



Our office will be closed Monday, Sept. 7
EARLY DEADLINES BELOW



THE Vermont Journal

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Back to School backpack winners



Levi, 7, of Springfield.



Thea, 9, of Charlestown.

Congratulations to our two Back to School activity page winners! These two students received backpacks full of school supplies. We hope everyone has a happy and healthy school year.

PHOTOS BY JOE MCCAFFREY

Chester evaluates sewer plant upgrade, continues service review

BY NICK GIBERTI

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Selectboard discussed the possibility of replacing the town’s sewer treatment plant at its Aug. 5 meeting, hearing a presentation from Naomi Johnson, of Dufresne Group, which is responsible for planning and engineering of the proposal.

Johnson told the board that it has been 20 years since the last upgrades made to the current facility, and that the final bond payment on these upgrades will be made this year. The treatment facility was completed in 1972, Johnson said, and the state requires evaluation every 20 years.

The proposed new plant would increase the permitted flow to allow for more housing construction, or for the construction of larger businesses, such as a full-sized grocery store, in Chester. The current sewer system is at capacity, making the construction of additional housing or businesses difficult or impossible.

According to Johnson, the cost of the project was estimated at \$6,932,000, and would require a bond vote for approval.

Board member Peter Hudkins objected to the level of increase to sewer rates, estimated at 64%, which would be necessary to fund the project without alternative sources of funding.

Hudkins said that the town should rather work backward from an acceptable level of increase, suggesting 20%, when planning what upgrades and improvements to make to the treatment plant.

The board took no action on the issue at the meeting.

The board also continued its review of public services at both its Aug. 5 and Aug. 19 meetings. On Aug. 5, it heard from Police Chief Tom Williams, of the department of public safety. Williams told the board that the department was recently commended at a mock hazmat train derailment drill run by the State of Vermont, which the department attended due to the state’s choice to set the mock scenario in Chester, specifically the Wymans Falls area. Without notice, the Chester department was asked to take control of the training scenario, Williams said, and afterward state observers told Williams that the department had performed well.

However, Williams did note that recruitment of police officers has become difficult, and that this is in part due to Chester being one of the few towns to allow one-man shifts. In particular, officers at the beginnings of their careers, Williams said, are hesitant to work alone without formal guidance from

more experienced officers, or to place themselves in dangerous situations without backup, though it was noted that that Springfield Police Department often provides backup for Chester.

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Randzio also spoke to the board, outlining some of the duties for which Chester emergency personnel are qualified. These include death investigation, firefighting, crash reconstruction, evidence technician duties, advanced roadside impairment detection, field training, stop the bleed, LiDAR, radar, and technical rescue.

However, Randzio echoed some of Williams’ sentiments about recruitment, saying that, while call volumes have increased, there has been a 28% drop in volunteers since 2008. Some personnel, Randzio said, are working more than 40 hours per week, and staffing levels are currently not sustainable.

On Aug. 19, the board hard from Kirby Putnam, the town’s highway director, who explained that Chester’s highway department maintains a team of 10 employees, himself included. The highway

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Weston residents question the ethics of selectboard

BY PAULA BENSON

WESTON, Vt. – The Weston Selectboard was down to just three members when the most recent special meeting was held on Wednesday, Aug. 19.

Following the resignation of Selectboard Chair Denis Benson and the subsequent departure of Pam Dickman, the board’s most recent appointee, the selectboard currently finds itself in search of two new members.

Selectboard member Brian Gehlich, joined at the Aug. 19 meeting by Vice Chair Jim Linville and board member Kathleen “Katie” Moriarty-Fitzpatrick, announced that Dickman had turned in her letter of resignation and requested that it be read at the meeting. The board appointed Dickman at the April 14 meeting, after the March exit of Linda Saarnijoki.

Gehlich proceeded to read Dickman’s letter, which she addressed to “the Town of Weston,” and in which she stated, “The relationship between the selectboard and the public is mired in distrust, negativity, and drama.”

Dickman concluded, “I do appreciate the opportunity I was given, and I truly hope you succeed in finding a way to run our town in a cohesive, orderly manner.”

Upon prompting from Linville, Gehlich went on to report that road foreman Jason Hitchcock had also resigned, leaving the town without a road crew heading into the fall season.

The operations of the Weston Selectboard have come under fire lately, appearing to unravel within the past six to eight months among a handful of town officer resignations.

When Benson made the announcement of his retirement at the Aug. 11 selectboard meeting,

he referenced an incident during which Linville, with alleged assistance from Fitzpatrick, permitted the unauthorized use of the Weston Town Office by a group unrelated to the town. Benson had previously rejected the request from members of the Weston Theater Company to use the facilities at the town office. Linville ignored the chair’s decision and granted the theater group access.

Benson felt his time was not being respected, and said he receives no support from Linville. Before walking out of the meeting, Benson stated with some emotion, “[I have] been here about 30 years, so now it’s time for me to retire. Good-bye everybody.”

After Benson’s announcement, resident Ken Hall presented the selectboard with two ethics complaints against Linville for misuse of government resources. Claiming Linville’s unapproved access to town offices was a “prohibited act under the code of municipal conduct,” Hall also issued a complaint to Fitzpatrick “for essentially the same thing.”

“No one had authority to be messing with door codes to this building,” Hall stated.

Susan Morris, Weston resident and vice chair of the town’s development review board, was at the Aug. 11 meeting, where she said the board had “lost its way,” further stating, “[This board] is not functioning responsibly. Processes are ignored, legal requirements are overlooked, and basic attentiveness to your duties is missing.”

“Transparency is not optional,” Morris declared. “It is the baseline expectation of public service.” Morris referenced the recent employee turnover in the Weston Town Office, attributing it to an uncomfortable work environment created by interactions with the selectboard.

Morris concluded her statement with the suggestion that “some, if not all, of you should consider resigning. Weston deserves

leadership that is confident, lawful, transparent, and focused on the people it serves.”

At the selectboard meeting on July 28, the topic of an ethics liaison was raised, with residents questioning the validity of former executive assistant Shawna Batogowski holding the position, since she does not reside in Weston and no longer works for the town. Her proposed replacement, current selectboard administrative assistant Patty Greene-Pawelczyk, was rejected by residents who reminded members that any person who works directly for the selectboard is

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DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is **Tues., Sept. 1, at 4 p.m.** for the Sept. 9 publication.

EMAIL CALENDAR EVENTS
calendar@vermontjournal.com

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editor@vermontjournal.com

Londonderry approves wastewater operator

BY SHAWN TAE WEBB

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Londonderry Selectboard approved a wastewater operator services bid at their Aug. 17 meeting from Margaret Dwyer, of Windham Contract Water Services LLC, for \$55 per hour, with a maximum cost of \$17,500 per year. A second bid had also been submitted by Christopher Hayes, of Water Treatment Professionals, for \$80 per hour, with a maximum annual cost of \$33,288.

Chrissy Haskins, of Dufresne Group, previously gave her recommendation to the town to use Dwyer. The board added that Dwyer runs other local wastewater systems for Stratton Mountain Resort and Magic Mountain, and is familiar with the system itself. The board therefore approved the bid from Windham Contract Water Services.

