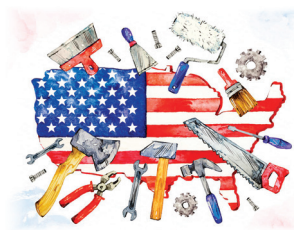


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VOLUME 65, ISSUE 35

Bellows Falls welcomes village president

BY JOE MILLIKEN

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Village President Wendy Levy has been hard at work to develop strong ties in the community, with a goal to strive for and maintain affordable infrastructure in Bellows Falls. Levy was elected in May to succeed Paul Obuchowski when he declined to rerun after serving two terms spanning four years. Originally from New Jersey, Levy first found Vermont through attending the former Marlboro College in the early '90s, and resided in the Brattleboro area before moving to Bellows Falls in 2022. She currently works as a clerk for the Town of Northfield, Mass., and has held the Bellows Falls library trustee position before being elected village president.

"I moved to Bellows Falls

in April of 2002, when I bought a house there," Wendy Levy said in a recent interview. "The house was in such great shape despite being built in 1880, I was able to move in and settle right away. One of the big reasons I moved to Bellows Falls was that I could afford to live here, which wasn't the case anymore where I had previously resided." Levy immediately fell in love with the town and wanted to somehow bring her energy, interest, skills, and love for public service to the forefront, feeling it was her civic duty to give back to her community. She quickly realized how friendly and welcoming her neighbors were. "After I attended my first village Annual Meeting in May of 2022, people stopped me in the coffee shop and on the street to thank me for the things



Wendy Levy. PHOTO PROVIDED

I said and the questions I asked at the meeting. I quickly learned how much fun it is to meet people and get involved in this town and village." Ironically, Levy had already been contemplating what she might be able to do moving forward to get more involved and help better her new community, when she was approached about the possibility of be-

coming involved with the Bellows Falls Village Trustees. "Some friends in town asked me to run for village trustees, Levy continued. "I considered it and thought it could be a good idea, and when I asked Kathleen at the town clerk's office the difference between what a trustee does and what the president of the group does, she basically told me the main difference was that the president ran the meetings... and I thought 'Well, I can do that!'" And now, Levy does just that. Additionally, Levy has extensive experience as a writer and reporter, having written locally for The Commons, and having covered various municipal and town meetings. Levy also has experience as a seasoned radio personality, currently talking on the airwaves locally at WVEW

in Brattleboro as well as WFMU in her hometown area of Jersey City, N.J. She also previously contributed to WOOL FM radio in Bellows Falls. "I have done a lot of local, municipal reporting and taken many meeting minutes as well, I know the rhythm and structure of them [taking meeting notes], and I know parliamentary procedure. I haven't read Robert's Rules of Order cover to cover, but I have a good working knowledge of it, and I believe I have good interpersonal skills." Levy's goals are about community, rolling up your sleeves, and doing what is right and needed to make our surroundings and lives better. "My values are transparency and accountability in government...and local government is necessary for

helping us take care of one another and ensure everyone has a safe and dignified life. Nobody needs a Ph.D. in government to contribute their love, skills, and labor to keeping their town moving in the right direction. So, here I am!"

USPS CUSTOMER

Halladay's Flowers & Gifts: A tradition since 1895

BY LISA STICKNEY

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – For more than a century, Halladay's Florist has been serving the Bellows Falls community, offering beautiful floral arrangements and gifts to help celebrate holidays and special occasions in style. Established in 1895, the floral shop has changed hands many times. Thanks to the efforts of current owner Marsha Austin, this longtime Bellows Falls tradition continues to thrive. Austin, a longtime employee of Halladay's, spent 25 years putting her energy and passion for floral design and management skills into the business. It was a natural choice to transition her role from employee to owner and operator. In March of 2020, the opportunity was presented to her, and she purchased the retail store. Soon after, Austin rebranded it as Halladay's Flowers & Gifts. Almost immediately after the transaction was finalized, Covid followed. The country shut down, nonessential businesses closed, and in-person retail came

to a halt for the next two months. "It was a day-by-day experience in navigating it, and in what I can do to make this business survive," Austin said. "Because of the lack of historical records, Halladay's did not qualify for federal assistance programs." "A lot of support from family and friends pulled me through," Austin said, and that motivated her not to give up. Getting by week to week, she began to work through the unexpected challenges. Eventually, she overcame them by "trying virtual classes using Zoom, using new technology and internet to generate sales," Austin explained. Slowly, she began generating interest through social media, building a client base, and making sales. Though the challenges she faced at that time as a new business owner were many, she managed to overcome them, and the busi-



