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THE VERMONT Journal SHOPPER EDITION

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GFRCC and BRCC discuss possible merger

BY LISA STICKNEY

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Members of the Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce (GFRCC) and the Brattleboro Regional Chamber of Commerce (BRCC) gathered at the Waypoint Center on Friday, Sept. 18, to discuss what a possible merger between the two organizations could mean for businesses and communities across the region. The discussion comes as GFRCC faces the possibility of closing next spring. Gary Fox, acting executive director, said the organization could close as early as March or April if an alternative is not found. Fox said he had reached out to nearby chambers, member towns, and municipal managers to explore options for the organization, including a possible merger with BRCC. The GFRCC was incorporated in 1965. Fox described a time when the chamber had several employees,

maintained regular office hours, and provided health insurance to area businesses. In recent years, however, the organization has increasingly relied on volunteers. Revenue from the Flannel Festival allowed GFRCC to hire a director last year, Fox said, but the organization did not have sufficient funds to continue the position under the existing terms when the contract came up for renewal. The resulting disagreement led to the director's resignation, followed by the resignation of several board members. With the organization facing the possibility of closing, Fox said remaining members wanted to explore alternatives rather than simply shut down the chamber. Rachel Shields Ebersol, who became BRCC executive director in May, said the Brattleboro chamber is financially stable, with positive cash flow, an active board, and growing membership. BRCC cur-

rently serves businesses in Brattleboro, Guilford, Marlboro, Vernon, Dummerston, Putney, Newfane, Townshend, Hinsdale, and Chesterfield. Ebersol said a larger regional organization could build on relationships already established among chambers, economic development organizations, and municipalities throughout Windham County. "A Windham County chamber would really make a lot of sense," Ebersol said, noting that much of the region's planning is already carried out on a regional basis. She pointed to existing work of the Windham Region Economic Development Corporation, the Windham Regional Commission, and the Windham County Cultural Plan as examples of regional collaboration. Ebersol said she also sees an opportunity to maintain a presence in Bellows Falls. Under the proposal, BRCC would work with the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance and the Town of Rockingham on events and visitor traffic, including the Flannel Festival and Old Home Days. She said the organization would maintain

an in-person staff presence in Bellows Falls on a weekly basis. For GFRCC members, however, the question is not simply whether a larger organization can provide services. It is also whether businesses will see enough value in belonging to a chamber. Pat Fowler, who joined the GFRCC with her husband, Alan, when they owned Village Square Booksellers, said insurance was an important reason they became members. Fowler also raised a broader concern about chamber membership, saying businesses that benefit from chamber publicity do not always become members. "They're just happy to get somebody publicizing, so they have to see the value added to join – what are they going to gain by joining?" Fowler pointed to the work already being done by the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance, including its Shop Local program, and said the chamber would need to provide something additional for businesses. Ebersol said BRCC focuses on networking, referrals, marketing, and visibility for its members, and that advocacy is an added benefit

of belonging to a regional chamber. "That's where we make sure we have connections to the statewide leaders, that they're hearing from our region, that they're coming to our region and not just forgetting about us in Montpelier," Ebersol said. BRCC also provides members access to group dental, life, pet, and vision insurance. Health insurance, once an important chamber benefit, is no longer offered through the chamber. Ebersol said BRCC is also changing its membership dues structure. The chamber currently bases dues on a business's number of employees, but plans to move to a tiered system in which members choose a level based on their budget and desired marketing and visibility benefits. She said the new structure is expected to be announced in October or November and implemented in January. Ebersol said the proposed merger would allow BRCC to expand its membership while continuing to operate with a single staff structure. "I serve 250 members, but I can easily serve an additional hundred, bringing in the current Great Falls Re-

gional Chamber members," she said. "So that's a huge benefit." The proposal also raises questions about how a regional chamber would balance broader economic

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USPS CUSTOMER

Rockingham Meeting House restoration next phase

BY JOE MILLIKEN

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The next phase of the Rockingham Meeting House restoration project is set to begin in 2027, after the completion of the necessary regulatory approvals, technical reviews, and final construction planning. "The next major step is to lift the meeting house itself [off the foundation] approximately 6 to 8 feet," Walter Wallace said in a recent interview. Wallace is the historic preservation commission coordinator for the Town of Rockingham. "This will allow the contractor to excavate beneath the building, construct a new foundation and drainage system, and then lower the meeting house back into place." Leading up to this phase of the process, a great deal of work has been accomplished since the summer of 2025, progressing from a preliminary construction schedule to a full-blown preservation plan involving the aforementioned foundation and drainage repair, timber frame, plaster and window work, interior and pew woodwork, sounding board, and archaeology as connected parts of the same historic building. Vulnerable sections of the building are being documented, stabilized, and protected before the building is lifted and moved. After the building is then lowered onto its new foundation, long-term conservation work will be completed. "Among the advanced work completed during the past year, the historic foundation stones have been mapped so they can be removed, stored, and returned to their proper locations," Wallace stated. "An ongoing study has identified Thay-

er's Ledge as the probable source of the original granite. "Engineering Ventures, and Wolfe House and Building Movers have refined the lifting plan, and geotechnical work is examining the soils that will support the temporary lifting system and new foundation." Archaeology of the site is an ongoing exercise and has been providing valuable insight into 18th-century life in the Village of Rockingham. The town has also obtained special assessments of the historic plaster, windows, interior woodwork, and timber frame, which are also being coordinated with the National Park Service and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. "The review process has taken longer than first expected because of federal staffing changes and the number of specialized approvals involved," Wallace added. "Construction inflation has also increased significantly since earlier in the year, therefore carrying out careful value engineering while avoiding cost reductions that could place the structure and historic materials at risk." Wallace also added that the project is now better informed and more carefully organized than a year ago; the overall project has been studied in much greater detail and the risks are better understood as the project moves forward. "The town now has a much clearer plan for protecting this 1787 National Historic Landmark throughout the lifting and foundation work, and beyond."

Wall Street wall-repair project begins

BY PAULA BENSON

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Phase 1 of the Wall Street wall-repair project was on the Springfield Selectboard's Sept. 14 meeting agenda, with Town Manager Scott Pickup reporting that the town had received bids from two contractors, the lowest of the two from Neil H. Daniels Inc. for \$137,875. Phase 2 will be discussed during upcoming budget planning sessions. The work is to begin in late September or early October, and is expected to be completed by early November. Pickup said that there will be some impact on parking, with some temporary restrictions placed on parking in the rear lot along the wall. Town staff will coordinate with bank block businesses and others to relocate parking temporarily. The board voted unanimously to award the contract to Neil H. Daniels Inc. Pickup also presented the board with a status update on properties the town has been monitoring, while actively working to address myriad issues that are affecting public health and safety. Progress is being made on many fronts. The town now owns the property located at 78 Valley Street, and Pickup told the board that next steps would be taken during the fall budget process, including options for disposition and use once all costs are known. Regarding 10-12 Central Street, Pickup reported the building is vacant and boarded, with two trailers remaining that are

pending removal once that can be scheduled. Progress on the property at 482 Seavers Brook Road may require that the town, and town counsel, initiate probate action. In the meantime, Fire Chief Paul Stagner will inspect buildings for life-safety concerns, and his findings will be reported back to the board. The selectboard later heard a presentation of five alternative plans to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff in The Commons Park. "The stormwater project will be designed to divert, retain, and infiltrate upstream runoff in the stormwater system from Orchard Street, Cherry Hill, Poplar Street, and Summer Hill Street areas," read the analysis statement. The project originates from a master plan completed several years ago that identified Commons Park as a priority site. The full presentation can be viewed within the recording of the Sept. 14 meeting and is included in the meeting packet, both available on the town website.