The board also reviewed two bids for town hall general contracting services for the renovation projects, from GPI Construction and Hunter Excavating. The board discussed that Hunter withdrew his proposal after some misunderstanding on what was being bid.

Board members and Liam Elio, of the town hall renovation committee, reviewed the list of projects for the renovation, which

included insulation of the walls and attic, remodeling of the front porch, a redesign of the entrance, an ADA bathroom, and replacement of the rear door. They all generally agreed that they needed to fine tune which pieces of the project were priority in order to reduce the cost. They also discussed how the bathroom and rear entrance, which both need to be brought up to code for ADA compliance, could potentially qualify for Municipal Energy Resilience Program funding.

Town Administrator Aileen Tulloch cautioned that the town needs to approve a contract for the project by

Sept. 30. The board decided to issue a new request for proposal with a prioritized project to-do list in order to get a more accurate budget before approving a bid.

Tulloch also announced that she had applied for a Highway Safety Improvement Program grant about three months prior, and had recently received an email that the town was awarded \$50,000. The grant is designated for installation of guard rails on various roads, Boynton Road projects which have already been completed, and line striping on a few other roads in town.

On other agenda items, the board approved the

closing of construction and demolition waste and the take it or leave it services on Sundays at the transfer station. Members collectively endorsed the effort to pursue the village trust initiative for the historic preservation and revitalization concept at Squeaks House, 2296 North Main Street, with no financial obligation to the town. The board also adopted the old town stamp as the new town logo for letterheads and other town documents.

The next Londonderry Selectboard meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 6 p.m., at the town office and on Zoom, observing the Labor Day holiday.

Ludlow Rotary Club celebrates record-breaking duck race

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Rotary Club is celebrating another successful Ralph Hogancamp Memorial Duck Race, with the 27th annual event bringing plenty of sunshine and smiles, and a record number of racing duckies to the water.

A record-breaking 1,000 little yellow duckies took to the water for this year's race, creating a spectacular sight as they floated, bobbed, and battled their way toward the finish line. The weather couldn't have been better, with blue skies overhead and water at the perfect temperature and pace for a day of duck racing.

The race officially began at noon, and it didn't take long for one speedy little duck to make its move. The first duck crossed the finish line at 12:25 p.m., while the final determined "Last Little Duckie" continued its journey until 1:25 p.m., proving

that, when it comes to the duck race, it's not how fast you start, but how much you enjoy the ride.

Plymouth Fire & EMS was this year's beneficiary of the event, and was a big part of the event's success. The Ludlow Rotary Club is proud to support local organizations that make a difference in our communities, and the duck race continues to be a fun and meaningful way to raise funds while bringing people together.

This year's Corporate Business Duck Winner was Blue Duck Deli. Apparently, Blue Duck Deli decided that if you're going to be in the duck business, you might as well be in the winning duck business. With 1,000 duckies in the water, their little corporate competitor managed to rise above the flock and paddle its way to victory. We suspect there may have been some secret duck sauce in-

volved.

The Ludlow Rotary Club extends a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who sponsored a duck, volunteered, cheered from the sidelines, supported Plymouth Fire & EMS, and helped make the 27th annual Ralph Hogancamp Memorial Duck Race such a tremendous success.

From the fastest duck in the flock to the little duck that took its sweet time getting there, the day was a wonderful reminder of what happens when a community comes together for a great cause.

Congratulations to all the winners, and to all 1,000 duckies who took the plunge. The winners were: first place, Katherine Burr, of West Windsor, Vt.; second place, Lore Berty, of Milford, Conn.; third place, Dianne Stone, of Rockaway, N.J.; and Last Little Duckie,

Holli Garrett, of Essex, Vt.

This year, the Ludlow Rotary Club is celebrating its 100th anniversary, so each month the club is planning different events. Last month, it financially supported at least 100 of the individual fireworks displayed on the Fourth of July; for this year's duck race, the club decided to randomize the names of all who purchased ducks, and agreed to gift \$100 to the owner of the 100th duck in the Race, no matter where it placed. Ludlow Rotary awarded \$100 to duck No. 100, held by Kathy McMahon, of Ludlow. Next month, the club will be shoveling more than 100 shovels of new playground mulch at the Ludlow Elementary School playground on behalf of the Ludlow Elementary PTG; the expense



Kathy McMahon, winner of \$100 for purchasing duck No. 100. PHOTO PROVIDED

was funded by the club and a Rotary District Grant. In October, the club will be planting 100 purple crocus bulbs in each of the four towns in its service area: Ludlow, Cavendish, Mount Holly, and Plymouth. More 100 deeds will be following each month until the end of June 2027.

The Ludlow Rotary Club looks forward to seeing everyone again for next year's duck race. After all, once you've been in the duck race, you're officially part of the flock.

Visit www.ludlowrotary.com and follow the Ludlow Rotary Club on Facebook for other club news.

SoVTYPs trivia night, upcoming events

REGION – The Southern Vermont Young Professionals (SoVTYPs), a program of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) and Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategy (SeVEDS), has announced a new events calendar which runs through January 2027. The events are a mixture of networking meetups, fun recreation activities, skill-building opportunities, and volunteering in the Brattleboro area. There's something for everyone.

The next event on the calendar is River & Rye Triv-

ia, on Sept. 17, from 6-8 p.m., at River & Rye, 3894 Vermont Route 30 in Jamaica, Vt. Grab a plate and a drink, and maybe your thinking cap, for a night of trivia at River & Rye. Come put your knowledge to the test while supporting local business and enjoying a night out in beautiful Jamaica, organized by Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation. Contact Jack Spanierman at jspanierman@brattleborodevelopment.com for more information.

In October, a wild-life tracking workshop is

planned in Brattleboro; a holiday meet-up is scheduled for December, in Bellows Falls; and a first-time homebuyers workshop is scheduled in Brattleboro, in January.

For more details about upcoming events, visit www.brattleborodevelopment.com/resources/events-and-trainings. For more information and membership options, including business and corporate sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.brattleborodevelopment.com/sovtyps.

Killington Resort awards grant to Mount Holly Conservation Trust

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – The Mount Holly Conservation Trust (MHCT) is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a \$3,000 grant from Killington Resort's Upward & Outward Sustainability & Community Giving initiative. The grant recognizes MHCT's work preserving habitat critical to local flora and fauna, preserving the scenic beauty of our countryside, and creating and expanding opportunities for outdoor recreation, all of which make Ver-

mont such a great place to live and visit.

MHCT's president, Brigid Sullivan, said, "We are truly grateful to Killington for its generous grant, and especially for the recognition that it represents. Gifts like this are essential for us to continue our work and, as an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, every dollar is used solely for that purpose." Additional information about MHCT and its work may be found on its website, www.mounthollyconservationtrust.org.

Killington's donation to MHCT is the sum of the registration fees that contestants paid to participate in Killington's Superstar Showdown event in May, plus a matching contribution from Killington itself. The event is a contest to log the most vertical feet skied or snowboarded in a single day on the resort's black diamond Superstar trail.

More information about Killington's Upward & Outward initiative may be found at www.killington.com/sustainability-and-community.

