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THE

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Journal

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The Shop on Main Street showcases local vendors —

BY PAULA BENSON

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Thursday, Aug. 27, just past noon, a celebratory announcement was posted on the Facebook page of The Shop on Main Street, a new vendor-collaborative storefront on Main Street in downtown Ludlow.

“Love Thursdays!” the post exclaimed. “Fresh drop from Little Sprouts Bakery!”

The accompanying photo showed the fresh items delivered: a variety of sourdough focaccia mini-breads with flavors like pepperoni pizza, mozzarella pesto garlic, and cinnamon roll; loaves of original-recipe sourdough bread – cheddar jalapeno, and garlic and herb; and Little Sprouts’ “famous” chocolate chip cookies, a local favorite.

That delicious haul represents just one of the vendors you can find at The Shop on Main, the postretirement project of husband-and-wife team and longtime Ludlow residents Paula and Dave VanGuilder, along with their business partner Mike Loffredo.

If the VanGuilder name sounds familiar, as it does to most locals, you might already be a fan of Dave’s hot sauce that he sells through the company 802 Heat at local farmers markets and festivals. Dave started 802 Heat four years ago and has since expanded the product line to include a slew of fun flavors, dry rubs, Bloody Mary mix, and the most recent recipe, Hillside Acres Fire Cider. Made with apple cider vinegar, oranges, grapefruits, cranberries, Vermont honey, horseradish, habaneros, ginger, garlic, white onions, and turmeric, this original take on an old farmer’s health remedy is purported to boost immunity and promote better digestion and blood flow. Surely, it will add a pep to your step.

Of course, 802 Heat products have their own display at The Shop on Main, alongside other local businesses Sweethearts Farm Stand,



The Shop on Main Street.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Loffredo’s Italian Bakery, Winterview Farm, You’re Grounded Coffee Co., and more. The inventory also includes creations from local artists and crafters, pickled items, maple syrup, flower arrangements, and pet products. Paula puts together gift baskets and charcuterie boards.

Down the road, Dave said, they plan to expand the shop to include different types of vendors, more local food options, and Vermont

cheeses.

It was Paula who dreamed of owning a store one day, and Dave called the shop “her baby.” She even came across an old gumball machine 10 or 11 years ago and bought it.

Paula recalled that at the time Dave said, “What in the world are we going to do with a gumball machine?” But Paula knew.

The gumball machine sat in the VanGuilders’ basement since then. When the cozy retail space at 196 Main Street became available to rent, Paula said to Dave, “Okay, now you can take that thing out of the basement.”

Paula enjoys that the old-timey machine sits dead center of the shop’s front window and brings in 8-year-olds and 80-year-olds alike.

Dave grew up in Ludlow and spent 33 years working for the town, including eight years serving on the development review board. Dave feels a strong sense of loyalty

to his hometown, and, as it turns out, he was ready to retire from public service, but not from serving the public.

“I recently bought a T-shirt,” Dave shared. “It says ‘I tried to retire but now I work for my wife.’”

The Shop on Main hours will vary by season and holidays. Currently, Paula is open Thursday-Sunday, but that will change as we head into the winter ski season.

Paula is always happy to chat with folks who stop by, and the atmosphere of the little store is cheerful and familiar. Discovering so many local entrepreneurs and being able to buy from them all in one space is convenient, and it feels fun to be ‘in the know’ about so many local products, gifts, and treats.

Follow The Shop on Main Street on Facebook for updates and stop in to visit and pick up a gumball; they are just 25 cents.

Benson’s successful school supply drive —

LUDLOW, Vt. – Benson’s Chevrolet, of Ludlow, is proud to announce the success of its recent back-to-school supply drive, an effort dedicated to helping local students begin the new school year prepared, confident, and ready to learn.

Thanks to the generosity of members of our community, Benson’s Chevrolet was able to collect and distribute much-needed school supplies to children and schools throughout the area.

Kim Lampert, of Benson’s Chevrolet, recently delivered supplies to Cavendish Town Elementary School, where she was joined by



CTES students with back to school supplies from Benson’s.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Principal Angela Cartier and a group of smiling students who were excited to show off some of the

donated supplies. Supplies were also delivered to Ludlow Elementary School, Mount Holly Elementary School, and Stepping Stones, helping provide resources to children and families throughout the surrounding communities.

“We are so grateful to everyone who contributed to our back-to-school supply drive,” said George Benson Jr., of Benson’s Chevrolet. “The

generosity of our community truly made this program a success. It is wonderful to see the smiles on the children’s faces and know that these donations will help them start the school year ready to learn.”

Benson’s Chevrolet extends a big thank-you to everyone who donated, contributed, and helped make this community program possible. Your generosity makes a difference.

As a longtime member of the local community, Benson’s Chevrolet is proud to support area schools and the children they serve.

Best wishes to all surrounding school children for a wonderful school year.

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Londonderry road closures

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – On Sept. 4, Hunter Excavation began work to replace the undersized culvert servicing Eddy Brook with a box culvert. This work requires that the road be closed at the construction site. The work is scheduled to be completed by Oct. 6.

In addition, Chaves Excavating will be

replacing 18 culverts in various locations along Spring Hill Road, which may require brief, intermittent road closures or delays.

Please direct questions or concerns to the town administrator at 802-824-3356, Ext. 5, or email townadmin@londonderryvt.gov.

Wantastiquet Rotary Club awards 2026 scholarships to outstanding local students —

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – As students across the region begin a new academic year, the Wantastiquet Rotary Club, of Londonderry, is pleased to recognize the recipients of its 2026 scholarship awards.

Each year, the Wantastiquet Rotary Club proudly provides scholarships to deserving graduate seniors who have demonstrated academic achievement, community involvement, leadership, and a commitment to their future educational goals. Supporting lo-

cal students as they pursue higher education remains one of the club’s most important investments in the



Recipients of the Wantastiquet Rotary scholarships.

PHOTO PROVIDED

future of our communities.

The 2026 scholarship recipients are Jason G., Burr and Burton Academy; Owen K., Burr and Burton Academy; Anna F., Burr and Burton Academy; Alexys D., Burr and Burton Academy; Ryan K., Burr and Burton Academy; and Phoebe B., Long Trail School.

These students have distinguished themselves through their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments both in and out of the classroom. The scholarships awarded by Wantastiquet Rotary are

intended to help support their continued education and encourage them as they take the next steps toward achieving their personal and professional aspirations.

The members of the Wantastiquet Rotary Club are honored to support these exceptional young people as they continue their educational journeys.

The Wantastiquet Rotary Club extends its sincere congratulations to all of the 2026 scholarship recipients and wishes them every success as they begin exciting new chapters in their lives.

9/11 memorials in Ludlow and Chester

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

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

DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is Thursday at 4 p.m. for the following week’s publication.