The board voted to approve Alternative 3, which proposes to build a chamber beneath the existing gravel parking area, with Alternative 2 as a backup plan. Alternative 2 recommends constructing the chamber on the east edge of the park, along Cherry Hill. With the appointment of new zoning administrator Austin Ford, Pickup was relieved of his temporary duties filling the role. Additionally, Maresa Nielson was appointed to the Inclusion Committee, and Geetu Melwani and Charlotte Osterlund were appointed to the planning commission. Steve Karaffa, school board liaison, announced that the school district had hired a director of communications. The intent, Karaffa stated, "is to improve public communication, including budget and financial information, and to coordinate with the town on shared communication needs." The Springfield Selectboard will meet next on Monday, Sept. 28, at 6 p.m. at the Springfield Town Hall.

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Puzzle page winner

Congratulations to Jill Laramie, of Ludlow, for winning our puzzle page contest drawing! Jill has selected the \$75 gift certificate to Springfield Co-op. Look out for our next puzzle page contest in our Oct. 14 paper for your next chance to win.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

1	6	3	7	4	9	2	5	8
8	9	2	6	5	3	4	7	1
5	4	7	2	8	1	3	9	6
6	5	1	9	3	7	8	2	4
2	8	9	1	6	4	7	3	5
7	3	4	8	2	5	6	1	9
4	7	5	3	9	8	1	6	2
3	2	8	5	1	6	9	4	7
9	1	6	4	7	2	5	8	3

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

Q	M	A	R	B	A	H	E	T	A	S	
R	O	C	A	A	L	A	A	A	R	P	
C	O	C	K	T	A	I	L	S	I	N	O
A	R	T	I	E	O	M	E	L	E	T	
S	L	A	B	A	D	S					
G	O	T	H	C	A	B	S	P	A	S	
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E	D	D	A	E	N	G	L	U	N	A	
R	O	S	Y	X	O	O	E	L	E	V	

Rockingham residents invited to meet new town manager —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — Rockingham residents are invited to get to know the town's new municipal manager, Aaron Patt. The selectboard and Rockingham Free Public Library (RFPL) are sponsoring a meet and greet event from on Thursday, Oct. 1, from 5-7 p.m., at the library, 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

Patt will gather with residents and selectboard members Bonnie North, John Dunbar, Dalila Hall, Amy Howlett, and Rick Cowan for informal conversation in the library's Fireplace Room. The Bellows Falls Rotary Club has generously offered to provide snacks and refreshments.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Skye Peebles, programs librarian, at 802-463-4270.

Bellows Falls Book Crawl returns —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — The second annual Bellows Falls Book Crawl returns Sept. 26 and 27, inviting readers, shoppers, and visitors to explore local businesses and enjoy a weekend of book-themed experiences throughout downtown Bellows Falls. Building on the success of its first year, the Bellows Falls Book Crawl continues to grow as local businesses come together to celebrate books, creativity, and downtown Bellows Falls.

"The Book Crawl is a great opportunity to explore Bellows Falls in a new way," said Casey Griffin, executive director of the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance. "Each participating business adds its own creative touch, so every stop offers something a little different."

During the Book Crawl, participating businesses throughout downtown Bellows Falls each create their own book-themed experience. Visitors can explore at their own pace while discovering specialty drinks, themed displays, activities, shopping, and other literary-inspired offerings. The event is free to attend, with each participating business offering its own unique take on the weekend.

A few early highlights have already been announced. Flat Iron Cooperative will feature a special Book Crawl drink and live music on Sunday. Ciao

Popolo will be serving The Shining, a purple, shimmering cocktail created especially for the weekend. At Holistic Gateway, visitors can browse the shop's healing and astrology libraries, enjoy a cup of tea, and learn more about its colored light therapy offerings. RAMP in the Exner Block will host readings from "Pride and Prejudice" and Dante's "Inferno," and Ornaaglyphology will provide materials for making bookmarks that can be worked on while listening to the readings. Additional participating businesses, activities, and special offerings will be announced as plans are finalized.

The Book Crawl also takes place alongside several other events happening in the area, making it a great weekend to visit Bellows Falls. Visitors can enjoy the Saxtons River Chili Cook-off from 12-4:30 p.m., and Rick's Fashion Show at 26A Main Street, on Saturday, along with the Nature Museum at Grafton's Fairy House Festival, taking place throughout the weekend.

The event encourages residents and visitors alike to discover local businesses while enjoying everything downtown Bellows Falls has to offer. Whether you visit one stop or spend the entire weekend exploring, the Book Crawl is designed to showcase the creativity and variety of the downtown community.

The latest list of participating businesses, special events, and weekend updates is available on the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance website, www.bellowsfalls-vt.org/book-crawl-2026.

Follow the Bellows Falls Book Crawl and the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance on social media for updates, participating businesses, and announcements as the weekend approaches.

River Artisans Cooperative annual Yard Sale

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — On Saturday, Sept. 26, at 10 a.m., the members of the River Artisans Cooperative will be holding their annual yard sale event along the

sidewalk right in the center of Bellows Falls, at the intersection of The Square and Bridge Street. The co-op members have been saving great stuff all year, and you will find treasures galore. This is a yard sale not to be missed.

As one of the oldest cooperatives in the state, River Artisans Cooperative is proud to represent more than 25 members. They invite the public to stop in and enjoy browsing all the many items — beautiful jewelry, knitwear, paintings and photography, handmade

journals, soaps and candles, leather and wood items, stained glass, and much more. If you make a purchase at the yard sale and mention that you saw this article, you may go around the corner and into the River Artisans Cooperative store to be given a free unique bookmark as well. You can find the store at 28 Village Square in Bellows Falls, open Thursday-Monday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.riverartisanscooperative.com.

CHAMBER

From Page 1

development with the identity of individual communities. "I think there's always a balance between local and regional," Ebersol said. "Obviously, we'll support the really hyper-local downtown association."

BRCC Board President Jonas Murray said a larger regional chamber could work alongside local downtown organizations, rather than replace them. "If there was a Windham Chamber it could do more regional work, and it can work with the downtown association, so it's going to bring something different," Murray said. "You're a member of a regional organization, not just your specific town." Murray said regional cooperation could become increasingly important to tourism as communities seek to market the area as a whole.

Ebersol said a stronger regional organization could also support community events, destination marketing, and scholarships through the chamber's foundation. "If we have a more robust event like the Flannel Festival, then we can offer more scholarships," she said.

Last year, scholarships went to students in Hinsdale and Dummerston. A larger organization, she said, could expand both the pool of applicants and the pool of funding.

Joann Erenhouse, a GFRCC member, said she supported working together and asked how Bellows Falls would be represented on the board of a merged organization. "I think it's a good idea to work together, because... when you have a regional focus you get more exposure, give people more options, [and] you can do more for benefits for your members," Erenhouse said. She questioned how many additional board members would represent Bellows Falls if the merger moves forward.

Steve Wolf, BRCC treasurer, said the organization has been working to rebuild its board and is developing a board matrix that considers both industries and geographic areas. "We already were developing a matrix to have some representation from different towns, so that would expand," Wolf said. He said BRCC plans to revise its bylaws in 2027, providing an opportunity to incorporate additional representation. Ebersol added that the current plan is for Fox to join the BRCC board for one year.

Erenhouse also asked how the two organizations' finances would be handled, including reserves, assets, and the allocation of funds. Wolf said he and Alan Fowler had already connected and would schedule meetings to review the financial details.

Murray said BRCC has reserves and working capital, while Fox said GFRCC has no assets and expects its remaining funds to be used for outstanding obligations, including refunds for Flannel Festival booth purchases, IRS payments, and legal expenses associated with the merger.

The name of a potential merged organization also remains undecided. Ebersol said the proposal would be to continue operating under the two existing chamber names until members could mutually decide on a name for the combined organization.



