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THE Vermont Journal

AUGUST 12, 2026 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM VOLUME 26, ISSUE 32

Collected, LTD. welcomes more space on the Chester Green

BY PAULA BENSON

CHESTER, Vt. – Friends Alison Cummings, Lisa McNealus, and Alice Christopher have known each other since they first met as classmates at Flood Brook Elementary in Londonderry. They remained close throughout their school years, graduating together from Vermont Academy in Saxtons River.

After successful careers in real estate, interior decorating, and fine arts, the women launched a new venture combining the ladies’ individual skills and shared passions for design, antiques, history, and collecting exceptional and one-of-a-kind items.

Now, Chester can finally welcome the fully formed iteration of the friends’ line of “useful and unique finds,” Collected, LTD. The new, larger location at 78 The Common first opened its doors in April, and just recently busted through a wall to expand into the rear building, creating a big, bright, beautiful space with high ceilings and lots of light. Each room is artfully designed and features carefully curated merchandise.

Cummings related that the philosophy of stocking the store was an effort to “bring in things that have a good feeling, history, or decorative sense, [an item] that means something to you.”

Collected, LTD. began as a

pop-up at Cummings’ 1700s farmhouse in Windham, then moved to a corner of Sugar Bob’s Finest Kind shop and cafe on Route 11 in Chester.

Cummings had assisted her mother in her job as an antiques dealer since she was a child. After her mother died in 2019, Cummings realized how important it was for her to honor that work. Christopher volunteered to come on board and brought her interior design background with her, adding vibrance and purpose to the displays.

“Alice...has an incredible eye for color, scale, and how to bring objects together to make a space come alive,” Cummings remarked.

Once McNealus joined the company, the brand really started to gain momentum. “Lisa, as an art teacher,” said Cummings, “has a wonderful understanding of art and color, and knows how to make individual pieces shine.”

“We all have a natural instinct for putting things together,” relayed Cummings. “But our individual strengths complement one another. One of us may see the history in a piece, another the color or artistic value, and another how it can transform a room. Together, we’re able to create something none of us would create quite the same way on our own – truly unique, curated spaces.”



Left to right: Alison Cummings, Lisa McNealus, and Alice Christopher outside Collected, LTD.

PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

The shop’s hours are Thursday – Monday, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The inventory is ever evolving, and Cummings reported that they want to expand the jewelry section and continue to bring in a variety of artist collections. With the increased space, the ladies

can now highlight more of their specialty pieces and create a gallery space. There is room now for workshops and wine tasting. Cummings has plans to host wreath-building and flower-arranging classes.

As always, it is important to celebrate and support local businesses, and the Chester Green just added another great option.

Kaminski resigns in Plymouth, tax rates set

BY SHAWN TAE WEBB

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – Long-standing Plymouth Selectboard member Rick Kaminski resigned at the July 6 regular selectboard meeting. Kaminski read aloud a letter that he addressed to the selectboard and the community.

Kaminski shared, “About 10 years ago I made a decision to volunteer some time for the town.” He said he was elected to the selectboard after Ralph Michael retired. “I survived three election cycles,” while serving on many other committees and boards within the town. “It has been a very interesting journey.”

Kaminski shared his appreciation for working with the community, volunteers, and neighbors. He relayed,

“As years stack up, I find that my mental capacities and cognitive thinking skills are slowly diminishing, along with memory loss. I accept this as part of the aging process. I feel this is not fair to the Plymouth residents I represent. You deserve better...I believe my seat on this board should be occupied by someone who is energetic and clear thinking.”

“My time has come to move on,” Kaminski expressed. “It has been an honor and a privilege to serve my community. I offer my resignation, effective immediately, to this board and all the other positions I hold in Plymouth. I believe the selectboard is in good hands under the leadership of Jay [Kullman], and I wish for nothing but the best for my hometown of Plym-

outh.”

Kullman, the chair of the selectboard, expressed his gratitude for working with Kaminski over the years, stating, “It’s hard to see you go.” The audience thanked Kaminski for his service.

At an emergency meeting on July 16, the Plymouth Selectboard met to set the municipal tax rate at \$0.7122 per \$100 of assessed property value, and the local exemption rate was set at \$0.0145.

At the Aug. 3 regular selectboard meeting, the board held an executive session to review selectboard applicants. The board confirmed that the individual who is appointed will have to run for election at Town Meeting in 2027.

Town Clerk Angela Kissell reported that Jeff Sailer was

appointed to fill Kaminski’s open seat.

Bruce Pauley, chair of the planning commission, also spoke about the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) regional plan. Pauley urged town residents to look at the new map to see if their properties have any zoning changes.

Pauley explained that the zoning language is there to guide local towns on how to frame their zoning bylaws, but it seems to “overstep” current town requirements. He expressed there are more than 65,000 vacant homes in the state, many of which serve as short-term rentals or second homes, and this new regional plan would allow for more homes to be built.

Pauley suggested that an

overlay map showing changes “would have answered a lot of questions for a lot of people,” or a more detailed map with town and property lines to help residents and viewers get a clearer idea of proposed changes.

You can view the map and related documents at www.trorc.org.

Attendees of the meeting agreed that the selectboard should compile a letter to TRORC stating their general disagreement with the language of the documents and the map. Residents are also encouraged to correspond with TRORC in order to protect their own properties.

The next Plymouth Selectboard meeting will be held Monday, Sept. 14, at 6 p.m., due to the Labor Day holiday.

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Ludlow grapples with noise complaints

BY NICK GIBERTI

LUDLOW, Vt. – Fifteen petitioners prompted the Ludlow Selectboard, at its Monday, Aug. 3 meeting, to restrict the hours during which Off the Rails, the popular local bar and restaurant, is allowed to provide live music to before 10 p.m.

According to some petitioners, the music volume coming from Off the Rails’ outdoor music space, known as “the Shed,” on Friday and Saturday nights has been so loud that it has caused difficulty sleeping or enjoying their outdoor spaces, sometimes going until as

late as 11 p.m.

In response to the petition, Town Manager Penny Wu asked that Off the Rails file an entertainment permit request with the selectboard in accordance with Ludlow’s entertainment ordinance, which requires all “dance-halls” – defined in the ordinance as establishments where “dancing is conducted or permitted therein” – to obtain a permit and selectboard approval before providing live or recorded music. While the ordinance does include language prohibiting “nuisances,” it only applies to those businesses which already hold entertainment permits, which, at

the time, Off the Rails did not.

Wu and Four Square Hospitality Chief Operating Officer Ray Payne, who was present at the meeting, said the request for the permit was filed the same day Wu made the request.

Payne expressed his willingness to work with the town and its residents to limit the disruption caused by the music, though he voiced some frustration with the lack of specificity in Ludlow’s ordinance. Citing Burlington as an example, Payne said that other municipalities’ ordinances are more specific in terms of allowable decibel

levels at a certain distance, while Ludlow’s is subjective and provides little practical guidance.

“[We] as business owners are trying to satisfy the board, the town, and the residents of the town, but we don’t have any real guidance,” Payne told the board.

While most of the board expressed sympathy toward the petitioners, board member Noah Schmidt said he felt that the permitting process was being applied unevenly. “I have a hard time looking at this ordinance and application and saying they’re doing anything wrong,” Schmidt said, questioning whether any other

businesses in town which provide live or recorded music have pulled permits to do so. Schmidt said he felt the board should update its ordinance, which has not seen significant revision since 1982, to be more specific in terms of its allowable decibel level and enforceability, as well as potentially varying the volume allowances depending on whether a business is located in the village or in a less densely populated area.

Board Vice Chair Justin Hyjek responded to Schmidt by noting that none of the other businesses in town

See **LUDLOW** on Page 2

Londonderry’s attention turns to Williams Dam

BY SHAWN TAE WEBB

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – At the Aug. 3 Londonderry Selectboard meeting, Londonderry Town Administrator Aileen Tulloch announced that the South Londonderry Library would be the alternative physical location for posting agendas and hearing notices. Tulloch also reported that tax bills were mailed, and taxes are due on Oct. 1. Proposals from Sanderson Trucking & Excavation were approved

for culverts on Little Pond Road and Spring Hill Road, for \$59,000 and \$68,500 respectively.

The board moved to hear from Jason Wilbur, who resides on the corner of Under the Mountain Road and Flying Squirrel Lane. Wilbur and his family requested that the town discontinue Flying Squirrel Lane, expressing that it is in poor condition, resembling a “dry riverbed.” Wilbur wanted to take stewardship of the road, saying he’d like to bring the road

up to standard “for biking, cycling, horseback riding, walking, and all those other things.”

Board member Taylor Prouty addressed Wilbur, explaining that Flying Squirrel Lane is a connecting Class 4 road, and that there may be future possibilities and uses for the road. Prouty also relayed that the town typically doesn’t opt to give up roads, and believed that upon Wilbur’s request, Flying Squirrel Lane could potentially be better maintained by the

town. “That’s just one opinion, which is why it’s important to have this discussion,” Prouty stated. Another option might be to request changing the classification of the road, Prouty added, which would result in more frequent town maintenance.