EMAIL CALENDAR EVENTS
calendar@vermontjournal.com

EMAIL ADS AND CLASSIFIEDS
ads@vermontjournal.com

EMAIL PRESS RELEASES
editor@vermontjournal.com

Weston Village Fair & Jubilee

WESTON, Vt. – The Vermont Country Store will celebrate its 80th anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 12, at the inaugural Weston Village Fair & Jubilee, a new community event featuring old-fashioned food, fun, and games for the whole family, with proceeds to benefit the Weston Community Association. Festivities begin with a parade from Walker Farm to the Old Parish Church, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., followed by an afternoon of classic games, local vendors and crafters, food trucks, a beer tent from Mount Holly Brewery, horse-and-wagon rides, a petting zoo,

live music, and street dancing on the village Green. A full schedule of events can be found at www.westonvt.net. Everyone is welcome to enter the fair competitions, with categories including floral arrangements, apple desserts, pickled items, chocolate chip cookies, and creative kids’ crafts. Admission is free, with tickets available for food and games. Parking is available at The Vermont Country Store and Walker Farm. The Vermont Country Store, the iconic, family-owned Vermont retailer founded by Vrest and Mildred Orton in 1946, is now celebrating its 80th anni-

versary. Today, the Orton family continues the tradition through its stores in Weston and Rockingham, and its nationally distributed catalog and online store, serving generations of customers across the U.S. The Vermont Country Store continues to evolve while preserving elements of the past, from favorite Vermont classics like maple syrup, maple candy, and Vermont cheese, to restoring discontinued and hard-to-find brands. The Vermont Country Store is the sponsor of Weston Village Fair & Jubilee.

Claremont Chamber hosts networking event at Mikros Technologies

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Join the Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce for a special networking event at Mikros Technologies, 24 Col Ashley Lane, on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 10-11:30 a.m. Recently named Business of the Year by Business NH Magazine, the chamber and Mikros Technologies welcome business professionals and community members to connect, engage, and learn how the company is making AI more efficient through ad-

vanced cooling technologies originally developed for NASA. Enjoy coffee, catered refreshments from The Barn Cafe, and door prize giveaways. Registration is required and available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is free parking, and attendance is limited to 50 guests. This event is open to community and chamber members across the state and in New England. Register early to reserve your spot at www.greaterclaremontnh.org.

For more information, please Contact Elyse Crossman, executive director, Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce, at 603-558-4539 or director@greaterclaremontnh.org.

Scarecrow Festival coming to Chester Green

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Scarecrow Festival is coming to the Chester Green on Oct. 3 and 4, from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. More than 27 scarecrows on the Green will make for a fun day. Each scarecrow will be unique, sponsored and made by local businesses and community groups. The festival will feature artisans and craft vendors, great local food, live music, and fun for the whole family. Come and enjoy an early autumn day in Chester, Vt. Don’t miss what surely will become an annual event.

BRGNS Fall Rummage Sale fundraiser

UDLOW, Vt. – Coming soon and not to be missed, Black River Good Neighbor Services (BRGNS) is pleased to announce its annual fall rummage sale at Fletcher Farm, 611 Route 103 South in Ludlow, on Friday, Sept. 25, and Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day. The Fletcher Farm barn will be filled with seasonal clothing, shoes, fall and winter sporting

clothing and goods, active wear, housewares, linens, furniture, books, a boutique, a Christmas room, a bake sale, grills, and more. All proceeds from the sale benefit BRGNS’ food, financial, and disaster assistance programs, which help with the cost of utilities, heating fuel, rent, and food for individuals and families residing in Ludlow, Mount Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville, and Plymouth. The need

is especially important this year given the financial climate. Mark your calendar for Sept. 25 and 26, and come explore all the many unique bargains. Always a fun time to spend “making the rounds of the grounds.” For further details, please contact Krey Kellington at Black River Good Neighbor Services, 37B Main Street, Ludlow, at 802-228-3663, or email brgood-neighbors@gmail.com.

Wilder Memorial Library thanks Weston community—



Wilder Memorial Library held a grand opening on Aug. 8.

PHOTOS BY HUBERT SCHRIEBL

WESTON, Vt. – The board and staff of the Wilder Memorial Library would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the entire Weston community for making the library’s grand opening such a wonderful and memorable celebration. After years of planning, hard work, generosity, and patience, it was a joy to finally open the doors, cut the ribbon, and welcome so many friends, neighbors, families, and supporters into the newly renovated and expanded library. The turnout for the grand opening was truly remarkable. More than 200 people attended to hear music, enjoy ice cream, and partake of delicious cookies and

confections donated by local businesses. We are deeply grateful to everyone who took the time to join us and share in this special day. We are also grateful to those organizations that made this event possible, including the Weston Volunteer Fire Department, the Vermont Country Store, Gladys Restaurant at the Hub, the Green Cat Cafe, Grandma Miller’s, and Megan Szkutak. But thanks go far beyond those who attended the celebration. The library would not exist in its new form without the extraordinary support of the Weston community. The library thanks the residents, second-home owners, donors, volunteers, town officials, library supporters, local businesses, and organizations that contributed their time, ideas,

encouragement, and financial support throughout this long journey. The beautiful new building is something to celebrate, but the real excitement begins now. A library is more than its walls, books, and furnishings. It is a place made by the people who walk through its doors. It is a place for children and families, readers and learners, neighbors and newcomers, meetings and conversations, programs and quiet moments. The Wilder Memorial Library is delighted to be able to open its doors not only to the people of Weston, but to all who live in the surrounding towns. To friends old and new, please stop by to say hello, enjoy the new library, and get a library card to pick out a new book.

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River Singers fall session

WESTMINSTER WEST, Vt. – The River Singers Community Choir, led by Mary Cay Brass, will start its fall session on Tuesday, Sept. 22, from 6:30-8 p.m., at the Westminster West Church, in Westminster West, Vt. The choir, in its 36th year, is

a unique, multi-generational community choir dedicated to singing an eclectic mix of soulful, thrilling music from many lands. This season’s music will present songs of joy, love, and peace from many Eastern European countries includ-

ing Croatia and the Republic of Georgia, songs from the New England shape note tradition, and much more. Guest musician Dr. Kathy Bullock, performer, arranger, and scholar of African American traditions; professor emerita from Berea College; as well as a guest professor at Bennington College, will join us for a workshop of South African and African American songs. Choir member Andy Davis will share songs from the English pub carol tradition well known in our area from the group Nowell Sing We Clear. There is a cost for a 12-week session. If you are interested in joining, email mcb Brass@vermontel.net, or visit www.marycaybrass.com for more information.

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The Rules

Participants must complete the Crossword or the Sudoku puzzle and mail this page to The Vermont Journal, PO Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149. Must be received by Friday, Sept. 18, 2026. Limit one submission per person.

One participant will be selected by random drawing, and can choose one coupon from participating businesses on this puzzle page. Coupons are not valid until one is chosen by drawing winner. Coupon of choice will expire on October 31, 2026, and will be mailed to the winner.

The answers to the puzzles and winner will be published the following week.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ TOWN: _____

COUPON OF CHOICE: _____

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Actor Sharif

5 "Humbly" bug

8 JFK guesses

12 Cape —, Portugal

13 In the style of Seniors' gp.

15 Manhattan, for one

17 China (Pref.)

18 "The Sopranos" restaurateur

19 Brunch fare

21 Thick chunk

24 TV spots

25 Ancient invader

28 Uber compet-

30 Mas' mates

33 Chef Garten

34 Bo of "10"

35 Pen filler

36 — chi

37 Location

38 — B'rith

39 Young fellow

41 "Absolutely!"

