an easy meal when one house leaves their garbage out overnight will soon test other houses. Vermont’s bears mastered strategies like this over many years, and have now passed their knowledge on to multiple generations of cubs.

Bears are not at fault for these behaviors. Creativity, group learning, and tenacity are simply their nature. These are also the qualities that inspire our affinity and respect for bears. Humans are to blame when we collectively create situations that encourage bears to take risks and then fail to correct our mistakes quickly enough for coexistence to work.

Over the past several decades, our department’s approach to human-bear coexistence has centered on creating the conditions for our bear population to thrive and providing the information and assistance for Vermonters to voluntarily keep bears wild.

We conserve thousands of acres of remote bear habitat,

place hundreds of “Keep Bears Wild” signs in communities across the state, partner with the nationally recognized non-profit BearWise on print materials to share at workshops and community gatherings, and publish extensive coexistence resources online. We invite bear coexistence news coverage each spring and throughout the summer, support peer-learning networks on living in bear country, and oversee a sustainable, regulated bear hunt every fall.

Our biologists and game wardens annually field upwards of a thousand inquiries about living with bears, conduct hundreds of site visits to provide on-the-ground coexistence advice, and, in serious cases, wardens issue citations when bears are being intentionally fed. Even so, both the number and severity of bear incidents are escalating, putting

both bears and humans at risk.

Today, Vermont is home to as many as 8,000 bears, substantially more than in the past, but whether those encounters become conflicts has less to do with bear numbers than with what people do or don’t do. Human behavior, and specifically our ability to make good on the shared responsibility of living in bear country, is the single most important factor.

Put simply, Vermont’s bear population is thriving, and we need Vermonters to meet a higher standard as stewards of our bears. If we cannot change course together, then Vermont will continue to play out the grim adage: a fed bear is a dead bear.

Written by Vermont Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Jason Batchelder.

CHESTER SELECTBOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
ADOPTION OF
TOWN OF CHESTER MOTOR VEHICLE
AND TRAFFIC ORDINANCE

The Chester Selectboard will convene a public hearing on proposed revisions to the Town of Chester Motor Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester, Vermont.

The full text of the proposed Town of Chester Motor Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance may be viewed at the Town Clerk’s office and on the home page of the Town’s website at www.chestervt.gov.

A link to participate in this hearing via Zoom videoconference may be found on the Town of Chester website home page at www.chestervt.gov under Selectboard Meetings.

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 6th day of August, 2026
Julie Hance, Town Manager, Town of Chester, Vermont

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Town of Weston, Vermont – Job Opening
Highway Maintenance & Equipment Operator
Full-Time Position

The Town of Weston is seeking a qualified and motivated individual to join our Road Crew as a Highway Maintenance & Equipment Operator. This is a full-time, year-round position with benefits, offering the opportunity to work outdoors, operate heavy equipment, and support the essential maintenance of the town’s infrastructure.

Key Responsibilities:

- Plow and sand town roads during winter storms
- Operate trucks and heavy equipment for hauling, ditching, excavation, and road repair
- Maintain gravel and paved roads, drainage systems, culverts, and signage
- Perform roadside mowing, brush cutting, and general vegetation control
- Use hand tools and power equipment such as chainsaws, weed whackers, mowers, and chippers
- Conduct minor repairs and routine maintenance on town vehicles and equipment
- Assist with town building and grounds maintenance
- Respond to emergencies and weather events on a 24/7 on-call basis
- Communicate professionally with residents, coworkers, and supervisors

Qualifications:

- Must be in good physical condition, able to lift 35 lbs regularly and up to 100 lbs occasionally
- Ability to bend, walk, and work on uneven terrain and in all weather conditions
- Valid Class B Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) or ability to obtain one
- Experience with highway maintenance or heavy equipment preferred but not required
- Willingness to follow safety practices and town policies
- Positive attitude and ability to work as part of a team

Benefits Include:

- Competitive hourly wage based on experience
- Health insurance
- Retirement benefits, including pension
- Paid holidays and time off

Applications may be:

- Dropped off at the Weston Town Office
- Mailed to: Town of Weston, PO Box 98, Weston, VT 05161
- Emailed to: selectboard@westonvt.org

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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(10/07/26 - TFN - 13)

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(09/16/26 - 26)

real estate

PROS TO KNOW

Overcome homeownership FOMO

REGION – It’s easy to feel like everyone has homeownership figured out. Someone you know just bought their first house, a neighbor is renovating their kitchen, one of your friends is talking about their equity. Maybe this has you thinking, “Am I behind? Should I be doing something right now?”