Chad Stoddard, of the Londonderry Planning Commission, transitioned to discuss the Williams Dam. Stoddard believes the town needs to move forward with the dam repair or replacement, which has been dis-

cussed on several occasions in recent years. Prouty expressed that “the brakes went on” when the selectboard heard from enough people that they needed more information. The voting was paused so that further studies could be conducted. “Are we at the point of voting or still discussing?” Prouty questioned.

Chair Tom Cavanagh explained that dredging the entire pond is estimated

See **DERRY** on Page 2

Ludlow Rotary Club honors local leaders

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Rotary Club hosted a bustling luncheon meeting, bringing together members and community figures for a special presentation honoring several outstanding individuals for their dedicated service, leadership, and philanthropy.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of the 2026 Ludlow Rotary Community Service Awards, bestowed upon longtime community champions George Benson Jr. and Pastor Abraham “Abe” Gross.

Benson was recognized for his lifelong commitment to the community and local economic vitality. Celebrating his 40th year at the helm of Benson’s Chevrolet, Benson leads a business that has served Ludlow for 95 years, making it Vermont’s oldest family-owned Chevrolet dealership.

Beyond providing essential employment to local residents, Benson’s Chevrolet routinely supports municipal needs by providing honest, low-price vehicle options to the Ludlow Police Department and town departments. Benson and his family, graduates of Black River High School spanning generations, down to his granddaughter currently in the Ludlow school system, have consistently backed local youth and recreation.

His history of service includes sponsoring Ludlow Recreation Department teams for many years; supporting local educational

fundraisers and hosting community events like trunk-or-treat; and giving time and financial backing to local organizations, including the Ludlow Rotary Penny Sale and the Side Hill Cronchers.

Gross was honored for his tireless advocacy, emergency response efforts, and deep-rooted volunteerism across the region. Serving as pastor of his church and assistant chief of the Cavendish Fire Department, Gross wears many hats in service to his neighbors.

During the catastrophic flooding events of July 2023, Gross worked on the front lines, helping set up an emergency shelter in the church basement, coordinating volunteer teams with the Mennonites, and working through Black River Good Neighbor Services to deliver regional flood relief. He even spent more than a week volunteering his time and materials to elevate a local family’s mobile home above future flood stages.

In addition to emergency response, his contributions include serving on the Green Mountain Unified School District (GMUSD) Board representing Cavendish, bringing a strong voice and a mastery of Robert’s Rules of Order to town advocacy; volunteering at Cavendish Town Elementary School, attending fundraisers, and personally building a safe gravel ramp connecting the first- and second-grade classrooms to

the playground; enhancing the Cavendish Fletcher Memorial Library with landscaping improvements for proper drainage; and sharing cultural traditions by teaching students about Hanukkah each Christmas season and participating in the Cavendish Memorial Day celebrations.

In addition to the Community Service Awards, Ludlow Rotary Club President Brigid Sullivan presented three esteemed rotarians with Paul Harris Fellow Awards, recognizing their continuous contributions to the foundation’s global and local humanitarian efforts.

Established in 1957, the Paul Harris Fellow Awards acknowledge individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their names, of \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. It is named after Rotary’s founder and represents a commitment to advancing world understanding, goodwill, and community welfare.

Members recognized were Mary Crowley, Kevin Barnes, and Kim Lampert. Sullivan presented each recipient with their Paul Harris pin, reminding them to wear the emblem proudly as a symbol of their service above self.

Benson’s Chevrolet School Supply Drive

LUDLOW, Vt. – Benson’s Chevrolet is proud to announce its annual school supply drive to help students throughout the surrounding communities start the school year with the tools they need to succeed.

From now through Wednesday, Aug. 19, community members are encouraged to donate new school supplies for children in preschool through sixth grade. Needed items include backpacks, notebooks, pencils, crayons, markers, glue sticks, folders, scissors, tissues, and other basic classroom essentials.

Donations may be

dropped off at Benson’s Chevrolet, 25 Pond Street, Ludlow, Vt., Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., or Saturday, from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

“As a locally owned dealership, we believe investing in our children is investing in the future of our communities,” said Corrie Roberts, of Benson’s Chevrolet. “A simple donation of school supplies can make a meaningful difference for a child beginning a new school year. We invite everyone to join us in helping local students start the school year prepared and confident.”

Since 1931, Benson’s Chevrolet has proudly served the region as your local Chevrolet dealership,

offering sales, service, and genuine Chevrolet parts while remaining committed to giving back to the communities it serves. Benson’s Chevrolet offers service on most makes and models.

Every backpack, notebook, and box of crayons helps provide local children with the resources they need to learn, grow, and build a brighter future.

For updates on the school supply drive and other community events, follow Benson’s Chevrolet on Facebook. Together, we can help send our kids in the right direction for a successful educational future.

For more information on Benson’s Chevrolet, visit www.bensonschevy.com.

Gill Home enjoys Cruisin’ Cow

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Aug. 7, the Gill Odd Fellows Home treated its residents and staff with an ice cream truck, the Cruisin’ Cow.

Residents are next looking forward to the lobster bake that is planned for Aug. 18. The Gill Home enjoys going above and beyond for its residents.

If you or a loved one would like more information about rehab or respite, or long-term care, contact the Gill Odd Fellows Home at 802-228-4571.



LUDLOW

From Page 1

have had a large number of petitioners complain to the selectboard.

Ultimately, the board voted to approve the entertainment permit, with the additional restriction that live music at Off the Rails end at 10 p.m.

Wu also commended the town’s emergency management team’s performance during the recent flood watch on July 28. “I feel

like the emergency management team performed exactly the way that you all would want them to,” Wu said.

In response to a “rumor” she said was circulating in town, Wu explained that the search and rescue team which was deployed to Ludlow during the flood watch did not cost Ludlow taxpayers any money. The team, Wu said, is deployed around the state in the event of potential emergencies in order to rapidly respond to any search and rescue or

recovery operations which may arise in the area.

Wu also wanted Ludlow residents to know that activity at the former Sam’s Steakhouse is related to the FEMA buyout of the property, as she had received concerned calls regarding trucks and personnel at the

property.

The Ludlow Selectboard will not hold its next meeting on the usual first Monday of the month, and will instead meet on Monday, Sept. 21, at 6 p.m., in the Ludlow Town Hall auditorium, due to the Labor Day holiday.

DERRY

From Page 1

at \$2.5 million. Dam repair costs total approximately \$500,000, or higher if the town opts to fully replace the dam. In total, Cavanagh said, expenses for the project could be upwards of \$5 million. Prouty noted that another option was to dredge just above the dry hydrant, which would prove to be “two very different numbers” for the dredging budget.

Prouty continued, stating that Ron Rhodes from Connecticut River Conservancy had previously advised against the town dredging the whole pond, because if there were another flood, the whole thing would likely fill with silt again. “That’s not a good use of taxpayer money,” stated Prouty.

Alternatively, the town could remove the dam. Cavanagh cautioned that if the dam is removed, the town would no longer be eligible to receive any clean-water funding.

Stoddard expressed, “It’s time for the town to vote...let’s let the town make the decision...then at least I have a chance to vote on it.”

Some members of the public wondered whether, if the \$5 million bond vote fails, the town would push the issue down the road or remove

the dam. It was confirmed that, provided the state has rated the dam as low as it can be designated, the state would likely remove it if the town does not take any action, and the town would still have to pay for the cost of removal. It was also noted that the repairs would need to be up to state standards, otherwise the state would likely still come in and remove the dam.

Tulloch said that the bond would likely go to vote in March.

Land-acquisition task force members were then appointed: Chad Stoddard from the planning commission, Nancy Jensen from the housing commission, Irwin Kuperberg from the conservation commission, Taylor Prouty from the selectboard, and Jen Greenfield from the community.

New bylaw amendments have been proposed by the planning commission. A public hearing will be held on Aug. 17, at 6 p.m., at the town office, before the changes can be read and adopted.

The Londonderry Selectboard meets on the first and third Mondays of each month, at 6 p.m., at the Londonderry Town Office and on Zoom. The Sept. 7 meeting was postponed to Tuesday, Sept. 8, due to the Labor Day holiday.



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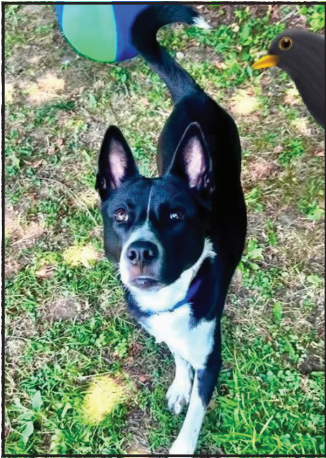


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401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt.



NINA

Nina, spayed female, 1 year old. Nina has lots of energy she loves to burn off by playing fetch and showing off her athleticism.