Left to right: Marsha, Stephanie, and Madisyn. PHOTO PROVIDED

ness continues to thrive. Austin is a member of the Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce and Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance (BFDDA). Halladay's has participated in many downtown community projects over the years, and continues to support charitable organizations and local causes. One-of-a-kind floral arrangements and a collection of live plants are not all

customers will find at Halladay's. "We source a variety of locally crafted gift items, such as handmade lamps, coffee mugs, prisms, jewelry, cards, and more," Austin said. Customers look forward to Fun Friday each week, when a pairing of wine and a fresh floral arrangement is available for purchase. As the holiday season approaches, a full schedule of classes and events is planned. The 2026 schedule includes offerings from September through December, featuring seasonal projects – fall dried wreaths, pumpkin arrangements, Thanksgiving centerpieces, boxwood trees, and other holiday arrangements. For a full schedule, visit www.halladaysflowers.com/florist-events. Upcoming holiday sales events include Plaid Friday, when customers wearing plaid can receive a free gift,

and the candy cane sale, where shoppers can pick a candy cane and receive up to 50% off. Halladay's participates in annual downtown Bellows Falls events, including Ladies Night and Late-Night Shopping in December. This year, Ladies Night is scheduled for Dec. 11, with Halladay's donating a percentage of its sales to a local charity. Late Night Shopping is scheduled for Dec. 18. Located at 59 The Square in Bellows Falls, Halladay's is open Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The shop will be open seven days per week after Thanksgiving. Visitors can stop by and browse the shop, where Austin, manager Stephanie, and associate Madisyn are available to help customers find the perfect floral arrangement or gift. For your floral arrangement and gift inquiries, call 802-463-3331. To learn more about Halladay's Flowers & Gifts and its upcoming classes and events, visit www.halladaysflowers.com and follow on Facebook and Instagram.

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DEADLINES

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

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"Teen Takeover" at Rockingham Library

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Free Public Library is inviting local teens to take over the library this September with "Teen Takeover: After School, Your Space," a series of creative, social, and hands-on programs designed to give teens a place to connect, create, explore new interests, and spend time together. The series includes a variety of experiences throughout September, beginning with "Zine Making" on Thursday, Sept. 3, at 3:30 p.m., where teens can create their own miniature magazines using art, collage, writing, and design. This program will be followed by Teen Book Group on two Wednesdays, Sept. 9 and 16, at 3:30 p.m. both days, where participants will help choose the books, receive copies to keep, and enjoy relaxed conversation and food.

Teens can then try their hand at building and customizing their own tabletop pinball game during "Literary Pinball" on Thursday, Sept. 17, at 3:30 p.m. Space for this program is limited, and registration is required. The series continues with "Teen After-Hours: Game, Movie, & Make Night," on Friday, Sept. 18, from 5-9 p.m., an evening of games, crafts, movies, food, challenges, and hanging out after the library closes. The series concludes with "Spill the Tea: A (Boston) Tea Party Reimagined," on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 11 a.m., a teen-friendly morning tea celebrating America's 250th birthday through tea tasting, games, hands-on activities, and an exploration of what it means to speak out and make your voice heard. "Young people deserve spaces where they can come as they are, try some-

thing new, and have a say in what happens," said Young Adult Services Librarian Ava Auchmoody. "Teen Takeover" is about making the library feel like their space – a place where teens feel welcome, connected, and empowered to shape what happens there. It gives them opportunities to take ownership, share their ideas, and build a stronger sense of belonging in their community." "Teen Takeover" reflects the library's commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for young people to participate in their community and shape the programs offered to them. The series is intentionally designed to offer different ways to participate, whether a teen wants to make something, talk about books, play games, explore history, watch a movie, or simply spend time with friends. "Teen Takeover:

After School, Your Space" is provided through a grant from Vermont Humanities. For more information, contact the Rockingham

Free Public Library at 802-463-4270, visit www.rockinghamlibrary.org, or email youthservices@rockinghamlibrary.org.

SoVerA meeting

REGION – The Southern Vermont Astronomy Group (SoVerA) will host its next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 8. If the weather cooperates, the meeting will be a star party at Mount Ascutney State Park. If the weather is bad, a regular meeting will be held at the 1879 Schoolhouse in Perkinsville. If the weather is favorable, the group will gather at 7:30 p.m., in the upper parking lot of the Mount Ascutney State Park, at 1826 Back Mountain Road, Windsor, Vt. Plan to be at the entry gate no later than 7 p.m. for

the drive up the mountain. Bring your own telescope or binoculars and a chair, or share the viewing through other members' scopes. If skies are mostly cloudy or worse, the group will meet at 7 p.m. at the 1879 Schoolhouse in Perkinsville, or via Zoom, the link can be found at www.roversa.org. Speaker Cale Shipman, a longtime lecturer on a wide variety of astronomy topics, will present "Aliens Everywhere" based on conversations when he does astronomy outreach. In either case of weather and location, the meeting is open to the public.

