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Fairy House Festival a magical success

GRAFTON, Vt. – The 17th annual Fairy House Festival was held Sept. 26 and 27, at the Nature Museum in Grafton.

Children and adults of all ages fluttered around the grounds of the Nature Museum, sparkling with glitter, some flying around with fairy wings. Intricate houses were carefully crafted by local businesses, organizations, families, and individuals, and were viewed by the many attendees of the festival.

The Fairy House Festival is one of the largest fundraisers for the museum. It thanks the volunteers, builders, staff, board members, donors, and sponsors who make the magical village come alive. All of the proceeds from the festival support the Nature



The Secret Beach Surf Resort & Smoothie Bar by the Danforth Family

PHOTO BY SHAWN TAE WEBB

Museum’s year-round work to connect people to nature. Thank you to local sponsors VTEL, The Richards Group, Chroma Technology, Southern Vermont Solar,

Terrigenous Landscape Architecture, Adam’s Trucking & Excavating, Barrett & Valley Associates, and The Windham Foundation.

Crown Point Women’s Golf Association fosters camaraderie, competition

BY PAULA BENSON

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – In 2024, Crown Point Country Club (CPCC) was ranked No. 4 on the Golf Pass Golfers’ Choice list of the Top 25 Friendliest Public Golf Courses in America. The members of the Crown Point Women’s Golf Association (CPWGA) would wholeheartedly agree and are making it their mission to get the word out about Springfield’s championship golf course.

On Sept. 12, the league held its annual invitational and fundraiser, bringing together 88 golfers from around the region for some friendly competition. Participating as two-person teams, the women played an 18-hole tournament that featured six holes of best ball, six holes of shamble, and six holes of scramble. They also had an opportunity to win a 2026 Subaru Forester in one of four hole-in-one contests generously sponsored by Lundgren Subaru of Claremont. Although no one went home with the car, league member Bettina McCrady said that just seeing the brand-new vehicle parked at the 18th hole was very exciting and motivating for the golfers.

McCrady, a relative newcomer to the sport, said she joined the CPWGA four years ago after she retired and could dedicate herself to the game. “I had heard this was a welcoming club, and for me, it was a really nice way to start the game. Many of the more experienced players help the newer members, so if you’re a new golfer, you are not intimidated.”

League Vice President Kada Sigl concurred. “Perhaps the best part is that it’s not about how good we are as golfers. Being part of the league is really about camaraderie, friendships, and sense of community we’ve



Players at the 2026 CPWGA Invitational.

PHOTO PROVIDED

built together.”

“What makes this group of women so special is the way everyone contributes in their own way. Whether it’s volunteering, sharing ideas, helping with events, or simply lending a hand when needed, everyone has something valuable to add,” said Sigl.

Jenna Young Starr has been the league president for the past several years, having started as the club’s treasurer in 2020, when there were just 28 members. Starr brings with her a dedication to women supporting women in golf, a commitment to the growth and success of the program, and a greater effort to raise funds that support improvements at CPCC. Although Starr is not sure exactly when the women’s league was started, as treasurer she noted the bank account was initially opened in 1974.

Recently, the league has been replacing the forward, or gold, tee boxes across the golf course. In the past, the ladies raised funds to purchase new awnings for the clubhouse, and there are plans in the works to plant maple trees in place of other trees that have died.

Last year, the women’s league started a fundraiser called the Crown Jewel that raises as much as \$10,000 for the CPCC. With a raffle package valued at more than \$3,500, one winner is awarded the ultimate club mem-

bership experience: a fully paid annual membership, including cart fees, entry into three club tournaments, annual league fees, and range balls; a \$375 pub gift certificate; a \$200 pro shop gift certificate; and a “cut the line” pass at Crown Point Pub.

This year, the league welcomed more than 60 members ranging in age from 16 to 90. They play on Wednesday mornings and Thursday nights, and teams do not have set partners, but are shuffled each week. The scores are close because teams are purposefully built on a tier system, matching inexperienced players with those who are more skilled. This gives beginners an opportunity to improve their game without feeling too much pressure.

Starr said the women try to keep active over the winter, often meeting at CPCC to take advantage of the club’s groomed trails and free cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, or to gather at the pub on Thursday nights to hear live music.

There is already a date set for next year’s CPWGA Invitational – Sept. 11, 2027 – and Starr and the rest of the league warmly invite women from Vermont and New Hampshire to be part of their special group.

Springfield Small Business Incubator Program to open



A mockup of the Incubator space to open on Main Street.

PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Sept. 14, the Springfield on the Move Economic Development Committee met in our new Incubator space at 27 Main Street, located between H&R Block and VRmont Studios. It was a fantastic opportunity to discuss the upcoming programming that will support our local businesses and community.

We’re thrilled to announce our partnership with SEVCA, BRIC, the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Springfield, and more to bring you this space. While we’re putting the finishing touches on it, we plan to open this fall,

so stay tuned for more updates.

Participants will have access to a fantastic lineup, including the SEVCA Downtown Cohort, will receive a free laptop, and will work with small-business resources through a certificate program provided by our partners at BRIC, SEVCA, the chamber, and Springfield on the Move.

This is an incredible opportunity to be part of our vibrant downtown community. We’re accepting 30 applications for rotating spots for food vendors, retail artisans, and more. Apply at www.springfieldonthemove.com/incubator-program for a chance to secure your spot in this six-month program.



The economic development committee in the Incubator space.

PHOTO PROVIDED

SAPCC online auction

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) is hosting an online auction to help raise funds toward the purchase of a dedicated van that will allow the organization to bring programs, resources, and opportunities for connection directly to families throughout the 25 communities it serves.

SAPCC’s online auction will run from Oct. 1-14, featuring a variety of items generously donated by local businesses and community partners.

SAPCC believes strong families build strong communities, and that no family should have to navigate the early years alone. The new van will help the organization bring its programs and resources directly to more families and communities throughout its service area.

SAPCC supports families from pregnancy through the early years,

through programs and services including Welcome Baby Bags, a diaper and formula bank, free developmental services, playgroups, parent education, community resources, and more. With a dedicated van, SAPCC will be able to take these programs and resources on the road, making it easier to reach families who may have difficulty accessing services. All auction proceeds will go toward purchasing SAPCC’s new van.

Community members can participate by bidding on auction items, sharing the auction with friends and family, and helping spread the word. Visit www.32auctions.com/sapcc-village to view auction items and place your bids.

SAPCC is grateful to the local businesses and community partners who donated items and continue to support children and families throughout the region.

For more information, email sapcc@sapcc-vt.org, call 802-886-5242, or visit www.sapcc-vt.org.

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Saxtons River student looks at microelectronics industry

BRIDGEWATER, Mass. – Christopher Leary, '28, of Saxtons River, Vt., recently gained a behind-the-scenes look at the rapidly evolving microelectronics industry after being selected for a prestigious internship program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Leary, who is studying photonics and optical engineering at Bridgewater State University (BSU), was one of just 30 students selected from nearly 700 applicants for the Northeast Microelectronics Internship Program.

During the weeklong program, Leary and his fellow students toured advanced laboratories and manufacturing facilities at MIT, IBM, and semiconductor manufacturer GlobalFoundries. They also had the opportunity to enter semiconductor clean rooms, where special-

ized suits, boots, and masks are required to protect sensitive manufacturing processes from even tiny particles of dust.

For Leary, the experience offered a firsthand look at how photonics and other technologies he is studying at BSU are being applied in the microelectronics industry.

"Because the photonics program here is so special, I have the opportunity to learn about very specific things that even people in an electrical engineering degree would not get to learn about at the undergraduate level," Leary said. "The photonics classes are really well designed toward going into that field."

Leary is particularly interested in biotechnology and was excited to visit a laboratory developing flexible chips for medical applications.