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society,
802-484-5829,
4832 VT Route 44, West Windsor, Vt.



LILY PAD

I am 2-year-old Lily Pad. I can have short kitty minutes and may get a bit overwhelmed. I think once I am in a home and no longer around other kitties I will calm down.

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ALLEN

Allen, neutered male, 10 months old. Allen loves to play by stalking around people and pouncing on toys.

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society,
802-484-5829,
4832 VT Route 44, West Windsor, Vt.



KINSKI

I am 3-year-old Kinski. I was a stray that was hit by a car and had FHO surgery on my left hind leg. I am all healed up but may walk a little funny. I am FIV positive.

Sullivan County Humane Society,
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Springfield Humane Society,
802-885-3997,
401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt.



BART

Bart, neutered male, 1 year old. Bart loves to snuggle up for belly rubs. He would make a great solo cat.

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society,
802-484-5829,
4832 VT Route 44, West Windsor, Vt.



FURRGIE

I am 8-month-old Furrigie. I can be a bit spicy, but we think once I am in a home I will be calmer. I may do better being the only kitty. Please give me a chance.

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BAZ

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Springfield Humane Society,
802-885-3997,
401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt.



GRAYSON

Grayson, neutered male, 3 years old. Grayson is very affectionate and loves to play with stuffed toys.

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society,
802-484-5829,
4832 VT Route 44, West Windsor, Vt.



BIGGUMS

I am 4-year-old Biggums. I was a stray outside. I am a shy boy but with patience I am expected to open up in a home to call mine. I am FeLV positive.

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802 Credit Union donates to local organizations —

REGION – 802 Credit Union is celebrating 802 Day by giving back to the communities that make the 802 special. In recognition of the annual celebration, 802 Credit Union locations across Vermont have each selected a local nonprofit or community organization to receive an \$802 donation.

The initiative celebrates both the 802 Credit Union brand and its deep connection to the communities it serves. Each location was invited to choose an organization or cause that is meaningful to its local community, putting the decisions directly in the hands of the employees who live, work, and serve members there.

“802 is more than our name. It represents where we live, where we work, and the communities we are proud to serve,” said Stacey Benoit, chief operating officer at 802 Credit Union. “802 Day gives



Our Place Community Food Center in Bellows Falls receives 802 Day donation.

PHOTO PROVIDED

us another opportunity to celebrate that connection by putting support directly into the hands of organizations doing meaningful work in our communities. Our teams know their communities well, and we wanted them to choose organizations and causes that matter locally.”

Organizations that received this year’s \$802 community donations included

Our Place Community Food Center in Bellows Falls, which provides food and other essential support to individuals and families in the Bellows Falls area; Windham County Safe Place, a child advocacy center and special investigations unit that provides free support, forensic interviews, medical exams, and therapy to child and adult survivors of physi-



Staff at the Springfield Town Library receive a donation from 802 Credit Union.

PHOTO PROVIDED

cal and sexual abuse, serving the Windham County community; Springfield Town Library, which serves the Springfield community as a resource for learning, literacy, information, and connection; Rescue Inc. in Townshend, which provides lifesaving emergency medical services with compassionate, professional care to communities throughout the

region; and Windsor Food Shelf, which helps address food insecurity and provides an important local resource for individuals and families in the Windsor community.

These donations, including others across the state, represent \$10,426 invested directly into Vermont organizations and reflect the diverse needs of the communities 802 Credit Union serves,

including food security, emergency services, youth and families, older adults, animal welfare, education, and support for vulnerable individuals.

“Community is at the heart of who we are as a credit union,” Benoit added. “These organizations show up for our neighbors every day. We are proud to recognize their work, support their missions, and celebrate 802 Day alongside the communities we call home.”

802 Day is an annual celebration of 802 Credit Union’s Vermont roots and its commitment to its members, employees, and communities. Throughout the year, the credit union supports local nonprofits, community organizations, events, and initiatives as part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening the communities its members and employees call home.

Celebrate abundance with chair yoga —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Honor the bounty of the season at August’s monthly chair yoga class at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street, on Friday, Aug. 21, at 10 a.m. Join in person or online to learn supportive, accessible movements you can do right from your seat.

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

Classes are led by Jo Bregnard, a 500-hour certified yoga teacher with additional certifications in tai chi, acupuncture, meditation, and more.

Simply walk into the li-

brary and join live in person for free; there’s no need to preregister for this option.

Springfield Town Library cardholders can contact the library at 802-885-3108 or stlib@vermontel.net to receive a coupon code for free online access. Those without a library card can visit www.studio.jobregnard.com/product/88980 for complete details on additional pricing options and to sign up for online access. Either way, you’ll get 11 chair yoga videos recorded at the Springfield Town Library as soon as you register.

For more information, email jo@jobregnard.com.

Edgar May Stingrays swim team wins at state meet –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Over the weekend of Aug. 1 and 2, the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center Stingrays youth swim team won Division 5 at the Vermont State Meet, held at the Upper Valley Aquatic Center in White River Junction.

The following swimmers achieved top-10 finishes: Jocelyn Maslan-Shaal, 10, of Springfield, in the 25-yard backstroke; Nizhoni Trahan, 11, of Bellows Falls, in the 200-yard freestyle; Nora Waters, 11, of Perkinsville, in the 100-yard backstroke; Janey Whipple, 14, of Springfield, in the 100-yard freestyle, 50-yard backstroke, 100-yard butterfly, and 100-yard individual medley (IM); Lizzy Warren, 14, of Springfield, in the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle; Roxcy Cammock, 14, of

Windsor, in the 100-yard backstroke; Ella Pelletier, 14, of Chester, in the 100-yard butterfly; Mollee Thurston, 15, of Bellows Falls, in the 50-yard breaststroke, 100-yard breaststroke, and 100-yard IM; Jasper Maslan, 6, of Springfield, in the 25-yard freestyle and 25-yard backstroke; Ethan Ring, 8, of Weathersfield, in the 25-yard backstroke, 50-yard freestyle, and 25-yard breaststroke; and Dean Long, 14, of Peru, in the 100-yard backstroke and 100-yard butterfly; as well as the 10-and-under mixed freestyle relay of Ethan Ring, Ben Gardner, 8, of

Charlestown, N.H., Aquinna Allen, 9, of Chester, and Evita Pelletier, 9, of Chester.

“I’m so proud of how we swam at states,” says Stingrays head coach Julia Lamb. “Everyone posted at least one best time, and most dropped significant time in multiple events. We

came together as a team, had fun, and swam fast.”

Do you have a child who is interested in joining the Stingrays swim team? Contact Lamb at jlamb@edgar-may.org to learn more.

For more information, call 802-885-2568, email info@edgarmay.org, or visit www.edgarmay.org.



The Stingrays swim team won the Division 5 championship.

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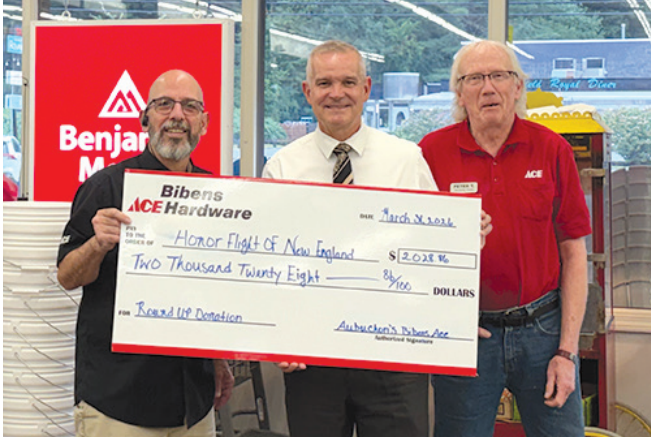
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Bibens Store Manager John Somers (left) and employee Peter Toney (right) present a donation check to Mark Fountain, of Honor Flight New England.

PHOTO PROVIDED

of March, Aubuchon’s Bibens Ace Hardware agreed to promote a fundraiser to benefit Honor Flight New England, a nonprofit organization based in Hookset, N.H. Management agreed to allow patrons to round up their purchases as part of the fundraiser to benefit Honor Flight New England.

Honor Flight New England was founded in 2010 by Joe Byron, who is the executive director. The organization raises money to cover all expenses to send World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans, to Washington, D.C., for the day to visit their respective war memorials and to pay tribute to all of the heroes for their service to our country.

The total amount raised throughout the fundraiser was \$2,028.86.

Byron wishes to express his sincerest thanks to the community of Springfield for their continued support of Honor Flight New England, and to the owners of Aubuchon’s Bibens Ace Hardware for their support and generosity.

On July 30, Store Manager John Somers presented Honor Flight New England Representative Mark Fountain with a donation check in the amount of \$2,028.86.

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802cu.com

SERVICES

obituaries

Dorothy Buxton
celebration of life

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – A celebration of life for Dorothy “Dottie” Buxton, who passed away on March 15, 2026, will be held at the Stoughton Pond Pavilion in Weathersfield, Vt., on Aug. 23, at 1 p.m. Please wear something purple to honor Dottie’s favorite color.