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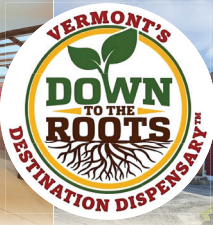


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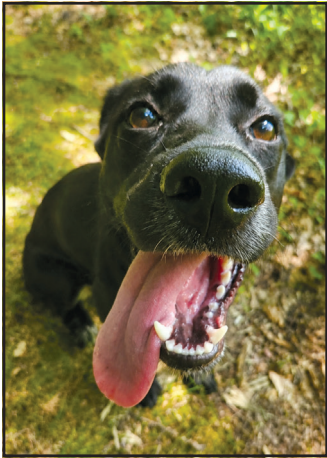




NYRA

I am a 4-month-old puppy. I have a lot of energy and would make a great hiking and walking partner. I am very smart, and know sit, and will easily learn much more!

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



RIOT

I'm an 11-month-old spayed female. I love to play fetch out in the yard and explore walking trails. I am very outgoing and love being the center of attention.

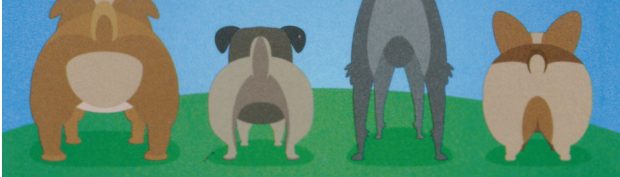
Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society,
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Springfield Humane Society,
802-885-3997,
401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, Vt.



BRADY

I'm an 8-year-old neutered male. I greet people by flopping down next to their feet and stretching out. I love getting chin scratches and chasing after my wand toy.

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



KINSKI

I'm a 3-year-old cool guy with a heart of gold. I'm a funny, and fiercely loving cat who brings positive vibes. I'll crack you up with my silly antics, or curl up close. FIV positive.

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802-885-3997,
401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, Vt.



LOLA

I am a 16-year-old spayed female. I am a very social senior that enjoys good behind-the-ear scratches. I have a lower energy, and I get along with everyone.

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



ROSALYN

I'm a 3-year-old beauty, and a total princess. I love receiving affection, but like any true diva, it needs to be on my terms. I like to be cradled just right, or I'll give a sassy little swat.

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Springfield Humane Society,
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401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, Vt.



MARJI

I am an 8-year-old spayed female. I have a very mild temperament and like to keep my distance at first. Those that approach with kindness will find me to be greatly receptive.

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



BEANS

I'm a 4-year-old calico with a sweet soul and a heart full of love. I thrive on love and attention, chin scratches, and cozy spots, but I do need to be the only cat in the house.

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obituaries

HEALTH & COMMUNITY

Robert E. Anderson Jr., 1963-2026

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Robert Edmund Anderson Jr., of Westminster, died unexpectedly at home on Sept. 11, 2026. He was born Nov. 15, 1963, in Burlington, Vt., the son of Jean Ward Anderson and Robert E. Anderson Sr.

Bob attended St. Joseph’s School in Burlington and Burlington High School. Though much of his early life was spent having adventures and misadventures in Burlington, Bob especially looked forward to summers with his grandparents, aunts, and uncles in Charlestown, N.H. He and his siblings spent their days fishing, boating, and enjoying delicious meals along the Connecticut River.

Throughout his life, Bob could most often be found in the kitchen. For many years, he was a familiar face at Bove’s Restaurant, where he enjoyed building relationships with the staff and regulars. Later, Bob stepped away from the kitchen and began a career at Kurn Hat-

tin Homes in Westminster, Vt. He took great pride in his role as a house parent to many of the children who attended there. He loved sharing his passion for the outdoors and could always find a way to put a smile on their faces. He would never admit it, but he had a significant impact on many kids’ lives.

Bob recently returned to the kitchen at Kurn Hattin and could often be found in the school’s greenhouse, where he had built a tremendous garden. Whether he was cooking, gardening, or simply lending a helping hand, Bob found purpose in taking care of others.

Bob enjoyed nothing more than being outdoors. He would take any opportunity to cast a line, whether at a local stream, on the Connecticut River, or on Lake Champlain. When he wasn’t on the water, he could be found riding his four-wheeler with his pup, Scout, or walking through the woods. He was always up for an adventure, no matter the weather.

Bob was known by everyone he met for his kindness, patience, humor, and unfailingly good nature, traits he inherited from his mother, whom he adored. He touched the lives of countless people throughout his lifetime, no matter what role he played in theirs. Among the many hats he wore were son, brother, father, Poppy/grandfather, friend, teacher, coach, gardener, outdoor guide, comedian, mechanic, carpenter, and many more. He embraced each of these roles wholeheartedly.



Robert Anderson, 1963-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

He is survived by his children, Kyle (Nikki), Elizabeth (Blake), William, and Sean; his mother, Jean; and his newest and greatest joys, his grandchildren, Nora, Brooke, and Bryce. He is also survived by his siblings Karen Lansberry, Sue Fortier (Steve), Bruce (Susan), and Patrick (Becky); and his brother-in-law Tim Kirol; as well as many nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles. He was predeceased by his sister Barbara and brother-in-law Dean Lansberry.

This is where Bob would probably tell a very silly joke. In time, hopefully, that joke will come back to us. Until then, carry on his legacy. Go fishing. Be kind. Help someone. Put a smile on someone’s face. That’s what Bob would do.

A Mass and celebration of life will be held in October. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you honor Bob with a donation to Kurn Hattin Homes, allowing his impact to continue.

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

Crystal D. Durant, 1962-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Crystal Dawn Durant passed away Sept. 13, 2026, after a recent change of health.

She was born April 13, 1962, in Hardwick, Vt., to Melody and Sherman Durant. She had lived at the Brandon Training School and in St. Albans, Vt., before moving to Springfield, Vt., in 1991. She was proud to be a Vermonter, enjoying the state’s beauty, people, and where she met Linda, Larry, and Ty; together, they became a family. Vermont was home.

She loved music of all genres and was an excellent dancer. She enjoyed any hol-

iday; she especially enjoyed Christmas and her birthday. She loved going out for rides all around the Northeast with Larry and Linda, fashion that included hats and sunglasses, Mickey Mouse, and socializing.

She had a great sense of humor, a beautiful smile, a generous nature, and was steadfast in her beliefs.

She is survived by Larry Bartley, Linda J. Corliss, Ty-Alec Corliss, Lincoln Street Inc., and all the friends that cared for and loved her.

She loved and was loved. She will be forever missed. With brave wings, she flies. An hour of visitation will



Crystal Durant, 1962-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

be held at the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., on Sept. 29, from 10-11 a.m. A graveside service will follow at the Pine Grove Cemetery in North Springfield, Vt.

Dartmouth Health staff reductions

LEBANON, N.H. – Dartmouth Health (DH) notified 124 employees recently that their positions have been eliminated in addition to the cancellation of 303 open positions from Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinics Southern Region. Changes include the consolidation and restructuring of executive roles and administrative leadership, as well as the elimination of select programs. Dartmouth Health does not expect these employment actions to negatively impact patients, as they have been carefully planned with patient needs as a top consideration.

Patient revenues continue to be outpaced by escalating operating expenses, which have grown by 12%. Labor, supply, and drug costs continue to rise, while insurance companies are paying less and taking longer to pay. While DH has taken many steps to address operations, the current pace of expenses is unsustainable and further

adjustments were necessary. Programs impacted were as follows:

Tele-ICU and Tele-ED, two services whose costs, at the current scale, without external support, were unsustainable. Leadership is working closely with affected facilities, of which more than half are Dartmouth Health members, to ensure alternative patient care plans are in place. This decision presents an opportunity to review and further understand how to continue to integrate clinically in these areas across Dartmouth Health.

The New England Alliance for Health (NEAH), established in 2009 to support collaboration among community hospitals, behavioral health centers, and home health agencies in Northern New England, has evolved due to the growth of the health system. As some member organizations have joined Dartmouth Health or other systems, the need for a separate alliance has diminished.

The Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt and Green Belt employee training program. It has become clear that outside vendors are able to deliver this employee training more cost-effectively.