"I'm really passionate about using light to solve problems, because I feel like it's a new frontier of science," he said. "I'm definitely passionate about helping others."

His interests also connect to the undergraduate research he conducts at Bridgewater State under the mentorship of Dr. Thaya Paramanathan, an associate professor of physics, photonics, and optical engineering. Paramanathan and his students study anticancer drugs with the goal of helping improve treatments.

Leary said his research experience has strengthened his ability to think critically and approach scientific problems. "The undergraduate research has prepared me to apply critical thinking to everything I do," he said.

“Protect the Freedom to Read” at the library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street in Springfield, Vt., invites the community to participate in “Let Books Be: Protect the Freedom to Read,” a public reading event celebrating the freedom to read and the importance of intellectual freedom.

From Monday, Oct.

5, through Friday, Oct. 9, community members are invited to gather on the front steps of the Springfield Town Library each day, at 1 p.m., to read aloud a passage from a banned or challenged book. Join fellow readers in giving voice to books that have been challenged or banned and celebrate curiosity, free expression, and every person's

right to choose what they read. Whether you read a favorite passage or simply come to listen, everyone is welcome to participate.

For more information, contact the Springfield Town Library at 802-885-3108 or email stlvtprograms@gmail.com. To sign up for an event reminder, visit www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar.

Join the Springfield Community Band

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – After an active and fun summer concert season and some time to regroup, the Springfield Community Band is now inviting new members to join as it prepares for its

December holiday concert. All players are welcome; there are no auditions. Percussion and trombones are especially welcome.

Rehearsals will take place Tuesday evenings, from 6-8 p.m., at the Riverside Mid-

dle School, 13 Fairground Road, Springfield, Vt., starting on Oct. 6.

If you are interested, contact the band at scommunityband@gmail.com. The band looks forward to hearing from you.

Candidates forum at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street in Springfield, Vt., invites members of the community to join a friendly and informal meet and greet with candidates Alice Emmons, Kristi Morris, Randy Gray, and Judith Stern on Monday, Oct. 5, at 5 p.m.

This community forum offers an opportunity for residents to meet the candidates, learn more about their priorities and visions, and ask questions in a re-

laxed and welcoming setting. Attendees are encouraged to come connect with neighbors, get to know the candidates, and participate in a conversation about the future of the Springfield community. Everyone is welcome.

For candidate biographies and additional information about the event and candidates, please visit the Eventbrite event page at [www.eventbrite.com/e/meet-the-candidates-a-nonpartisan-com-](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/meet-the-candidates-a-nonpartisan-community-forum-tickets-1998497316271?aff=oddtcreator)

Knitting Together knits hats and mittens for children

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Knitting Together is a local knitting group that meets every Wednesday, from 1-3 p.m., at the Village Square Booksellers in downtown Bellows Falls. We have made it our mission to knit hats and mittens for our area schools, coordinated with school nurses, and also are able to donate to Parks Place and any organizations in need. We also knit newborn baby beanies for Springfield Area Parent Child Center, which serves most of Windham County.

For yarn supply, we rely on community donations (acrylic yarn

only, to be washable) as much as possible, then rely on our own means as needed. Any donations are always welcomed and may be dropped off at the bookstore at any time.

We are always hoping for new members at any skill level, and are able to supply startup materials and instruction if needed. We can promise a good weekly get-together, and this is truly a great activity in which to take part. For more infor-



Hats and mittens knitted by Knitting Together members.

PHOTO PROVIDED

mation, contact Caroline Phillips at 802-463-4653.

Rotary donates to Ukraine Vision Project

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Rotary Club recently donated \$250 to a Rotary International service project aimed at improving vision care for visually impaired children in Ukraine.

Past District Gov. John Bob Siemienowicz and Claremont-Sugar River Rotary Club past President Charlene Lovett, international service chairs for Rotary District 7870, spoke to the club about the new initiative, which will support a school for visually impaired children in Poltava, Ukraine.

The project seeks to raise

\$3,600 to purchase software and specialized equipment designed to improve treatment and assist with vision restoration for the children. The technology is expected to support efforts to restore and enhance vision, providing students with greater opportunities to learn and participate more fully in their daily lives.

Siemienowicz and Lovett explained that the project reflects Rotary's commitment to international service and its ability to connect local clubs with projects addressing important needs around the world.



Claremont-Sugar River Rotary Club past President Charlene Lovett, past Springfield Rotary Club President Jeff Mobus, and past District Gov. John Bob Siemienowicz.

PHOTO PROVIDED

At the conclusion of the presentation, Springfield Rotary presented a \$250 donation toward the project, which was enough money to complete the project.

The Springfield Rotary Club is part of Rotary District 7870, which encompasses southern Vermont and southern New Hampshire. Through local and international service projects, the club works to support

communities and improve lives.

The Springfield Rotary Club meets Tuesdays, at 12 p.m., at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center. Guests are welcome to attend meetings and learn more about Rotary's local and international service projects. For more information, visit www.springfieldvtrotary.org.



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“Conversation With the Candidates” in Athens —

ATHENS, Vt. – The Athens Historic Preservation Society, along with the Athens Brick Meetinghouse Committee, is hosting a “Conversation with the Candidates” at the 1817 Brick Meetinghouse on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 4, at 2:30 p.m.

The Windsor-Windham District serves the towns of Athens, Grafton, Windham, and Chester. The candidates for this state representative seat are incumbent Republican Rep. Tom Charlton and Democratic challenger Will Hoser. Both candidates have accepted the invitation.

This will be a bit less formal

than a typical forum. There will be time at both the start and the end of the event for attendees to mingle with the candidates either inside the meetinghouse or outside on the meetinghouse common over cider and donuts.

For the bulk of time between that, the forum will move indoors to the sanctuary space, where, for no more than an hour, a moderator will ask prepared questions of both candidates along with written questions submitted by attendees. The prepared questions will not be shared in advance, but will touch upon issues that are impor-

tant to constituents of the Windsor-Windham District, along with the legislature’s capacity to address them.

The organizations are excited to be reviving the history of the 1817 Brick Meetinghouse as a place where prominent speakers addressed the public on civic matters of import. The Athens Brick Meetinghouse is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is located at 2 Meetinghouse Road in Athens, Vt.

For more information, visit “Athens Meetinghouse” on Facebook.

Windsor-Windham District candidate forum

CHESTER, Vt. – The public is invited to a forum with the Windsor-Windham District Vermont House of Representatives candidates, Will Hoser and Tom Charlton. The forum, cosponsored by the Chester Town Democratic Committee and the Chester Republican Committee, will take place on

Oct. 13, from 6-7:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall, 556 Elm Street.

The Windsor-Windham District includes Chester, Athens, Grafton, and Windham. The forum will feature introductions by the candidates, their responses to questions provided by moderator Frank Kelly, and an opportunity for audience

questions, followed by closing statements from each candidate.

The forum is an opportunity to meet the candidates and hear their plans to address the concerns of Windsor-Windham District residents. Be an informed voter on Nov. 3. Come out to the forum and get answers to your questions.

Okemo Valley introduces fall foliage train and pop-up fall festival

REGION – The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the launch of a brand-new autumn attraction, the Okemo Valley Fall Foliage Train & Pop Up Fall Festival, taking place Oct. 3 and 4. This vibrant new event joins the region’s beloved Okemo Valley Holiday Express, returning Dec. 19 and 20, creating a two-season lineup of scenic rail experiences for families, visitors, and rail enthusiasts.

The fall foliage train invites guests to step into Vermont’s most iconic season aboard a vintage railcar, offering nearly an hour of scenic mountain views, brilliant color, and old-fashioned rail charm. The train departs from Ludlow, Vt., running six times daily, at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4:30 p.m., on both days. Surrounding the rail experience is a lively pop-up fall festival, featuring local food, Vermont arti-

sans, seasonal treats, and cozy autumn traditions that celebrate the best of the region.