Kevin S. Hadley, 1956-2026

KEENE, N.H. – Kevin S. Hadley, 70, passed away from ALS (aka Lou Gehrig’s disease) on July 31, 2026, at Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, N.H.

Kevin was born on July 7, 1956, in Bellows Falls, Vt., to Ken and Janice (Blake) Hadley. At age 10, after his father died from ALS, the family moved to North Springfield, Vt.

Kevin loved sports, especially baseball, from Little League in North Springfield through high school. He was a standout on both the Cosmos baseball and football teams. More important was his enthusiasm for the games and his unwavering loyalty to his teammates. He graduated from Springfield High School in 1974.

Kevin was an avid Red Sox fan from the time he was a young boy watching the game on TV with his gramp. He was also a big fan of John Wayne, easily reciting lines from all his movies.

Kevin worked at Green Mountain Cabins in Chester, Vt., for a few years before he and his friend, the late John Hall, purchased an old fixer-upper Chevy van. They headed west in 1979, visiting national parks.

He attended Vermont Technical College and received his mechanical engineering degree in 1984. Soon after, he was recruited by AT&T/Bell Labs in North Andover, Mass., where his career morphed into microelectronic sales. This work sent him around the U.S. and overseas. He retired at the age of 59 from a global technology company that manufactured optical communication components.

In 1980, Kevin married Nancy Hadley from Springfield, Vt. They both shared a passion for travel while focusing on their careers. In 1992, they welcomed the birth of their son, Kenny. Over the years they resided in Exeter and Newfields, N.H. They enjoyed traveling, boating, the beach, and family gatherings. Tragedy struck in 2017 when their



Kevin Hadley, 1956-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

son, Kenny, succumbed to ALS.

A year later, Kevin and Nancy moved to Beaufort, S.C., where they resided for six years. However, they missed the four seasons and their families. They returned to New England, settling in Keene, N.H., in 2024. Soon thereafter, Kevin was diagnosed with ALS. He was fortunate to be part of a study and research group that offers a treatment to slow the progression of this dreadful, debilitating disease. He received a monthly injection at DHMC under the care of neurologist Dr. Elijah Stommel.

He leaves behind his wife, Nancy, after 45 years; his son, Kenny (predeceased); his sister, Marcia Fontaine; his niece, Morgan Fontaine; and brother Colin (Joanne); and many cousins, extended family, and friends.

Nancy would like to thank the staff at Cheshire Medical Center, including Dr. El Chami, for the incredible and compassionate care he received.

A celebration of his life will be held Aug. 23, from 12-5 p.m., at Harpoon Brewery in Windsor, Vt.

The family kindly asks guests to wear Red Sox attire to honor and celebrate Kevin.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the DHMC ALS Research Center or the ALS.org Association.

Arrangements are under the care of Cheshire Family Funeral Home, Chapel, and Crematories, www.cheshirefamilyfh.com.

Marion A. Crandall, 1932-2026

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – Marion A. Crandall, 93, passed away peacefully on Aug. 3, 2026, at the Gill Odd Fellows Home in Ludlow, Vt. She was born on Sept. 7, 1932, in Jamestown, N.Y. She was the daughter of Fred Grant Ayer and Wilma Robins Ayer.

Marion was raised in Plymouth, Vt., and went to high school in Ludlow and Springfield. She graduated from Springfield High School in 1951.

On Oct. 21, 1951, she married Gordon Maurice Crandall, who was home on leave from the Navy. They then moved to Berkeley, Calif., to start their life together.

Marion worked for the Meals and Wheels Program in Springfield, Vt. She delivered many meals to homebound people and brightened their days with her beautiful smile. Her grandchildren have fond memories of riding along with her while she delivered the meals. She also helped to organize all the other volunteers who delivered the meals. After working with this program, she became a caregiver for people who needed extra help and a companion. She enjoyed helping others to be able to stay in their homes as long as they could.

Some of Marion’s favorite things to do were gardening, reading, golfing, and staying up on politics. She had many dogs in her life, and they were a great pleasure to her. She spent many hours at her camp in Plymouth, Vt., stopping at yard sales on the way for “bargains.” When at her camp, time was spent with family at campfires and cookouts. These times were very special to her, and she spent many hours celebrating with her loved ones. Family trips to the beaches on the coast of Maine were times remembered and cherished



Marion Crandall, 1932-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

by all.

She is survived by her four children, Susan (Elwin) Crandall Peterson, Kathryn (Ronald) Crandall Westney, Rodney (Susan) Crandall, and David Crandall; and her grandchildren, Jeremy (Danielle) Pinders, Angela (Chad) Westney Sharrow, Jennifer (Eric) Westney Linn, Sarah Westney, Forest Crandall, and Robin Crandall; as well as many great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Marion was predeceased by her parents, husband, son-in-law Elwin Peterson, and four siblings and their spouses: sisters Margaret (Vincent) Ayer Silliman, Dorothy (James) Ayer Caporale, Virginia (Richard) Ayer Vorba; and brother William Steven Ayer.

Marion had a softness and a strength inside her that could be felt by all. She was loved by so many and will be greatly missed.

The family would like to thank all the staff at Brookwood Estate and the Gill Odd Fellows Home for their kindness and wonderful care provided during her stay with them.

A celebration of life will be held at the Davis Memorial Chapel on Saturday, Aug. 22, at 1 p.m., with a committal following at the Plymouth Notch Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Davis Memorial Chapel, 99 Summer Street, Springfield, Vt.

Christopher M. Farrar,
1954-2026

CHESTER, Vt. – Christopher Mark Farrar was born on March 23, 1954, as the fourth of five sons, to Ann and Francis Farrar, of Andover, Vt. As a youth and teen, Chris attended local schools, graduating from Green Mountain High School in 1974. From there, he pursued his undergraduate studies at UVM, earning his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering with a specific focus on computer electronics. Chris thereafter followed his career to the West Coast, working decades for Tera-data and IBM. He died sud-

denly on July 19, at his home in Los Gatos, Calif.

Chris was a fun-loving person who deeply enjoyed hiking with his friends in the beautiful regions of the West, and he loved photography. His family and friends will remember him as loyal, generous, keen-witted, good-humored, and polite.

Survivors include his four brothers, Francis Jr. (Jane), of Killen, Ala.; and Peter, Timothy (Noël), and Daniel, of Chester, Vt.; and numerous cousins.

Plans for a local service are yet to be determined.

David W. Spoor,
1935-2026



SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – David Warren Spoor, 90, passed away peacefully on the morning of July 21, 2026, at Providence Milwaukie Hospital in Milwaukie, Ore.

Born on Oct. 20, 1935, in Springfield, Vt., David served in the U.S. Army and earned an associate’s degree in engineering from Franklin Technical College. He worked at Kingsbury Machine Tool Company until retirement. David embraced the Baha’i Faith after being introduced to it by a coworker and found great meaning in its teachings. On June 11, 1972, David married Lucinda “Cindy” Gray after meeting her at a square-dancing event. They had one daughter, Melinda, born in 1973. Cindy passed away prematurely in December 1999, and he has always missed her.

He is survived by his daughter, Melinda Conway; son-in-law, Michael Conway; grandchildren, Tristan, Sequoia, and Keilani Conway; brother, Kenneth



David Spoor, 1935-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

Spoor; sister-in-law, Sara Spoor; three nieces, Katherine Gosselin, Karen Esteline, and Nancy Gunter; and three grand-nieces.

A celebration of life was held on Saturday, Aug. 1, from 1-4 p.m., at the Cathedral of the Pines, 10 Hale Hill Road, Rindge, N.H. Donations may be made to the Glaucoma Foundation at www.glaucomafoundation.org/donate.

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ASCUTNEY, VT.

Brownsville Community Church, 66 Brownsville-Hartland Rd.
Sunday service is 9:30 a.m., held in the church with reduced occupancy or streaming online at www.facebook.com/brownsvillecommunitychurch and www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org.

Vision of Light Church of Spiritualism and Healing, P.O. Box 133, Windsor

The Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with Lay Pastor Dawn Hancy via Zoom. Sign up for the Vision of Light newsletter and Zoom links on Facebook @VOLChurch.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.
Services are held most Sundays at 10 a.m., in person. Please join us. All are welcome. For more information go to Facebook @ImmanuelEpiscopalChurch or to our website www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

CAVENDISH, VT.

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.
Please join us Sundays, at 8:45 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/stjamesumcproctorsville.

GRAFTON, VT.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St.
Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to www.graftoncommunitychurch.org or call 802-843-2346.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 90 Park St.
Sunday Liturgy is 9:30 a.m. and Saturday vespers at 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-2615 or Parish Council President Thomas Barton at 802-263-5719.

WESTON, VT.

Old Parish Community Church, 644 Main St.
A diverse, informal, and welcoming congregation. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Jon Bliss, minister, at 802-299-6721 or email oldparishchurchweston@gmail.com, or visit www.oldparishcommunitychurch.org.

