



THE Vermont Journal

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Vermont Country Store celebrates 80 years with Weston Village Fair & Jubilee

BY LISA STICKNEY

WESTON, Vt. – Clear skies and crisp fall air made for the perfect backdrop as the Village of Weston kicked off its first Weston Village Fair & Jubilee celebration on Saturday, Sept. 12. The celebration marked an important milestone for the Vermont Country Store, which is commemorating 80 years in business at its Weston location, while helping to bring the community together in celebration of the history and longevity of the Town of Weston and its local businesses.

The Vermont Country Store, a sponsor of the fair, was among several businesses and organizations marking milestone anniversaries this year. Others include the Farrar Park Association, celebrating 140 years; the Weston Village Store, 135

years; the Wilder Memorial Library, 125 years; the Weston Rod & Gun Club, 95 years; the Weston Theater Company, 90 years; and The Little School, celebrating its 50th anniversary.

It has been 80 years since Vrest and Mildred Orton opened the doors of the Vermont Country Store, located on Main Street in Weston, and welcomed the public, but the story of the store began a year earlier, when Vrest put together a collection of items for sale, printed his first catalog, and mailed it to everyone on his Christmas list in 1945. His mailing list included friends he had worked with in Washington, D.C. The Countryman Press was the name of his printing operation when he returned to Vermont.

Eliot Orton, Vrest’s grandson, described that first cata-

log as the size of a modern-day iPhone: “It featured 36 items you can buy now – 14 for the house, seven to eat, three to wear, and 12 to read, and all fine for gifts.” Eliot said, “Back then, the type had to be set up for print, each individual letter, and it included some sketches, written text, very small photos – some were drawings, some with no photo or drawing – and it said, ‘Vrest & Mildred revive a Country Store.’ It contained items that he gathered locally out of his garage and throughout the neighborhood: wood craft items, grains, things from the mill in Weston.”

That first catalog was sent out before a store ever existed. Those who received Vrest’s catalog in the mail wrote back with their orders. Many customers included an intention to visit the store

they assumed the catalog represented. “They wanted to come see the actual store,” Eliot said.

So, Vrest and Mildred opened the Vermont Country Store in Weston, at its current location. “Vrest was certainly an inventive marketer, as was our dad, Lyman,” Eliot said. “He was responsible for really growing the business.”

Eliot recalls growing up in the family business, “I remember we went to Flood Brook Elementary School in Londonderry. The bus driver would drop us off at the store and Maude Gabert [former storekeeper] would look after us as the boss’s sons roaming around in the store.” He continued, “She would put us to work marking things, filling jars with candy.”

“I started working there



Three generations sitting on the rocking chairs at The Vermont Country Store. Pictured left to right: Eliot Orton, Ella Orton, and Lyman Orton.

PHOTO BY LISA STICKNEY

Weston responds to allegations

PAULA BENSON

WESTON, Vt. – While disregarding repeated calls for their resignation, the three remaining members of the Weston Selectboard continued to hold meetings throughout August and September, convening a special meeting on Thursday, Sept. 3, at 4 p.m., at the Weston Town Office, to respond to complaints filed on Aug. 25. The first of three complaints, from Weston resident Ken Hall, alleges that the selectboard violated Vermont’s open meeting law, 1 VSA § 312. The second and third complaints allege that the minutes posted after selectboard meetings held July 28 and Aug. 11 were insufficiently detailed, as required

by § 312(b). Specifically, those complaints referred to the public comment section.

At the special meeting, Vice Chair Jim Linville read aloud the board’s response. The written transcript can be viewed within the meeting’s minutes on Weston’s town website, or viewed on GNAT TV, at www.gnat-tv.org/weston-special-select-board-09-03-26.

Ultimately, the board determined no open meeting law violation occurred on two of the complaints but acknowledged a “possible violation” regarding the July 28 meeting’s minutes. The board

See **WESTON** on Page 2

Londonderry to create two tennis courts

BY SHAWN TAE WEBB

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Londonderry Recreation Director Liam Elio proposed a change order for the Pingree Park tennis court project at the Sept. 8 Londonderry Selectboard meeting. Elio stated that the parks and recreation board had already voted to approve the change order of \$71,059, to include a second designated court for pickleball and tennis players.

Elio reported that the foundation of the court was evaluated, and is in much better shape than anticipated. And, given that crews will already be on site, the parks board agreed that a second court

would be a good use of the extra funds, without changing the overall project timeline. Elio proposed giving a two week notice to court users of the upcoming closure, and to have the courts completed before winter.

The renovations will include a fabric base, 12 inches of subbase on the current tennis court, and 24 inches on the new court, “to make sure we’re not dealing with this problem for decades,” Elio stated.

The parks board put \$40,000 towards the project, and another \$40,000 is available in the Pingree Park fund, so on behalf of the board, Elio sought to borrow just over \$100,000 from the cemetery commission. The selectboard approved the change order

for the additional court. The project budget, originally at \$111,000, will not exceed \$182,895.

The selectboard also accepted a resignation from Kelly Pajala from the parks board, who is moving out of Londonderry, and appointed Christine Blaylock to fill the open seat.

Short-term rental (STR) Administrator Andy Dahlstrom discussed an administrative fee for declined rental applications, as well as adding a nonrefundable clause to the fee schedule and application. Dahlstrom continued to explain that, for various reasons, someone may wish to withdraw their application if their house is deemed to be

See **DERRY** on Page 2

Incumbent Vermont Rep. Kevin Winter selected in August primary

REGION – Thank you for electing me to represent our Rutland-Windsor District of Mount Holly, Shrewsbury, and Ludlow over the past 2025-2026 legislative session. It has been a privilege and an honor.