“The employees affected by these changes have made meaningful contributions to Dartmouth Health, our patients, and our communities,” said Dr. Joanne M. Conroy, CEO and president of Dartmouth Health. “Some have spent many years serving this organization. The decision to eliminate a position or program does not diminish the value of the work these colleagues

have done and the contributions they have made.”

In April, DH created an Acceleration to Transformation Office (ATO) to quickly identify ways to improve financial health while protecting patient care through a thorough review of every major area of operations. This work included reviewing capital spending, contracts, billing, supplies, programs, workflows, and other operating costs. Changes already implemented include reduction of travel and conference participation, reduced reliance on traveler positions, and strategic continuation of capital spending and construction work to expand patient capacity to meet demand.

“In an effort to be fully transparent, I shared with our employees in July that the ATO would be reviewing staffing models, and today’s eliminations are a result of that informed work,” continued Conroy. “Eliminating positions is among the most difficult decisions any organization can make, given the impact on our colleagues and their families. At times, however, difficult choices are necessary to ensure Dartmouth Health is sustainable and well-positioned for the future.”

Dartmouth Health is committed to implementing the best-practice financial resiliency program moving forward, and to ongoing review of position and program structures to ensure sustainability and successful management of operations. Impacted employees will be offered resources, transition support, and opportunities to pursue other roles within the health system.

OBITUARIES:
A 200-word obituary is \$100, and \$0.60 per word thereafter. A photo is an additional \$20. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m.

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

MY HEALTHY VERMONT

CHRONIC PAIN WORKSHOPS

Chronic Pain Management

A self-management workshop to help you learn ways to reduce pain, deal with related issues, like having trouble sleeping & more.

If you suffer from long-lasting (chronic) pain—from an injury, surgery, or health condition—you’re not alone.

About 100 million Americans are living with chronic pain. That’s more than are living with diabetes, heart disease, and cancer combined! But there are many things you can do to manage your pain—and we can help. Our Healthier Living Workshop for Chronic Pain can help you learn ways to reduce pain, deal with related issues, like having trouble sleeping, and more.

Workshop: Pain Management

WHAT THE PROGRAM OFFERS
Support and education, including:

- Techniques to deal with problems such as frustration, fatigue (feeling tired), isolation, and poor sleep
- Exercises to improve your strength, flexibility, and endurance—and instructions on how to pace yourself between activity and rest
- Tips for talking with your family, friends, and health care professionals about pain

The workshop session is once a week, for six weeks.

WHO IT’S FOR
People living with chronic pain for more than 3 to 6 months. Some chronic pain conditions are: musculoskeletal pain (neck, shoulder, back pain, etc.), fibromyalgia, postsurgical pain that lasts beyond 6 months, neuropathic pain, and post-stroke pain. This workshop can also benefit people with persistent headache, Crohn’s disease, irritable bowel syndrome, diabetic neuropathy, or those who experience severe muscular pain from conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

To take the first step, visit:
MYHEALTHYVT.ORG

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Wednesday’s:
Sept 30 - Nov 25
10:30 am – Noon

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Contact: Caitlin Moroney
802-859-5913
Caitlin.Moroney@vermont.gov
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SERVICES

obituaries

David J. Armstrong, 1946-2026

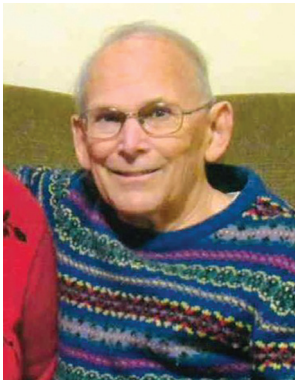
LUDLOW, Vt. – The Rev. Dr. David J. Armstrong, 80, died Sept. 8, 2026, at the Gill Odd Fellows Home in Ludlow, Vt. He was born Jan. 2, 1946, in Oak Park, Ill., and grew up in Elmhurst, Ill. He was the son of John Sr. and Ann (Seidel) Armstrong.

He attended Immaculate Conception School, grades 1-12, in Elmhurst. He graduated from Meadville Theological School of Lombard College in 1984, with a Master of Arts from the divinity school. He received his doctorate degree at the University of Chicago.

On Oct. 5, 2002, he married Deborah Farnum in Chester, Vt.

David served churches in Seattle, Wash.; Michigan; Alabama; Maine; New Jersey; and Vermont. While serving in Maine, David read “Mere Christianity” by C. S. Lewis and was committed to being a more serious Christian. He enjoyed reading, walking, and hiking.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah; and his siblings Paul (Cynthia), Daniel (Annette), Margaret (Jeff), Thomas (Colleen), Lou



David Armstrong, 1946-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

(Tom), and Ellen. He is also survived by sisters-in-law Sara Spoor and Charlotte Gomo, plus several nieces and nephews.

David was predeceased by his parents; his first wife, Sarah Lee “Nettie” Frierson; and his brother John Armstrong Jr.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 2 p.m., at the Andover Community Church in Andover, Vt.

Contributions in David’s memory can be made to the Andover Community Church or the Pregnancy Center of the Upper Valley.

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

Ronald Borges, 1943-2026



Ronald Borges, 1943-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Ronald Borges, 82, of Bellows Falls, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026, in Keene, N.H., after a lengthy illness. Ron was born in Bellows Falls, on Sept. 18, 1943, the son of the late Frank and Lillian (Fenno) Borges. Ron was a proud alumnus of Bellows Falls High School, Class of 1962. Ron served in many roles in the alumni association and as a float builder, and was very active in each alumni parade, even this past June. Ron served his country in the U.S. Army, returned home, and worked several jobs, including Kingsbury Machine, Symons Precision, and Vermont Graphics. He also oversaw maintenance at St. Charles Church for many years. Ron had several cherished dogs over the years, and of late could be seen walking his dalmatian. Ron was a member of St. Charles Church and attended the First Congregational Church of Westminster. He was a member of the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus.

Ron leaves one sister and two nephews, and many friends and neighbors.

Visitation took place on Monday, Sept. 21, from 5-7 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

A Mass of Christian burial took place on Sept. 22, at 10 a.m., at St. Charles Church in Bellows Falls, with burial following at St. Charles Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Bellows Falls Alumni Fund, P.O. Box 172, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

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

Paul E. Collier, 1958-2026



Paul Collier, 1958-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Paul Edward Collier, 68, of Westminster, Vt., passed away at home, surrounded by loved ones, on Tuesday, Sept. 15, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer’s.

Born on March 28, 1958, in New Haven, Conn., to parents Donald “Pete” Collier and Edith (Boyles) Collier, Paul was raised in Seymour, Conn., and attended Emmett O’Brien Regional Vocational Technical High School, graduating in 1976 with a focus on carpentry.

In 1981, Paul relocated to Westminster, Vt., where he worked at both Springfield Fence Co. and as an EMT at LeFevre Ambulance. He then jumpstarted his career with employment at Fellows Gear Shaper, where he discovered his love of machine tool sharpening. He later became the owner of The Cutter Shop in Springfield, Vt., where he not only ground a variety of different tools, but also worked with Burton Snowboards designing tooling used to make a prototype for the first models of Burton snowboards. He was also proud to have both designed and created an intricate part for the International Space Station that is currently still in use. He was incredibly reliable, skilled, and knowledgeable; the talent he brought to his skilled craft was unmatched.

In 1989, he married Debra (Perry) Collier in Bellows Fall, Vt., sharing 37 years of marriage.

He was known for having a deep love of building and flying model airplanes, snowmobiling, riding his motorcycle, long bicycle rides, completing both sudoku and jigsaw puzzles, carpentry and fixing anything and everything that was broken, camping with family in the summer, remodeling his home (except the kitchen), and refurbishing old tractors.

Paul is preceded in death by his father, Donald “Pete” Collier, father in-law, Wil-

liam “Bill” Perry Sr., and brother-in-law William R. Perry Jr.