I hear this more often than you might think, but the truth is that homeownership looks different for everyone. While someone is buying their first home, someone else is wondering how to use their home equity.

Since June is National Homeownership Month, I wanted to take a minute to remind you to stop comparing your situation to ev-

everyone else’s and walk you through how to take control of your own.

If you’re thinking about buying

A lot of buyers start by looking at homes online. And, while this part is fun, it’s not the first step you need to take. A better way to get started is to find out what you can afford.

When you apply online, I can review your financial information and talk through your goals to help you get a better idea of what options may be available to you. From there, I can guide you through how the mortgage process works, what documents you may need, and what kind of monthly payment range feels realistic for

you.

Don’t feel like you have to have it all figured out on your own. I’m here to help you navigate the homebuying process.

If you already own a home

Owning a home doesn’t mean the conversation is over after closing. A lot can change over time, including your home’s value, your loan balance, your budget, and what you need from your home. That’s why it can be

helpful to check in on your mortgage from time to time. Not because something is wrong, but because you deserve to know what options you may have waiting for you.

You may have more equity than you realize, especially if you’ve owned your home for a while or your home’s value has changed. My refinance calculator can help give you a quick ballpark figure of what you could potentially save

each month. It’s not a final answer, but it is a good starting point.

You don’t have to figure it out alone

Homeownership FOMO usually shows up when you have just enough information to feel behind, but not enough information to know what to do next. That’s where I can help.

If you’re thinking about buying, we can look at what may be possible and what

steps make sense from here. If you already own a home, we can talk through where your mortgage stands today and whether there’s anything worth looking at more closely.

Contact me today to talk through your questions and get a clearer idea of what could come next.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, PrimeLending, Ludlow, Vt.

“Vermont Civilian Conservation Corps Camps”

REGION – Historian Martin Podskoch’s book “Vermont Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: History, Memories & Legacy of the CCC” was released in August 2026. The book describes the history of the 36 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps and supply depots where young men aged 18-25 years and World War I veterans built dams, state parks, and state forests from 1933-1942.

For the past four years, Podskoch has visited and explored the 36 Vermont CCC camps and gathered the camps’ histories and photographs from historical societies, museums, libraries, personal interviews, and state and college archives. Families of CCC young men and veterans who worked in Vermont state parks and forest shared their relatives’ memories and photos of camp life and work projects.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began on March 31, 1933, under President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal to relieve the poverty and unemployment of the Great Depression. Workers built trails, roads, campsites, and dams; stocked fish; and built and maintained fire towers, observer’s cabins, and telephone lines. They also fought fires and planted millions of trees. The CCC disbanded in 1942 due to the need for men in World War II.

Brian Lindner, native Vermonter and historian, stated, “At a time when the Great Depression was crushing the dreams of Americans, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps. Vermont State Forester Perry Merrill saw its potential and successfully lobbied Washington with a long list of ‘shovel-ready’ projects that created the state park

system, hiking trails, forest fire protections, streambed improvements, and reforestation projects. These helped make Vermont a leader in the sport of skiing and outdoor recreation.”

The history of the following 36 Vermont towns with CCC camps and supply depots is told in Podskoch’s book: Barre Supply Depot, Bellows Falls, Bethel, Brunswick, Colchester Supply Depot, Colchester Army, Cuttingsville/Shrewsbury, Danby/Mount Tabor, East Barre, East Burke, East Wallingford/Weston, Elmore, Jericho/Firing Range, Ludlow, Marshfield/Groton, Mendon, Middlesex, Milton, Montpelier/Middlesex/Wrightsville, Montpelier/McKee, Moscow, Northfield, North Thetford, Peru, Plymouth, Poultney, Ricker Mills, Rochester, Saint Albans, Sharon, Underhill Center/Firing Range, Waterbury/Village, Waterbury/Dam, West Burke/Sutton, Wilmington, and Windsor.