Springfield Dam Run, Family Fun

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – You won't want to miss the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center's Springfield Dam Run on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 3-6:30 p.m. The Dam Run takes place entirely within the Army Corps of Engineers property at the Springfield Dam, on Reservoir Road.

The evening will start at 4 p.m. with the classic Kids' Fun Run sponsored by HB Energy Solutions. This closed-trail, half-mile fun run for kids age 12 and younger is a great way to

introduce younger children to running events. This event is free. All children 12 and younger who register for one of the three races will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a youth mountain bike. Children younger than 12 may also participate in the Dam Run 5K for free.

Following the Kids' Fun Run is the Maniac Mile, sponsored by Mascoma Bank. How fast can you go? This one-mile sprint is open to individuals ages 10 and older. A \$250 cash

prize will be given to the top male and female finishers of the race.

And finally, don't miss the traditional Springfield Dam Run 5K. Run or walk with your family, friends, coworkers, and community. Featuring trails, a slight elevation gain, fast downhill, and scenic views of Mount Ascutney, you won't want to miss this race. This event is open to individuals of all ages. Prizes will be given to the top male and female finishers in their age categories.

Whether you're running, walking, or cheering, don't miss the family fun zone. JC's Market & Deli will be selling ice cream, Mona Frye will offer face painting, and the Keene Axe House will be on the scene with a mobile axe-throwing unit. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join in

this celebration, whether or not they participate in or spectate the races.

A huge thank-you to our 2026 Dam Run sponsors: Kids' Fun Run sponsor HB Energy Solutions; Maniac Mile sponsor Mascoma Bank; Hydration Sponsor Lamb & McNaughton P.C.; and Community Sponsors Belmont Septic Design, Claremont Savings Bank, Cota & Cota, Springfield Rotary Club, and VTel.

Registration is now open for all three races. Learn more and sign up online at www.edgarmay.org/springfield-dam-run or stop by the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center front desk to fill out a paper form. For more information, call 802-885-2568, email info@edgarmay.org, or visit www.edgarmay.org.

Lucy Mac 5K9 –



Lucy Mac 5K9 participants on the trails at Ascutney Outdoors. PHOTO PROVIDED

BROWNSVILLE, Vt. – The countdown is on for the Lucy Mac 5K9 on Saturday, Sept. 12. The 5K9 is more than a race; it is a chance to meet up with other dog lovers and enjoy the wonderful trails of Ascutney Outdoors, all while supporting the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society's animals.

The Lucy Mac 5K9 is held on the trails at Ascutney Outdoors and is one of Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society's largest fundraising events of the year. This year's event is even more special as Lucy Mackenzie celebrates 111 years of serving animals and people in the community. The Lucy Mac 5K9 offers both a timed 5K route and a one-mile option. Runners and walkers can participate solo or as a team and enjoy the thrilling and beautiful trails of Mount Ascutney, all in support of the animals at Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society. As always, dogs are welcome to join in on the fun.

In honor of our 111th anniversary, every participant who raises at least \$111 will receive a free 2026 5K9 T-shirt. All

participants completing the 5K9 will receive a custom Lucy Mac 5K9 medal.

Check-in and registration will be from 9-10 a.m., at the Ascutney Outdoors Center, located at 449 Ski Tow Road, Brownsville, Vt. The one-mile race will kick off at 10 a.m., and the 5K race will start at 10:30 a.m.

Participants will be treated to a scenic Vermont adventure as they race along handcrafted trails located on the western base of Mount Ascutney. The 5K trail will lead participants across fields, over streams, and through the woods before they finish winding down the ski slopes of the mountain. Views from the course are sure to be spectacular. For those not quite up to the full 5K trail, there is also a fantastic one-mile course which is just as much fun.

This event is made possible by generous sponsors and partners Kate & Co. Realtors, Karen Teller, West Lebanon Feed & Supply, and The HOPE Foundation.

To learn more about Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, visit www.lucymac.org. For more information and to register, visit www.runsignup.com/Race/VT/Brownsville/LucyMac5K9.

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LAHS Local Artist Show

In addition to the galleries filled with artwork, the evening will feature the official unveiling of the "Community Blue Bird Mural." Join us for an evening of local art, community, and celebration. The Custer Sharp House, located at 2462 Middletown Road in Londonderry, is open Wednesday and Saturday, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Annual CHS Phineas Gage Walk and Talk

CAVENDISH, Vt. – The Cavendish Historical Society's (CHS) annual walk and talk is a great way to learn more about Phineas Gage. Gage was a railroad foreman who, on Sept. 13, 1848, had a tamping rod pass through his head as a result of a blasting accident. Thanks to Cavendish physician Dr. John Harlow, his story ushered in a new era in brain science.

closest to the anniversary of the accident, CHS hosts the Gage Walk and Talk. This year's this event coincides with the exact date of the accident, which occurred 178 years ago.