43 Texas city

46 Caravan stops

50 Big rackets

51 Pulled-back hairdo

54 Icelandic epic

55 Chang's brother

56 "Andor" actor

57 Optimistic

58 Tic-tac-toe loser

59 Mountain ht.

10 "Rule, Britannia!" composer

11 Espy

16 Aviv preceder

20 Mardi Gras wear

22 Computer brand

23 Exposes

25 "Shoo!"

26 — tear (rag- ing)

27 Hindmost parts

29 Boyfriend

31 Comic Gasteyer

32 Enjoy Aspen

34 June honor-ees

38 Ringo, for one

40 Analyze

42 Trigger's rider

43 Baltic feeder

44 Queen of Carthage

45 Pinnacle

47 Biblical king

48 Aachen article

49 Serb or Croat

52 Musician Yoko

53 Private aid gp.

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health

Michael and Sheila Satzow Health Center hosts ribbon cutting

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The City of Claremont was proud to celebrate the opening of the Michael and Sheila Satzow Health Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. This new medical office building represents an exciting investment in the future of healthcare in the community, providing expanded space and services for patients throughout the Claremont area and surrounding region.

We also want to recognize Mike and Sheila Satzow for their extraordinary \$1 million leadership gift in support of the project. Their generosity helped make this new facility possible and reflects a tremendous commitment to the health and



The ribbon cutting held outside the health center. PHOTO PROVIDED

wellbeing of our community. Congratulations to everyone at Valley Regional Hospital and Dartmouth Health who helped bring this project to life. The City of Claremont is proud to celebrate this important addition to

our community. The Michael and Sheila Satzow Health Center is located at 224 Elm Street in Claremont, and is a division of Dartmouth Health and the Valley Regional Hospital.

North Star Pharmacies grand opening celebrations

REGION – North Star Health is pleased to invite the community to the official grand opening celebration of its three new in-house pharmacies, expanding access to convenient, affordable prescription services for patients and community members across the region.

To mark this milestone, all three locations will host full-day celebrations on Tuesday, Sept. 22. Community members, patients, and local partners are invited to stop by throughout the day to see the facilities, meet pharmacy staff, and receive complimentary giveaways.

At 1:30 p.m., each pharmacy site will host a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by lunch. Leadership teams from North Star Health will be on site to celebrate the launch of these important community resources. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Beyond improving access to prescription services, these pharmacies are uniquely integrated into North Star Health's care system. Pharmacists work

closely with North Star's clinical teams to provide patients with a coordinated healthcare experience. This collaboration strengthens continuity of care, helps reduce medication errors, and supports patients in managing chronic conditions more effectively.

"We're seeing more and more communities lose access to local pharmacies, and that loss creates real consequences for people's health," said Joshua Dufresne, CEO of North Star Health. "We want everyone to have a trusted pharmacy nearby, with a friendly, knowledgeable pharmacist who knows them and is connected to the rest of their care. That is exactly what we've built."

The addition of these three pharmacies reflects North Star Health's mission to connect with and care for the community so everyone may enjoy health and wellness.

For more information about North Star Health Pharmacies, visit www.northstarfhqpharmacy.org.

North Star Health Pharmacies are located at

Mountain Valley Health Center, 38 Route 11, Londonderry, Vt.; Springfield Health Center, 100 River Street, Springfield, Vt.; and Charlestown Health Center, 250 Ceda Road, Charlestown, N.H.

To RSVP, visit forms.cloud.microsoft/r/MjfyL6pUXe.

Dartmouth Cancer Center celebrates inpatient oncology unit

LEBANON, N.H. – Dartmouth Cancer Center recently celebrated the opening of a new, 32-bed inpatient oncology unit at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, expanding the capacity to provide complex cancer care, advanced cellular therapies, and clinical trials close to home for patients across northern New England.

The new unit, located on the second floor of the Patient Pavilion, is designed to support complex hematologic care; stem cell transplants; immune effector cell therapies, including CAR-T cell therapy; bispecific antibodies; and other emerging treatments. The unit also provides additional inpatient capacity for clinical trials involving novel cancer therapies.

Private patient rooms feature advanced, real-time monitoring and the ability to convert to intensive care when needed. Rooms can also provide positive airflow for patients whose immune systems require additional protection. The unit includes six dedicated infusion chairs to support the



Dartmouth Cancer Center and Dartmouth Health leadership, along with a patient representative, cut the ribbon on a new, state-of-the-art cellular therapy unit. PHOTO PROVIDED

delivery of outpatient CAR-T cell therapy.

"Just as important, this unit gives Dartmouth Cancer Center essential inpatient capacity to participate in clinical trials, including those developed with leading academic and industry partners," said Dr. Roy Herbst, director of Dartmouth Cancer Center. "Until now, limited dedicated inpatient space has constrained our ability to offer some of these studies. This floor changes that. It creates a bridge between discovery and delivery."

The unit is an important component of Dartmouth Cancer Center's Integrated Multidisciplinary Program

for Advanced Cell and Gene Therapies, or IMPACT, which brings together research, cell engineering, manufacturing, clinical trials, and patient care to advance emerging treatments. IMPACT will draw on expertise across Dartmouth Cancer Center, Dartmouth Health, the Geisel School of Medicine, the Thayer School of Engineering, and other Dartmouth programs.

This unit reflects Dartmouth Health's commitment to bringing highly specialized cancer care closer to home for patients throughout northern New England, reducing the need for patients to travel to distant urban centers for complex treatments.

Learn about medical go bags

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Preparing for a medical emergency before it happens can make a stressful situation easier to manage. Community members are invited to attend the "Medical Go Bags" Vermont Department of Health Presentation on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 1 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library.

A medical go bag is a portable kit containing essential medical supplies, personal items, and important documents that can quickly accompany you if an ambulance

transports you to the hospital, or if you need to leave home unexpectedly.

During this free presentation, participants will learn how to assemble a personalized, ready-to-use medical go bag that can be kept by the front door for quick access in an emergency. The program is especially helpful for individuals living with chronic or newly diagnosed health conditions, as well as anyone who wants to be better prepared and organized should an emergency arise.

Individuals of all ages and caregivers are welcome to

attend.

Participants will receive a fillable medical history form to include in their go bag, along with guidance on what essential items and documents to pack, and tips for keeping medical information organized and up to date.

Please note: medical go bags are not provided. Participants should bring or assemble their own bag after the presentation.

If you do not already have copies of important documents such as your photo ID, insurance card, power of attorney, or advance di-

rective, you can make copies of your originals at the Springfield Town Library to include in your medical go bag.

To learn more about medical go bags, visit the Vermont Department of Health's medical go bag website, www.healthvermont.gov/emergency/public-health-preparedness/preparedness-communities#medicalgobag.