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG. 13 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – North Star Health will host a community health and fun fair on Thursday, Aug. 13, from 4-7 p.m., at the Great Hall, 100 River Street. This free, fun, family-friendly event is open to all ages and will feature a wide range of health and wellness activities, including free backpacks, free health screenings, community resource tables, massages from Shiatsu School of Vermont, professional face painting by Blossom Winks, a bounce house, an obstacle course, a photo booth from VT NH Photobooth, a bubble station with giant bubbles, and food for purchase from 802 Soul Kitchen.

AUG. 14 – S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The South Londonderry Free Library is pleased to announce a workshop for all ages on Friday, Aug.

14, at 10:30 a.m. Join art teacher Casey Junker Bailey to learn about artist Maria Merian. Her close observations of nature and detailed drawings in the 1600s changed the world's understanding of science in an age when women were not expected to be artists or naturalists. In this art workshop, which is free and open to adults as well as children, we will make our own butterfly books and learn to observe and draw the natural world. The project is appropriate for all ages. Participants will also receive a free copy of the beautifully illustrated book "The Girl Who Drew Butterflies." This program is supported in part by Vermont Humanities, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, www.vermonthumanities.org.

TUNBRIDGE, Vt. – A family contra dance will be held on Friday, Aug. 14, from 7-10 p.m., at the Tunbridge Town Hall, 271 Vermont Route 110 in Tunbridge, Vt.

Refreshments will be served at intermission. Admission is by donation at the door. Sponsored by Ed Larkin Contra Dancers as seen at Tunbridge World's Fair. For more information, contact Clyde Jenne at clydo46@gmail.com or 802-436-1152.

AUG. 15 – PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Join the Springfield Humane Society on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 11-3 p.m., at Singleton's General Store, for a barbecue and car show.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Cruisin' will play a free outdoor concert, weather permitting, at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 6-8:30 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs. Snacks and drinks will be served, BYOB if you wish. This concert is open to the public.

AUG. 16 – GRAFTON, Vt. – The Grafton Cornet Band

invites all to its free Foliage Concert on the Grafton Library lawn, 204 Main Street. It's a traditional community-band concert with familiar and upbeat music for the whole family in beautiful Grafton. Bring chairs or a blanket for comfort and maybe a picnic. For rain, the band plays in the historic Grafton Community Church with great acoustics. The band keeps its original 1867 name even though all wind instruments are now included. Glen D'Eon directs. There's a lot to do in Grafton on a summer Sunday, including shopping, galleries, museums, hiking, and good eating. Visit www.graftonband.org for more information.

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS, Vt. – On Sunday, Aug. 16, at 2 p.m., Kevin Graffagnino, Vermont historian and author, will present "Zadock Thompson and the Story of Vermont." Historian, naturalist, professor, and minister Zadock Thompson (1796-1856) played a significant role in how 19th-century Vermonters viewed their state's heritage and appreciated its natural resources. Thompson was born in Bridgewater. This program is co-hosted by the Bridgewater Historical Society and the Woodstock History Center, and it is

sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council. The program will be held at the Bridgewater Grange Hall, 129 Route 100A. It is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Order of Eastern Star Mizpah Chapter 40 will host a picnic on Sunday, Aug. 16, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., at 22 Buttermilk Falls Road. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Bring a salad or side dish. This event is open to all.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Historical Society will be hosting its annual open house and picnic on Sunday, Aug. 16, at 2 p.m., at "The Little Red Schoolhouse," 1591 Acworth Road. Please bring chairs and a potluck dish to share. Drinks and watermelon will be provided.

AUG. 17 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will serve lunch on Monday, Aug. 17, at 12 p.m. The menu will be John Murphy's barbecued chicken, salads, and cupcakes provided by Jackie's Bake Shop for dessert. Free cash bingo will follow. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. All ages are welcome.

AUG. 19 – CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Apiary, 84 Pleasant Street, will host a guided watercolor painting experience led by artist Tabitha Randall to create your own seashells on Wednesday, Aug. 19, from 6-7:30 p.m. BYOB, beverages, and snacks. Register at www.facebook.com/events/2560135507796522.

AUG. 21 – 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.

RECURRING EVENTS

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

MONDAYS – 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. – 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 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Every Wednesday morning, from 8-11 a.m., at the Springfield VFW Post 771, 191 River Street, we get together with fellow veterans for coffee and donuts, and socialize for a few hours. All veterans of all ages are welcome. You do not have to be a VFW or American Legion member to come. Call 802-885-6008 for more information.

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



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DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB) WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL Westminster, Vermont Legal Notice

The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 to consider the following:

Application # 27-05 **Luis Gaullpa (Owner) & Eli Reed (Applicant)** property located at
3366 US Route 5. The owner and applicant are requesting a Change of Use to convert a single-family home into an Inn serving a continental breakfast, located within the Historic Village district of Westminster, Vermont.. This Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 445 Village District Zone; & Article IX Historical Preservation Overlay of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Application # 27-06 **Mark Kielty (Owner)** property located at 3806 US Route 5. The owner is requesting approval for the demolition of the damaged structure and the subsequent renovation of the remaining existing structure within the Historic Village District of Westminster, Vermont. This Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 445 Village District Zone; & Article IX Historical Preservation Overlay of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Application # 27-07 **Philip Pellerin (Owner)** property located at 30 Chaffee Valley Road. The owner is requesting a Minor Subdivision in Westminster, Vermont. This Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 447 Rural Residential District Zone; & Article VIII Subdivision of Land (Minor Subdivision) of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Participation in the proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeals.

The application is available for review in the Westminster Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5 Westminster, Vermont 05158, Monday – Thursday from 7:30 am - 4:30 pm.

NOTICE OF TAX SALE TOWN OF WINDHAM

The resident and non-resident owners, lienholders and mortgagees of property in the Town of Windham, in the County of Windham and State of Vermont are hereby notified that the taxes assessed for such town remain either in whole or in part unpaid on the following described lands in such town, to wit:

1. Being land and premises consisting of 2.00 +/- acres located at 268 White Road (Windham Grand List Parcel Number 040114.1) as conveyed to Gary L. Clay, Jr. by Quitclaim Deed of Cathy L. Prouty, f/k/a Cathy L. Clay, joined by Douglas C. Prouty and Edith Hussey, dated April 14, 1998 and recorded April 20, 1998 in Book 32, Page 493 of the Windham, Vermont Land Records.

2. Being land and premises consisting of 1.40 +/- acres located at 418 Howard Hill Road (Windham Grand List Parcel Number 010028) as conveyed to Lisa Marie Meyer Beshay by Quitclaim Deed of Robert V. Packard and Lisa Marie Meyer Beshay dated April 5, 2021 and recorded April 12, 2021 in Book 58, Page 339 of the Windham Land Records.

3. Being land and premises consisting of 1.60 +/- acres located at 0 Windham Springs Road (Windham Grand List Parcel Number 040330) as John A. Simmons and David B. Runyon, Jr. by Warranty Deed of Norman P. Haller and Joy M. Haller dated October 14, 1981 and recorded October 27, 1981 in Book 21, Page 63 of the Windham Land Records.

4. Being land and premises consisting of 2.66 +/- acres located at 1397 Burbee Pond Road (Windham Grand List Parcel Number 070144) as conveyed to Karen A. Watts by Warranty Deed of Alexander M. Lehmann and Sandra Lehmann dated August 17, 2018 and recorded August 18, 2018 in Book 56, Page 10 of the Windham Land Records.

5. Being land and premises consisting of 1.70 +/- acres located at 0 Windham Hill Road (Windham Grand List Parcel Number 070201) as conveyed to Walter M. Webb III by Warranty Deed of Walter M. Webb II dated June 8, 1989 and recorded June 23, 1989 in Book 26, Page 369 of the Windham Land Records.

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A § 5254, such property will be sold at public auction at the Windham Town Office, a public place located at 5976 Windham Hill Road, Windham, Vermont on the 25th day of August, 2026, at 10:00 A.M., 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 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 Windham, Vermont this 21st day of July, 2026.

Paul Wyman
Collector of Delinquent Taxes
Town of Windham

NOTICE OF AN UPCOMING WESTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD HEARING

David and Travis Foster have submitted an application for a home business on their land at 171 and 278 Vt Rt 100. The Weston Development Review Board will hold a conditional use and site plan review hearing on this application at the Weston Town offices and on zoom on September, 2, 2026 starting at 5:00 PM.

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

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

Town of Weston, 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.