The talk begins at the CHS Museum, 1958 Main Street in Cavendish, on Sunday Sept. 13, at 2 p.m. The walk follows and includes the location of the accident, Dr. Harlow's home/surgery, and

the boarding house where Gage stayed.

The site of the accident is approximately three-quarters of a mile from the museum. Participants can stop at any time. It is recommended to wear comfortable walking

shoes.

This program is free and open to the public. The talk takes place regardless of weather conditions. For more information, please call 802-226-7807 or email margocaulfield@icloud.com.



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real estate

Sales activity picks up in Okemo Valley market

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Okemo Valley real estate market is showing encouraging signs of renewed activity as we move through 2026. After several years of limited inventory, elevated prices, and a market that often favored sellers, recent sales data suggest that buyers are becoming more active and transactions are beginning to pick up.

While the market is not moving at the pace experienced during the extraordinary real estate boom of 2020-2022, the current environment appears to be moving toward a more balanced and sustainable market, and that may be good news for both buyers and sellers.

More sales, less inventory

Ludlow, at the heart of the Okemo Valley market, provides an interesting snapshot of current conditions.

According to current PrimeMLS data, 76 single-family homes and condominiums have closed year-

to-date, with an average of 78 days on the market. There are currently 63 single-family homes and condominiums listed for sale, with an average of 127 days on the market (note: this excludes Jackson Gore Quarter Share sales).

These numbers provide an interesting perspective on today's market. While buyers have more opportunities to take their time and evaluate properties, the overall supply of available properties remains relatively limited.

Buyers are becoming more selective

Today's buyer is generally more deliberate than the buyer we saw several years ago. Rising ownership costs and interest rates, and increased property transfer taxes have made buyers more careful about evaluating a property.

Buyers are looking closely at condition, location, value, potential rental income, maintenance costs, and the overall cost of ownership before making a decision.

At the same time, buyers who are serious about owning a home or vacation property in the Okemo Valley continue to recognize the unique value of the area.

For many buyers, an Okemo Valley property remains both a lifestyle purchase and a long-term investment. The opportunity to enjoy skiing, hiking, biking, boating, golfing, and the many other recreational amenities of the region continues to be a powerful attraction.

Not all properties are performing the same

One of the most important characteristics of today's market is the difference between properties that are priced appropriately and those that are not.

Well-maintained homes in desirable locations, particularly those offering mountain access, attractive views, quality construction, or strong rental potential, continue to attract attention.

Properties that are dated, overpriced, or competing with numerous similar list-

ings can take considerably longer to sell.

Recent sales in Ludlow illustrate the wide range of values in the market. Transactions have included everything from land and more modest homes to condominium properties and high-end lake and mountain residences selling for well over \$3 million.

That diversity is one of the strengths of the Okemo Valley market. There isn't one single "Okemo Valley price." Value depends heavily on location, property type, condition, amenities, and proximity to the area's recreational attractions.

A healthier market for sellers

For sellers, the current market requires realistic pricing and strong presentation.

The days when virtually any property could be listed and quickly generate multiple offers appear to be behind us. Buyers have choices, and they are taking the time to compare properties.

However, that doesn't mean sellers should be discouraged.

In fact, the relatively limited inventory can work in a seller's favor. When a desirable property comes on the market at a well-supported price, there may be considerably less competition than there was during periods of higher inventory.

The key is understanding where a particular property fits within the current market, not simply looking at what a neighbor's property sold for several years ago.

What should we expect for the remainder of 2026?

The biggest question for the remainder of the year will be whether additional inventory comes onto the market.

If more homeowners decide that 2026 is the right time to sell, buyers could have more choices, and the market could become increasingly balanced. If inventory remains tight, well-priced properties should continue to perform relatively well.

The current numbers suggest that the Okemo Valley is not experiencing a dramatic boom, nor is it experiencing a significant downturn. Instead, the market appears to be moving toward a more normal and sustainable level of activity.

For buyers, that means opportunities may exist for those who are patient, prepared, and willing to act when the right property comes along.

For sellers, it means that accurate pricing, professional marketing, and a thorough understanding of current comparable sales are more important than ever.



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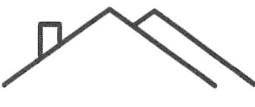
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SERVICES

obituaries

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.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

St. Charles Church, 31 Cherry Hill St.
Masses are held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, at 7 a.m.; Wednesday, at 7 p.m.; Saturday Vigil Mass, at 4 p.m.; and Sunday, at 9 a.m. For more information, call 802-732-8721.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

Charlestown Bible Church, 37 Hammond Rd.
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7 p.m. To hear a sermon or learn more go to www.charlestownbiblechurch.org. Call 603-826-5121 for more info or to request a personal Bible study.

Charlestown Seventh-day Adventist Church, 242 Main St.
Saturday Services include Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service at 11:15 a.m. and a healthy lunch for all after the service. All are welcome, call 603-276-2383 for more information.