“Marty Podskoch has been researching Vermont’s CCC camps for many years, and

this book provides a comprehensive history of them,” said Lyman Orton, proprietor of The Vermont Country Store. “Many of the trails at Bromley ski area were built by the CCC. The dirt road from Landgrove to Mount Tabor on Route 7 was worked on by CCC crews, and my father pointed out the excellent job they did, as evidenced by the good condition the road was in compared with some town roads that did not hold up as well. My father told me, ‘Those boys knew how to put down a good base,’ and it still rings in my ears.”

Podskoch is a retired teacher from Delhi, N.Y., in the Catskill Mountains, and the author of 12 books. He also writes a weekly column called “Adirondack Stories” in five Adirondack newspapers. Podskoch and his wife, Lynn, live in Easton, Conn. For more information, Podskoch can be contacted at 860-267-2442 or podskoch@comcast.net. The book is available from the author, and at book stores, The Vermont Country Store, and Amazon.



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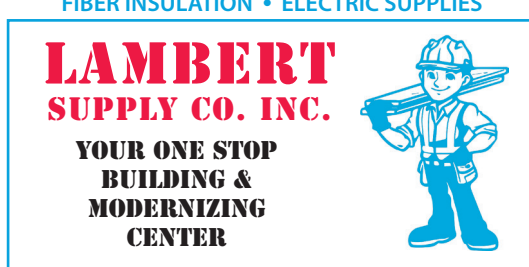
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arts & entertainment

Blue Flames Steel Band on the Weston Green

WESTON, Vt. – Come to Weston’s Town Green on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 4-6 p.m., for a special Blue Flames Steel Band concert. Bring a picnic, family, and friends, and listen to some wonderful music thanks to the enchanting Blue Flames Steel Band, who for the 16th year are donating their tal-

ent and goodwill to this festive community celebration. One hundred forty years ago, nine pioneer women turned a smelly frog pond and muddy swamp into what is now called the most beautiful town green in Vermont. The “Ladies of the Green,” in the spirit of their ancestors, welcome all to

join in sharing their spirit of community and to provide some assistance to help our beloved playhouse recover from the devastating floods of 2023. All contributions will benefit the Weston Community Association’s restoration of the Weston Playhouse.

WOOLstock presents seven hours of music

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Black Sheep Radio (WOOL FM) invites music lovers from across the region to celebrate community, live music, and local radio at WOOLstock 2026, taking place Saturday, Aug. 22, from 1-9 p.m., at the Bellows Falls Waypoint Center. Inspired by the spirit of the original Woodstock, WOOLstock offers seven hours of peace, love, and music featuring an outstanding lineup of regional performers, food, local beverages, and family-friendly fun.

This year’s performers include Man-Made Tragedies, The Milkhouse Heaters, Rustie Bus, and Chodus. WOOL-FM DJs will keep the energy flowing with live sets between performances throughout the day. In addition to great music, attendees can enjoy food from Smokin’ Bowls, beer and cider from 7 Balls Brewing, raffles, and prizes. Admission is reasonably priced, and children under 12 are admitted free, making WOOLstock an affordable day of entertainment for the entire family.

WOOLstock is both a celebration of local music and a fundraiser supporting WOOL FM Black Sheep Radio, the region’s volunteer-powered community radio station. Proceeds help the station continue providing diverse programming, local news, public affairs, and independent music throughout the Connecticut River Valley. For more information about WOOLstock and WOOL FM, visit www.blacksheepradio.org.

Jane Kolias’ “METALSUM” opens at NXT Gallery

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts invites the public to celebrate the opening of “METALSUM,” a new exhibition by Putney artist Jane Kolias, whose inventive sculptures and metal quilts transform discarded objects into compelling works of art. An opening reception will be held Saturday, Aug. 29, from 4-6 p.m., at NXT Gallery, located at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney. The reception will feature an opportunity to meet the artist, explore the exhibition, and enjoy light refreshments. RSVPs are encouraged at www.nextstagearts.org. Inspired by nature and guided by the materials themselves, Kolias creates rustic metal sculptures from abandoned objects gathered from antique shops, thrift stores, scrap yards, rural roadsides, woodland walks, and even the occasional kitchen drawer. Each piece begins with an idea but evolves organically as salvaged components suggest new possibilities. The resulting works celebrate creativity, sustainability, and the beauty of reinvention. Kolias generally leaves her finished sculptures unpainted, allowing the original character and weathered surfaces of the salvaged materials to remain visible.