The Town of Weston is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LEGALS

opinion/classifieds

Dear Neighbors,

Have you been wondering what goes on inside Create Together? We would love to show you around. Drop by for a quick, casual tour of our space. You can see our setup, look at ongoing projects, and meet some of the creative folks in our community. Why you should join us for an upcoming workshop: Learn new skills; get hands-on guidance from experienced local instructors. No equipment is

needed; we provide all the tools, safety gear, and materials. Meet your neighbors; connect with fellow makers in a welcoming, collaborative space. Take home a creation; leave every session with something unique you made yourself. Whether you are a seasoned maker or have never picked up a tool in your life, there is a place for you here. We are located at Fletcher Farm, 611 Route 103

South in Ludlow, and open for walk-in tours almost any time you see the “Open” flags out, Tuesday-Saturday. You can also check out our full workshop schedule online at www.createtogethervt.org. Hope to see you soon. Sincerely, Charlotte Galley Executive Director, Create Together at Fletcher Farm

Dear Editor,

Six months ago, the Vermont Agency of Education released guidance encouraging schools to use artificial intelligence to improve teaching and learning while preserving the human relationships that define education. On July 16, it was announced that the U.S. Department of Education has identified Vermont as “needing improvement” in supporting students with disabilities. This article also noted that “the last time Vermont met the federal requirements was 2018.” At a glance, these two developments may appear unrelated; together they raise an important question: are we investing enough attention in improving how education is governed? 2018 also marked the first wave of forced school mergers under Act 46, with some communities having to permanently close their public schools two years later during Covid’s extended school shutdown in 2020. Vermont has spent nearly a decade reorganizing school governance through successive legislative initiatives, beginning with Act 46 (2016) and continuing through Act 73 (2026). Each promised structural improvement and cost efficiencies. During this same decade, the state’s special education performance deteriorated, educational spending continued to increase, and policymakers returned once again to debates over district organization rather than the effectiveness of governance itself. To date, public discussion has focused almost entirely on AI in classrooms. Far less attention has been paid to AI’s potential to transform educational governance. AI deserves to be considered not only as a classroom technology, but also as a governance technology. Governance is more than legislation or school board meetings. It is the system through which informa-

tion is gathered, priorities are established, decisions are made, and institutions are held accountable. Viewed through this lens, AI is not simply another educational technology; it is an opportunity to modernize the operating system of educational governance. Vermont has failed to meet federal special education requirements since 2018 while the number of students attending Vermont schools dwindles and the cost of operating our schools remains unsustainable. Those realities warrant more than another conversation about compliance. They warrant a thorough examination of whether Vermont’s educational governance model is equipped to meet today’s challenges. The legislature spent much of the 2026 legislative session debating mandatory versus voluntary consolidation without reaching a resolution before adjournment, leaving school administrators and volunteer school board members to plan for another year without clear direction. Vermont has spent years talking about reforming schools when it is governance itself that must evolve. Now that the U.S. Department of Education has told Vermont that it “needs intervention” in special education, it is time to examine underlying causes through a broader governance lens. A decade ago, Act 46 promised that consolidating school districts would improve efficiency and reduce costs. The fact is these goals have not yet been achieved. Educational spending continues to increase while the cost of living grows further out of step with Vermont’s economic opportunities. Rather than expecting schools alone to improve outcomes, we need to ask and answer whether Vermont’s governance model is helping or hindering their ability to do so. Vermont’s educators and

school-based leaders have demonstrated extraordinary resilience through consolidation, pandemic disruption, declining enrollment, fiscal pressures, and excessive waves of top-down reform. Before instructional strategies can be expected to solve yet another problem created elsewhere in the system, perhaps it is time for governance to become the object of improvement. If Vermont wants to reverse its current trajectory, the first step is not another round of school improvement; it is modernizing the operating system behind educational governance and school accountability. Artificial intelligence has received considerable attention as a classroom technology. Its even greater potential may lie in helping school boards, policymakers, and educational leaders synthesize complex information, evaluate alternatives, and make more transparent decisions. Strengthening governance in this way would not only improve Vermont’s ability to meet its federal obligations, but also increase public confidence that educational policy is being guided by evidence, transparency, and thoughtful human judgment. Sincerely, Kendra Rickerby Proctorsville, Vt.

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FOR RENT

CHESTER, Vt. – Share home with LGBTQ-friendly couple offering lovely furnished space on rural property with saltwater fish, two dogs, chickens. \$650/month. Compatible dog considered. No smoking. Covid vaccine required. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO. PROCTROSVILLE, Vt. – Singlemom offering furnished, 1st floor studio apartment. Seeking responsible adult for overnight presence, childcare, transportation, dog outings. Open to guest with compatible dog. Must be kid-and dog-friendly. \$700/month. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

WANTED

CLAREMONT, N.H. – This is a request for information for Dr. Emery Fitch, who had the first cancer clinic in New Hampshire in the 1930s. His practice was located on the corner of Kite Hill and Myrtle Street in Claremont, N.H. Seeking any photos of the Victorian mansion site for his practice. Would any of his pa-

tients still be alive? Contact Dan at dgdagenais@aol.com.

YARD SALE

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Moving sale, Saturday, Aug. 15, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. 481 Kendricks Corner Road, Perkinsville.



Attention Springfield High School Class of 2019 Alumni

Per state regulations we are only required to keep student records for 7 years.

We are notifying the class of 2019 that we will be destroying student records on August 14, 2026, unless we hear from you.

These must be physically picked up by you or provide written permission for someone else to acquire them.

Please contact Nancy Bovat at 802-885-7914 to coordinate a time to pick up your records if you would like them.

DESTRUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL RECORDS
SPRINGFIELD VERMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT
301 South Street
Springfield, Vermont 05156
802-885-5121

The Springfield School District (Vermont) will be conducting a “Destruction of Records”. These are Special Education records and personally identifiable information used within the Individuals with Disability Education Act but are no longer needed to provide educational services to students. The aforementioned records for students with a birth year of 2000 will be available for pick up before August 21, 2026. Any person desiring their records must put the request in writing or in an email to the Student Special Services Department.

Requests must include the student’s name (including any possible name changes) and the student’s date of birth. Please send your request before August 21, 2026, to:

Director of Student Special Services
Springfield School District
301 South Street
Springfield, Vermont 05156
(802) 885-5121
(email request to: adavis@ssdvt.org)

Other instructions will be provided after making initial contact.

Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Notice of Ordinance Adoption

The Town of Londonderry Selectboard hereby gives notice pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 1972(a)(1) that on August 03, 2026, the Board voted to adopt an Ordinance Controlling the Use of Alcoholic Beverages on Town Property.

In summary, the Ordinance Controlling the Use of Alcoholic Beverages on Town Property regulates the use of alcohol on Town Property by prohibiting its use unless specifically permitted by the Selectboard. This Ordinance supersedes the prior Alcoholic Beverage Control Ordinance.

The complete text of the Ordinance Controlling the Use of Alcoholic Beverages on Town Property can be examined on the Town’s web site (www.londonderryvt.gov) or at the Londonderry Town Clerk’s office, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155. Questions or comments regarding this proposed ordinance can be directed to Town Administrator Aileen Tulloch by phone at 802-824-3356, by email at townadmin@londonderryvt.gov, or by US Mail at 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155.

Unless a petition is filed as described below, the Ordinance shall become effective 60 days after the date of its adoption. Notice is hereby given of the right to petition for a permissive referendum vote on this ordinance at an annual or special meeting as provided for in 24 V.S.A 1973. Such petition for a permissive referendum must be signed by not less than five (5) percent of the qualified voters of the Town of Londonderry and shall be presented to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk within forty-four (44) days following the date of adoption.

TOWN OF CAVENDISH

The Town of Cavendish is seeking bids from qualified contractors for energy improvements to the Town Office, Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water Filtration Plant, and for ADA improvements to the Town Office. The Request for Bids and related plans and specifications can be found on the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission’s website <https://www.marcvt.org> under “Grants & RFPs.” A walk-through is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, starting at 9:00 AM at the Town Office (37 High Street in Cavendish). The deadline for bid submissions is Friday, September 4, at 4:00 PM.

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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(12/9/26 - 52)

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Russell Porter Retrospective July 23-Oct. 13
Born in Springfield VT on Dec. 13, 1871, Porter was a renowned artist, engineer, architect, cartographer, astronomer, and Arctic explorer.

An Illusion of Proximity Show by Wildlife Photographer, Steve Costello. Reception Aug. 14, 5-6:30. Show runs to Sept. 19.

Upcoming Workshops include *Raku* w/ Andrew Berends, *Painting the Vibrant Colors of Fall in Watercolor* w/ Rob O’Brien
(10/07/26 - TFN - 13)

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(03/17/27 - 52)

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(08/12/26 - TFN - 52)

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(09/16/26 - 26)

real estate

PROS TO KNOW

Are you using all of your VA home loan benefits? —

REGION – Do you know all your VA home loan benefits? I’ve met buyers and homeowners who are surprised to learn just how flexible these mortgages can be. They usually know it can help them purchase a home with \$0 down, but they don’t always realize it can also support other goals, like refinancing, renovating, or accessing home equity.

What Is a VA home loan?

A VA home loan is a government-backed mortgage, a portion of which is guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It was created for eligible veterans, active-duty service members, and qualified surviving spouses to make buying or refinancing a home more accessible.