WESTON

From Page 1

ineligible to serve as ethics liaison, as that would be a conflict of interest. The board pushed back at that,

and Linville stated the liaison position was not intended to be a watchdog role.

Hall addressed the board during public comment, remarking, "Public trust has been violated. The select-

board has racked up an absurd number of open meeting law violations which it is has still not taken care of."

Hall suggested the entirety of the board resign and allow the Secretary of State to schedule a special election in one month. "If any of you want your seat back, you can run for it and explain to everyone why they should trust you."

Instead, the remaining three board members are not stepping down, and have notified and warned

Weston voters of a Special Town Meeting set for Saturday, Sept. 26, where they will vote "yes" or "no" for two candidates, Nicole Dernier and Duane Hart. The voting begins at 9 a.m., at the Walker Farm Theater, located at 705 Main Street.

The term of one board seat expires in March 2027, and the other will end in March 2029. At this time, no other candidates have been announced.

CHESTER

From Page 1

department is responsible for repair and maintenance of roads and culverts, painting of lines and crosswalks, cleaning of sidewalks, and plowing of all town roads during the winter. The department fixes and maintains its own vehicles and equipment, though Putnam noted that this is becoming more difficult due to the computerized nature of many newer vehicle models, and that the cost to do so has doubled since 2020. Putnam also explained that, currently, nobody in the department holds a certification for the application of herbicide, a situation Putnam said he hopes to rectify so that the department is better able to handle encroaching vegetation along roadsides and bridges.

Putnam also expressed difficulty in finding employees to fill department roles, noting that several current employees would be eligible for retirement in the coming years.

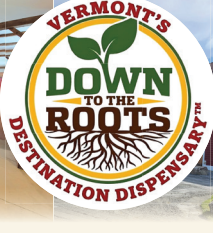
Prior to Putnam's update, Recreation Director Matthew McCarthy presented lifeguard Jacob Studin with an award for his actions on Sunday, Aug. 9. According

to McCarthy, "Jacob jumped into the pool and saved a little girl." The board applauded Studin for his quick thinking and calm response to the emergency, and McCarthy presented him with a certificate on behalf of the town.

The board also discussed a proposed traffic ordinance, a draft of which is available on the town website, www.chestervt.gov. A hearing on the ordinance will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.

Finally, the board discussed closure of Common Street on Oct. 3 and 4, from 2-5 p.m., and on Oct. 31, from 2-8 p.m., for the "Scarecrow Weekend Festival," a new event this year which invites businesses and individuals to create scarecrows for placement on the Chester Green. The board expressed support for the event, but urged Town Manager Julie Hance to ensure that the group responsible for organizing the event has guidelines for the scarecrows which will ensure that they are not overly graphic or "macabre," as Board Chair Lee Gustafson put it.

The next meeting of the Chester Selectboard will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.



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arts & entertainment

Justin Levinson & Josh Glass and Marty Royle —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Justin Levinson is an award-winning, multit talented singer, songwriter, and musician with a penchant for lyrical whimsy, earworm melodies, British Invasion-loving songwriting, and erudite power pop. His catalog of songs covers territory from power pop, to country, to “feel-good heartbreak,” earning steady praise from audiences and critics.

His ode to small-town life, “City with Two Streetlights,” on his debut record, “1175 Boylston,” spent eight weeks on the Top-25 CMJ charts. He’s won the Billboard Song Contest and the International Acoustic Music Awards

Best New Male Artist, as well as a nomination for Sirius Songwriter Discovery of the Year.

Influenced by the greats of the ‘60s, Levinson draws elements from his favorite artists of that era: the Beatles, the Zombies, and the Beach Boys. He’s drawn comparisons to Ben Folds. He’ll be bringing fellow musician Josh Glass with him; a formidable duo.

Marty Royle is perhaps best known as the lead singer of the popular, long-time Washington, D.C., indie-rock stalwarts Washington Social Club, which made fun, witty power pop for more than two decades.

MTV ran a feature on them back when MTV was a music channel, and Royle once somehow made Robert Smith of the Cure laugh. This will be a solo performance.

Levinson and Royle split the bill in a 3 p.m. matinee on Aug. 30. Tickets are available in advance at www.stage33live.com, or at the door as available. Advance tickets guarantee entry. Only 40 tickets will be sold. Advance ticket sales automatically close at midnight the day before the show, or when the tickets are gone. All ticket proceeds go to the performers.

Sing with the Springfield Community Chorus —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Chorus, led by Music Director Emma Erwin, invites the community to join. No experience is needed, just a love of singing.

Rehearsals begin on Monday, Aug. 31, and are held every Monday, from 6-8 p.m., with the exception of Labor Day, at the Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley Street. Concerts

will be held on Dec. 12 and 13.

Membership dues are collected and help support the chorus’s music and operations. Financial assistance is available.

Gypsy Reel on Weston Green

WESTON, Vt. – Gypsy Reel’s concert from the bandstand on the Weston Green, on Labor Day, at 4 p.m., has become a fixture in the local community calendar. Somehow, the timing – on a Monday afternoon, with many tourists heading south – has given this concert a symbolic role in welcoming fall, however we may want to cling to summer.

Jon Clinch, one of Gypsy Reel’s special guests on Monday, Sept. 7, will likely sing a

song called “Summer’s End,” which captures those wistful changes-of-season sentiments. Gypsy Reel’s combination of fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, percussion, and stellar harmonies has proved to be a winning Celtic formula. Gypsy Reel has been enjoying this annual event on the beautiful lawn of the Weston Green for long enough to notice the growth of the beautiful shade trees that make this concert space so perfect for

picnics.

Robert Brandt first invited the band to perform many moons ago, and this year’s concert will be performed in his memory – a lovely, gentle soul, missed but not forgotten by the whole community. Please join us; bring chairs and refreshments to the Weston Green on Monday, Sept. 7, at 4 p.m. The rain venue will be the Old Parish Church, also on Main Street in Weston.

Celtic & Quebecois Music Festival —

DUMMERSTON, Vt. – Next Stage Arts’ Bandwagon Summer Series presents the Celtic & Quebecois Music Festival on Monday, Sept. 7, bringing three acclaimed acts to Scott Farm in Dummerston for an afternoon celebrating the vibrant musical traditions of Ireland, Scotland, and Quebec. The festival features Poor Man’s Gambit, Cantrip, and Cécilia, with gates opening at 2 p.m., and music beginning at 3 p.m.

Set against the scenic backdrop of Scott Farm, the all-ages festival invites audiences to spend Labor Day immersed in the rhythms, melodies, stories, and traditions of Celtic and Quebecois music, all with a distinctly contemporary energy.

“Celtic and Quebecois music share an incredible sense of rhythm, community, and storytelling,” says Next Stage Arts. “This festival brings together three groups that approach those traditions from very different directions, creating an afternoon that is both deeply rooted and wonderfully unpredictable.”

Poor Man’s Gambit delivers a rich blend of traditional

and contemporary Irish music, weaving together storytelling, history, and dance. With a wide array of instruments and both male and female vocals, the group creates layered, immersive performances that connect audiences with the heart of Irish culture.