The chamber’s signature winter event, the Okemo Valley Holiday Express, returns just weeks later. Departing from the historic Chester Depot, this magical, one-hour ride offers families a joyful winter journey through Vermont’s snow-covered countryside. Guests meet Santa and his elves aboard the train, with departures at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., and 5 p.m., on Dec. 19 and 20.

“With the addition of the fall foliage train and pop-up fall festival, Okemo Valley is building a seasonal rail tradition that captures the beauty and spirit of Vermont in both autumn and winter,” said the Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce. “These experiences bring together scenic rail, local culture, and family-friendly fun in a way that truly reflects our region.”



The Okemo Valley foliage train will run Oct. 3 and 4. PHOTO BY STEEL WHEELS PHOTOGRAPHY

Both events are hosted in partnership with Vermont Rail System. Tickets for both the fall foliage train

and Holiday Express are available at www.okemovalleychamber.simplerix.com.

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Ludlow VERMONT

Ludlow Village Vision Plan

Friday, October 16

Drop in anytime: 4:00-6:00pm

Formal Presentation: 5:00-5:30pm

Town Hall 37 S Depot St.

Zoom link for presentation available by emailing ELadd@Ludlow.vt.us

The Town of Ludlow is developing a master plan for the Village that will address transportation, housing and economic opportunities for our community. Consultants have developed draft recommendations to improve village vitality, and want your feedback!

Come to the FEEDBACK SESSION, Friday, October 16 from 4:00-6:00 at Town Hall. During the drop-in period, you can expect to spend 10-20 minutes reviewing the recommendations, answering interactive questions and talking with members of the project team. There will be a formal presentation from 5:00-5:30 to explain the proposed recommendations, with an option to join via zoom.

Light refreshments will be provided!

Learn more about the project and additional ways to participate at arcg.is/1yqLm8:

Questions? Contact: Erin Ladd, Director of Planning & Zoning
Email: ELadd@Ludlow.vt.us
Direct Line: 802-228-4870

health & community

Kindle Farm celebrates 30 years, HCRS parntership –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On a Friday afternoon during the height of the 2008 financial crisis, Kindle Farm School Board President Ben Taggard made a phone call that would change the future of the school. His question was simple: Would Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) consider bringing Kindle Farm School into its organization?

Like many small, mission-driven nonprofits during the recession, Kindle Farm School – an independent therapeutic school for boys in Newfane, Vt. – faced growing financial pressures while remaining deeply committed to serving students and families. Sustaining the school independently had become increasingly difficult.

HCRS, the community mental health agency serving Windham and Windsor counties, agreed to move forward, not because the decision was easy, but be-

cause leaders from both organizations recognized they shared a common mission: helping vulnerable young people succeed. They believed preserving Kindle Farm School mattered to the students, families, school districts, and communities that depended on it.

By joining HCRS, Kindle Farm School gained the stability and organizational support needed to focus even more deeply on its mission. Expanded access to counseling, crisis services, case management, and coordinated clinical care strengthened support for students and families, while enhanced human resources, technology, facilities, and financial systems allowed teachers, clinicians, and staff to spend less time managing infrastructure and more time helping young people learn, heal, and succeed.

Today, HCRS’ Kindle Farm School continues

serving students in grades 3-12 from across Vermont and New Hampshire with the same relationship-centered philosophy that has guided the school since its founding in 1996.

“Some partnerships are about growth,” said Anne Bilodeau, chief executive officer of HCRS. “This partnership was about preserving something extraordinary...Thirty years later, we’re incredibly proud that Kindle Farm has remained true to its mission while benefiting from the strength and support of a larger organization.”

Looking back nearly two decades after that pivotal phone call, the decision represents far more than an organizational transition. It reflects a shared commitment to preserving a place where young people can rediscover confidence, rebuild relationships, and believe in their future. As Kindle Farm School celebrates its 30th anniversary, the partnership between Kindle Farm School and HCRS continues to demonstrate how organizations can grow stronger together while remaining deeply rooted in the mission that brought them together.

Adult day social program to begin Oct. 7 –

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Neighborhood Connections in Londonderry will be opening a its new social model adult day care program on Oct. 7, providing breakfast and lunch, and offering activities including participatory music, arts and crafts, and games modeled after the Relish-Life curriculum. There will be an open house on Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., for any potential clients, partners, and interested community members to drop in on an informal basis to meet our staff and see the facility.

The program will be available every Wednesday, from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30

p.m., in the main Neighborhood Connections meeting complex in the Mountain Marketplace, at the corner of Route 11 and Route 100 in Londonderry. This open, airy space includes plenty of windows, a full-service commercial kitchen, internet access, large-screen audio-visual equipment, and accessible restrooms, and also houses office staff.

This is a social program and will not include medical care. This program is appropriate for adults capable of feeding themselves and independent bathroom functions, but who need a safe and supervised space during the day, meal preparation, and socialization. Applicants will be screened using standard tools at in-

take to ensure program compatibility. The program will be overseen by Lois Schram Osnow, a licensed clinical social worker. Prior to moving to Vermont, she was the co-founder and owner of LS Gerontology Seminars, where she instituted culture-change projects in more than 25 long-term care facilities in addition to providing training to more than 75 long-term care facilities in the tri-state area. Additional staff with relevant experience have been retained to assist with the program.

For questions about eligibility and general information about the program or the open house, contact Osnow at 802-824-4343 or Lois@ncvermont.org.

EMT class at Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad –

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS) is hosting an emergency medical technician (EMT) class starting Oct. 12. It will run through March 15, 2027, and will meet at the LVRS building, 6068 Route 100, Londonderry, Vt.

Emergency medical

technicians are trained to respond to calls for medical treatment outside of a hospital setting. Their role is to quickly assess and document a patient’s condition and determine what treatment they may need. They are expected to provide medical treatment to the level of their training, prepare the patient for transport to a hospital, and assist in transport to the hospital.

This course is a mix of

self-directed learning and in-person training. There are online lectures and quizzes, and the class will meet in person Mondays, from 6-9 p.m., and one Saturday a month, from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. This class costs \$750, but tuition will be refunded if, after successfully completing the class and becoming state and nationally registered, the student becomes a full member of LVRS.

To sign up, visit www.londonderryrescuevt.org and click on “EMT class 26-27.”

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37 Main Street, Ludlow
Free of charge, all are welcome

Contra dancing is family-friendly, open to all ages and very welcoming to new dancers. Feel free to come solo, bring a friend or organize a group- you're sure to have a great time!

Sponsored by:
Black River Good Neighbor Services
“Celebrating our 4th year serving community meals”



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EMPTY BOWLS

Chester Andover Family Center

 **October 24th** |  **4:30-7pm**

 **American Legion on Rt. 103, Chester**

**FOOD SHELF**

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HCRS’ Brattleboro Buddy Walk –

BATTLEBORO, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) invites community members of all ages and abilities to come together for the 2026 Brattleboro Buddy Walk, a celebration of inclusion, connection, and the many contributions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The event will take place Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Brattleboro Town Common, rain or shine. The day will feature a 1-mile walk through downtown Brattleboro, along with music, activities, games, prizes, lunch, vendors, and opportunities to connect with friends and neighbors from throughout the region.

HCRS is coordinating this year’s event in partnership with longtime Buddy Walk organizer Jim Nicholson. Proceeds from this year’s Brattleboro Buddy Walk will benefit Special Olympics programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Windham County, helping create additional opportunities for connection, participation, and achievement. The event is made possible through the generous support of local businesses and organizations, including Casella and M&T Bank, two of this year’s leading sponsors.

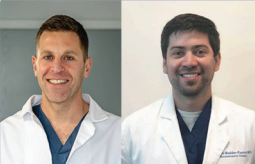
Advance registration is encouraged. Participants can also support the event through individual fundraising and donations.