He will be deeply missed by his surviving family, including his wife, Debra (Perry) Collier; his three children: two sons, Thomas Collier and Christopher Dryden, and daughter, Jennifer (Collier) Washburn and her husband Phillip Washburn; his two grandsons, Adam and Ethan Collier; his three granddaughters, Mia, Brooke, and Kaylee Washburn; his mother, Edith (Boyles) Collier; his mother-in-law, Alice (Trombley) Perry; as well as three siblings, Beth and Ron Schmecker, Donald and Kathy Collier, and Deborah and Mark Vinsen.

Calling hours will be Wednesday, Sept. 23, from 4-6 p.m., at Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls, Vt.

A funeral will be held Thursday, Sept. 24, at 11 a.m., at the First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 U.S. Route 5, Westminster, Vt. Service will be followed by burial at Westminster New Cemetery and a celebration of life at the First Congregational Church of Westminster.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to Westminster Animal Hospital, Attn: Caring Paws Fund, 5052 U.S. Route 5, Westminster, VT 05158.

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

Bernard R. Tanner Jr., 1952-2026



Bernard Tanner Jr., 1952-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Bernard Ray Tanner Jr., 74, passed away on Aug. 30, 2026, at Springfield Health & Rehabilitation in Springfield, Vt.

Bernard, who was known as “Bernie” or “Bern” to his friends and relatives, was born on Feb. 21, 1952, in Springfield, Vt., the son of Bernard Ray Tanner Sr. and Pauline (Maynard) Tanner, of Springfield.

Bernie attended school in Springfield, Vt., and graduated in 1970. In 1974, he married Carol Berry, of Springfield. Together they had two children, a son and a daughter.

He resided in Chester, Vt., for a few years, and worked at Montany Inc. After moving back to Springfield, he obtained a position as a machinist at Lovejoy Tool, where he remained until his retirement.

Bernie served in the Vermont National Guard. He was a lifetime member of the Loyal Order of Moose in Springfield, Vt., and served as the governor many years ago. He was also a member of the Springfield Elks Lodge, and the American Legion Post 67 in Chester, Vt.

Bernie is predeceased by his parents, Bernard and

Pauline Tanner. He is survived by his son, Bernard Tanner III, of Rutland, Vt.; his daughter, Calista Tanner, of Windsor, Vt.; a brother, Douglas Tanner, of Chester, Vt.; and his longtime partner, Brenda Pierce, of Springfield, Vt. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Carter Tanner and Caelyn Tanner, of Windsor, Vt., and Myra Tanner, of Woodstock, Vt.; and a niece, Lisa Raetz, who resides in Pennsylvania.

A celebration of life will be held at the American Legion in Chester, Vt., on Oct. 18, from 12-3 p.m.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., is assisting with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the charity of your choice.

Sophia M. Munson Green, 1944-2026



Sophia Munson Green, 1944-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

CHESTER, Vt. – Sophia M. Munson Green, 82, passed away peacefully at the Springfield Center for Living on Friday morning, Sept. 11, surrounded by her family. She was born on June 14, 1944, in Springfield, Vt., the daughter of Richard and Marion (Snide) Munson. She graduated from Springfield High School, Class of 1962.

On June 23, 1962, she married David “Red” Green, of Springfield, Vt.

She was a homemaker, as well as employed in her mid-years as a seamstress for Bonnie’s Bundles.

She loved to doodle and was a great sketch artist who was very proud of designing the Springfield school seal, which is still used today.

She loved camping and baking, but most of all spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by her daughter, Sharon Sinclair (Roger); her son, Steven Green (Michelle); her sister, Donna Peck; her brothers, Richard Munson, Rodney Munson, and Reg-

inald Munson; four grandchildren, Stephanie, Casey, Michael, and Matthew; two great-grandchildren, Tucker and Brantley; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was predeceased by her husband of 57 years and her parents.

A graveside service was held Sept. 19, at 2 p.m., in the Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt., with a celebration of life following directly after at her home, 94 Gould Road, Chester, Vt.

Davis Memorial Chapel assisted with arrangements.

OBITUARIES:

A 200-word obituary is \$100, and \$0.60 per word thereafter. A photo is an additional \$20. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m.

CHURCH SERVICES:

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LEGAL NOTICES

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT. 23 –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –

The Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, will celebrate its 63rd anniversary on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 1 p.m. Mark

Shelton will perform. For more information, call 802-885-3933.

SEPT. 24 – LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, Vt., 2051 North Main Street (Vermont Route 11) will hold its September community lunch on Thursday, Sept. 24, at 12 p.m. The menu will be ham, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, and dessert. All are welcome. A free-will offering will be gathered.

No takeout is available. For more information, call the church office at 802-824-6453.

SEPT. 25 – CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center’s annual cornhole tournament will be held on Friday, Sept. 25, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. If you have a team and would like to play, please call the center at 603-543-5998 to sign up.

SEPT. 26 – CHESTER, Vt. – Come to

the Whiting Library for “Art Off the Wall” to enjoy a remarkable display of local art and consider supporting the artists and library by making one of the pieces your own. Artwork by 16 local artists can be purchased via silent auction or off the wall for full price, with 50% of the purchase price donated to support Whiting Library. The exhibition-fundraiser will be on display from Sept. 19 – Oct. 29, with a reception to meet the artists on Sept. 26, from 4-6 p.m.

aviation trade while serving in the U.S. Air Force and then retired from a career in aircraft maintenance with American Airlines. He received the call to ministry and started Doorway Church in New Jersey, where he served as pastor for more than 33 years.

SEPT. 28 – MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – Sept. 28 is the deadline for entries to the Mount Holly Calendar Competition. Entry forms can be found at the Mount Holly Town Office, the Belmont General Store, and Plew Farm, and can also be requested by emailing mthollyphotos@gmail.com. All proceeds from calendar sales support the many activities of the Mount Holly Community Association.

OCT. 3 – CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Faithful Lodge No. 12 is sponsoring a fundraising cornhole tournament on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The tournament will take place on Main Street, across from the lodge. Teams will be chosen at registration. For more information, call 603-558-5529.

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.



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This is to provide notice pursuant to Title 18, Chapter 107, Subchapter 1, § 5212(b) that I, Susan Lanphere, have applied to the Town Clerk of Springfield, VT for a disinterment permit of the cremains of Robert G Spicer Sr whose cremains are inurned in Pine Grove Cemetery in North Springfield, VT, specifically Lot 10, Tier 2, Ward 4, Gravesite #4. I am the legal owner of Gravesite #4 and I am not, nor is any other member of my family, related in any manner to Mr Spicer. I want his cremains removed so that I may, in the future, be buried in my gravesite. To the best of my knowledge, Mr Spicer is to be relocated to Lot 10, Tier 2, Ward 4, Gravesite #6. Additionally, any spouse, child, parent, sibling, or descendant of the deceased, or the cemetery commissioner or other municipal authority responsible for cemeteries in the municipality may object to the proposed removal by filing a complaint in the Probate Division of the Superior Court of the district in which the body is located as provided in section 5212(a) of this title.

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders, and mortgagees of property in the Town of Weston, in the County of Windsor, and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for municipal property taxes for the 2024 and 2025 calendar years and for school district property taxes for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 fiscal years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property located in Weston, to wit:

It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to John Lang Rosenfeld, as Trustee of the Marital Deduction Trust created under The Rosenfeld Family Trust of 1997, under Declaration of Trust dated September 8, 1997 by John Lang Rosenfeld, as Sole Surviving Trustee of The Rosenfeld Family Trust dated September 8, 1997, dated June 13, 2006 and recorded June 20, 2006 in Book 71 at Page 255 of the Weston Land Records. (Parcel #060077.00, E-911: 112 Kile Rd.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5254, so much of said property will be sold at public auction at the Weston Town Office, a public place located at 12 Lawrence Hill Road in the Town of Weston, on the 29th day of October, 2026, at 10:30 o'clock in the morning, 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 Weston, Vermont this 11th day of September, 2026.