Cantrip brings high-energy intensity and musical mischief to the festival. True to their name, the group’s bold, genre-defying arrangements draw from Celtic roots while incorporating elements of funk, metal, bluegrass, and beyond. Driving rhythms, powerful melodies, and decades of musical collaboration fuel a sound that is at once traditional and adventurous.

Cécilia offers a joyful and deeply expressive take on traditional Quebecois music, combining masterful musicianship with the infectious energy of step dancing. Drawing on influences from classical, jazz, and contemporary styles, the group’s performances are both refined and exuberant, inviting audiences into the warmth and communal spirit of French Canadian musical traditions.

Together, the three acts

offer a musical journey spanning Irish American roots, Scottish-influenced fusion, and French Canadian flair, demonstrating how traditional music continues to evolve, cross pollinate, and inspire new generations.

Food will be available on site from Smokin’ Bowls and AlpineGlo Farm Taqueria, and refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon. Attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket or fold-up chair and settle in for an afternoon of music in the relaxed outdoor setting of Scott Farm.

Tickets are discounted if purchased in advance at www.nextstagearts.org, with kids under 12 admitted free. A dedicated play area is available at every Bandwagon performance, making the series an easy outing for families.

The Celtic & Quebecois Music Festival is sponsored in part by Barr Hill.

Nordic Harmoni concert to benefit food pantry —

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Come join the celebration on Sunday, Aug. 30, at 4 p.m., at the Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, Vt., for a lively afternoon of music benefiting the Londonderry Neighbors Food Pantry. Enjoy performances by Nordic Harmoni, the Buzzards, and talented soloists from our own community. Bring your friends, enjoy some great music, and help make a difference for local families. Donations will be accepted at the door.

A memo from The Neighbors Pantry included the follow information: “As you may know, The Neighbors Pantry, a nonprofit organization in Londonderry, has been serving eight mountain community towns (Londonderry, South Londonderry, Ja-

maica, Landgrove, Peru, Weston, Winhall, and Windham) since 1988. The Neighbors Pantry distributes food and other supplies to any community member in need residing in the above towns, with operating hours on the first and third Friday of each month from 1-4 p.m. Emergency distributions are also available.

“The Neighbors Pantry is an all-volunteer organization – no salaries, no benefits, and no overhead. We rely on contributions from community members to fund all expenses.... From 2023 to 2024, the number of individual households served increased over 10%. We are seeing similar increases and trends in 2025 and expect more individual households to seek our services given the budget cuts and regulatory changes (discussed below). As we are all experiencing,

food costs are inflationary in general, resulting in increased costs to procure the food needed for the community. Significant budget cuts at the Federal level earlier this year have reduced funding for state food banks and programs addressing food insecurity.”

Nordic Harmoni is the only Swedish-American chorus in southern Vermont, and enjoys sharing Scandinavian heritage and traditions. They welcome all interested singers to join them for rehearsals at the Second Congregational Church in Londonderry, where they sing both in English (70%) and Swedish (30%). You do not need to know Swedish to join; you will be helped with all pronunciations. To learn more, visit www.auss.org/nordic, find Nordic Harmoni on Facebook, or contact Lorri Bond at larelcyr@gmail.com.

Stand Up Shakespeare at Coolidge Historic Site —

PLYMOUTH NOTCH, Vt. – The 2026 annual “Shakespeare Alive! A Bard-Based Variety Show” returns for an all-new, free performance. The NYC-based Stand Up Shakespeare troupe of professional actors and singers will share its talent, passion, and creativity to amuse and amaze with the best of Shakespeare’s canon, as well as skits and songs based on his works, on Saturday, Sept. 5, at 12 p.m., at Union Christian Church, 43 Messer Hill Road, located on the Calvin Coolidge State His-

toric Site, 3780 Route 100A, Plymouth Notch, Vt. The show is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

Stand Up Shakespeare is a collective of professional performers from New York City who have become a veritable Vermont institution for more than 26 years. Each Labor Day weekend, the beloved troupe travels to Killington and Plymouth to present a freshly minted, one-hour show comprised of comedy, romance, tragedy and history, based on the works of William Shakespeare.

The special matinee performance will take place

inside the beautifully preserved, 183-year-old Union Christian Church, the remarkable acoustics and historic Carpenter Gothic interior of which provide an ideal setting for Shakespeare’s works.

Stay for the 21st annual Plymouth Folk and Blues Festival, which begins at 2 p.m. and runs until 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. This event is also free, with donations appreciated.

For more information about the show and the Stand Up Shakespeare Company, contact Kate Konigis at 917-406-1456 or kkonig@aol.com.

Americana legend Suzy Bogguss to perform —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Award-winning country and Americana singer-songwriter Suzy Bogguss is set to bring her signature soulful vocals and beautifully crafted storytelling to the Bellows Falls Opera House for a highly anticipated, one-night-only concert, on Saturday, Sept. 19.

With a career spanning over three decades, Bogguss has earned a Grammy Award, a CMA Award, and multiple platinum-selling records. Known for massive hits like “Drive South,” “Outbound Plane,” and “Someday Soon,” she has cemented her place as one of the most defining voices of traditional country and folk music.

This upcoming performance offers fans an intimate evening, featuring

a vibrant mix of her classic golden hits alongside newer material from her critically acclaimed recent album “Prayin’ For Sunshine.” Written and produced alongside her husband, Doug Crider, “Prayin’ For Sunshine” represents a deeply personal and introspective journey, blending swampy grooves with stunning acoustic arrangements that shine in a live theater setting.

Beyond her studio mastery, Bogguss is celebrated

for her warm stage presence and effortless connection with audiences.

Tickets are on sale at www.bellowsfallsopera-house.com. This concert is presented by Ray’s The Roof Productions, devoted to keeping the spirit of beloved Bellows Falls lawyer Ray Massucco alive through the music he loved, in conjunction with Rockingham Entertainment Development, a volunteer nonprofit organization.



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community news

Edward Jones thanks community for school supply drive

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The recent Edward Jones school supply drive in Springfield, Vt., was a great success, according to Amy Duffy, a local Edward Jones financial advisor.

The participating branch team gathered backpacks, pencils, markers, crayons, notebooks, water bottles, scissors, art supplies, and more.

The event was held to support students at both Union Street and Elm Street schools.

“I am in awe of the generosity this community shows when a need presents itself,” Duffy said. “Thank you to everyone who made a donation during our recent



Edward Jones Financial Advisor Amy Duffy, left, and Office Administrator Stephany Pippin with the collection of school supplies from this year's drive.

PHOTO PROVIDED

drive. Your thoughtfulness

will make a significant difference for others in our community.”

Learn tai chi this fall

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – This season, explore a new, short tai chi form developed from traditional, more complicated styles, in person or online. Following the principles of safe and effective practice, you can play with these movements under the guidance of Tai Chi Vermont teacher and Springfield resident Jo Bregnard.

Bafa wubu, meaning “eight methods, five steps,” can be practiced both standing and seated. If being on your feet for an extended time is challenging for you, you can join us right from your

chair, even for the qigong warmups and cooldowns.

In China, bafa wubu is now taught as the standard beginner form. It includes quintessential tai chi movements, and it focuses on the core principles of the practice: deliberate weight transference, healthy posture, relaxed breathing, body awareness, and steps that improve balance and agility.