For more information, to register, or to support the 2026 Brattleboro Buddy Walk, visit www.brattleborobuddywalk.org.

**Springfield Urology**
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**Dr. Michael Curtis**
Urology

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For a full list of services, please visit our website:
www.springfieldhospital.org

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**welcomes Vinnie Stoodley and
Connie Taylor to the Springfield Team!**

**Vinnie Stoodley** | I was born and raised right in the Springfield area, only leaving to go to Albany for the six-year pharmacy program. Now, I’m building my own family in the same community with my wife, Brittany, and son, Cole. I’m an avid hunter and fisher when it’s in season and love skateboarding all year round.

I always had a strong aptitude for math and anatomy, so pharmacy felt like a great intersection of my skills, along with the high impact it can have on the community. I also really value the team approach and supportive culture.

**Connie Taylor** | I live in Vermont with my Army veteran husband and our four fur-babies. I have a close-knit family, with most of my immediate family in upstate New York or New England. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, cooking, reading, puzzles, listening to the Grateful Dead, traveling, and spending time outdoors with my dog.

I decided to become a pharmacist because I wanted to work in healthcare. I was always good at math and science in school, and I’m a people-person. Community pharmacists are some of the most accessible and approachable healthcare providers, with a connection to their local communities and the opportunity to help people manage their healthcare.

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HEALTH CONT.

services

Kendall B. Crocker Jr. celebration of life

CHESTER, Vt. – A celebration of life will be held in loving memory of Kendall B. “Kenny” Crocker Jr., who passed away Jan. 15, 2026, at age 79. Kenny will be remem-

bered for his service to his country, his love of family and friends, and the many lives he touched. Please join us on Oct. 11, 2026, at 1 p.m., at the American Legion in Chester, Vt.

Stephanie Nelson celebration of life

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A service of remembrance and celebration of life for Stephanie Nelson, who passed away

Aug. 15, will be held at Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., on Oct. 17, at 1 p.m. A reception will follow.

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.

CORNISH, N.H.
United Church of Cornish, 378 Center Rd.
Join our worship services on Sundays, at 10 a.m. We’re also holding a dinner church/community potluck on the last Sunday of each month, in place of regular services, at 1 p.m. Come as you are and join us in a relaxed setting for lunch and fellowship; please bring a dish of food to share if you can. All are welcome!

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

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

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

WALPOLE, N.H.
First Congregational Church of Walpole UCC, 15 Washington Sq.
Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, or via Zoom. For Zoom links, please call 603-756-4075. For more information, go to www.walpolenhucc.org or www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH.

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

Dartmouth to lead study of care decisions among older adults with serious illness

LEBANON, N.H. – Dartmouth Health (DH), the most rural academic health system in the country, has been selected by the National Institute on Aging to serve as the lead site for a \$44 million study, one of the largest studies ever conducted on how older Americans with serious illness make decisions about their medical care. DH will serve as the study’s rural anchor for the Advancing Ethical Goals in Society (AEGIS) trial, which will enroll more than 12,000 older patients.

“Every patient deserves the right care, at the right time, and on their own terms, whether they live two blocks or two hours from the nearest hospital,” said Dr. Joanne M. Conroy, CEO and president of Dartmouth Health. “This trial will prove what we believe at Dartmouth Health: Rural does not mean lesser. We meet people where they are and bring them state-of-the-art care. All patients deserve the innovative, world-class healthcare, whether it’s in rural Vermont and New Hampshire or in our cities.”

Every day, thousands of older Americans and their families confront difficult decisions about serious illness. Research indicates that, in rural settings, patients face a widened and persistent gap in accessing the care they want and deserve. AEGIS will study shared decision-making, in which patients and families act as equal partners in their medical choices. The trial will test whether decision-aid tools that help patients and families understand

their options, communicate what matters most to them, and navigate an increasingly complex healthcare system lead to care delivery that honors their wishes.

“Shared decision making is a simple but profound idea: that doctors and patients can be true partners in care. The insight that these partnerships create better outcomes grew out of the late Jack Wennberg’s pioneering work here at Dartmouth,” said Dr. Jennifer Hunt, dean of Dartmouth’s Geisel School of Medicine and chief academic officer at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. “That spirit of patient-centered innovation is one of the things that drew me to Geisel, and our work with Dartmouth Health on AEGIS shows how our deep institutional partnership can be a catalyst for transforming rural health.”

Wennberg’s research revealed that the care patients receive often depends more on where they live than on what they prefer. More than 20 years ago, Wennberg and Dr. Angelo E. Volandes, who now serves as Dartmouth Health’s interim chief research officer and senior associate dean for clinical and translational research at the Geisel School of Medicine, discussed a medical dilemma: Medicine had no standardized way for doctors and patients to talk about medical decisions.

“Getting the right care should not depend on your zip code,” said Volandes, who has spent two decades studying how patients with serious illness make medi-

cal decisions. “AEGIS puts Dartmouth Health and Geisel at the center of a national effort to make sure older patients and families, wherever they live, understand their choices and are respected when it matters most.”

The AEGIS trial is led by multiple principal investigators: Volandes and Dr. Michael Paasche-Orlow, of Tufts Medical Center, which serves as the administrative site. Other Dartmouth Health investigators include Ellen Flaherty, vice president of Dartmouth Health’s Geriatric Center of Excellence; Dr. Nathan E. Goldstein, chair of the department of medicine; Lori E. Henault, deputy director of research operations; and Dr. Amber E. Barnato, department chair and director of the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice at Geisel. Other institutions include Northwell Health, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Mayo Clinic, Emory University, University of California San Francisco, Wake Forest University, and University of Colorado.

“We talk about rural health as a deficit. We need to reframe it as a design challenge,” Volandes added.

“If a tool helps a family in New Hampshire’s rural Coos County make the decision that is right for them, it will work anywhere in America.”

AEGIS is the latest in a series of major awards supporting Dartmouth Health’s major rural health initiative and portfolio, Dartmouth Health at Home. This announcement follows the recently announced \$11.8 million NIH grant to fund

a collaborative, multidisciplinary research program with Dartmouth Geisel College of Medicine, to be known as the Center for Aging with Serious Illness, focused on addressing the needs of people aging with serious illness; and a \$10 million gift from philanthropist Kenneth R. French to establish the Vickie French Hospital at Home program in honor of his late wife.

Of the \$44 million total, Dartmouth Health will receive \$13.2 million to lead the trial’s rural sites, with an additional \$623,000 supporting investigators at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth.

Research reported in this release is supported by the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health under award number 1U19AG090271-01A1.

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.

David Chaves

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT. 2 –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The

First Baptist Church of
Bellows Falls, 9 Church
Street, will hold its First
Friday Fundraiser on Friday,
Oct. 2, from 5-6:30 p.m.

PERU ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Escher Design Inc., Friedman and Newbound have submitted an application for a small deck with ADA ramp at 36 Minuteman Way, Peru Vt. A waiver is sought on setback requirements. The Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a hearing on this application at 6:00 on October 15, 2026, at the Peru Town Offices.

Those interested in seeing the applications or submitting written comments should contact the town's Zoning Administrator at Zoning@peruvt.org

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(2)(b)(c) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

David Kiernan
Peru Zoning
Office Hours 9-12 Wednesday or by appointment

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

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

Proceeds will benefit SEVCA's emergency fuel fund. The menu includes spaghetti, green salad, garlic bread, a beverage, and dessert. There is a suggested donation.

OCT. 3 –

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The North School Preservation Society will hold a yard sale fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at 5 School Street, rain or shine. The sale includes art pottery,

handmade and vintage textiles, tools, books and audiobooks, home goods, and a bag sale.

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

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.

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

SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT

WATER MAIN FLUSHING NOTICE

MONDAY, October 5 – FRIDAY, October 16, 2026

Periodically, in Springfield, Vermont, we clean water mains of harmless corrosion and accumulated foreign matter by opening hydrants and allowing the water to escape under high pressure. The flushing action is an important part of our program to maintain high quality water.