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

Learn how to stay safe and confident on your feet

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join Springfield-area Tai Chi Vermont-certified instructors online or in person from the Great Hall, 100 River Street in Springfield, on Tuesday, Sept. 22, from 10-11:30 a.m., to practice healthy, safe ways to move at a fun, free Fall Prevention Awareness Day event, sponsored by Senior Solutions.

Sue Rubel and Jo Breg-

nard will lead you in a variety of movements: Follow along with qigong fundamental exercises and Fall Prevention Tai Chi (simplified Sun style) as you learn about weight shifting, smart foot placement, and more.

Tai chi is derived from martial arts first practiced in China more than 800 year ago. Over the centuries, various styles of tai chi evolved.

Numerous studies have found that tai chi is one of the best forms of exercise for improving balance and reducing falls. The movements we'll be playing with are well suited for nearly everyone, as this style is relatively upright and uses smaller steps than other kinds of tai chi. If you're unable to stand for practice, you can follow along right from your chair and still

enjoy the many benefits of practice.

If you attend in person, look for parking on Pearl Street.

For access to the livestream and recording, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/96106.

Those who register for the online option will get access to the recording. Remember to clear your practice space, wear comfortable clothing and closed-toe and -heel shoes for practice, and have a full water bottle with you.

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



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HEALTH/CHURCH

obituaries

Valley Regional, Mount Ascutney hospitals launch joint nurse residency program

REGION – Mount Ascutney Hospital and Health Center (MAHHC) and Valley Regional Hospital (VRH), both members of Dartmouth Health, have launched joint nurse residency programs to support newly graduated registered nurses as they transition into professional practice while strengthening the regional healthcare workforce.

The inaugural summer launch includes four cohorts: one emergency department (ED) residency hosted at VRH and three medical-surgical residencies hosted at MAHHC. Future cohorts will take place regularly in January/February and July/August each year.

Nurse residency programs (NRPs) provide newly licensed registered nurses with a structured transition from school into clinical practice through classroom education, mentorship, and hands-on patient care. Participants work alongside experienced nurses and nursing professional development specialists to build confidence, sharpen clinical skills, and prepare to deliver high-quality care in rural community hospitals.

NRPs drastically improve first-year nurse retention rates to between 90% and



The August cohort, pictured outside of MAHHC, is one of four included in the inaugural summer launch.

PHOTO PROVIDED

98%, compared to an average retention rate of only 70% for facilities operating without a structured transition program. Up to one-third of new graduate nurses leave their employer within their first two years due to stress and lack of support, making NRPs a critical intervention for workforce stability and advanced clinical training.

“Making the transition from nursing school to the bedside is one of the biggest steps in a nurse’s career,” said Christopher J. Laird, VRH’s chief nursing officer. “New graduates bring high energy and fresh clinical knowledge, but they need ongoing mentorship and hands-

on support. This residency program ensures they don’t have to make that transition alone, and our patients benefit from nurses who feel prepared, supported, and ready to lead.”

The ED residency at VRH is designed for both new graduates and experienced RNs transitioning into emergency nursing. Developed by the Emergency Nurses Association, the curriculum combines evidence-based education, simulation, progressive clinical immersion, and one-on-one mentorship. Michael J. Guest, an ED registered nurse at VRH, leads the program, which currently includes two nurse residents

from MAHHC.

At MAHHC, medical-surgical nurse residents complete an intensive three-week residency with the education team – integrating classroom learning, interactive sessions, skills, and simulations – followed by 12 or more weeks of guided clinical practice alongside dedicated preceptors and professional development specialists. Over the subsequent 10 months, residents reconvene for ongoing training involving topic reviews, simulations, and interactive learning exercises. Created by MAHHC’s nurse residency program coordinator and a nursing professional development specialist Karen L. Cote, this summer’s med-surg cohorts include 15 new nurses, four of whom are from VRH.

“Partnering across our two organizations allows us to combine clinical expertise, share best practices, and give new nurses a broader, richer training experience,” said Moriah J. Tidwell, chief nursing officer. “When hospitals work together, our employees and the entire community benefit.”

Wayne A. Clark, 1944-2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Wayne Albert Clark, 82, passed away on Aug. 26, 2026. Born in St. Albans, Vt., on May 31, 1944, Wayne was the son of the late Margret and Lewis Clark. A hard worker who loved being out on the road, Wayne spent most of his life working as a truck driver and most recently delivered newspapers for the Eagle Times. When he wasn’t working, he was happiest hunting and fishing, playing horseshoes, or watching his beloved New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox. He was also a dedicated member of American Legion Post 37, the Elks,

the Moose Lodge, and the Polish Club. He is now reunited with his late wife, Kathrine Elizabeth Clark. Wayne is survived by his children: sons Scott, Gary (Samantha), Chris, and Wayne (Theresa); and his daughter, Jennifer (Steven). He also leaves behind his brothers, Ronnie (Sandy), Gary (Millie), Mike, and Dana; 14 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. There are no services scheduled at this time.

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

Lois K. Corcoran, 1963-2026

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Lois Kirsten (Moran) Corcoran, 62, passed away Saturday morning, July 18, 2026, at Cheshire Medical Center, with her husband and daughter by her side, after a sudden complication during her ongoing fight with cancer.

Born Dec. 21, 1963, in Ann Arbor, Mich., Lois was the firstborn child of Julie (Savi) Moran and the late William Moran. The Moran family settled in Hanover, N.H., in 1973, when Lois was 9 years old, and they lived in the Upper Valley for the remainder of her childhood. Graduating from Lebanon High School, Lois attended Tufts University and graduated cum laude from Keene State College with a bachelor’s degree in journalism. She married Ken Corcoran on July 6, 1985, and moved to Charlestown, N.H., where they built a lifelong partnership and she became a mother to daughter Carolyn. Lois found happiness at her little log cabin in the woods, surrounded by nature, working in her garden, canning violet jelly in her kitchen with the flowers she picked from her yard, and enjoyed the feeling of accomplishment in mastering a new yoga pose or stacking wood preparing for New England’s next winter. You could find her taking long walks with her pets and her friends, spending time with loved ones over a meal and a cup of coffee, or with a cup of tea and a good book. Additionally, Lois vehemently advocated for the people,



Lois Corcoran, 1963-2026.

PHOTO PROVIDED

the politics, and the kind of world she hoped to leave behind; she was a woman with real tenacity, who never shied away from a passionate intellectual debate.

Lois is survived by her husband of 41 years, Kenneth Corcoran; her daughter, Carolyn (Corcoran) Russell; her son-in-law, Kurt Russell; her grandchildren, Harmony, Ilo, and Ondine Russell; her mother, Julie Moran; her brother, Gerald Moran; her sister, Laura (Moran) Henry; her brother-in-law, Thomas Henry; her nephew, Douglas; and her niece, Katherine Henry; as well as her dearest friends Mara Novak, Joanne Hipp, and so many more through the different seasons of her life.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html.

A celebration of life will be held Sunday, Oct. 18, from 1-6 p.m., at 28 Fitch Reservoir Road, Claremont, N.H.

BELLOWS FALLS

First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church St.

Traditional Baptist Services held Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Handicap accessible. 802-463-3220.

United Church of Bellows Falls, UCC, 8 School St.