These free classes meet on Tuesdays, at 10 a.m., Sept. 8 through Nov. 3, at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse in Springfield, Vt., 21

Fairground Road, and via Zoom livestream online. Classes are 60 minutes, and recordings will be posted afterward so you can access them on your schedule, whether you're able to attend the live session or not.

Visit studio.jobregnard.com/buy/product/95776 for complete details and to save your spot.

No prior tai chi experience is required, and all are welcome. For answers to specific questions, email Bregnard at jo@jobregnard.com.

“Unlocking the Dictionary”

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join the Springfield Town Library on Wednesday, Sept. 9, at 6 p.m., for “Unlocking the Dictionary,” a fascinating discussion with Merriam-Webster editor and lexicographer Michael Metivier.

Discover the stories behind the words we use every day as Metivier explores topics including words with multiple meanings, new slang, word controversies, how words are added to dictionaries, the newest edi-

tion of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, and much more.

Metivier is an editor and lexicographer at Merriam-Webster, as well as a musician and poet whose work has appeared in journals including Poetry, Orion, and African American Review. Michael lives with his family in Windsor, Vt. His website can be found at www.michaelmetivier.com.

For more information, contact the Springfield Town Library at 802-885-3108. To sign up for a reminder, visit www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar.

Beginner tai chi in Westminster

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Tai chi is a meditative, slow practice that builds “chi,” or life energy. Generating and moving chi is what makes gentle tai chi a healing experience in contrast with mere exercise like jumping jacks or gym workouts. Doctors now prescribe tai chi to their patients.

Two beginner tai chi classes begin in Sep-

tember, at Westminster Institute, taught by senior instructor Leslie Lassetter, of Oriental Healing Arts.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays, at 10:30 a.m., and Thursdays, at 5:30 p.m. Westminster Institute is located at 3534 Route 5, Westminster, Vt. The cost of the classes is a sliding scale. Join during September as new moves build on already learned moves. Class is ongoing;

learn Level 1, then 2, then 3, then long form.

Recovering from surgery or cannot stand for an hour? Seated tai chi meets Tuesdays, at 12:15 p.m. Join anytime for a gentle, all-body workout.

For more information, email WestminsterCares-Vt@gmail.com or call 802-722-3607.

For a sample class, search for “Tai Chi with Leslie” on YouTube.

Move from the inside out with Tai Chi Vermont

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Find tai chi at the intersection of structure and energy with “Moving from the Inside Out,” a series of in-person and online workshops offered quarterly throughout 2026. Play with what animates the movements of Fall-Prevention Tai Chi – the Sun style short form – and discover how enhancing your awareness can enrich practice time.

During the third session, on Friday, Sept. 4, the focus will be on the Level 2 movements: Brush Knee Twist Step, Play the Lute, Parry and

Punch, and Carry Tiger/ Push Mountain. Expect juicy conversation on meridians, anatomy, and more.

Tai Chi Vermont instructors Jo Bregnard and Zhen Wolffe are hosting the workshops from the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road, from 1:30-3 p.m., four Fridays this year. Each 90-minute session includes a recording of the class for those who can't attend live as well as those who want to review the material covered.

Attendees do not need to have attended previous sessions to register for this one; each workshop stands

alone, so come to one, two, or more. All are welcome, no prior tai chi experience is necessary.

Register at www.taichivermont.org/register/p/moving-inside-level-2.

Please wear comfortable clothing and flat, closed-heel and -toe shoes, and bring a full water bottle. Contact Bregnard if you have additional questions by emailing jo@jobregnard.com.

Tai Chi Vermont is a non-profit corporation dedicated to providing safe and effective tai chi instructor training throughout the state. Learn more about Tai Chi Vermont by visiting www.taichivermont.org.

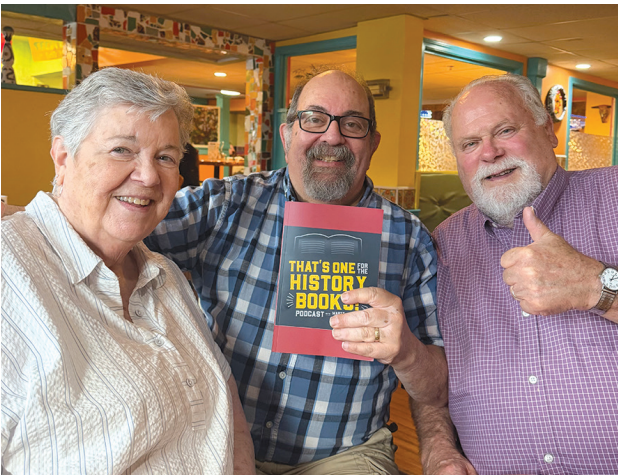
Springfield resident co-authors history book

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – History enthusiasts and lifelong learners have a new addition to their bookshelves with the release of “That's One for the History Books: Volume 3,” the latest collaboration from co-authors Marty Cohn, of Springfield, Vt., and Hugh Ryan, of Westerly, R.I.

Published through Amazon, the third volume continues the authors' engaging journey through American history, highlighting the people, inventions, innovations, and political and social movements that helped shape the nation and, in many cases, influenced the world.

The book is based on the authors' popular weekly podcast, “That's One for the History Books,” which is available on Spotify and other major podcast platforms.

“In many ways, this book is a collection of scripts,” said Cohn. “It brings together our third



Left to right: Springfield residents Judy Trombly, Martin Cohn, and Joe Trombly at a book signing of “That's One for the History Books: Volume 3.”

PHOTO PROVIDED

year of podcast episodes, giving readers the opportunity to enjoy these stories in book form.”

The authors focus on the remarkable individuals whose accomplishments have often been overlooked by history.

“Many of the stories began with simple questions like, ‘Who invented that?’ or ‘How did this tradition begin?’” Ryan said. “Others came from brief refer-

ences in history books or suggestions from listeners and friends. The more we learned, the more we realized these people deserved greater recognition.”

The book features a diverse collection of stories about inventors, military heroes, attorneys, journalists, entrepreneurs, politicians, spies, medical pioneers, and advocates for social justice, offering readers fresh perspectives on familiar events and forgotten figures.

“That's One for the History Books: Volume 3” is available on Amazon in both paperback and e-book formats. New episodes of the “That's One for the History Books” podcast are released every Wednesday.

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SERVICES

obituaries

ALSTEAD, N.H.

Third Congregational Church UCC, River St.
Sunday worship begins at 11 a.m. Communion is the first Sunday of each month. For more information, email alsteadthirdchurch@gmail.com, call 603-835-6358, or go to www.facebook.com/Third-Congregational-UCC-Church-of-Alstead-NH-120645387960916.

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.

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 @ImmanuelEppiscopalChurch or to our website www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

Living Hope Assembly of God, 582 Rockingham Rd.
Pastor Brenda Farkas welcomes all to Sunday worship at 10 a.m., the message at 10 a.m. Livestreaming available at 10:30 a.m., at Living Hope Fellowship Facebook page and the Living Hope Fellowship YouTube channel. Services can also be found at www.sapatv.org and www.fact8tv.com.