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.
Worship is Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, including online streaming, go to www.chesterbaptist.org.

Holy Family Parish, St. Joseph's Church, 148 South Main St.
Saturday confessions at 3 p.m., Mass at 4 p.m. Wednesday Mass at 9 a.m. For more information, contact stmarys05156@gmail.com, call 802-885-3400, or visit www.holyfamilyvermont.com.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

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

LUDLOW, VT.

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

Tyson Community Church, Corner of Route 100 and Dublin Rd., opposite Echo Lake Inn
Services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. No service last Sunday of the month. For more information, email Ann Rose at 802-259-3016.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.
Sunday services are 9:30 a.m. in person. Services are still streamed at www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt. For more information, go to www.calvarylovesspringfield.com.

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.

Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley St.
Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Springfield United Methodist Church welcomes everyone! The church can be reached at 802-885-3456.

Holy Family Parish, St. Mary's Church, 10 Pleasant St.
Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. Weekday Mass Monday and Friday, at 9 a.m.; and Tuesday, at 5:30 p.m. Confessions at 6 p.m. For more information, contact stmarys05156@gmail.com, call 802-885-3400, or visit www.holyfamilyvermont.com.

WESTMINSTER, VT.

First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 U.S. Route 5
Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in our historic church and on Zoom. We have a children's message each Sunday and following church is a time of fellowship in the Hall with coffee and snacks. For more information, call 802-518-0321, email us at westminstercongonline@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057.

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Lawrence W. Angell, 1937-2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Lawrence Weston Angell, 89, died Thursday, Aug. 20, at Springfield Health and Rehabilitation in Springfield, Vt.
He was born April 12, 1937, in Claremont, N.H., a son of Eugene and Lottie (Holden) Angell. Larry spent his early years in several towns as his family moved around the Upper Connecticut River Valley before settling in Bellows Falls. After graduating from Bellows Falls Union High School, he served in the Vermont National Guard for several years and began his career at Jones & Lamson as an electrical designer. He was married to Joan Skillin on Oct. 1, 1966, and, stick by stick, they built a home together in Bellows Falls, where they raised their son, Jason. After 28 years at J&L, he worked at Pneumo Precision in Keene, N.H., Vermont Machine Tool in Springfield, Vt., and Applied Bolting in Bellows Falls, Vt., before retiring.
Larry loved his animals and had many cats and several dogs over the years. He was a talented photog-

rapher and enjoyed hiking in the hills and streams of the area to capture beautiful pictures. Larry was very handy and could fix just about anything, and he enjoyed tinkering and building things around the house. Through the years, he enjoyed several unique and interesting forms of transportation, such as an MG TD, a Vespa scooter, a BMW motorcycle, and a Miata. In his younger years, he also enjoyed playing tennis, especially playing with his son. He was a person of great dedication and a strong sense of doing the right thing and completing things to the best of his ability. Larry never had an appointment that he wasn't early for.
He leaves his wife of nearly 60 years, Joan, of Bellows Falls; and his son, Jason Angell, and his wife, Karen, of Lebanon, N.H.
A graveside service will be held in the Ascutney Cemetery in Windsor, Vt., on Thursday, Sept. 3, at 2 p.m.
Condolences to Larry's family may be made in an online guestbook at www.knightfuneralhomes.com.

Charles E. Hamel, 1933-2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Charles E. Hamel passed away peacefully surrounded his family on Aug. 17, 2026, at the Sterling House in Bellows Falls, Vt.
He was born in Montpelier, Vt., on July 7, 1933, the son of Edward Crosby Hamel and Florence M. McGill, of Montpelier, Vt. After graduating high school in 1951, Charles went into the U.S. Air Force as a communications expert and sergeant airman first class.
After the Air Force, Charles met and married the love of his life, Ann Dolores Romano. They were married on June 3, 1961. Together they had three daughters, Victoria Marie Shangraw, of Bellows Falls, Jennie Drumand, of Bellows Falls, and Valarie Janowski, of Springfield. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.
Charles worked at Fells Gear Shaper in Springfield, where he retired after

Charles Hamel, 1933-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

32 years. Charles' passions were gardening, art, skating, and music. The love of his life was his family.
A graveside service took place on Aug. 29, 2026, at 10 a.m., at St. Charles Cemetery in Westminster. A reception was held in the downstairs of the Moose following the service.
The family would like to thank the Sterling House staff for all of the love and kindness they showed to Charles.
Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

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calendar

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

SEPT. 4 –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church Street, will hold its First Friday Fundraiser on Friday, Sept. 4, to benefit the Springfield Humane Society. The menu includes barbecued chicken, macaroni salad, baked beans, corn on the cob, green salad, chips,

beverages, and dessert. Serving 5-6:30 p.m. There is a small suggested donation.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Tai Chi Vermont-certified teachers Jo Bregnard and Zhen Wolffe will lead “Moving From the Inside Out,” a series of tai chi workshops, online and in person from the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road. The third, on the movements of Level 2 Fall-Prevention Tai Chi (Sun style short form), is Friday, Sept. 4, from 1:30-3 p.m. All are welcome. To sign up, visit www.taichivermont.org/register/p/moving-inside-level-2.