Although such flushing may produce temporary discoloration, the safety of the water is not affected in any way. **HOWEVER**, we advise you to schedule clothes washing and cleaning projects at other times.

All mains will be flushed between **7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday**. During the time this work is performed, **IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE ENTIRE SYSTEM WILL BE AFFECTED**. It is suggested that restaurants, laundromats, etc. keep their use to a minimum until water clears. The water system will be riled and cloudy, but this condition will clear up upon completion of the work.

SPRINGFIELD WATER DEPT.

information, call 603-558-5529.

OCT. 4 –

CUTTINGSVILLE, Vt. – The Laurel Glen Cemetery Association and the Shrewsbury Historical Society invite the public to an open house day on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 1-4 p.m., rain or shine. Parking is at the Olde Barn lot. The Bowman mansion, mausoleum, and conservatory, and the Shrewsbury Museum will be open to the public. There will also be a bake sale (email laurelglen.bowmanmansion@gmail.com if you wish to donate a baked item) and haunted mansion bookshop posters for sale. Proceeds will support repairs at Laurel Glen; cash or check only. Donations are appreciated.

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Grafton Historical Society will hold a pie social on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 1-3 p.m., at its building at 147 Main Street. Pick out your own slice from a variety of locally baked pies, from custard, to creme, to fruit pies, and more. Come enjoy socializing, a delicious slice of pie, and music.

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Grafton Cornet Band invites all to its free Foliage Concert on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 3-4 p.m., on the Grafton Library lawn in Grafton, Vt. It's a traditional community band concert with familiar and upbeat music for the whole family in beautiful Grafton. Bring chairs or a blanket for comfort, and maybe a picnic. For rain, the band plays in the historic Grafton Community Church with great acoustics. The band keeps its original 1867 name even though all wind instruments are now included. Glen D'Eon directs. There's a lot to do in Grafton on a foliage-season Sunday, including shopping, galleries, museums, hiking, and good eating. See www.graftonband.org for more information.

OCT. 10 –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Opera House will host a comedy night fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 10, to support Amy, an adaptive athlete, who will be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in 2028. Amy has been living with MS for 18 years and continues to push beyond what many thought possible. Come learn more about Amy, her journey, and the incredible story behind this goal, and help us show her some love and support along the way.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Gerry Grimo & The East Bay Dance Combo will perform at the Charlestown Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Friday, Saturday, Oct. 10, from 7-9 p.m., featuring a variety of music styles for social and ballroom dancing. Small suggested donation. There is a large dance floor and comfortable seating. Snacks will be available, BYOB.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main Street, invites the public to a ham and baked bean supper on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 4-6 p.m., in the church's Pineroom. The menu includes baked ham, homemade baked beans, coleslaw, corn bread, dessert, and beverages. Children under 6 years old eat for a reduced fee. Takeout will be available. Come enjoy this feast prepared by some of the best cooks in the valley.

SUNDAYS –

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

MONDAYS –

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, hosts a writers group on the first and third Monday of every month, from 5-6:30 p.m. Are you interested in sharing your work and receiving feedback from other writers? Join us. Bring three pages to share. Hosted by Catherine Martin. For more information, call 802-228-8921.

SATURDAYS –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield VFW Post 771, 191 River Street, will host burger nights on the first and third Saturdays of every month, from 5-7 p.m., downstairs in the canteen. These events are open to the public.

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:

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 Merrilee 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.

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at Springfield Town Office, a public place in such Town, on the 22nd 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

opinion/classifieds

Dear Neighbors,

I'm running for state representative for Ludlow, Mount Holly, and Shrewsbury, and I wanted to take a moment to share with you what's driving this campaign – and what I'll be advocating for if you send me to Montpelier.

I'm running because I want us to reduce the partisan tug-of-war and work more effectively on the issues we are all facing. I want to be a clear, honest bridge between our towns and the Statehouse, and I want to bring people together as we seek solutions.

My campaign is built on three core values: compassion, social justice, and hope. I see this role as one of stewardship – listening closely to my neighbors, and carrying your voices to Montpelier with care and integrity. We need to move past fixating on what divides us, and instead celebrate what unites us: building resilient, vibrant communities where everyone feels welcomed, represented, and able to participate.

What I'm advocating for:

- Healthcare, a basic right for every Vermonter: I believe every person deserves access to preventative and acute healthcare. Efforts to expand access have stalled in Washington, and I believe Vermont needs to lead the way. Here's what I support: (1) Universal primary care for every Vermonter, funded through the Fair Share for Vermont tax proposal. This would simultaneously reduce our reliance on unpredictable federal dollars (about a third of our state

budget) while asking the wealthiest Vermonters (top 5%) to pay their fair share. (2) Back Act 68 and reference-based pricing, stopping hospitals from independently setting prices, curbing cost swings, and putting savings back in our pockets.

Why it matters: School staff health insurance is one of the biggest drivers of property taxes. Lower healthcare premiums mean lower, more stable property taxes – and a Vermont more of us can afford.

- Housing, a place for everyone to call home: I believe safe, affordable housing is a basic right, not a privilege. I support a housing-first approach for Vermonters experiencing homelessness, policies that let young families put down roots, and options for elders to age in place or within supportive and vibrant communities.

The trouble? Vacation homes sit empty across the state while working Vermonters get priced out by property costs, taxes, and cost of living. Here's what I support: (1) Raise property taxes on nonprimary-residence vacation, luxury, and investment properties owned by out-of-state residents, and reinvest those funds to lower property taxes for year-round Vermonters and expand affordable housing. (2) Improve access to services for Vermonters experiencing homelessness, supporting initiatives led by the Housing and Homelessness Alliance of Vermont. (3) Champion innovative models like housing cooper-

atives, cohousing, and intergenerational arrangements such as HomeShare VT.

Why it matters: Treating housing as a basic right and supporting our working communities means everyone gets a real chance to thrive – and to stay in Vermont.

- Food security and agriculture, ensure all are fed: I believe everyone deserves affordable, nutritious, locally grown, culturally relevant food, and that our farmers deserve a viable income for growing it. Here's what I support: (1) Renew legislative support for NO-FA-VT's Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus, and Farm Share programs, helping low-income Vermonters buy local food while paying farmers fairly. (2) Keep advocating for funding of S.60, the Farm and Forestry Operations Security fund supporting working lands through climate disasters and crises. (3) Continue backing the Vermont Farm to Plate Network, VT Farm to School, the Vermont Food Bank, and more.

Why it matters: Vermont is famous for its farms and food, but not everyone gets an equal seat at the table. Two out of five of our neighbors still face food insecurity in 2026, a failure of policy, not of our farms. This has to change. By investing in Vermont's local economies, we can reduce our reliance on a volatile federal support system and ensure that all Vermonters' basic needs are met.

Join us! Our current ad-

ministration has had enough time to make the changes Vermonters need to see, but unfortunately, their efforts just aren't delivering relief for residents fast enough. I'm ready to help kick things into gear!

As the election approaches, I'd love to stay connected with you. You can follow along and sign up for my newsletter at www.phoebeforvermont.com, on Instagram @phoebetuckerforvt, or through my Facebook page, Phoebe Tucker for VT State Rep. 2026.

You can also email me directly at phoebeforvermont@gmail.com, or text/call me at 802-230-4439. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for being a part of our community.

With gratitude,
Phoebe Tucker
Paid for by Friends of Phoebe Tucker for VT
135 Spring Lake Rd, Cuttingsville, VT 05738

Dear Editor,

Tom Charlton is running for reelection as the state representative for Athens, Chester, Grafton, and Windham.