“METALSUM” also introduces a newer dimension of Kolias’ practice: vibrant metal quilts crafted from vintage cookie tins. Drawing inspiration from traditional quilt patterns while embracing colorful reclaimed materials, these works expand her exploration of texture, pattern, color, and found-object artistry. “Metal quilting is a new endeavor for me,” Kolias explains. “I use traditional quilt patterns for design inspiration and colorful cookie tins as a base material. This invites me to bring the dynamics of color into my design work.” A lifelong artist, Kolias has worked across a remarkable range of creative disciplines, including theater, dance, costume design, textiles, landscape art, stonework, and hardscaping. Her artistic practice has encompassed community theater and cabaret, competitive ballroom dance, costume and wardrobe design, interior and textile arts, quilting, rug hooking, painting, needlepoint, and other crafts. She has also studied stonewall construction at The Stone Trust and developed her skills in hardscaping and rock-garden design. Her recent focus on metalwork – including jewelry making, metal fabrication, welding, and metal quilt-

ing – brings together decades of creative experience in a body of work that is playful, inventive, and deeply rooted in craftsmanship. Born in New Hampshire and now based in Putney, Kolias has maintained a lifelong connection to the arts as both an artist and teacher. The exhibition will be on view at NXT Gallery through Nov. 8. The gallery is open during Next Stage events and by appointment with the artist. To arrange a visit, contact Kolias at juliet_kilo@msn.com or 603-703-5699, or contact Next Stage Arts at info@nextstagearts.org or 802-387-0102.

Wildlife photographs at Gallery at the Vault

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Galley at the Vault is excited to present “An Illusion of Proximity,” a show by wildlife photographer Steve Costello, on display from Aug. 5 – Sept. 22. Costello credits his special interest in wildlife, especially his love for birds and animals, to three mentors. Growing up in Burlington, a childhood friend’s father introduced him to the outdoors and wildlife. Costello later attended St. Michael’s College, where photography professor Chazz Sutphen’s critiques and inspiration helped him fall in love with the camera.

After a 10-year journalism career, Costello met bird advocate Meeri Zetterstrom on his first day at work at Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS), the electric utility serving Milton, Vt., where she lived. Zetterstrom, a native of Finland, had seen a single osprey, a species that had been wiped out by DDT in the 1930s in Vermont. She wanted the state and CVPS, which owned the lake above which Zetterstrom lived, to help restore the elegant raptors to Vermont skies. Costello, about 30, and Zetterstrom, in her 70s, became fast friends, and a partnership was born.



Fox kits.

PHOTO BY STEVE COSTELLO

Working with Zetterstrom, CVPS, later Green Mountain Power (GMP), and the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife, Costello helped make Zetterstrom’s dream come true. A pair of ospreys eventually produced a single chick on a platform just below Zetterstrom’s lakeside home, and thanks to Zetterstrom’s relentless efforts and support from CVPS and the state, the birds proliferated. Within a decade, dozens of ospreys were fledging in Vermont each year. In 2005, they were removed from the Vermont endangered species list. Throughout that effort, Costello learned at Zetterstrom’s hand how to photograph wildlife without affecting it, and how to use photography to move people to support wildlife conservation. Most of this collection was photographed from substantial distances with

long telephoto lenses. After retirement from GMP four years ago, Costello returned to his roots, writing wildlife stories and shooting photos for the Rutland Herald and the Times Argus on a regular basis. “One of my primary objectives is to provide the viewer with a look at wildlife they might not normally be able to see themselves, to put them face to face with these beautiful and interesting species,” Costello said. “I aim to create portraits of the birds, animals, and even reptiles, and what I call the illusion of proximity.” Gallery at the Vault is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, Vt. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit the gallery’s Facebook, Instagram, or website, www.galleryvault.org. Gallery at the Vault is accessible.