Worship service starts at 10 a.m. every Sunday. All are welcome to attend. Following the service, there will be a time of refreshments. Many other services are offered throughout the week. If you have any questions or want to learn more, call 802-463-4323, visit the church, or find them on Facebook.

CAVENDISH

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. online or in person. Online services are on Facebook at 10 a.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Cavendish-Baptist-Church-258814894244302. More at www.CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131.

CHARLESTOWN

Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St.

Sunday service starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 603-826-3335.

CLAREMONT

Union-St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 133 Old Church Rd.

Weekly service of morning prayer or Holy Communion held on Sunday, at 9:30 a.m.

LUDLOW

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.

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

MOUNT HOLLY

Village Baptist Church, 32 Church St.

We welcome all to come and worship with us Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-259-2440.

PERKINSVILLE

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5, Weathersfield Bow

Sunday services are 10

a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study and prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-546-4902.

SPRINGFIELD

First Congregational Church, UCC, 77 Main St.

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in person. Singing is encouraged! For more information, call 802-885-5728, email fccucc@vermontel.net, or go to www.firstchurchspringfield.org.

North Springfield Baptist Church, 581 Giddings Street, North Springfield.

All are welcome and invited to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. For more information, please email the church office at office@nsbcvt.org, or call 802-886-8107. We are handicap accessible.

WALPOLE

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.

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.



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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

UPCOMING

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

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

SEPT. 12 –
N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The North School Preservation Society will host a yard sale fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at 5 School Street, rain or shine. The sale will include household goods, Match Box cars, Beanie Babies, tools, books and audiobooks, vintage textiles, jewelry, and a bag sale.

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

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

RUTLAND, Vt. – The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Vermont Chapter invites the community to join the southwestern Vermont/Rutland-area Out of the Darkness Walk on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Main Street Park in Rutland. Check-in begins at 9 a.m., and the walk program begins at 10 a.m. To register, donate, or learn more, visit afspwalks.donordrive.com/SouthwesternVT.

RUTLAND, Vt. – Drum Journeys of Earth is celebrating its 30th anniversary teaching ethnic drumming to students in central and southern Vermont. Drum Journeys of Earth will offer a free drumming workshop on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 10 a.m., at Drum Journeys of Earth’s Rhythm Hall, located on the second floor of Building 5 at the Howe Center in Rutland. For more information, contact Gary Meitrott at 802-282-2581, email Gary_Meitrott@comcast.net, or visit www.garymeitrottunlimited.org.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Flames will play a free outdoor concert, weather permitting, at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 6-8:30 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs. Snacks and drinks will be served, BYOB if you wish. This concert is open to the public.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – St. Mary’s Gigantic Indoor Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the St. Mary’s gym, on Main Street in Claremont, N.H. More than 100 tables will hold thousands of items for sale, including antiques and furniture. Lay away service and carry-out service will be available, and food and drinks will be available for purchase.

CORNISH, N.H. – Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park will celebrate the Art in the Park Festival on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Learn, create, and explore at your local national park. Take part in over a dozen art activities, enjoy music by the Vermont Fiddle Orchestra, and witness art demonstrations including a live bronze pour. Visit www.nps.gov/saga/planyourvisit/festival.htm for a complete list of participating artists and activities.

SEPT 13. –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – St. Charles Catholic Youth Ministry will host a kickball and ice cream event on Sunday, Sept. 13, from 2-5 p.m., at the St. Charles Social Center, 25 Cherry Hill Street. Come play kickball, enjoy ice cream sundaes, and discuss Carlo Acutis, the first Millennial saint. This event is free and open to all Catholic teens. Parents must sign permission slips. For more information, contact Celeste Marquise, youth ministry coordinator, at 802-376-3507.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Lions Fishing Derby will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13, at Hoyts Landing, from 6:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Awards will follow for the top three largest fish in three categories: black bass, northern pike, and perch. Children 12 and younger fish for free. There is a registration fee for those 13 and older.

WESTON, Vt. – An end-of-summer folk music event will be held at the Weston Community Church on the Hill, 37 Lawrence Hill Road, on Sunday, Sept. 13, at 2 p.m. All are welcome. Free-will donations will be taken at the door, and are much appreciated.

WESTON, Vt. – The Weston Community Church on the Hill, 37 Lawrence Hill Road, will host an end-of-summer folk music event on Sunday, Sept. 13, at 2 p.m. Free-will donations will be taken at the door and are much appreciated. All are welcome.

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – On Sunday, Sept. 13, at 10 a.m., the First Congregational Church of Westminster, Route 5 in Westminster, Vt., will hold a remembrance of the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Known as Welles Sunday, the church will remember Welles and honor others, especially those who serve our communities in fire, police, and EMT services. All such agencies are encouraged to attend. A breakfast will be held after. The Rev. Rich O’Donnell serves as pastor.

SEPT. 14 –
LUDLOW, Vt. – The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive on Monday, Sept. 14, from 12-5 p.m., at the Ludlow American Legion, 133 Main Street. Call 800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment, or visit www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Ludlow.

SEPT. 18 –
CUTTINGSVILLE, Vt. – On Fri, Sept. 18, Laurel Glen Cemetery Association of 1894 will hold candlelight cemetery and mausoleum tours to commemorate the death of John P. Bowman. Everyone knows the beautiful mausoleum on Route 103 in Cuttingsville; now’s your chance to see inside the vault by candlelight. Tours begin at 5 p.m., and run every half hour, with the last leaving from in front of the Shrewsbury Historical Society Museum at 6:30 p.m. You must reserve your slot; each group will be limited to 12. If you don’t reserve, you may not be admitted. This is a fundraiser for the nonprofit organization that maintains the mausoleum; we ask a tax-deductible donation. Tours last about an hour; they are not scary, just fun and educational. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for weather. Bring a flashlight. Not dog friendly. Email laurelglen.bowmanmansion@gmail.com to reserve your tour.

join us; it’s fun and it’s free. For more information, email suerubl@aol.com.

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

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Seated tai chi classes are held at the Westminster Institute, 3534 Route 5, on Tuesdays, at 12:15 p.m. A gentle, all-body workout. Admission is on a sliding scale. Join anytime.

WEDNESDAYS –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Knitting Together, every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m., at Village Square Booksellers, knitting hats and mittens for our school kids. We provide yarn, some direction, and an enjoyable visit. Acrylic yarn donations are always welcome. For more information, contact Caroline at 802-463-4653.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street in Ludlow, will host kids’ story time on Wednesdays, from 10:30-11 a.m., from Sept. 16 – Dec. 16. Story time is a wonderful weekly routine to establish with your young child. Each week focuses on early literacy activities, stories, and songs, and ends with a craft or science exploration. It is a great opportunity for your child to socialize and meet new friends, and for adult caregivers to connect. Best suited for ages 5 and under.

THURSDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Knit Knite at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common Thursdays, from 5-8 p.m., and via Zoom, from 7-8 p.m.