SEPT. 5-6 –
KEENE, N.H. – On Labor Day Weekend, Saturday Sept. 5, and Sunday, Sept. 6, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days, the Monadnock Area Artists Association (MAAA) will hold its 68th annual Art in the Park at Ashuelot River Park, on West Street in Keene, N.H. This two-day outdoor show and sale features more than 80 artists from around the New England area representing a wide variety of styles and media. Other highlights include an art raffle to support the MAAA scholarship fund; food booths by the Keene Montessori School, the Keene High School

tennis team, and Frisky Cow Gelato; and live music by Chris Fox solo on his acoustic guitar, from 2–3:30 p.m. His original compositions go beautifully with the artwork represented by exhibiting artists.

SEPT. 5 –
GRAFTON, Vt. – The Grafton Historical Society and the Grafton Inn are hosting their annual Grafton Food & Antique Tractor/Car/Truck Festival on Saturday, Sept. 5, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., at Grafton Trails Outdoor Center in Grafton, Vt. Events include tractor wagon rides, a barbecue (hamburgers, bratwurst, hot dogs, beverages, and desserts), food and craft vendors, fresh-squeezed lemonade, cotton candy, shaved ice, a pie-eating contest, and a macaroni and cheese cook-off. To enter the cook-off, contact grafhist@vermontel.net, bring 2 pounds of pasta and your favorite macaroni and cheese recipe by 11:30 a.m. Judging will take place from 11:30-12:30 p.m., with prizes awarded at 1 p.m.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Volunteer Fire Department will host the 5 Alarm 5K run and walk on Saturday, Sept. 5. Preregister at www.runsignup.com/race/events/vt/ludlow/ludlowvolunteerfirefighterassociationalarm5k roadracewalk. You may also register the day of the event, beginning at 7:30 a.m., at the Ludlow Community Center, 37 Main Street. The race begins at 9 a.m. Trophies, music, and food will follow the completion of the event.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Humane Society will hold its Labor Day weekend yard sale on Saturday, Sept. 5, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., in the humane society’s community room, 401 Skitchewaung Trail.

SEPT. 11 –
CHESTER, Vt. – On Friday, Sept. 11, at 5 p.m., the Chester American Legion Post 67, 637 Vermont Route 103 North, will hold a service in honor of the 25th anniversary of those lost on 9/11. Numerous first responders will be in attendance. Refreshments will be served following the service.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Volunteer Fire Department will hold a 9/11 remembrance march and ceremony on Friday, Sept. 11. The march will begin at 5 p.m., at the intersection of Pond Street and West Hill Road, and will proceed to Veterans Park. A ceremony will follow at Veterans Park, at 5:30 p.m. Afterwards, food will be served.

SEPT. 12 –
PLYMOUTH NOTCH, Vt. – In 2023, the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, located at 3780 Vermont Route 110A, embarked on a journey, through the generous philanthropy of Mimi Baird, to restore Grace Coolidge’s deteriorating White House piano. On Sept. 12, the piano will make a much-anticipated, feted return. Come listen to a piece of American history. Rejoice Scherry, administrator of the Coolidge site, will present the uncovered story of the piano following two

years of research. The piano’s Brattleboro-based restorer, Patrick Branstetter, will present the process of rebuilding the piano. Finally, Abigail Charbeneau, a longtime piano performer at the Coolidge site, and her friends will reveal the results of this multiyear project with an all-Schubert performance. This event is free.

RECURRING EVENTS

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

MONDAYS –
WALPOLE, N.H. – Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in St. John’s Parish Hall, Walpole.

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

TUESDAYS –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Tai Chi Vermont-certified

teacher Jo Bregnard will lead a weekly beginner bafa wubu tai chi practice, online and in person, from the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road), on Tuesdays, from 10-11 a.m., Sept. 8-Nov. 3. All are welcome, and all classes will be recorded. For pricing details and to sign up, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/95776.

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 –
LUDLOW, Vt. – A gentle yoga flow class with strength building with bands and body to reconnect to your center, build strength, and invite ease into your body and mind will be held Wednesdays, from 9-10 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street. All levels welcome. Mats and blocks available. Contact Lori Wright at loriwright163@gmail.com or 603-401-8123 to register, or with any questions.

THURSDAYS –
CLAREMONT, N.H. – A fly-tying class will be held at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Thursday evenings, from 6-8 p.m. Tools and instruction are available for free, with a small charge to cover materials. The class is limited to five students. If interested, contact Lloyd Mann at lrmann126@gmail.com.