Gretchen Hauser, Collector of Delinquent Taxes



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<https://wblake.com/company/careers/>

BELLOWS FALLS VILLAGE CORPORATION
PUBLIC NOTICE
WATER MAIN FLUSHING

THE BELLOWS FALLS VILLAGE CORPORATION WATER SYSTEM WILL BE FLUSHED WEEKDAYS FROM 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. BEGINNING MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026, AND CONTINUING THROUGH FRIDAY OCTOBER 30, 2026.

SOME AREAS MAY EXPERIENCE ROILY WATER BUT THIS CONDITION SHOULD CORRECT ITSELF IN A SHORT TIME.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS, PLEASE CALL THE BELLOWS FALLS WATER DEPT. AT 802-463-1232.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Travis Kemp
Chief Operator
Bellows Falls Water Dept.

NOTICE OF HYDRANT FLUSHING
Cavendish Municipal Water System
Monday, September 28th, through
Wednesday, September 30th, 2026
During the hours of 8 am to 5 pm

System users are reminded that:

Flushing hydrants may cause temporary discoloration and turbidity of the water. We apologize for any inconvenience to our users, however this very important system maintenance procedure must be conducted each spring and fall. The flushing program allows the pipes to be purged and the hydrants checked for proper operation.

Users are advised to avoid drinking the water or washing clothes (especially whites) while discoloration is in evidence. Following hydrant flushing in your area, users should run cold water until it clears before resuming normal use. It is also a good idea to flush residential water heaters after the water clears following a hydrant flush in your area.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Cavendish Municipal Water System

For additional information call 802-226-7291

TOWN OF CHESTER
NOTICE OF HEARING FOR SETBACK
REDUCTION

Kyra and Jerry Oles have applied for a setback reduction in accordance with section 3.19 A(1) of Chester’s Unified Development Bylaws for the future construction of an ADU on their property located at 107 Williams Road in the Town of Chester.

The Town of Chester Development Review Board will conduct a site visit at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 107 Williams Road and will hold a hearing on this application at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester. A copy of the application and additional information may be obtained from the Zoning Administrator. Participation in this hearing in person, via videoconference, or in writing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

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

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 18th day of September 2026.
Hugh Quinn
Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
zoning@chestervt.gov

STATE OF VERMONT
WINDSOR COUNTY, SS

NOTICE OF TAX SALES

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Springfield, in the County of Windsor are hereby notified that the taxes and/or water and sewer taxes assessed by such Town for the years 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 are, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described lands in such Town, to wit:

48 South Street

For the tax years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Florence H. Bingham to Margaret E. Bingham and Florence H. Bingham (now deceased) by deed dated October 30, 1996 and recorded in Vol. 157 at Page 167 of the Springfield Town Land Records.

6 Reservoir Road

For tax years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Wentworth Financial Group, Inc. to H & C Properties, LLC by deed dated October 17, 2023 and recorded in Book 687 at Page 318 of the Springfield Town Land Records.

945 Eureka Road

For tax years 2025-2026. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Merrilllee J.M. Fortune Living Trust to David Hatch by deed dated June 11, 2020 and recorded in Book 627 at Page 33 of the Springfield Town Land Records.

32 Valley Street

For tax years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by The Bank of New York Mellon to William Hunter and Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development by deed dated September 11, 2018 and recorded in Book 602 at Page 334 of the Springfield Town Land Records and Housing Recovery Fund and Housing Subsidy Covenant dated October 19, 2021 and recorded in Book 653 at Page 335 of the Springfield Town Land Records.

42 Harlow Road

For tax years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Virginia M. Gates f/k/a Virginia M. Todd and Stacy M. Gates to Tony M. Garland and Cynthia S. Garland by deed dated October 2, 1998 and recorded in Book 181 at Page 243 of the Springfield Town Land Records. Reference is made to the deed from Tony M. Garland to Cynthia S. Lucius f/k/a Cynthia S. Garland by deed dated March 27, 2007 and recorded in Book 393, Page 20 of the Springfield Town Land Records.

15 Woolson Avenue

For tax years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Matthew Baird-Torney and Shawna Baird-Torney to Artem Mahinko by deed dated June 28, 2023 and recorded in

Vol. 683 at Page 78 of the Springfield Town Land Records.

284 Kirk Meadow Road

For tax years 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Nicholas Paige and Marguerite Paige to John David McCarthy by deed dated November 28, 2018 and recorded in Book 605 at Page 60 of the Springfield Town Land Records. Reference is made to the Final Decree of Distribution In Re Estate of John D. McCarthy, Sr. to John D. McCarthy, Jr. dated September 10, 2024 and recorded in Book 701 at Page 272 of the Springfield Town Land Records.

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at Springfield Town Office, a public place in such Town, on the 22rd day of October, 2026 at Ten O'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

You have the right to request in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the tax sale date set forth above, that only a portion of the property be sold to satisfy the delinquent tax bill. Should you wish to proceed with this request, you must follow the procedure set forth in 32 V.S.A. §5254; clearly identify the portion of the property to be sold, and include a certification from the Act 250 district coordinator and the town zoning administrator that the portion identified may be legally subdivided.

If you qualify under 24 V.S.A. §1535, you may be able to receive an abatement of the property taxes, interest and collection fees you owe to the town. Abatement means that your taxes could be reduced or eliminated. You have the right to appear before the Board of Abatement and explain why you think your taxes should be abated. To apply for an abatement, you must contact Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156.

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

Warning: There are unpaid property taxes at the above properties in Springfield, Vermont which you may own, have a legal interest, or may be contiguous to your property. The property will be sold at public auction on October 22, 2026 unless the overdue taxes, fees, and interest is paid. To make payment or receive further information, contact Barbara Courchesne, Tax Collector, immediately at the Town of Springfield, 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156, telephone number (802) 885-2104.

Dated at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont, this 15th day of September, 2026.

Barbara A. Courchesne, Collector of Town and
Town School District Taxes, Town Water and
Sewer Taxes

LEGALS

opinion/classifieds

Dear Editor,

I am honored that Gov. Phil Scott, Lt. Gov. John Rodgers, and former Gov. Jim Douglas have endorsed my campaign for the Senate to represent Windsor County, Pittsfield, and Thetford.

Their endorsements reflect support for my commitment to fiscal responsibility, political balance, and practical solutions to the unsustainable cost-of-living increases affecting the residents of the Windsor District.

“Vermont needs more legislators who will actually work with me,” Gov. Phil Scott said. “Andrea Murray will be a voice in the Legislature to lower taxes on Vermont families and businesses, and to make our state more affordable. I hope you join me in supporting her this November.”

Lt. Gov. John Rodgers highlighted my independence and willingness to put Vermonters ahead of party politics. “Andrea is a moderate, independent-minded Vermonter who will bring that balance to

the Senate.” Rodgers also stated, “She will be a strong advocate for affordability, tax relief, and responsible state spending, while standing up for Vermont agriculture, working people, and a vibrant local food system.”

Former Gov. Jim Douglas said, “Andrea has the experience, work ethic, and love for her community to be a highly effective senator from her first day in office.” Douglas also stated, “Rural Vermont deserves to be heard – and Andrea Murray will make sure it is.”

I believe Vermont must begin reversing the consequences of three decades of legislation shaped by partisan philosophical ideology instead of affordability, accountability, and measurable results. This change requires examining existing laws honestly, retaining policies that work, and reforming or repealing those that have contributed to higher costs, restricted housing, and diminished the rights of rural landowners.

For me, fiscal responsibility means remembering



Gov. Phil Scott endorses Andrea Murray. PHOTO PROVIDED

ing that every dollar the government spends first comes from someone who worked to earn it. Leadership means leaving partisan jabs, false accusations, and divisive dog whistles behind so we can concentrate on the people who need their government to work. Legislators must be honest about how Vermont arrived at this point and be equally honest about what it will take to move forward.

My vision is for a Vermont where working families can live comfortably,

seniors can remain in the communities they helped build, young people can find housing and meaningful careers, and farmers and landowners are treated as partners in the state’s future.