Who is Tom Charlton? He is an ordained Baptist minister, an Eagle Scout, a timber framer, and an eighth-generation Vermonter. How can he help me? Tom is well aware of the many issues plaguing Vermonters. He is the neighbor you can not only confide in, he is the person who will bring your concerns to the Statehouse.

Why reelect him? He already sits on the House Committee for Housing and General Affairs. He brings your concerns of affordability and the need for fiscal responsibility to the committee. As a rural business owner, he is all too familiar with the devastating effects overreach has on families.

Why am I endorsing him? I am encouraged

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Dear Editor,

Chuck Gregory's response to my recent commentary concerns me for reasons extending beyond disagreement about artificial intelligence. Vigorous disagreement about public education should be healthy, particularly as Vermont undertakes another consequential period of reform under Act 73.

What troubles me is how quickly disagreement about policy became judgment of the person making the argument. Mr. Gregory has never met me, yet characterizes my argument as built on "deceptive grounds" and suggests I have "succumbed" to a Wall Street strategy. The Vermont Journal subsequently published his response under a headline bearing my name.

That editorial choice illustrates something larger. When policy disagreement becomes personalized, we stop examining assumptions and begin sorting people into camps. Lost are harder questions about governance, affordability, outcomes, and accountability.

Vermont enacted Act 46 a decade ago with ambitious expectations for restructuring education. Under Act 73, we are yet again debating substantial structural

change. We should ask what we learned from the last decade before assuming another statewide solution will produce different results.

To be clear, AI offers tools that can assist leaders, especially those without Vermont's institutional history, identify patterns, redundancies, and lessons from previously failed reforms.

I ask these questions as a former public school teacher, school administrator, state-level education professional, researcher, and university professor. Mr. Gregory raises legitimate concerns about commercialization, technology, and the importance of teachers.

Educational effectiveness and fiscal responsibility are not opposing values. Vermont taxpayers do not have unlimited resources. Every public dollar represents a choice. Asking whether expenditures produce the outcomes Vermonters expect is not an attack on public education; it is a fundamental responsibility of governing it.

Act 73 offers another opportunity to reconsider how we organize and govern education. If challenges to prevailing assumptions are met by questioning the motives

of those raising them, we risk perpetuating the crisis at hand.

Vermont does not need more polarization around education, and the media has a role in reducing it rather than amplifying it.

A decade after Act 46, and at the beginning of Act 73, we need the intellectual discipline to examine evidence, challenge assumptions, and ask whether the solutions we pursue address the problems we actually have.

Thank you,
Kendra Rickerby
Proctorsville, Vt.



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home & outdoor PROS TO KNOW

Taking photos with a trail camera

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Come to a Cavendish Community and Conservation Association (CCCA) Walk and Talk at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, 573 Main Street in Proctorsville, with Tim O'Donoghue, on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 6 p.m., and learn how to use a trail cam to discover the wildlife that lives among us.

Whether it's a bobcat on the prowl, a black bear, a fox, or something you didn't imagine, the trail cam will pick up movement and snap a shot. O'Donoghue will talk about best locations and habitat sites for setup,

and will have a slide show of photos he has taken. If you have a photo of an animal you have seen in your area, please bring it along to share. You can also put your name in a jar for the chance to win a trail cam for yourself. The winning name will be announced at the presentation.

O'Donoghue will also be introducing a Cavendish Community Citizen Science project, inviting community members to help tally wildlife sightings in Cavendish.

This Walk and Talk is coordinated with a broader look at wildlife in our area.

On Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 6 p.m., at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, conservation planning biologist Jens Hilke from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department will give a presentation on biodiversity in our area and how you can use the department's website to understand more about the species that populate and travel in Cavendish, whether they are year-round residents or simply passing through.

For more information, email cavendish-communityconservation@gmail.com.

Act 250 public information sessions

REGION – The Vermont Land Use Review Board (LURB) will host four public information sessions across the state to introduce Vermonters to a new Act 250 review criterion that goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2028. Criterion 8(C) only applies to projects that already require an Act 250 permit and does not affect when a permit is needed. This criterion is aimed at ensuring forest blocks and habitat connectors are considered in the Act 250 review process. The LURB's formal rulemaking process will begin in 2027, but the LURB would like to inform and hear from Vermonters ahead of time.

The LURB welcomes both in-person and remote participation. More information, including remote connection details, is available online at www.act250.vermont.gov/modernizing-land-use-review/criterion-8c-forest-blocks-and-habitat-connectors.

habitat-connectors.

Local information sessions will be held on Thursday, Oct. 1, from 6:30-8 p.m., at the Brattleboro Town Office, 230 Main Street, No. 108, in Brattleboro, Vt.; and on Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 6:30-8 p.m., at the Regional Planning Commission Office, 16 Evelyn Street, Second Floor, Rutland, Vt.

These informational sessions will focus on what forest blocks and habitat connectors are and why they are important; what criterion 8(C) rules must include; critical considerations for

the drafting process; the rulemaking timeline; ways to keep Vermonters updated; and opportunities for public input. Each session will include time for questions and comments.

Two frequent questions: (1) Why criterion 8(C)? The legislature's stated intent is to "discourage fragmentation of the forest blocks and habitat connectors by encouraging clustering of development." Will this mean more land is subject to Act 250 review? No. Criterion 8(C) does not change when or where an Act 250 permit is required.

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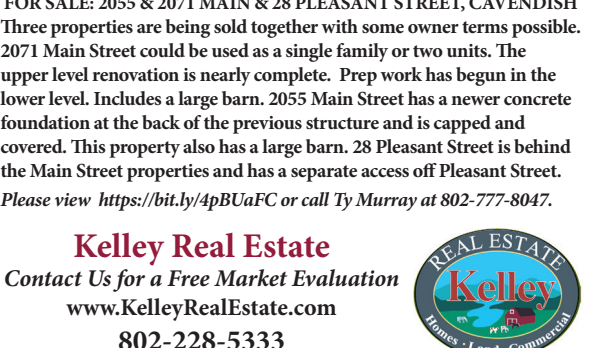
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PROS TO KNOW

arts & events

Next Stage celebrates 16 years of arts, community

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts invites the community to celebrate its Sweet 16 on Friday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m. The free, all-ages evening marks 16 years of programming and the 10th anniversary of the renovation that transformed the historic building at 15 Kimball Hill into the multifaceted community and performing arts space it is today.

The celebration will include cake, popcorn, and snacks, a live instrumental trio, a cash bar, and a DJ dance party upstairs beginning at 7:30 p.m. Community members are encouraged to come celebrate, reconnect, and dance. Admission is free; RSVP information is available at www.nextstagearts.org.

The evening will also unveil a new installation of three community-made banners centered on Next Stage's core values. Created with input and support from people throughout the community, the banners serve as a public expression of the organization's commitments for the years ahead.

Visitors can also stop by the gallery to view Next Stage's strategic plan, learn about upcoming workshops with Amber Paris, and share their thoughts about the organization's future.

"Next Stage has always been shaped by the people who gather here," said Heather Ahrenholz, Next Stage's communications director. "This celebration is both a chance to honor what the community has made possible over the past 16 years and to share our commitment to what comes next."

This event is supported by the Vermont Community Foundation's Arts & Social Cohesion grant, which helps fund this celebration and other community events throughout the year.

Botanical-drawing workshop

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Saturday, Oct. 3, from 12-1 p.m., please join the Rockingham Free Public Library for a fall botanical-drawing workshop.

Artist Katrina Mayer will lead this cozy indoor workshop, easing us into the slower months of fall. New and seasoned artists are welcome to draw and socialize, inspired by botanical objects that signal fall has arrived. All materials are provided, but feel free to bring flowers, pumpkins, gourds, or plants that inspire you.

This workshop is free and open to the public. For more information about this and other programs, call 802-463-4270, visit www.rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

FIR Fall Festival in Reading

READING, Vt. – Sponsored by the Town of Reading, the volunteer community organization Future Is Reading (FIR) will kick off its second annual Reading Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 3, at 11 a.m., on the campus of the Reading Elementary School. The event will run until 3 p.m.