Cameo Baroque in Athens

ATHENS, Vt. – The Athens Brick Meetinghouse Committee, in conjunction with the Athens Historic Preservation Society, is honored to host Cameo Baroque at the 1817 Brick Meetinghouse in Athens, Vt., on Saturday, Aug. 29, at 4 p.m. Founded in 2014, Cameo Baroque – Leslie Stroud, traverso (Baroque flute); Beth Hilgartner, recorders and voice; Ernie Drown, harpsichord; and Laurie Rabut, viola da gamba – is Cameo Arts Foundation’s (CAF) in-house ensemble, and

specializes in the music of the Baroque era performed on period instruments. Cameo Baroque is dedicated to bringing some lesser-known masterworks of the Baroque period to audiences. Most programs include at least one work that has been transcribed and/or arranged by Hilgartner from 17th- and 18th-century manuscripts available online from the International Music Score Library Project, www.imslp.org. Cameo Arts Foundation, Inc. (CAF) organizes and underwrites Cameo Baroque benefit concerts so that communities in the

Vermont and New Hampshire region have access to high-quality, affordable live music, and organizations that work to meet basic human needs receive much-needed support. Admission at all CAF-sponsored concerts is by free-will offering, all of which goes to the Vermont Asylum Assistance Project, the designated charity for this concert. The Athens 1817 Meetinghouse is located at 2 Meetinghouse Road just off Route 35. For more information, contact Sherry Maher at 802-275-2835, or follow Athens Meetinghouse on Facebook.

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PHOTOS PROVIDED

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (OVRCC) is pleased to announce the sixth annual Best of Vermont Summer Festival, set to take place on Saturday, Aug. 22, and Sunday, Aug. 23, at Okemo Field, located at the intersection of Route 103 and Bixby Road in Ludlow, Vt. Gates open both days from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., rain or shine. Now firmly established as one of south-central Vermont’s most beloved signature events, the festival brings together the best of the Okemo Valley – its makers, its musicians, its flavors, and the warm, community-rooted spirit

that defines Vermont summers at their finest. Attendees can expect a vibrant, two-day marketplace alive with music and showcasing New England makers and artisans celebrating the Vermont spirit, fine art, specialty foods, maple and cheese producers, and craft beverage makers. An expanded family fun zone offers clown performances, face painting, and hands-on activities for younger visitors, while food trucks and a dining tent featuring New England lobster rolls round out the culinary offerings, all set against the sweeping backdrop of the Green Mountains.

The festival is made possible in part through the generous support of presenting sponsor Mary W. Davis Realtor & Associates, whose continued commitment to the Okemo Valley community exemplifies the spirit of local partnership.

Live music lineup
Two full days of live entertainment, proudly sponsored by Inside Edge Rentals at Okemo, span folk, rock, Americana, and jam, closing Sunday afternoon with an interactive crowd-favorite: line dancing with BOLD (Britt & Olivia).

Saturday, Aug. 22
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Bear Mountain Boys
1-3 p.m.: The Loonz

3-5 p.m.: The Rustie Bus Band
Sunday, Aug. 23
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Sammy Blanchette
1-3 p.m.: Rick Redington & Tuff Luv
3-5 p.m.: Line dancing with BOLD (Britt & Olivia)

Participating vendors
Nearly 100 vendors will fill the festival grounds with a rich variety of goods from the Okemo Valley and across New England. Their products and crafts embody the best of Vermont and the region, including work from woodworkers, jewelers, fine artists, and photographers alongside specialty food producers, maple and cheese producers, and agricultural farms.

Craft beverage lovers will find a strong selection of local breweries, wineries, and distilleries, rounding out a marketplace that truly reflects the depth and diversity of the Okemo Valley’s creative and culinary community.

Thank you to our generous sponsors
The OVRCC extends its deepest gratitude to the following exceptional sponsors, whose generosity and community investment make the Best of Vermont Summer Festival possible:

Presenting Sponsor Mary W. Davis Realtor & Associates; Lead Sponsors Okemo Mountain Resort and Inside Edge Rentals at Okemo; Foundation Sponsors The Vermont Country Store, Beacon Bank, and The Bus – Marble Val-

ley Regional Transit District; Beer Garden Sponsor Eight Oh Brew; Family Fun Zone Sponsors Cota & Cota, Heritage Family Credit Union, and Diamond Point Wealth Partners; Program Sponsors J Vineyards & Winery, Wise Oak – a Davey Company, LaValley Building Supply, Oliver Subaru, and Four Seasons Sotheby’s International Realty; Supporting Sponsor Vermont’s Down to the Roots Destination Dispensary; and Friends of BOV Homestyle Restaurant and Master Plumbing Heating Cooling Water Treatment.

Admission
Admission is affordably priced for the whole family and available at the gate or online at www.yourplaceinvermont.com/best-of-vermont-summer-festival.

the Best of
VERMONT
Summer Festival

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