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.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Rd.
Worship is Sundays at 9 a.m., with pastor Carolyn Greenwood. Holy communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month. Call 603-477-6985, or visit www.facebook.com/UMCOfNorthCharlestown for more information.

CHESTER, VT.

First Universalist Parish of Chester, Route 103 North
Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. in person. Sunday services run from September to early June. Contact chestervtuu@gmail.com for a Zoom link for the service.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main St.
Services are on Wednesdays, from 5:30-6 p.m.; and on Sundays, from 10-11:30 a.m., both in person and by Zoom, followed by coffee hour. All are welcome. Handicapped accessible. For a link to the Zoom service or more information about services and events, please visit www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org.

Andover Community Church, 928 Weston-Andover Rd.
Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and worship service 10:45 a.m. For more information, go to www.andovercommunitychurch.org.

CLAREMONT, N.H.

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 99 Sullivan St.
Worship is Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday and Saturday at 5 p.m. in person. For more information, go to www.hroc.org.

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.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, 2051 N. Main St.
Worship service is at 9:30 a.m. in person or online. Fill out a form at www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org to be sent a link to the live stream.

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CHURCH SERVICES:

We run Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at www.VermontJournal.com.

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.
Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 9 a.m. For further information, see our website at churchoftheannunciation.org, or call us at 802-228-3451.

United Church of Ludlow (UCC and Methodist), 48 Pleasant St.
The United Church of Ludlow is an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ, and a Reconciling Congregation of the United Methodist Church. Everyone is truly welcome here, without exception. Sunday service is held at 10 a.m., in person and on Zoom, followed by a fellowship hour. Call 802-356-8046 for more information or for the Zoom link.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Church of Christ, Rt. 11, 972 Chester Rd.
Sunday coffee and fellowship time at 9:30 a.m., adult Bible study at 10 a.m., worship service at 11 a.m. includes a group meeting for children. Live or past services can be viewed on Facebook at SpringfieldVTChurchofChrist. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., adult class on different topics meets in the Fellowship Hall, accessed by parking in the back of the church. For more information, call Jamie Kurpiel, Evangelist, at 870-615-0452 or email jckurpiel@yahoo.com. If no answer, call 802-886-2670.

Precision Valley Baptist Church, 69 Rt. 106
Join our worship service every Sunday at 10 a.m. Women's Study group meets on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and Mens Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. All are welcome! For more information, check out Facebook @PrecisionValleyBaptistChurch.

Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.
Sunday morning service is 10 a.m. Evening service is 6 p.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Springfield-Assembly-of-God-156583214402910 for links and more information.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33 Fairground Rd.
Sunday Services 8:30 a.m. - Holy Days as announced. Services alternate between Clergy Officiated, Traditional Rite I and Contemporary Rite II, Holy Eucharist, and Licensed Lay Led Rites I and II Morning Prayer. All are invited regardless of religious affiliation. Call David at 802-885-2972 with questions.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, 10 Pleasant St.
Sunday mass is at 9 a.m., followed by coffee hour as well as weekday services. To watch the live streams, go to www.youtube.com and search Holy Family Parish Springfield Vermont. Streaming is available five minutes before the service starts. For more information, go to www.stmaryjoseph.com.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.
Sunday Services are at 10 a.m., in person and on Zoom. For more information, go to www.uuspringfieldvt.org.

WALPOLE, N.H.

St. John's Episcopal Church, corner of Westminster and Elm St.
Sunday services are 10 a.m. in person or via Zoom. For more information, go to www.stjohnswalpole.org, email pastor@stjohnswalpole.org, or leave a message at 603-756-4533.

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.
Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. Services are also available via Zoom. For links and updates, go to www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org.

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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Londonderry, VT

Stephanie Nelson, 1943-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Stephanie (Hoover) Nelson, 83, passed away peacefully early Saturday morning, Aug. 15, 2026, at the Jack Byrne Center of Dartmouth Health in Lebanon, N.H. Stephanie was born on July 8, 1943, in Shaker Heights, Ohio, the daughter of Jane (Little) Hoover and Stephen W. Hoover.

Stephanie graduated from the Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights, and attended both Miami University and Cleveland State University. Stephanie married William E. Nelson on July 10, 1970. With the exception of a brief hiatus in Nashville, Tenn., metropolitan Cleveland remained Stephanie's home until 1997, when she and her husband moved to Vermont's Upper Valley. Vermont was a state she had come to love during childhood vacations, so she was delighted when Bill's work brought them to the Upper Valley and then to Springfield.

Steph and Bill shared a joyous, rich life together and had eight "four-legged children" – five cats and three greyhounds – whom they adored and who adored them. In addition to their pets, Stephanie and Bill shared many interests. Together they explored various metropolises and natural regions within the U.S. and Canada, and on occasion ventured to Europe. Often, her brother, Charles, joined them on these travels. Art, live music, and theater were also passions of theirs. In addition to frequenting local venues, they regularly ventured to New York City and Boston to pursue these interests.

Stephanie's professional roles melded two of her strong affinities: people and numbers. These positions included director of offerings at the United Church of Christ's headquarters in Cleveland, departmental assistant for Dartmouth's department of religion and philosophy, and office administrator for the then firm of Ellis Boxer & Blake in Springfield, Vt. Additionally and throughout several decades, she fulfilled



Stephanie Nelson, 1943-2026.

PHOTO PROVIDED

filled her role as a minister's wife with competence and grace.

Stephanie's eventual retirement allowed her to pursue other interests, including two of her great loves: puzzles and quilting. In recent years, it was not uncommon to find her awake past midnight, piecing together her most recent puzzle in her quest for placing the final piece. Always, she succeeded. Stephanie's quilts were stunning, often featuring complex geometric patterns in a mix of bold colors. Additionally, Steph took great joy in spending time with her lively circle of friends. Together, they would meet regularly for book group, take in a movie, or just enjoy a luncheon or dinner out.

Steph will be warmly remembered for her sharp and engaging wit, as well as for her loyalty and caring towards those whom she loved.

Stephanie is survived by her brother, Charles S. L. Hoover; her nieces and nephews Deb, Mark, and Jeff Levesque; Bill's sister, Jean; his nieces and nephews, Trish Iacarrino, Kris Hupp, Vickie Smithingell, Darren Nelson, and John Peterson; and several grand-nieces and -nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Jane and Stephen Hoover; her husband, William Nelson; and her older sister, Nan Levesque.

A service of remembrance and celebration of Stephanie's life will be held at a later date.

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

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calendar

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.

High School cross-country team. To register, visit, www.runlikeardy.com/races/triple-dam-10k.

SEPT. 3 –

WOODSTOCK, Vt. – Local author Elizabeth Wellington Rollins will discuss her debut novel, “The Three Graces of Pearl Street,” on Thursday, Sept. 3, at the Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green. The reception begins at 6:30 p.m., food and drink will be served. The discussion begins at 7 p.m. Rollins will discuss her novel and the experiences that informed it, followed by a conversation with Woodstock local Laura Powell. This novel is getting rave reviews and is destined for great things. Admission is free, reservations are recommended at www.pentanglearts.org/event-details/speaker-series-event-elizabeth-wellington-rollins-author-of-three-graces-of-pearl-street. The event is cohosted by Pentangle Arts, Norman Williams Public Library, and The Yankee Bookshop.