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

FRIDAYS –
W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – The Townshend Farmers Market, located at the West Townshend Country Store, 6573 Vermont Route 30, is held on Fridays, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., with a great group of vendors, both returning and new, ready to share their wares. Pizza and tacos will be available starting at 5 p.m.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Come show off your masterpieces at the Claremont Senior Center Knitters Group, on Fridays, from 1-3 p.m., at 5 Acer Heights. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

SATURDAYS –
WESTMORELAND, N.H. – Books & More Thrift Shoppe, 9 South Village Common behind the brick church, is open every Saturday, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., featuring a selection of adult, young adult, and children’s books; games, puzzles, household items, office supplies, pet items, crafts, fabric, yarns, sewing and knitting items, small appliances, gardening tools, and more; as well as a book nook and children’s area.



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**TOWN OF LUDLOW, VERMONT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
RECONSTRUCTION – ENGINEERING
SERVICES**

The Town of Ludlow, Vermont, on behalf of the Town and Village of Ludlow, is seeking proposals from qualified engineering firms/consultants to provide professional engineering services for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Reconstruction Project.

Services are anticipated to include preliminary and final design engineering, regulatory and permitting coordination, environmental review support, preparation of plans and specifications, cost estimating, bidding assistance, construction engineering and management, construction observation, and project closeout. The project is funded in part through the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program and may include additional federal funding sources.

RFP Release Date: September 3, 2026
Deadline for Questions: September 14, 2026
Proposal Deadline: September 21, 2026, at 12:00 PM ET

The complete RFP and related documents are available on the Town of Ludlow website. www.ludlow.vt.us
Hard copies may also be obtained at Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot Street, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Questions regarding the RFP should be directed to:
Penny Wu, Municipal Manager
Town of Ludlow
Phone: (802) 228-2860
Email: pwu@ludlow.vt.us



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State of Vermont
Land Use Review Board
10 Baldwin Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-3201
<https://act250.vermont.gov>



VERMONT

Notice of Public Hearing

On September 3, 2026, the Land Use Review Board (“Board”) deemed Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC)’s application RPC06-0001 complete for a determination of compliance of its adopted regional plan and Tier 1B requests pursuant to 24 V.S.A § 4348(h)(4) and 10 V.S.A. 6033(c). Application RPC06-0001 can be viewed online by visiting the Board Database: <https://anrweb.vt.gov/ANR/Act250/RPDetail.aspx?AppNum=RPC06-000>

The Board will hold a **public hearing on October 1, 2026, 1:00 p.m. EST** at Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, 38 Ascutney Park Road, Ascutney, VT 05030.

To attend electronically through Microsoft Teams video conferencing software:

- **Teams Meeting Link:** <https://teams.microsoft.com/join/232909570976037?p=LRMoHBaqwQJguyarCS>
- **Meeting ID:** 232 909 570 976 037
- **Passcode:** zx2sk7Sj

If you are unable to participate in person or by using Teams, you may call in to the hearing:

- **Dial:** 802-828-7667
- **Enter Conference ID:** 799 535 960#
- **To mute and un-mute:** Press *6

For further information or to request an accommodation, contact the Board by email at Act250.Board@vermont.gov or by calling 802-828-3309.

opinion/classifieds

Dear Editor,

The front-page article in the Vermont Journal published on July 29 regarding Londonderry taxes and subsequently corrected by the newspaper on Aug. 19 needs further clarification, as it is an important matter relating to the town and taxes, and was clearly misrepresented by the town in a manner both inaccurate and deceptive.

The town treasurer reported that the “municipal tax was lowered.” This is factually not correct because the 2026-2027 municipal tax rate will increase from \$0.6516 last year to \$0.7028 this year. This equates to just under an 8% increase. So why would the town represent this when the facts and numbers don’t support

the claim, and how could they justify this? Well, the only explanation they have offered to me is than it was less of an increase that it might have been if they hadn’t used some of the alleged “surplus” reserve funds to lower their budget to arrive at the \$0.7028 rate, which otherwise would have been at \$0.75, or a 15% tax increase! By any accounting standard, this is not logical, as it is a misleading attempt to confuse or deceive the public. Here is a forthright translation that actually clarifies what was said: “Let’s call it a reduction in the rate since it might have been higher but actually it wasn’t, so we’ll call it a decrease in the rate even though it factually is an increase from last year’s

rate.”

As a finance professional, this is very upsetting to me and should be to every taxpayer, too, so I felt compelled to write this letter. I’m afraid I can only conclude that the town was trying to conceal another annual rate increase by calling it a decrease based on a ludicrous distortion of the facts. The other fact to be aware of is that our municipal tax rate for 2021 was \$0.3974 and now is \$0.7028, and that equates to a 77% tax increase over this period – quite a significant tax increase overall. By comparison, the county education tax rate only increased about 10% over this same time period.

This town reportage is really inexcusable, and I have sent a

letter to the town and selectboard saying outright that this type of behavior is reprehensible and only creates more distrust of town officials. The only response I received was to blame the misrepresentation on the newspaper, which clearly was not the case. Thus, I think the residents of Londonderry should be aware of the facts rather than the fiction.

If any resident would like more clarification on this matter or want to be more informed of the town’s fiscal activities, please contact me at skylark333@earthlink.net.

Sincerely,
Barry Randell
Londonderry, Vt.

Dear Editor,

A longtime member of the Weston Selectboard resigned on July 14 of this year. On Aug. 11, the remaining members of the Weston Selectboard announced that they had decided to warn a special town meeting so an election could be held to fill that vacancy.

There are two problems with that decision.

First, that decision was not made during an open meeting. There was no motion, no second, and no vote. The law (1 V.S.A. §312) is clear: “No resolution, rule, regulation, appointment, or formal action shall be considered binding except as taken or made at such open meeting.”

More importantly, the selectboard’s choice to warn a special town meeting for an election is contrary to the statute requiring that “the selectboard forthwith by appoint-

ment in writing shall fill such vacancy until an election is had” (24 V.S.A. §963(a)).

Another selectboard member resigned immediately following the Aug. 11 meeting, creating a second vacancy the remaining members are required by law to fill. Instead, the selectboard argued that the operative word in the statute is “forthwith” and, since there is no required time constraint on appointing new members, warning a special meeting is a proper exercise of the selectboard’s discretion.

To say that the selectboard can’t, or won’t, make an appointment because the statute doesn’t provide a timeline for doing so is absurd.

It should be clear that the intent of the legislature is that appointments to fill vacancies should be made as soon as reasonably possible. The Weston

selectboard filled a vacancy by appointment just four months ago and knows this. No one played word games over the meaning of “forthwith” then, and it’s preposterous to do so now.

After all, the operative word in the statute is not “forthwith.” It is “shall,” as in “the selectboard...shall fill such vacancy.” There are no other options in the statute. The selectboard has discretion over who it appoints and how long it takes to fill a vacancy, but, no matter how the selectboard chooses to define “forthwith,” it “shall” fill vacancies through appointment.

If the residents of Weston decide the selectboard is not being “forthwith-y” enough, they will say so and reserve their right to petition for an election to be held.

The Weston Selectboard

must fulfill the duties imposed upon it by law. The warning for a special town meeting should be withdrawn and the selectboard should make the necessary appointments to fill the existing vacancies. It is time to get back to work. Things in Weston have reached the point where doing otherwise is going to look a lot like willful neglect of duty. If any member of the Weston Selectboard is unable or unwilling to perform any of the duties imposed upon them by law, they should step down.