The cool thing about these loans is the benefits they allow a lender to offer that aren’t always available with a conventional loan. That can include options like no down payment, no private mortgage insurance, and, at PrimeLend-

ing, no lender fees.

Other benefits include the ability to finance a higher-priced home, depending on eligibility and loan limits; no penalty for paying off your loan early; limits on certain closing costs; the option for the seller to help pay eligible closing costs; and possible support from the VA if you have trouble making payments.

What are my VA loan options?

Like other mortgage programs, VA loans aren’t one-size-fits all. Some of the most common options are listed here:

- VA fixed-rate mortgage: predictable monthly payments, great for people planning to plant roots
- VA adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM): flexibility, especially if you’re expecting to move in the next few years
- VA jumbo loan: a good option to help eligible borrowers buy homes that are above standard conforming loan limits.
- VA renovation loan:

helps finance home improvements or upgrades.

- VA cash-out refinance: access a portion of your home’s equity as a lump-sum cash payout to use any way you want (tuition, consolidating high-interest debt, unexpected expenses, etc.).
- Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loan (IRRRL): refinance at a lower interest rate to help lower your monthly payment or change your terms.

I know that list might look intimidating, but you don’t need to know what option fits you best before reaching out. That’s what I’m here to help you figure out.

Who qualifies?

Veterans, active-duty service members, and qualified spouses may all be eligible for a VA mortgage. This may include active-duty service members, veterans with honorable discharge, National Guard or reserve members with enough service time, or an eligible surviving spouse of a service member who died in the line of duty or from a service-related injury.

To confirm that you meet the VA’s requirements, you will need to request a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). Not sure if you would qualify? That’s totally normal. Just know, you don’t have

to figure it out alone. I can help you review the basics and walk through what may be needed.

Whether you’re buying, refinancing, renovating, or just trying to understand

your VA loan options, I’d be happy to walk you through everything.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, Prime Lending, Ludlow, Vt.

Update on former Parks & Woolson building

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Parks & Woolson building, located at 33 Park Street in Springfield, Vt., was originally constructed in 1826 as a three-story, gable-roofed, wood-framed building, housing a manufacturer of textile finishing equipment. Additions to the structure along the Black River were made in 1877, 1910, and 1914.

The Parks & Woolson building is one of the oldest existing manufacturing plants, and was one of the last major mills to remain operational in Springfield. It ceased production in 2003. The building has since fallen into disrepair and the



33 Park Street, the former Parks and Woolson Building. PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

property is currently designated as a brownfield, a site contaminated due to past industrial use.

The Springfield Regional Development Corporation acquired the property in 2023, utilizing funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, signed into law by President Biden in November of 2021.

The historic legislation generated a substantial investment in America’s infrastructure by funding expanded access to clean drinking water, high-speed internet, and the repair of aging roads and bridges, and by investing in the

elimination of polluted brownfield sites. Towns like Springfield can then reclaim these locations and repurpose them for use by the town.

Thanks to a joint effort between the Springfield Regional Development Corporation and the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, an environmental assessment has been ongoing at the historic site. To date, many barrels of oil and chemicals have been removed, and a corrective action plan is being drafted.

For more information on the activities and progress at the site, email Cindy at cingersoll@marcv.org.

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Hearing Impaired 1-800-545-1833 ext. 326

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(802) 362-4663 • Fax (802) 362-6330 • TDD 1-800-545-1833 EXT. 326 OR 175

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Planet Zydeco on the Putney Tavern lawn —

bers Cannon, Bonita, Alan, Michelle, Jack, and Mark are steeped in the genre. They love sharing this infectious music with the planet and play it with gusto on accordion, rubboard, fiddle, guitar, bass, and drums. This summer, the band will be featured in the dance tent at the prestigious Rhythm and Roots music festival in Rhode Island, as well as at Putney's Twilight on the Tavern Lawn concert series.

Dr Julian's Yes Yes will perform at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Belows Falls, Vt., on Saturday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance through www.stage33live.com or at the door. Only 40 tickets will be sold. Advance tickets guarantee entry. Advance sales will close at midnight the day before the show, or when the tickets are sold out. The performance will be recorded and filmed.

Amphitheater seating and benches are available, and guests are also welcome to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Saxtons River Park is located at the corner of Main and Westminster streets in Saxtons River. In the event of rain, the concert will be held across the street at Main Street Arts. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/saxtonsriverpark.

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

Pet Sounds Live at the Claremont Opera House

more than just a band. Pet Sounds Live is rock 'n' roll history come to life on stage like no other show before. In addition to the complete "Pet Sounds" album, the show also features many other Beach Boys classics, like "California Girls," "Don't Worry, Baby," "I Get Around," "Help Me, Rhonda," "In My Room," "Surfin' USA," "Do It Again," and the legendary pocket symphony "Good Vibrations," among others. Relive the magic of "Pet Sounds" through live music, narration, and visual multimedia

Tickets may be purchased online at www.cohnh.org/event/pet_sounds_live.

The festival features musicians from the Grammy-nominated Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Washington, D.C., alongside acclaimed performers from Philadelphia, New York, Los Angeles, San Antonio, and Vermont. As in previous seasons, the festival will conclude with the world premiere of a new work by its composer-in-residence,

For more information and a full schedule of events, visit www.pikesfallschambermusicfestival.com or email managing director Andy Sabol at info@pikesfallschambermusicfestival.com.

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Heating, cooling, and weatherization rebates

REGION – Vermont homeowners and renters can now access updated rebates from Efficiency Vermont, offering additional support to qualifying households for home energy upgrades like weatherization, new appliances, and heat pump heating and cooling systems.

The updates incorporate new federal income requirements that ensure Vermont’s low- and moderate-income households can continue to access additional incentives from Efficiency Vermont, electric utilities, and home weatherization partners.

“This update means income-qualified Vermonters can get extra help toward new heating systems, efficient appliances, and other upgrades that keep their homes comfortable and their energy bills affordable,” said Peter Walke, Efficiency

Vermont’s managing director. “Many Efficiency Vermont rebates are available, whatever your income, but it’s crucial to offer extra help to those who need it.”

Support for income-eligible Vermonters goes beyond rebates. Efficiency Vermont offers free and low-cost energy efficient household appliances and energy-saving services for eligible households and renters, connects customers to income-based rebates from Vermont’s electric utilities, and works with the state’s weatherization assistance programs on free weatherization services for income-qualified households.

Efficiency Vermont programs, many with additional support for income-eligible households, include the following:

Free resources to save on

energy – Call Efficiency Vermont’s energy advisers to understand your home’s energy use and ways to save, and to schedule a free virtual home energy visit to take a virtual tour of your home with an energy consultant for personalized advice to achieve your goals.

Rebates to save on energy-smart appliances – Stay cool this summer with \$150 off an Energy Star “Most Efficient” window AC unit. Keep the indoor air clean and comfortable with up to \$75 cash back on an air purifier, and find rebates for dehumidifiers, heat-pump clothes dryers, and other appliances.

Get up to \$7,000 cash back on home weatherization. Insulating and air-sealing a home keeps it warmer in winter and cooler in summer, because a weatherized

home uses less energy to maintain comfortable temperatures year-round. Get 75% of project costs covered, up to \$7,000.

Save \$375 to \$2,200 with heat pump rebates. Heat pumps can both heat and cool a home, like air conditioners that can also run in reverse. Get \$375 to \$475 off a ductless mini split heat pump, or up to \$2,200 off a ducted heat pump, and get up to \$1,000 back for a heat pump water heater that delivers hot water for your kitchen, bathroom, or laundry room. Many utilities and Efficiency Vermont offer extra heat pump incentives for income-eligible households.

Financing solutions can help reduce the upfront costs for home energy projects, with extra help offered to income-qualified households. Local lenders offer home

energy loans with no-to-low interest up to \$25,000, while the Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program allows households to pay off weatherization and other home-energy projects on their monthly utility bill.

Based on the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development income guidelines, Vermont’s income levels consider a household’s county of residence, income, the number of people in a household, and the area median income.

The update means a family of four in Chittenden, Franklin, or Grand Isle counties earning \$149,650 or less qualifies as moderate-income, while a family of four earning \$99,750 or less qualifies as low-income. Elsewhere, households of four people in nine other counties (excluding Chit-

tenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Addison, and Washington counties) would be considered moderate income if earning \$133,800 or less. The full breakdown of household income in all Vermont counties is on Efficiency Vermont’s website, www.efficiencyvermont.com.

Renters are also eligible for support under the updated income guidelines. Efficiency Vermont rebates for renters use rent limits, rather than renter income, to qualify. Renters in manufactured homes, multifamily units like duplexes and triplexes, and those living in studio or multibedroom apartments can access rebates and services.

More information on updated household income levels can be found on Efficiency Vermont’s website.

Reading Community Trust purchases Reading Grange

READING, Vt. – The Reading Community Trust (RCT) announced recently the commencement of its first town restoration and economic revitalization project with the July 1 purchase of the nearly 140-year-old Reading Grange, at 726 Route 106, in the Felchville neighborhood, Reading’s central, “downtown” section.