On the eve of the festival, Friday, Oct. 2, the town will also host its fourth annual World Class Chili Cook-off in Puddledock Park, located next to the Reading Library, on Route 106 in Felchville – Reading's downtown section – from 5-6:30 p.m.

During the festival, the Hall Art Foundation will open its doors free of charge to Reading residents. Additionally, the Reading Greenhouse will be holding a scavenger hunt throughout the event at no charge for participation, and the Reading Historical Society will be open to all visitors.

Following its recent purchase of the Reading Grange on Route 106, the Reading Community Trust (RCT) is planning to open the historic building for public viewing during the chili cook-off on Friday. Then, on Saturday morning, from 7-9 a.m., the RCT will hold a yard sale in front of the Grange that will feature saleable items that have been removed from the building's interior.

Across the street, the Reading Library will be holding a daylong book sale. For kids of all ages, the fall festival will include a Ducky Derby; bike decoration and a bike parade; touch-a-truck; and a variety of games, with games designed especially for children under the age of 5 representing a new activities category this year. Organizers say that another new game, which will welcome parade bike riders on their arrival to the RES campus at the start of the festival, is being kept secret as a surprise.

Throughout the festival, FIR has planned for continuous live music and abundant, delicious food options. For example, the festival's famous chicken barbecue dinner with local sweet corn and baked potato is returning for another year. Silver Lake Syrups will be selling its famous maple creemees, while Kidding Around Farm will have its renowned breads and pastries for sale. New at the 2026 Fall Festival will be the Mystic Coffee Roasters, who will be selling freshly ground and brewed coffee throughout the event.

Next Stage performances

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present a singer-songwriter showcase featuring the Clements Brothers, Charlie Chronopoulos, Leaf Silver & B.E. Farrow, and Talley Summerlin, at Next Stage, on Saturday, Oct. 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Following, they welcome the Alasdair Fraser Band at Next Stage, on Thursday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m. This powerful new family collaboration brings together legendary Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser; his sons, Galen and Cameron Fraser; and Galen's Castilian wife, María San Miguel.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org. For more information, call 802-387-0102.

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claremont fall festival

29th annual Claremont Fall Festival & Chili Cook-off



Tasters at the 2024 Claremont Chili Cook-off. PHOTO PROVIDED



Activities for everyone. PHOTO PROVIDED



Awards being announced at a previous chili cook-off. PHOTO PROVIDED

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce and Recreation Department are hosting the 29th annual Claremont Fall Festival & Chili Cook-off on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., on the Claremont Visitors Center Green, 14 North Street in Claremont, N.H.

Join the annual Claremont Fall Festival & Chili Cook-off, where competitors will present their chili samples to hungry attendees for a chance to vote for their favorites. Exhibitors and vendors will line the Green with children's activities, community information, and items for sale. Vendors and exhibitors can register online at form.jotform.com/GCCC_Director/fall-festival-2026-registration. Multiple sponsorship opportunities exist for this event; if you are interested in sponsorship or advertising in the event program, please contact Elyse at the chamber office by calling 603-543-1296 or emailing director@greaterclaremontnh.org to discuss which opportunities would work best for you.

Claremont Parks & Recreation will be firing up the flavor with the annual Chili Cook-off, where community members can enter in one of three categories: individual, business, or nonprofit organization. All chili entries must meet the official competition requirements, which can be found at www.tinyurl.com/ClaremontChiliCookOff2026Rules, and each will be labeled with a heat index – mild, medium, or hot – so tasters can sample at their preferred spice level.

Thank you to event sponsors Decamp Waste Services, LaValley Building Supply, Pearce Jewelers, Bank of New Hampshire, Claremont Savings Bank, Mascoma Bank, Maki Financial Raymond James, and Crown Point Cabinetry.

For more information, for chili submission guidelines, to register your chili, or to register as a vendor for the event, visit www.greaterclaremontnh.org/2026/10/03/564280/fall-festival-chili-cook-off.



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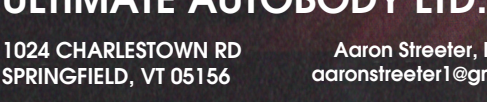
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Ludlow harvest fair

Ludlow Safety Fair and 42nd annual Harvest Fair

LUDLOW, Vt. – Two beloved local traditions are joining forces this autumn for a full day of family fun, community safety, and seasonal festivities. On Saturday, Oct. 3, Ludlow Fire Rescue and the Ludlow Elementary School Parent Teacher Group (PTG) will host a combined, free family fair, Safety Day, and the 42nd annual Ludlow Harvest Fair, spanning the lawn of the Ludlow Community Center and Expeditionary School at Black River. The joint event brings together hands-on safety education, local artisan shopping, children's activities, and community fundraising in one central location.

The Ludlow Fire Rescue Safety Day features interactive features for all ages, including: touch-a-truck, explore emergency vehicles up close, including fire trucks and an ambulance; hose line experience, spray a live fire hose attached to an active engine under firefighter supervision; aerial and rope rescue, watch dynamic technical rescue demonstrations utilizing the department's



The Harvest and Safety Fair will be held on Oct. 3. PHOTO PROVIDED



Vendors, activities, and safety demonstrations will be held. PHOTO PROVIDED

tower truck; and a live "dollhouse" fire demo, observe a controlled live-burn demonstration highlighting the lifesaving importance of keeping interior doors closed during a fire. Simultaneously, the Ludlow Elementary School PTG will hold its 42nd annual Harvest Fair. As the PTG's sole fundraiser of the year, proceeds directly support Ludlow students by funding the school's winter sports program (skiing and snow-

boarding), educational assemblies, and playground upgrades, such as the recently completed natural treehouse structure. Harvest Fair highlights include seasonal treats, warm apple cider donuts, and the PTG's famous Stuff-a-Bag bake sale; family activities such as pumpkin painting, craft stations, and bounce houses; and local shopping, featuring more than 40 local crafters, artisans, and food vendors.

Attending visitors can shop a wide variety of hand-made crafts, specialty foods, artwork, and local products. Confirmed vendors include the following: Food and specialty goods: Bumbles Birria, Spectacle Coffee Roasters, Lulu's Street Dogs LLC, 802 Heat Hot Sauce, Peter's Wildflower Honey, Thrall Road Maple, and Hulett Farm. Art, decor, and crafts: Sandra Lombardi Pottery, Russ Hurlburt Photography,

Deena Howard Artworks, Elaine's Crystals & Beautiful Rocks, Sparling Hill Candleworks, Dragonfly Crafts

LLC, Angel Bones, Mimi's Crafts, KKs 3D Creations LLC, and Peter Manship Designs. Apparel, beauty, and jewelry: Pauline's T-Shirt Memory Quilts & Bags, Swisher Apparel, Wild Heart Jewelry Designs, Lori's Luxurious Nails, Trades of Hope, Leap 4 Joy Custom Crafts, and Little Strokes Plaster & Paint. Authors and community: local author Anne Perreault, Nikki's Endless Endeavors LLC, Fifi and Ro LLC, Perfectly Posh/Perga, and Gina's Fresh Harvest. For any questions or to see if there is still room for vendors, please reach out ludlowptg@gmail.com or call/text Courtney McGuire at 603-219-3491.



Enjoy the Harvest Fair!

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THE 42nd ANNUAL LUDLOW HARVEST FAIR & SAFETY FAIR!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM



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- HANDMADE CRAFTS & UNIQUE GIFTS!** Pauline's T-Shirt Memory Quilts & Bags, Swisher Apparel, Wild Heart Jewelry Designs, Lori's Luxurious Nails, Trades of Hope, Leap 4 Joy Custom Crafts, Little Strokes Plaster & Paint.
- AUTHORS & COMMUNITY!** Local author Anne Perreault, Nikki's endless endeavors, Fifi and Ro LLC, Perfectly Posh / Perga, Gina's Fresh Harvest.