That last statement should come as no surprise. The selectboard has heard it from residents half a dozen times in the last couple of months.

Sincerely,
Ken Hall
Weston, Vt.

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

POLITICAL LETTERS
Due to the volume of political letters we receive during elections, and the increased cost of adding pages to the paper to print them all, 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.

Dear Editor,

Keith Stern’s letter on “Vermont affordability” is true to form for Mr. Stern. He makes statements on Vermont economics without reference to any factual sources. As far as I know, Mr. Stern is not remotely an economist. In this we are equals. My two semesters of economics back in the – good grief – 1960s do not give you any reason to trust any unsupported statements I may make in that area. It’s the same for Mr. Stern. He must give

sources for his supposedly factual statements. For example, referring to “affordability,” he laments that not one Democrat “admits it’s Democrat policies that have caused the problems.” If it is true that some “policies” have caused “problems,” why can’t he state what these things are, give any evidence for his statements, or cite a believable source? As Wolfgang Pauli once said on reviewing a paper, “This isn’t right. It’s not even wrong!”

Of course, Mr. Stern never gives facts or sources for what he says. In the past, he has questioned the fact of climate change and the efficacy of the Covid vaccine. (See my Nov 18, 2024, rebuttal to him in the Chester Telegraph.) He apparently also has no education or working experience in science but thought he could say that “grant money is given to scientists who follow the party line.” As I can personally testify, this was an inane

remark, grossly insulting to the thousands of scientists who, unlike Mr. Stern, studied and worked for years in their fields.

Until Mr. Stern demonstrates that he has credentials that make his statements believable, or credits reliable sources, we cannot take him seriously about anything.

Sincerely,
Kem Phillips
Cavendish, Vt.

yellow
page

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home & garden

PROS TO KNOW

Green Mountain Gardeners host Page Dickey

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Green Mountain Gardeners is pleased to host Page Dickey, celebrated gardener, garden designer, and author, for a talk on Monday, Sept. 14, at 11 a.m. This free program is open to the public and will be held at the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad building, 6068 Vermont Route 100 in Londonderry, Vt.

Dickey will talk on aspects of garden design, such as creating gardens that reflect their settings

and planning gardens as extensions of our homes. Her talk should be particularly relevant for gardeners in our lovely State of Vermont.

Dickey has been gardening passionately since her early 20s, and writing about gardening, as well as designing gardens for others, for the last three decades. She has written eight books and edited another. Dickey lectures around the country about plants and garden design, and has written many articles for magazines over

the years. Her garden at Duck Hill in North Salem, N.Y., has been featured in a variety of periodicals, including The New York Times, House and Garden, Elle Décor, Vogue, and Garden Design. Dickey has recently moved to Cornwall, Conn., where she and her husband are beginning a new gardening adventure.

A director emeritus of the Garden Conservancy, Dickey was recently elected an honorary member of the Garden Club of America. She also serves on the boards of several historic gardens in Connecticut and New York. More information about Dickey can be found at www.pagedickey.com.

Everyone from experienced to beginning gardeners will enjoy this fascinating presentation. Please RSVP by emailing badgercarolynk@gmail.com.

Native gardens, annual Fairy House Festival

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Nature Museum at Grafton’s recently cultivated native gardens are sending out new roots, marking a significant expansion of their educational outdoor spaces. Created through the dedication of volunteer planters, the skilled earthwork of TMG Enterprises, and the vision of Terrigenous Landscape Architecture and Will Danforth, the gardens feature a series of outdoor “rooms” designed for gathering, reflection, and connection with the natural world.

The gardens will be on full display at the annual Fairy House Festival, taking place Sept. 26 and 27. Nearly 2,000 visitors from across New England travel to Grafton each year to explore the enchanted Fairy Trail and discover a magical village of fairy houses created by local classrooms, families, organizations, and businesses.

Festival activities include a new nature quest scavenger hunt, fairy house building, magic tricks, wand making, food vendors, local merchants, and more. Featured performers include The Longshanks stilt walkers and storytellers, and traveling musician Dan Frank and his hurdy-gurdy.

The festival is the museum’s primary annual fundraiser, with all proceeds supporting its year-round work connecting people with the natural world. This work includes expanding opportunities for visitors to explore the outdoors, including at the museum’s Magic Forest Natural Playscape, the restored wetlands and meadows, as well as workshops, school



Pumpkin fairy house.

PHOTO PROVIDED

programs, and camps in the Danforth Pavilion.

Tickets for the festival are available at www.nature-museum.org, and festival-goers are encouraged to buy tickets in advance to guarantee their spot and receive a discount. Tickets will be available at the gate if there is space and parking available. Volunteer and fairy house builder sign-ups are still available. Student volunteers can earn community service hours while supporting a local nonprofit.

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Chester Townscape bulb sale

CHESTER, Vt. – On Saturday, Sept. 19, Chester Townscape (CT) will sell spring-flowering bulbs at Chester’s Vermont Foods Festival on the village Green. Look for CT’s tall wooden trailer by the information booth. All bulbs are top quality, hardy, easy care, and expected to return year after year when grown in full or partial sun in a well-drained location. Shipped straight from Holland, this year’s bulbs include two kinds of daffodils and tulips, as well as the ever-popular Purple Sensation Allium. Bulbs are available in amounts of three, six, or 13, either by cash and carry at the festival or by preorder. Download the descriptive 2026 bulb order form at www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape.

Preordered bulb pickup and festival purchases will run on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., rain or shine. To preorder, mail the completed form and a check made out to CT with “CT Bulbs” in the memo line to Chester Townscape, P.O. Box 561, Chester, VT 05143, by Sept. 14 to receive email confirmation to bring, along with a copy of your completed form, to pickup time. For additional information or for those who must make alternative pickup arrangements, contact Polly Montgomery at 802-875-5446 or montgomerypolly@yahoo.com.

All sales support Chester Townscape’s seasonal floral displays at public places around town. Chester Townscape is a tax-exempt volunteer organization.

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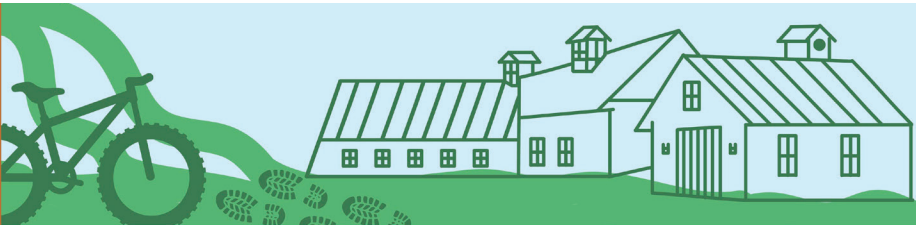
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Trails at Fletcher Farm Grand Opening



Join the grand opening celebration for the Okemo Valley Trails expansion.

PHOTO PROVIDED

LUDLOW, Vt. – Okemo Valley Trails (OVT) invites the community to celebrate the grand opening of the new Fletcher Farm Trail Network on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Fletcher Farm in Ludlow.