With a population of some 680 residents and few retail businesses still operating in Felchville, the closure of the town’s general store in the spring of 2024 left the community without convenient access to essential groceries, deli sandwiches, and neighborly engagement. Since then, the Reading Greenhouse has worked successfully to broaden its business footprint, largely filling the gap. Still, the

Reading community would welcome additional social and economic vitality within its downtown section.

After conducting extensive architectural and engineering assessments in Felchville, the Reading Grange became the trust’s primary focus for a site the restoration of which would preserve not only a historic building, but also restore that building’s storied, former role as a vital community hub.

The Reading Grange was originally constructed in 1893, in South Reading, where it housed the South Reading Cheese Factory. When the factory closed in 1902, the building was moved and reconstructed in its present location.

Throughout the 20th century, the Reading Grange served as an important

community gathering place. According to information provided by the Reading Historical Society, from the 1940s through the 1960s, the building hosted frequent public and private events that included penny bingo, square dances, bazaars, community suppers, baby showers, and wedding receptions.

In recent years, the historic building has fallen into serious disrepair. The RCT’s purchase of the Reading Grange for the price of \$85,000 is just the first financial step that the group will take in the coming months to raise funds that it estimates will exceed \$1 million. These funds will be needed to begin required renovations that include bringing the grange up to current building codes, and then preparing it for its next

set of uses.

The RCT’s work to revitalize Reading is supported by four partner organizations dedicated to rural vitality and historic preservation. These are the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV), the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), the Vermont Community Foundation, and the Village Trust Initiative (VTI).

In 2023, the VTI initiated a grants program for communities with populations fewer than 2,500 and commitments to revitalize their towns through specifically defined development projects. The funding was made possible through a \$10 million Congressionally Directed Spending award from former Sen. Patrick Leahy’s office.

The RCT developed its own revitalization plan for

Reading and applied for the Village Trust Initiative grant. In September 2024, the plan earned selection as one of seven villages in Vermont to receive VTI funding, receiving a grant of \$300,000 for the preservation of a historic building in Felchville. These funds are dedicated specifically for the restoration work itself; no amount of the grant could be used for the purchase of the Reading Grange. To raise additional funding, the RCT is actively soliciting private donors interested in revitalizing the Village of Felchville and the Town of Reading, and helping the RCT to shape a thriving future for the Reading community.

To cover the actual purchase of the Reading Grange, the RCT relied on privately raised funding that included contributions from

every one of the trust’s eight board members.

Going forward, the RCT and its board will look to volunteers throughout the community for both financial and construction assistance. Additionally, the trust’s business committee will actively seek retail operators who might be interested in helping the RCT customize the interior buildout of the grange to fit its future needs.

“We’re thrilled by Reading’s progress,” said Ben Doyle, president of the Preservation Trust of Vermont. “The grange is exactly the type of project we hoped this initiative could support: one that fosters community and uses a building from the past to shape the future.”

For more information, please visit www.reading-communitytrust.org.

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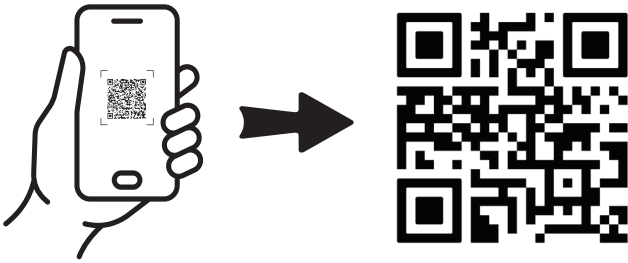
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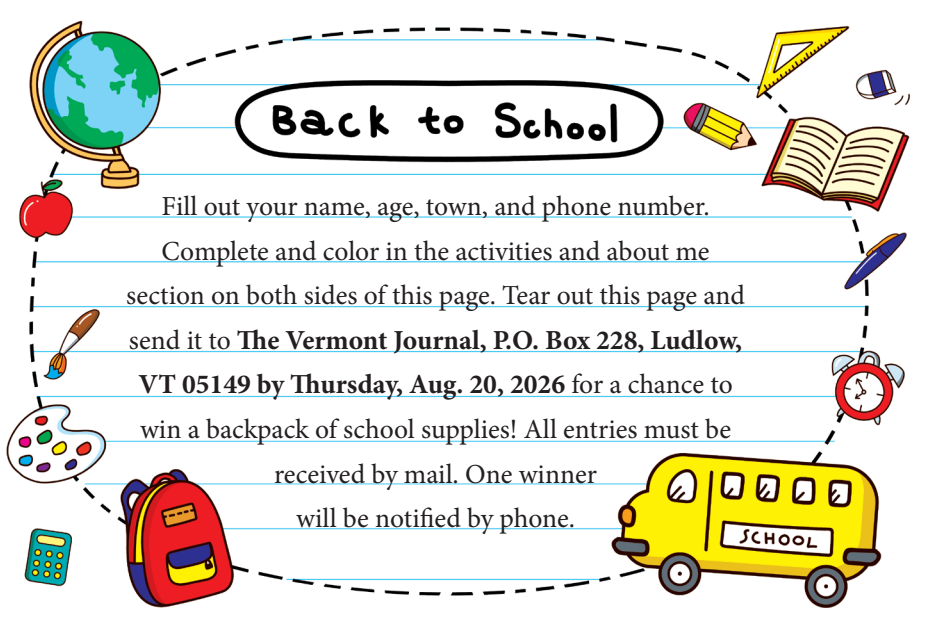
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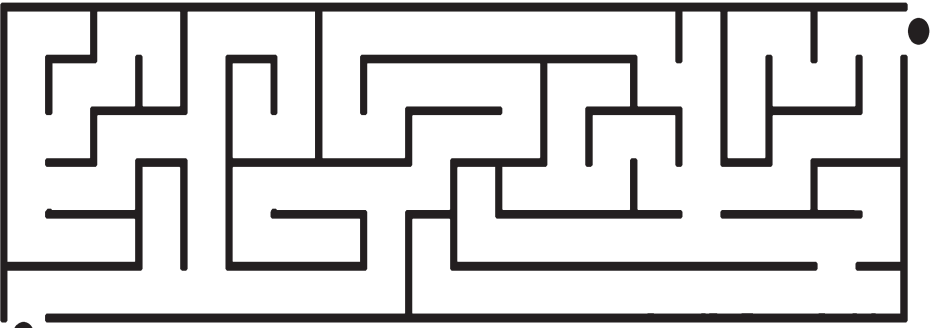
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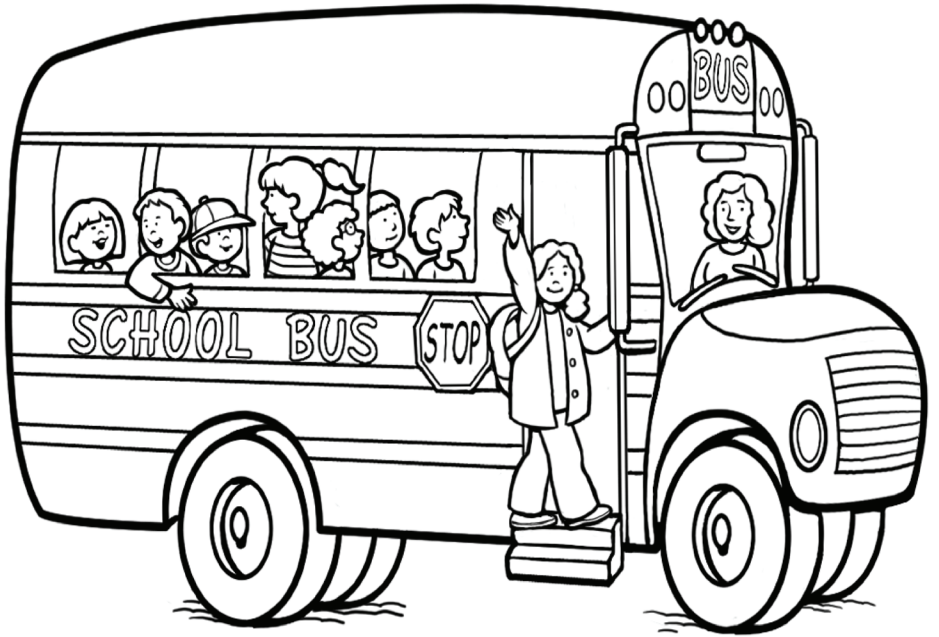
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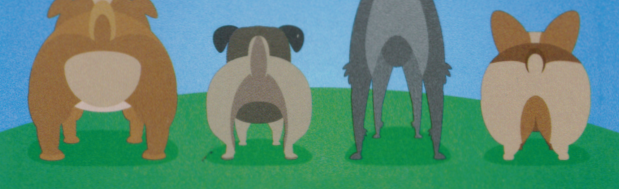
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