LOCATION: LUDLOW COMMUNITY CENTER LAWN
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QUESTIONS, VENDORS, VOLUNTEERS?
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Vermont Apple Festival & Craft Show returns to Springfield for 42nd year

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce invites residents and visitors from across Vermont and New England to celebrate the flavors, creativity, and community spirit of the Green Mountain State at the 42nd annual Vermont Apple Festival & Craft Show, taking place Saturday, Oct. 10, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Riverside Middle

School, 13 Fairgrounds Road in Springfield, Vt. Promoted as "Vermont's Largest One-Day Event," the Apple Festival will bring together hundreds of vendors, a large farmers market, food trucks, specialty foods, artists, crafts, and a Home and Health Pavilion, all in one location. This year's festival offers much more than shopping. Visitors can enjoy a wide

variety of activities and attractions throughout the day, including a mechanical bull, Fastest Kid in Town, a kids' zone, goats and alpacas, drone soccer, a virtual reality game station, and an appearance by Miss Vermont. One of the sweetest traditions of the festival will be the pie-baking contest, giving local bakers a chance to put their best recipes to the

test. The first-place winner will take home \$100, with a \$50 junior prize also offered. "Last year we had over 8,000 attendees," said Mike Schmitt, executive director of the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce. "This year we are expecting the same crowd and are providing more variety and more vendors, so come on up, down, or over and enjoy

a good old-fashioned Vermont event." Whether you come for Vermont-made products, locally grown food, hand-crafted goods, family activities, or simply a great fall day with friends and neighbors, the Vermont Apple Festival & Craft Show is designed to offer something for all ages. The festival also provides an opportunity to support the farmers, mak-

ers, artists, craftspeople, food producers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses that help make Vermont communities thrive. Additional festival information is available at the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce's Apple Festival & Craft Show, or at Vermont Apple Festival & Craft Show on Facebook.

scarecrow festival

Chester Scarecrow Festival Weekend



Matilda and Three Bears.
PHOTO PROVIDED



Stone Hearth Inn.
PHOTO PROVIDED



Inn Victoria.
PHOTO PROVIDED

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Scarecrow Festival weekend is almost here. The festival is a two-day event, held Oct. 3 and 4, from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. both days. There will be more than 30 vendors and fun for the whole family. The vendors will include food trucks and

food vendors on the Green, as well as artisans, craftspeople, and community groups. There are 26 scarecrows on display on both sides of Main Street. These are not everyday scarecrows, but unique pieces of imagination and talent. Please vote for your favorite, as the win-

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Gussie's Place.
PHOTO PROVIDED

ners will be marked on Oct. 3, at 12 p.m. Don't forget to also visit the businesses on the Green and all the restaurants and businesses around Chester. It is surely an event you don't want to miss.

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arts & entertainment

Doris Ingram open studio –

WESTON, Vt. – Watercolor and oil artist Doris Ingram will once again be participating in Open Studio Weekend, sponsored by the Vermont Craft Council, on Saturday, Oct. 3, and Sunday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. both days. She is part of Loop 9, Studio No. 53. Her studio is located at 83 Trout Club Road in Weston; follow the signs from the town Green.

Ingram is a signature

member of both the Vermont and Delaware watercolor societies, and has won numerous awards. Her favorite subjects are the old homes and barns that are rapidly disappearing from our landscape. She also enjoys painting bouquets of beautiful flowers from her extensive gardens. Painting is creative, fun, relaxing, educational, and always a challenge.

Ingram has painted many

house portraits to benefit the Weston Theater Company and Neighborhood Connections. She is raffling a painting this weekend to benefit the Neighbor's Pantry food shelf in Londonderry. Ingram is also an enthusiastic teacher who enjoys sharing her passion for art with her students. Her studio is filled with paintings of barns, landscapes, and flowers.

Fall Open Studio Weekend at Create Together

LUDLOW, Vt. – Create Together, 611 Route 103 South in Ludlow, Vt., presents Vermont Open Studio Weekend arts and crafts demonstrations on Oct. 3 and 4, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. both days. Join on the beautiful campus at Fletcher Farm in Ludlow, Vt., for free demonstrations of weaving, pottery, quilting, metalworking, stained glass, jewelry, painting, welding, sculpture, and more. There will also be a free brick mosaics class on Saturday.

Create Together is No. 55 on the Open Studio Weekend map. Pick up a map at the Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce in Okemo Marketplace, on Route 103 North in Ludlow, or follow the yellow Open Studio signs. Visit area artists and



Create Together's sewing and fiber arts space.
PHOTO PROVIDED

craftspeople on your way. Create Together's programming includes short sampler workshops, weekend intensives, and multi-week sessions, and private art and craft parties. Open seven days a week and hosting seven studios, maker-spaces, open studios, memberships, and more, you can find something that fits

your schedule, your budget, and your curiosity. Create Together exists to foster creative exploration in the Okemo Valley, and provides access to professional tools, meaningful instruction, and a welcoming community, so that every person who walks through its doors can learn, create, and thrive.

Cider Days returns to Belmont

BELMONT, Vt. – The Mount Holly Community Association invites you to come celebrate autumn at its annual Cider Days on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 11, from 12-4 p.m. Of course, the fun starts with apples; you can watch fresh cider being made on an antique apple press and enjoy the fresh pressed cider hot or cold along with a cider donut, whoopie pie, home-baked apple pie, or apple crisp topped with ice cream. You can even pick up a gallon of fresh cider to take home.

There's plenty of non-apple fun to enjoy, too. Cider Days features live music, food, beer and craft vendors, a library book sale, and more to enjoy as you take in the fall colors in a historic village. Learning opportunities abound, too: Find out about Belmont's history at the Mount Holly Museum, right next to the town's many conservation efforts focused on wildlife,



An antique apple press in operation.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Star Lake, and biodiversity. Highlights this year include the ever-popular cow plop contest starring Ginger Robeth Rainmoon, of Liberty Hill Farm, ably handled by Mount Holly siblings Patty and Carter Bruce. There will also be face painting for the kids. Visitors are invited to cast a ballot in the local photo contest. The winning entries will be featured in the Mount Holly 2028 calendar. The 2027 calendar featuring last year's winners will

be available to purchase. Belmont Cider Days has been ranked as one of the top fall events in the State of Vermont. Don't miss out on the fun. For more information, visit the Mount Holly Community Association website, www.mhcavt.org, or Facebook page. Belmont may be tucked away off the numbered roads, but it's easy to find. From Route 103, turn left at the flashing light if coming from Ludlow, or right if coming from Rutland. If you're driving up Route 155, turn at the Belmont sign. Either way, head up the hill and find a place to park, being sure to observe parking signage, then stroll through Belmont Village to the Belmont Baptist Church Green, just like the folks did so many years ago when they brought their apples to be pressed.

Create felted acorns at Gallery at the Vault

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Celebrate autumn with a felted-acorns workshop at Gallery at the Vault, on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 1-3 p.m. The class will be taught by Windham teaching artist Lisa Caron Hickey, founder of Caron Designs. Participants will learn basic needle-felting and wet-felting techniques while creating charming wool acorns using colorful wool and natu-

ral acorn caps. Finished acorns may be strung together to create a festive autumn garland or used individually as decorations for a table, bowl, wreath, or seasonal arrangement. This relaxed, beginner-friendly workshop requires no previous needle-felting experience. The workshop fee is discounted for gallery members, and includes all tools and materials to create 14 felted acorns. Register by Oct.

7 at www.galleryvault.org/ workshops, by phone, or in person. 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, visit www.galleryvault.org, or visit the gallery's Facebook and Instagram pages. Gallery at the Vault is accessible.