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

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

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

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

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 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.

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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.

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

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 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

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

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

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

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

Join the Springfield Community Band

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – For more than 80 years, the Springfield Community Band has brought the joy of music to the community with its weekly summer concerts and, since 2023, with its holiday concert. Now, the band is seeking new members. Percussion, trombones, and clarinets are especially welcome. The Springfield Community Band is a vibrant and active concert band

led by Nick Pelton, who makes playing music fun. In its summer concerts, the band plays many different kinds of music: popular music, rock ‘n’ roll, jazz, music from movies and musicals, etc. Right now, the band is gearing up for its December holiday concert. Tuesday evening rehearsals, at the Riverside Middle School in Springfield, start on Oct. 6.

All players, from high school age to the more seasoned, are welcome to join. Even if you haven’t played in many years, it’s time to think about opening the case, trying a couple of notes, and playing regularly again. There are no auditions. For more information, please email the band at scommunityband@gmail.com.

Gallery at the Vault seeks workshop leaders

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Are you an artist who would like to teach others about your art or craft? Gallery at the Vault has openings for Saturday workshops this coming fall, winter, and spring. We would like to expand our offerings.

If you have something you would like to teach, please contact Vault at 802-885-7111 or galleryvault@vermontel.net. It can be at Vault or at your studio. The gallery will promote the workshop. Gallery at the Vault is located at 68 Main Street in

Springfield, and is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org, Facebook, or Instagram. Gallery at the Vault is accessible.

River Valley Employment Fair returns to Riverside Middle School

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The River Valley Workforce Investment Board is hosting a fall employment fair on Friday, Sept. 25, at Riverside Middle School in Springfield, Vt., from 3-6 p.m. This event is a great opportunity for employers to find potential employees and network with other organizations. Businesses of any size from Vermont and New Hampshire are welcome to participate. Please visit www.rivervalleyemploymentfair.org for more information on registration options and benefits. If you have further ques-

tions, contact Amanda Sidler, Springfield Regional Development Corporation, at 802-885-3061 or amanda@springfielddevelopment.org. Follow the River Valley Employment Fair Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/rivervalleyemploymentfair, for updates, job-seeker tips and information, and more. The fall River Valley Employment Fair is brought to you by the River Valley Workforce Investment Board in partnership with the River Valley Technical Center, HireAbility, the Vermont Department of La-

bor, Springfield Regional Development Corporation, and the Springfield School District.

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Pictures available.

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW, Vt. – Part time driver wanted to deliver newspapers to area businesses. Must be available every Wednesday and Thursday, year-round. Salary plus mileage compensation for subcontractor position. Please email publisher@vermontjournal.com or call 802-228-3600.

YARD SALE

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Two-family yard/tag sale, Sept. 5 and 6, 9am-2pm. No early birds please. Good assortment of odds and ends. Little bit of everything. 400 Route 121, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

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.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Yard Sale Labor Day Weekend, Saturday, Sunday, & Monday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily. 95 Freedom Hill Road South, Ludlow. High-quality housewares, small furniture items, shelving, art/decor, craft supplies (e.g., yarn, industrial sewing machines, thread, fleece, fabric), books, CDs, cassettes, and more. Some vintage/collectibles, free stuff too!

ESTATE SALE Sept, 5, 6, 7, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. 6192 Route 106, Weathersfield, VT. Bridgeport, Lathe, power hacksaw, wood-working tools, various milling an machining tools, lift recliner, bedroom furniture, housewares, linens. Too much to list, Come take a look. No early birds please!

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY VERMONT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Londonderry Development Review Board will meet at 100 Old School St at 5:30 PM on Wednesday September 16, 2026, at 5:30 to hold a public hearing for an application for a sawmill submitted by Andrew Brenner for land he owns at 2292 Vt Rt 100. Those interested in seeing the applications, submitting written comments, or attending the hearings remotely should contact the town's Zoning Administrator at zoningadmin@londonderryvt.gov. Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Sections 4464(a)(1)(c) and 4471(a), participation in the local proceedings is a prerequisite to take any subsequent appeal.

Public Meeting
For Corrective Action Plan Implementation at
100 River Street, Springfield
Site known as Former Fellows Gear Shapers,
Main Building
Town of Springfield Selectboard Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2026, 6:00PM
Springfield Town Hall,
96 Main Street, Springfield VT
Virtual Attendance can be found here:
<https://springfieldvt.gov/office2.com>

100 River Street Ventures, LLC, will be conducting remediation activities at the Former Gear Shapers property Main Building at 100 River Street in Springfield to mitigate the potential exposure to hazardous substances to the maximum extent practicable for redevelopment that will benefit the residents, business owners, and stakeholders in and near Springfield. The funding for this cleanup project was made in part available through a U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Cleanup grant under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The public is invited to review and comment on the proposed activities. All interested parties are welcome to view the Alternative Brownfield Cleanup Analysis (ABCA), Partial Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Amendment, and other environmental reports for this project, which describe the former and proposed use of the site and the proposed plan for cleanup. Documents can be found on the 100 River Street website at <https://100riverstreet.com> or at the Springfield Town Clerk's office at 96 Main Street.