Campaign Website: www.Andrea4VT.com.
On Facebook: Andrea Murray for Senate

***Paid for by Andrea Murray for Senate
P.O. Box 12, Weathersfield, VT 05151***

Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of Will Hoser as a candidate for the Vermont legislature. I have known and worked with Will for over 30 years. In that time, I have been impressed with his ability to listen, his compassion, and his empathy while providing care to his patients in the emergency department (ED). Beyond his hands-on practice, he has given his time to greater issues that involve health care in Vermont. He was the chair of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice, the governing body that oversees physician and PA practice in the state. He has also been involved on the national front developing credentialing guidelines for physicians and PAs. His

firsthand experience as an ED provider and more broadly as a regulator give him an unprecedented vision of what healthcare is in Vermont, but, more importantly, where it should be going. His passion for making Vermont a better place to live goes beyond healthcare. A longtime resident of Chester, Vt., he has also been a business owner, and is very aware of the current problems Vermont is experiencing in attracting new businesses and the related housing crisis. In short, Will is the type of person I want in Montpelier: experienced, clear-headed, knowledgeable, energetic, and compassionate. I strongly endorse Will for the Vermont Legislature.

***Paid for by John Bond, PA-C
Former Springfield Hospital Board member
Former president of the Physician Associate Academy of Vermont
1809 Connecticut River Road, Springfield, VT 05156***

Town of Ludlow, Vermont
Ludlow Police Department is accepting applications for a Full-Time Patrol Officer

Seeking motivated candidates certified or certifiable (able to enroll/attend Police Academy) in Vermont (Level I, II, or III). Lateral transfers and out-of-state certified officers are encouraged to apply. Competitive starting pay \$26.47–\$30.96/hour depending on certification, plus shift differentials of 5% and 7%.

Excellent benefits, including health & dental insurance, VMERS retirement, paid vacation, sick time, holidays, uniform allowance, overtime opportunities, and training incentives.

Must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid driver’s license, pass background, physical, psychological exams, and meet Vermont Criminal Justice Council requirements.

Position open until it is filled.
To apply: Submit resume, cover letter, and completed application. Application available at www.ludlow.vt.us (Applications & Forms).

Please contact Chief Jeffrey Warfle with any questions or to send application/resume:
Jeffrey.warfle@vermont.gov or via phone: (802) 228-4411

WATER FLUSHING NOTICE
VILLAGE OF LUDLOW

On Wednesday, September 30, 2026 through Friday, October 2, 2026, the Village of Ludlow Water Department will be flushing the water system and testing the fire hydrant system. The flushing will take place each day from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

Please note: The entire water system will be affected. Residents may experience discolored water during this time. When the flushing is complete, please be sure to let your cold water run until your water runs clear. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we perform our annual distribution system maintenance.

If you have any questions, please call the Water Department at 228-8431 or the Municipal Office at 228-2842.

Thank you.

Town of Ludlow, Vermont
Ludlow Police Department is accepting applications for a Full-Time Emergency Services Dispatcher

Seeking motivated candidates, either certified or able/willing to attend dispatch training. If you feel you would be a great fit for the Town of Ludlow, then we encourage you to apply. Competitive starting pay: \$24.01–\$26.68/hour depending on certification, plus shift differentials of 5% and 7%. Pay may be adjusted if interested candidate has certification and years of experience in this field.

Excellent benefits, including health & dental/life and disability insurances, VMERS retirement, paid vacation, sick time, holidays, uniform allowance, overtime opportunities, and training incentives.

Must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid driver’s license, pass background check, have excellent communication and interpersonal skills along with the ability to problem solve in any given situation.

Position open until it is filled.
To apply: Submit resume, cover letter, and completed application. Application available at www.ludlow.vt.us (Applications & Forms).

Please contact Chief Jeffrey Warfle with any questions or to send application/resume:
Jeffrey.warfle@vermont.gov or via phone: (802) 228-4411

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.

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FOR RENT

SOUTH READING, Vt. – Share a small, neatly kept home in South Reading with woman looking for supplemental income. Must love pets. Gardener a plus! \$650/month plus share of propane bill. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background

★★★★★

FOR STATE REPS
CHARLESTOWN NEWPORT UNITY

Lisa DeBARTOLOMAO
Tim FITZPATRICK
Jeff KESSLER

Vote for a Better NH!
NOVEMBER 3

Paid for by Lisa4abetterNH, 46 Scotts Dr. Charlestown, NH Sheila Kendrick Treasurer

OPINION POLICY

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.

POLITICAL LETTERS: Political letters are 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. The submission must be in letter format, and may not read as a news release. Per Vermont law, we are required to include the name and mailing address of the person, candidate, political committee, or political party that is paying for the communication.

All opinion pieces will be published in the opinion section of the newspaper. Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal.

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(12/9/26 - 52)

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www.vermontcrafts.com/open-studio-weekend
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Upcoming Workshops
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Create Felted Acorns with Lisa Caron Hickey Oct. 10
Dot Mandalas with Antje Rupert Oct. 17
Paint Fall in Watercolor w/ Rob O’Brien Oct. 24
(10/07/26 - TFN - 13)

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(03/17/27 - 52)

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(10/07/26 - 26)

community REAL ESTATE/PROS TO KNOW

VA awards \$18.5 million to fight veteran homelessness

REGION – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently awarded \$18,499,223 in grants to nine community organizations to help veterans in fiscal year 2027 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Vermont and New Hampshire. This funding is part of a record-high \$1.17 billion in grants awarded to 680 organizations across the country to fight Veteran homelessness. The grants follow VA’s success in housing 51,936 homeless Veterans in Fiscal Year 2025, the highest number in seven years. Resource and supportive services grants will be distributed through the agency’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to prevent the imminent loss of a home; identify new, more suitable housing situations for veterans and families;

and rapidly rehouse veterans and their families who are homeless and might remain homeless without assistance. Funds for transitional housing and intensive supportive services will be distributed through the agency’s grant and per diem (GPD) program to fund transitional housing with supportive services or service centers; support transition-in-place housing, where veterans remain in their current housing unit while receiving services to help them move toward permanent, stable housing; and provide special housing designed to better serve women veterans and those who are chronically mentally ill, frail, or elderly. View the full list of SSVF and GPD awardees at www.department.va.gov/homeless/fy-2027-grant-awards.

“VA medical centers across Vermont and New Hampshire remain committed to ensuring veterans have access to safe, stable housing and the supportive services they need to thrive,” said Kelley Saindon, acting executive director of White River Junction VA Healthcare System “These grants strengthen our partnerships with community organizations and help us reach veterans where they are, providing resources that make a meaningful difference in their lives.” If you are a veteran who is experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838). Visit the VA Homeless Programs website to learn about housing initiatives and other programs for veterans exiting homelessness.

Rockingham Library awarded AARP Community Challenge grant

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Rockingham Free Public Library is thrilled to announce that it has received a 2026 AARP Community Challenge grant. This year, only 750 grantees were chosen from 5,100 applications across all 50 states; Washington, D.C.; Puerto Rico; and the U.S. Virgin Islands. With this quick-action grant, the Rockingham Free Public Library has added foldable kayaks, inflatable paddleboards, and e-bikes to its library collection, and has been hosting programs in August and September that will continue in October, so community members, especially those age 50 and older, can learn about the equipment, connect with other curious patrons, and explore the outdoors together. Beginning next summer, the equipment will be available for library card holders to reserve and check out, just like books and other Library of Things objects. This project is advancing the library’s mission to provide access to knowledge, information, cultural enrichment, and connection, and to help make Rockingham a place where people of all ages can thrive. “We are incredibly proud that AARP selected the Rockingham Free Public Library for this grant to help make Rockingham more livable for residents of all ages,” stated Ian Graham, library director. “AARP is a national leader in supporting communities to become more livable, and we are honored they recognize the value and impact this project will bring to this beautiful part of the Connecticut River Valley.” The AARP Community Challenge grant program

supports projects that improve public places, housing, transportation, digital connectivity, disaster resilience, and more. These grants are part of AARP’s broader Livable Communities initiative, which helps neighborhoods, towns, cities, and counties across the country become great places for people of all ages. To explore all 750 projects funded this year – or to view an interactive map of Community Challenge projects, visit www.aarp.org/CommunityChallenge. Learn more about AARP’s nationwide Livable Communities work at www.aarp.org/Livable. For more information about Rockingham Free Public Library’s new paddle and e-bike programs and other programs, call 802-463-4270, visit www.rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.