SUNDAYS –

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

MONDAYS –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The

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

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds line dancing every Monday night, at 7 p.m., with Dorianne Lescord. Free for members, small entry fee for nonmembers. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

TUESDAYS –

CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Tuesday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Beginner tai chi classes are held at the Westminster Institute, 3534 Route 5, on Tuesdays, at 10:30 a.m. Open to new students in September. Admission is on a sliding scale.

WEDNESDAYS –

CHESTER, Vt. – Knitting with Friends at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common, Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The

Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds bingo every Wednesday afternoon. You must be at least 55 years old, and purchase your cards by 12:45 p.m. Games begin at 1 p.m. Concessions are available until the game begins. We average around 30-40 seniors who love to attend, visit with their friends, and try to win a little extra money.

THURSDAYS –

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

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

FRIDAYS –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join us on Main Street, from 5-8 p.m., every fourth Friday in May, June, July, August, September, and October. Events feature a vibrant downtown experience filled with local vendors, live music in the park, and plenty of activities for everyone to enjoy. Presented by Springfield on the Move, Copper Fox, and Gallery at the Vault.

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

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 2023-2024, 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 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.

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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.

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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.

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Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

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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.

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 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 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 William C. Hill, Jr. (deceased) and Marie C. Hill by Warranty Deed of Morton Shimelman, Herman Maskel and Joseph B. Vinick, dated September 17, 1973 and recorded on October 18, 1973 in Book 33 at Page 186 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #066032, E-911: 0 Sherwood Forest)

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 Friends,

Our son, Eric Lambert, grew up and spent his adult life in Bellows Falls and surrounding areas. He contributed huge gifts of love to his family and this community every day of his life. He stocked shelves at Lisa's; helped in the lunch room at Vermont Academy; delivered Meals on Wheels;

and enjoyed bowling, soccer, and basketball at Special Olympics. He particularly enjoyed a small chocolate soft serve at Dari Joy. So, his family would like to celebrate his life on his birthday, Aug. 26, by providing his favorite ice cream as its gift to you in recognition of his ongoing love for this commu-

nity. Eric always had a small chocolate soft serve, so please join us at Dari Joy on Aug. 26 to enjoy his favorite treat and celebrate his life.

Sincerely,
Dave and Priscilla Lambert
Rockingham, Vt.

Dear Editor,

At the polls on Tuesday, Aug. 11, in Springfield, a Democrat candidate for a Windsor County Senate seat had two of her 20-something-year-old daughters there helping her campaign. I asked if they believed they could afford to stay in Vermont their entire lives the way it's going, and they both answered "no" and gave a laundry list of reasons, including too-high taxes, cost of living, lack of good-paying jobs,

lack of quality healthcare unless they go to DHMC, the cost of health insurance, and many other things, and the one thing we hear repeatedly from young people, who say they couldn't afford to raise a family here.
How is it they recognize this, but the Democrats in office or running for office appear to be blind to this?
Yes, the Democrats all say the same scripted word: "affordability." But not one of

them says what needs to be done or admits it's Democrat policies that have caused the problems.
FYI, the Democrats, in desperation, have tried to tie Vermont Republicans to Trump; some like him, some don't, and he has no influence over Vermont politics.
Sincerely,
Keith Stern
North Springfield, Vt.

Rotary District Governor Ruth Clough visits Springfield Rotary Club

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Ruth Clough, district governor for Rotary District 7870, recently visited the Springfield Rotary Club to share an update on Rotary's work throughout southern Vermont and southern New Hampshire, and the connections between local clubs and Rotary International.
Clough discussed the role of Rotary District 7870, which brings together Rotary clubs across the region, and how local service efforts are connected to Rotary International's global network of more than 1.4 million members. Her presentation highlighted the importance of collaboration among Rotary clubs and the many ways members can make an impact both locally and around the world.

"Rotary gives us the opportunity to make a difference right here in our own communities while being part of something much larger," Clough said. "Our local projects are connected to a worldwide network of people who share a commitment to service."
Clough also discussed opportunities for clubs within District 7870 to work together on service projects and strengthen connections throughout the district.
The Springfield Rotary Club is part of District 7870 and supports a variety of community service projects in Springfield and beyond. The club regularly hosts speakers who provide members with information about local organizations, commu-

nity initiatives, and issues affecting the region.
The Springfield Rotary Club meets Tuesdays, at 12 p.m., at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center. Guests are welcome to attend. For more information, visit www.springfieldvtrotary.org.

BUYING/SELLING

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

COINS, PAPER \$\$, POKÉMON, SPORTS CARDS, POSTCARDS, and other collectibles. Saturday, Aug. 29, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Charlestown, NH Senior Center. Tables and house calls available. Contact 802-379-2353 or pepsijoseph@yahoo.com.

CLEAN OUTS + MORE

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

ELECTRICIAN

LEVI ELECTRIC – 917-417-7880 levieletrictvt.com – Trusted residential electrician with 10+ years experience. Upgrades, lighting, EV chargers, panels, service calls. Proctorsville-based. Quality work, fair pricing, free estimates.

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Yard Sale, Sept. 5 and 6, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tools, toys, household items, Vermont Life magazines. 23 Olney Road, North Springfield, Vt.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Friday, Aug. 28, and Saturday, Aug. 29, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Multifamily, household, some tools, utility trailer, lots more, and, as usual, baked goodies: beans, donuts, whoopies, etc. 160 South Street, Springfield, Vt.

TYPEWRITER DESK FOR SALE

Typewriter desk for sale. 55" wide x 34" deep x 30" tall. Solid wood in nice condition; wear on one side. No manufacturer tag or marking displayed. Asking \$350 or reasonable offer. Pick up in Ludlow with two people. Second floor. Call or text 802-289-4389.



Windham PC/ZBA Hearing

The Windham Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Windham School (5940 Windham Hill Rd) at 6:30 PM on Monday September 14th, 2026 to hear a request from Matthew Brader for conditional use and site plan review for a proposed expansion of an Educational Institution on property owned by The Fourth Corner Foundation.
Those interested in seeing the application materials or finding out how to attend the hearing online should email the towns Zoning Administrator at windhamvt.zoning@gmail.com
Pursuant to 24 VSA Sections 4464(a)(1)(C) participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to take any subsequent appeal.

TOWN & VILLAGE OF LUDLOW DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing before the Ludlow Development Review Board will be held on Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:00 P.M., in the Francis J. Heald auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot Street, and via Zoom, to hear the following applications:
• Divided Sky Foundation Corporation | Application #477-21-CUP, Amd. #2; 476-21-SP, Amd. #2; 478-21-ACT250, Amd. #2 | Application is for the proposed addition of two (2) small outbuildings to be used as education facilities. This project is located in the Town Residential Commercial 1 district.
• Okemo Limited Liability Company | Application #152-00-PUD, Amd. #29 | Application is a proposed amendment to Board Order and Conditional Use Permit #152-00-PUD, Amd. #17, specifically page 10 that states the Icehouse ice-skating surface shall be 200 feet by 85 feet. This application is to reduce the size of the Icehouse skating surface to 80 feet by 40 feet. This project is located in the Mountain Recreation district.
• Dr. Lambros Lambrou | Application #26-01-AP | Applicant is appealing the Zoning Administrator's referral to the Development Review Board for Conditional Use Approval to build a +/- 7,480 SF single-family home in the Ridgeline Protection Overlay District. This project is located in the Town Residential/Ridgeline Protection Overlay District.
The meeting Agenda will be available on Ludlow's Web page, www.ludlow.vt.us with the Zoom ID and the URL link.