Members of the community are cordially invited to attend the meeting in-person or virtually to be held during the Selectboard meeting and to provide comment. Please contact Town Manager, Scott Pickup at townmanager@springfield.gov or (802) 885-2104 for information on attending the virtual meeting or go to the Springfield town website's calendar at <https://springfieldvt.gov/meeting-calendar> for meeting link and call in information or for special accommodations. Community members may also submit their comments to Vanessa Rebentisch, Executive Director of Springfield on the Move, at springfieldonthemove@gmail.com and cc Shawn Donovan (shawn.donovan@vermont.gov).

All comments are to be received by October 2, 2026.



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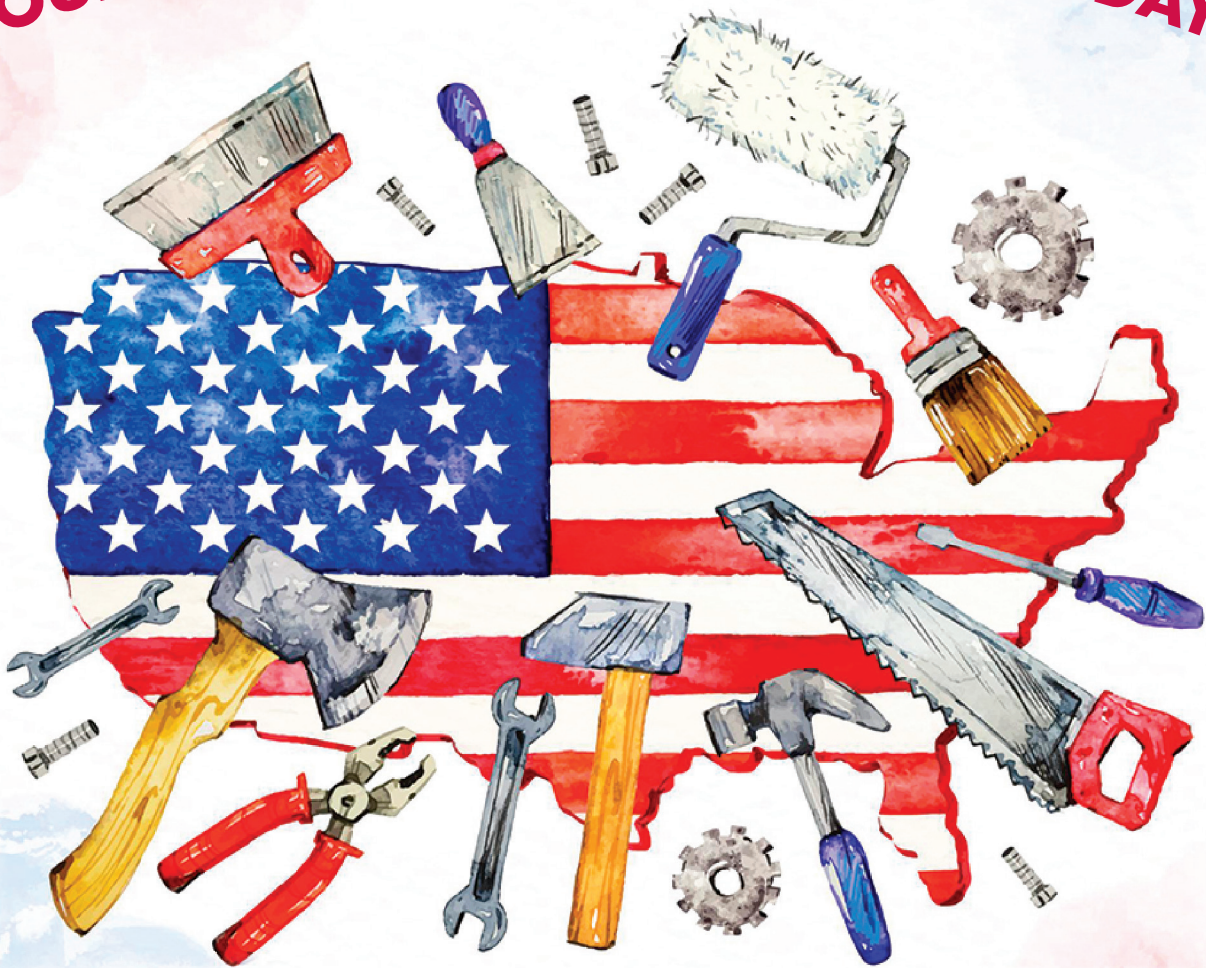
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