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arts & entertainment

Vermont Comedy All-Stars returns

PUTNEY, Vt. – Gordon Clark and his Vermont Comedy All-Stars return to Next Stage Arts on Friday, Sept. 25, at 7:30 p.m., for an evening of stand-up comedy featuring Chris Dolan, Tim Lovett, Toni Nagy, and Kane Thomley. Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

Clark, the show's producer and host, is the director of the nonprofit Vermont Comedy All-Stars, which creates stand-up comedy specials throughout Vermont. Since 2020, he has produced more than 120 shows, including multiyear runs at the late, iconic Nectar's in Burlington, Bent Nails Bistro in Montpelier, Zen Barn in Waterbury, Shelburne Vineyard, and Next Stage Arts.

Dolan has performed throughout the Upper Valley and New England for more than two years. A regular at Sawtooth Kitchen in Hanover, N.H., and Brightside Brewing at the Lebanon City Airport, Dolan brings a

former high school history teacher's perspective – and a Long Islander's sensibility – to the stage.

Lovett burst onto the western Massachusetts comedy scene in 2014 and has since performed at New York City's Broadway Comedy Club, Mohegan Sun Casino, and Funny Bone Comedy Club. He has appeared at the Oak City and Vermont Comedy festivals. In 2015, Lovett founded Comedy as a Weapon, a production company supporting local comedians and creating performance opportunities for emerging and established talent. He is also the owner of the Chuckling Charlie Comedy Bus, Massachusetts' first comedy bus.

Nagy is a nationally touring stand-up comedian, podcaster, and content creator known for her viral, politically pointed videos. With more than 1 million followers across social me-

dia platforms, Nagy pairs bold commentary with an irreverent stage presence.

Originally from Alabama and now based in Burlington, Thomley has performed at the Vermont Comedy Festival and hosted for national headliners including Dulcé Sloan, Emily Catalano, and Maddy Smith at Vermont Comedy Club.

Tickets are discounted in advance. Next Stage Arts is located at 15 Kimball Hill in Putney. For tickets and more information, visit www.nextstagearts.org.

Jazz at Chester Town Hall

CHESTER, Vt. – On Sept. 26, at 7 p.m., Eugene Uman, the director of the Vermont Jazz Center, returns to Chester Town Hall. Joining Uman on piano are four world-class musicians: Steve Cady on bass, George Robinson on drums, Matt Steckler on saxophone, and vocalist Bella Holtz. Known as the Family Band, this marvelous quartet interprets the idiom of jazz through extraordinary musicianship, unique arrangements, and joyful collaboration.

Like many artists, Uman brings his life experience to his com-

posing and arranging. As Vermont poet Verandah Porche notes, "Before dedicating his life to music, Eugene was a forester. The wellbeing of the biome was his beat. He brings this deep attunement to his work as a composer."

With Holtz bringing her dynamic and unique interpretations of jazz standards and gems from the Great American Songbook, and bass, drums, and saxophone rounding out this classic ensemble, the deep traditions of jazz blending with a spectrum of musical and cultural influences will result in a truly moving and important evening of music.

This concert is presented by Upstairs at Town Hall (UATH), a 501(c)(3) community nonprofit that sponsors art and cultural events in the beautifully restored Chester Town Hall theater, a fully accessible venue located at 556 Elm Street in Chester, Vt.

Admission to this concert is free, and all are welcome. Donations at the door, as well as sponsors and underwriters, enable UATH to offer unique events to southern Vermont and New Hampshire communities.

For additional information, email upstairsattownhall@gmail.com or follow Upstairs at Town Hall on Facebook.

Alex Radus and Stu Fuchs at Stage 33

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Versatile crooner and master guitarist Alex Radus puts songwriting at center stage, pairing whimsical and poignant storytelling and soulful vocals across an eclectic, toe-tapping mix of Americana, folk, swing, and blues, leapfrogging genres and blurring the lines between them. He learned from some of the nation's best fingerpickers at the Augusta Heritage Center, which influenced his unique finger style and respect for traditional music.

Radus hails from Pennsylvania's artistically rich Lehigh and Delaware river valley, where he has established himself as one of the area's premiere original music artists with his thoughtfully crafted lyrics and storytelling that sticks. He's a frequent performer at the region's best festivals and venues, including Musikfest, Zoellner Arts Center, Godfrey Daniels, Steelstacks, Hopewell Theater, World Cafe Live, and more.

a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for his work bringing healing music to cancer patients, and was artist in residence for eight years at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

In addition, Fuchs has toured to three continents performing gypsy jazz guitar and meditative guitar styles with renowned sacred chant artist Snatam Kaur. He recorded on her Grammy-nominated 2018 release, "Beloved."

Radus and Fuchs split the bill in a 3 p.m. matinee on Sept. 27. Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.stage33live.com, or at the door as available. Advance tickets guarantee entry. Only 40 tickets will be sold. All ticket proceeds go to the performers. The performances will be recorded and filmed. More information can be found at the website above.

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts' Bandwagon Summer Series concludes on Saturday, Sept. 26, with Kotoko Brass, at Putney Inn Field, 57 Putney Landing Road. The all-ages outdoor concert begins at 3 p.m.; gates open at 2 p.m.

Kotoko Brass delivers an electrifying, cross-cultural sound that bridges continents and traditions. Blending the intricate rhythms of central Ghanaian drumming with Caribbean bass and keys and the exuberant punch of New Orleans-style horns, the band creates what the Boston Globe calls "propulsive, infectious party music."

Formed by brothers Ben and Brian Paulding, Kotoko Brass brings together master Ghanaian percussionists Atah Poku and Kwame Ofori with a powerhouse rhythm and horn section.



Live at Drum Boogie.

PHOTO PROVIDED

With a growing reputation across New England, Kotoko Brass has built a following through high-energy shows that get crowds moving. Drawing on the members' diverse backgrounds and experiences, the group transforms tradition into something vibrant, contemporary, and deeply communal.

Tickets are discounted if purchased online in advance; children younger than 12 are admitted free. Food will be available from

Saffron Restaurant, along with onsite refreshments and a bar. Audience members are encouraged to

bring a picnic, blanket, or folding chair. A dedicated play area will be available for children.

This performance is sponsored in part by The Richards Group and is part of Next Stage's Local & Global Series, made possible by a 2026 Music in Action grant from Live Music Society. The Bandwagon Summer Series is sponsored in part by M&T Bank, Lawson's Finest Liquids, Brattleboro Reformer, The Commons, and Landmark College.

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



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CONTACT COURTNEY MCGUIRE: 603-219-3491 | ludiowptg@gmail.com

Raku pottery class —

The performers will pause and share their combined expertise in their beloved musical arts. Both the compositions and subsequent conversations will be held within a time frame that works for all, and promise to be memorable active-listening experiences.

Berends will be teaching the Japanese firing technique known as raku. The firings take about an hour, and you get a finished piece at the end. Raku is a technique where pots are fired to 1,840 degrees, pulled out of the hot kiln, and manipulated with sawdust and water to change the

The class will include wheel-throwing, slab-making, and extruding instruction. The first day will include making all types of clay work, and the second day will be glazing and firing all the pots in the raku tradition. Emphasis will be on being creative, and learning the basics of pottery, including making the work, glazing, as well as firing. The class is geared towards teens through adults, and limited to four students.

Gallery at the Vault is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield. For more information, visit the gallery, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit Facebook, Instagram, or www.galleryvault.org. Gallery at the Vault is accessible.

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