Additional information about this application is available in the Planning and Zoning office at the Town Hall.
Erin Ladd, MSRED
Director of Planning & Zoning

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Subject to space. May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication. Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal.

POLITICAL LETTERS

Charged at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. Political letters include endorsing, electioneering, or campaigning for, or against, a specific candidate or party.

Town of Weston, Vermont

Notice and Warning

Special Town Meeting

The legal voters of the Town of Weston are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Walker Farm Theater, located at 705 Main Street, in said Town, on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., to transact the following business:

Article 1.

To elect a Selectboard member to fill a vacant position for the remainder of the term ending in March 2029.

Article 2.

To elect a Selectboard member to fill a vacant position for the remainder of the term ending in March 2027.

Dated this 20th day of August, 2026.

Jim Linville, Vice Chair

Katie Fitzpatrick

Brian Gehlich

Art Crafts Gifts

CREATE TOGETHER AT FLETCHER FARM

Discover your creative side - Workshops, studio hours, youth camps, and private events for everyone!

Ludlow, VT 802-228-8770 www.CreateTogetherVT.org (12/9/26 - 52)

GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Art, Crafts, Gifts, Exhibits & Workshops

68 Main St., Springfield VT 802-885-7111 galleryvault.org

OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5

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)

Builders/Contractors

A & J'S TREE SERVICE

No job too big or too small. Also offering general contracting. Free Estimates & Fully Insured. "Dangerous Trees are our Specialty." 802-376-7000. (10/21/26 - 13)

HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC

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

PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267. (11/11/26 - 13)

Campground

CATON PLACE CAMPGROUND

2419 EAST ROAD, CAVENDISH VERMONT

SEASONAL SITES AVAILABLE FOR 2026 + 2027! REASONABLE RATES! 802-226-7767, Catonplacecamp@gmail.com.

Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites! (08/26/26 - 13)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (08/11/27 - TFN - 52)

Masonry

DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 39 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com. (11/18/26 - 13)

MOORE MASONRY

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

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Driveway Repairs & Drainage Work- Does your driveway need some TLC? Call Green Bee!

We're fully insured, reliable and priced right. Reach Out Today to secure your spot in our 2026 schedule! Phone, text or email: 802-289-1968, greenbeelawns@gmail.com (09/16/26 - 26)

real estate

PROS TO KNOW

Homeownership questions

REGION – Buying a home comes with a lot of questions, and honestly, it should. Here are some of the most common questions I get.

What mortgage can I get?

The mortgage options available to you will depend on your personal situation. Once you apply, I'll review your income, credit, assets, debts, down payment, and overall goals to help narrow down which options may be a good fit.

What types of mortgages are offered?

There are conventional loans and government-backed loans; both categories could help make homebuying more affordable. Some of the most common mortgages are FHA loans, VA loans, USDA loans, 15- and 30-year fixed-rate mortgages, adjustable-rate mortgages, and jumbo loans.

You can read more about these mortgage programs and more at lo.primelending.com/vblodgett, or give me a call and I can explain them

in more detail.

What paperwork do I need?

You can start your on-line application without any physical paperwork. Our secure portal can connect directly to your financial institutions and employer, once you've granted permission. That said, the basic documents you'll need to provide include your two most recent years of tax returns and W-2s; your two most recent pay stubs (must be within the last 30 days) and, if applicable, other income records such as documents for Social Security, disability, pension, child support, or alimony; and your last two months of statements for all accounts.

How long does the loan process take?

On average, mortgages close in about 30 days, but things like your loan type, documentation, and credit approval can affect the timeline. After I have received all of your required documents, there will need to be an inspection, appraisal, and

final approval from our underwriting team. If you are on a tight deadline, let me know early on in the process and we can work together to avoid delays.

Will there be any fees?

A lot of people are so focused on the down payment, they forget about closing costs. Usually, closing costs range from 2-5% of the home's price. These fees can typically include appraisal and inspection fees, origination and underwriting fees, title insurance, property taxes and homeowner's insurance, and private mortgage insurance, if required.

I will provide a detailed loan estimate and walk you through it so you know exactly what to plan for.

Have a question that you didn't see here? Let me know. Asking the right questions could help you save time, money, and stress later, so don't hesitate to reach out.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, PrimeLending, Ludlow, Vt.

Infiltration steps protect water

LUDLOW, Vt. – When rainwater hits a hard surface like your roof, driveway, or short-trimmed lawn, it will likely run off to the nearest low point and bring whatever it can carry to the next water body within reach. In the case of Twin Cove Drive on Lake Rescue in Ludlow, a short but steep bank was that low point for much of the stormwater coming off the homeowners' roof and driveway.

After a Lake Wise assessment in 2024, the homeowners, Amy and Mike, reached out to the Black River Action Team to ask for some guidance around improving that slope in a way that would protect the lake from excess sediment washing in from their property. Several recommendations were made to reduce the volume and velocity of water that could make it to the lake, and Amy and Mike set out to do those on their own – installing

gutters, and adding several rock-lined areas where roof runoff could enter and seep into the soil before ever reaching the lake.

The slope was another story; through

a small block grant from the State of Vermont and administered by Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, BRAT was able to contract with Northwoods Stewardship Center to design and install a set of infiltration steps on this slope. Each step is a three-sided, open-bottomed frame of timbers that is anchored to the next step above with rebar; the slope beneath the steps is lined with landscaping mesh fabric and back-filled with small stone, then topped with pea gravel. The goal is to allow rainfall and any storm runoff from the property to enter the stones and filter slowly into the soil below.

The on-site portion of this Clean Water Project took



New infiltration steps installed.
PHOTO PROVIDED

five days; many thanks to the hardworking Northwoods crew for pounding out this challenging project with care, consideration, and creativity. Funding for the labor portion of the project came through the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Block Grant program, by way of Mount Ascutney Regional Commission. Materials were purchased by the homeowners according to the specifications from the Northwoods crew.

Learn more about BRAT at www.blackriveractionteamvt.org, and about the Lake Wise program at www.dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise/what-lake-wise.



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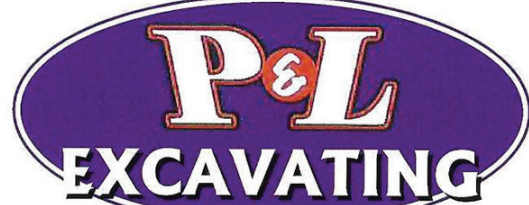
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Large Village Victorian. Sleeps 16! Great Location Near Okemo and Restaurants. Rental Ready With A Proven Rental History. Lots Of Space, Parking, And Fun. Schedule A Tour Today!
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