If you enjoy OVT’s Back 40 trails, you’ll love this next phase of trail building in the Okemo Valley. The new Fletcher Farm network offers trails built for mountain biking that are also open to other nonmotorized recreation, such as hiking, nature walks, and cross-country skiing. This first three-mile

phase includes beginner- and kid-friendly trails, as well as intermediate and advanced terrain.

The celebration begins at 10 a.m., with guided mountain bike rides from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., and sponsor tents on site. Visitors are encouraged to bring their bikes and explore the new trails.

At 12 p.m., OVT will hold an official ribbon cutting with the Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce, with an opportunity to meet members of the OVT Board and representatives from the

Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA). Pizza from Village Pizza in Ludlow and nonalcoholic beverages will follow.

The event is free and open to the local and visiting community. Come ride, explore the trails, meet the people who helped make the project possible, and celebrate an exciting new outdoor recreation resource for the Okemo Valley.

For more information, email info@okemovalley-trails.org.

SEVCA Micro Business Development Cohorts

REGION – Southeast Vermont Community Action’s (SEVCA) Micro Business Cohorts are monthly gatherings designed to help aspiring and current small business owners – especially those from lower-income or underserved communities – build the skills, confidence, and connections they need to succeed. Success can look different for everyone, and there are no set outcomes with the cohorts except being able to build skills and income, and thrive as an entrepreneur.

Each session provides practical tools, peer learning, and direct access to SEVCA’s wide range of support services. Participants receive referrals and guidance related to finances, taxes, strategy, and business documentation, bridging the gap for entrepreneurs who may not be fully prepared to launch or grow their businesses on their own.

Local meeting locations, dates, and times are the Waypoint Center in Belows Falls, 17 Depot Street, on Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16, from 4:30-6 p.m.; and the Springfield Chamber of Commerce in Springfield, 56 Main Street, Suite 2, on Sept. 30, Oct. 28, Nov. 11, and Dec. 9, from 4:30-6 p.m. Email hello@sevca.org for more information or to RSVP.

Participants receive hands-on support and resources in key areas such as business planning and development, marketing and sales strategies, accounting and bookkeeping, insurance guidance, budgeting guidance, access to funding opportunities, and networking and resources.

During the first meeting, participants complete an intake to explore eligibility for SEVCA programs such as SNAP outreach, weatherization, and Head Start.

Cohorts serve as local

hubs where partners and participants come together to share resources, build networks, and strengthen community-based entrepreneurship. They also create an entry point into business ownership for individuals striving to increase income and financial stability. By combining training, tools, and community support, SEVCA helps participants take meaningful steps toward self-sufficiency – often just a few hundred dollars a month away from greater financial independence.

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is an equal opportunity employer that administers equal opportunity programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Free language access assistance is also available. Send an email to hello@sevca.org or call 802-722-4575 if you are in need of these services.

Black River Action Team asks for support

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – For 27 years, the Black River Action Team (BRAT) has been working to clean up and help out the waterways in Windsor County, Vt. Springfield resident Kelly Stettner began organizing volunteers in 2000 to haul tires, shopping carts, and other junk from the river in her spare time from a desk job; she has since cultivated the Black River Action Team into a full-service group that works throughout the 202 square miles of the river’s watershed. BRAT organizes several cleanups every year; culvert and stormwater cleanouts and mapping; planting of native vegetation on streambanks and floodplains; shoreline improvement projects to retain stormwater on the landscape and protect water quality; monitoring of sites on streams, lakes, and swimming holes for nutrients, chloride, bacteria, and other parameters; educational opportunities such as “bug hunts” to look at stream creatures, dragonfly surveys, and aquatic plant workshops; and more.



BRAT to clean up waterways in Windsor County.

PHOTO PROVIDED

As the summer winds down, BRAT is just ramping up for the 27th annual RiverSweep cleanup, to be held on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Riverside Middle School in Springfield Vt.

While Stettner still manages the overall organization through BRAT’s fiscal sponsor, Tiny Seed Project, of Hardwick Vt., all of these projects are successful because of volunteers and partner groups from the communities within the watershed: Springfield, Weathersfield, Perkinsville, Cavendish, Proctorsville, Ludlow, Plymouth, Mount Holly, Andover, Baltimore, and Reading. While some of the work is grant-funded by both the state and private foundations, BRAT relies

heavily on private donations from individuals and local organizations.

Please consider showing your support of all the work done by Black River Action Team over the past 27 years by making a donation of any amount. Checks can be made out to Tiny Seed Project (note “BRAT” in the memo section) and mailed to TSP at P.O. Box 112, East Hardwick, VT 05836. Donations are also welcomed online through the Givebutter platform at www.givebutter.com/BRAT.

Stettner invites everyone to get more information about volunteer and educational opportunities by emailing blackrivercleanup@gmail.com or visiting www.blackriveractionteam-vt.org.

ESBR reflects on past school year

LUDLOW, Vt. – As the Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR) gears up for the coming school year, we look back fondly on last year’s end-of-year adventures.

Students went to Mt. Kearsarge Indian Heritage Museum in New Hampshire to bring to life their studies of indigenous peoples. They also visited Saint-Gaudens National Historic Park to add context to their Civil War instruction; park ranger Newton Rose did an amazing job bringing the art to life. Kids enjoyed skate park ad-

ventures in Ludlow on Friday mornings. They demonstrated joy and grit while struggling to learn new tricks and exemplified empathy while supporting each other. Animal lovers visited the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society in Windsor, and rode horses with parents and staff at Mountain View Ranch in Danby.

As a choice high school, ESBR is open to students from Ludlow and surrounding areas in Vermont. It welcomes students who are seeking an edu-



ESBR students on an excursion.

PHOTO PROVIDED

cation that blends strong academics, creativity, and real-world learning. For more information, contact Mike Kell, head of school, at mkell@esblackriver.org or 802-228-3727, or visit www.esblackriver.org.

Project Action Safety Week

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Project Ac-

tion will host Operation Springfield Safety Week

from Sept. 21-25, with events each day relating to safety, health, and wellness. The schedule is of events is:

“Substance Use & Vaping,” Monday, Sept. 1, at 5 p.m., in the Springfield Town Library Children’s Room. Explore the facts, industry tactics, and strategies to make healthy choices.

“Water Safety,” Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 6 p.m., at the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center. Fun activities for kids ages 6-9 that will teach them how to stay safe around water.

“Mental Health, De-escalation & Conflict Resolution,” Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 5 p.m., in the Springfield Town Library Children’s Room. Build communication skills, manage emotions, and resolve conflict respectfully.

“Online Scams,” Thursday, Sept. 24, at 5 p.m., in the Springfield Town Library Children’s Room. Learn how scammers work and how to protect your personal information and money.

“Internet Safety, Consent, and Healthy Relationships,” Friday, Sept. 25, at 5 p.m., in the Springfield Police Department Community Room. Stay safe online, understand consent, and build healthy relationships.

All programs are free and open to the public, and everyone is welcome. For more information, follow @SpringfieldProjectAction on Facebook.

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