With the historic addition of 17 House Republicans in the fall of 2024, including myself, our minority caucus grew to 56 members. With the added strength in numbers, there has been a strong push to find where and how we can bring tax relief and reduce spending relative to previous years’ agendas.

There’s a long way to go still, but we were able to accomplish some legislative gains. In the 2025 session, Act 71 was fought for and passed that provided military retirees, seniors on fixed incomes, and working families with some tax relief. The situation with Vermont’s rising property taxes and education spending continues to be a burden that must be resolved. This spring, I voted with others to support the governor’s plan to buy down the fiscal year 2026

property tax rate by transferring \$77.2 million from the general fund and \$40.9 million surplus from last year into the education fund that held down predicted average property tax increases substantially. To address looming statewide issues, the Senate Republicans announced the “Vermont Promise” campaign this spring, outlining seven basic promises that they are making to Vermont voters if Republicans win a senate majority this November. Find more info at www.vermontpromise.com.

A shift happened in the State House this spring, as rural Vermonters (which is most Vermonters!) became aware of how bills passed in 2024 – Act 59, Act 121, and Act 181 – affect them and their properties, and how the majority party was not including them in the critical discussions. Act 59 legislated conservation of 30% of Vermont land by 2030, 50% by 2050. Act 121 expanded wetlands protection and mapping. Act 181 established the “Land Use Review Board” and designations of proper-

ties as Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3, along with the “road rule” regulations, limiting use of and construction on private properties. Prohibitive permitting, engineering costs, and fees were to come, and the state would have jurisdictional authority over privately owned land. Thankfully, we were able to reverse the road rule and Tier 3 provisions of Act 181 and add the Burt Amendment thanks to the groundswell of voiced opposition from across the state, largely through the efforts of the growing Rural Vermont Rising group.

From my vantage point, these are concerns needing to be addressed:

- Cost of living increasing due to over regulation: restrictive zoning (ACT 250); unrealistic environmental goals (e.g. most stringent PCB levels in U.S.A.); inflation due to lack of competition (i.e. healthcare, insurance, etc.); and ever-increasing taxation rather than cost reduction and prioritization of activities.
- Declining incentives to be a productive citizen (i.e.,



Rep. Kevin Winter with Gov. Phil Scott.

PHOTO PROVIDED

losing working families): loose financial “handouts” to people who can and should work; facilitation of bad behavior to appease/soothe rather than fix a bad habit (push for safe injection sites, push for decriminalizing illicit drug use); increased lawlessness due to lack of funding and will to enforce.

- Inefficient and less effective education for children: lack of will to consolidate and work with the law of “economy of scales”; and selfish legislation driven by larger population centers having too much leverage.
- Lack of common-sense legislation with logical, fundamentally sound, fact-based decisions.

I don’t make promises. What I can say is that I will listen to all arguments presented in support of proposed legislation and strive to vote in such a way as to fix the root-cause problem(s) to move forward to solutions rather than band-aids.

Please call or text me at 802-245-4190 so we can discuss your view of improved legislation and/or change my mind as I pursue this legislative responsibility again.

Whatever you do – make sure you use our precious privilege and VOTE!

Paid for By Kevin C. Winter, 1476 E Hill Rd, Ludlow, VT 05149.

INDEX

Arts & Entertainment	3
Health & Opinion	4
Obituaries & Services	5
Calendar	6
Legal Notices	6-7
Classifieds	7
Real Estate	8
Outdoor	12

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Rural Rivers Project community collaboration —

REGION – The Rural Rivers Project is excited to announce a new community science collaboration with the towns of Ludlow and Cavendish, Vt. Over the coming months, researchers Charis Boke, Aletha Spang, and the Rural Rivers team at Dartmouth College will collaborate with municipal officials, local partners, and community members to install new, low-cost, open-source/open-access devices to monitor water levels at key points on the Black and Ottauquechee rivers.

The Social Science, Tech-

nology, Rivers, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (SSTREAMnet) project has emerged out of collaborations with the Black River Action Team, Black River Good Neighbors Services in Ludlow, and Cavendish Connects. With the help of Don Blair, of Waterbear Field School, this summer, two community science fellows – Jacob Zinkerman and Jacob Lloyd – worked with the Rural Rivers Project to build the prototype water level sensor that will be installed in Ludlow in September. Partners through Mu-

tual Aid Disaster Relief and Signals Rising provided additional devices that will be installed in Ludlow and Cavendish.

The goal of this local network of water-level sensors is to give researchers and the public – including town managers, road crews, state floodplain managers, local residents, and others – better information about changes in water levels. This will help inform work to mitigate the impacts of future floods.

Contra dance at Ludlow Community Center —

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Community Center will be hopping on Friday, Oct. 9, from 6-8 p.m., with amazing music and lively step dancing. Don't miss this great opportunity to hear, see, and try out some fun contra dancing, featuring live music led by Naomi Morse (fiddle), Amy Englesberg (piano), and Emmet McGowan (drums).

Contra dancing is family friendly, open to all ages, and most welcoming to new dancers. No

experience is necessary. All dances are taught and guided by a caller. Feel free to come solo, bring your family or a friend, or even organize a group, or just come to listen – you're sure to have a great time.

Contra dancing is done with live music and a caller, and does not involve any fancy steps or moves; it amounts to walking in time to the music. It is much easier than line dancing, and not so fancy as square dancing. Wear regular comfortable clothing with smooth-soled shoes to help

you move comfortably.

This event, sponsored by Black River Good Neighbor Services, is free, and all are welcome. There will be light refreshments, together with donation jars to benefit the monthly community meal program. Now celebrating its fourth year of serving community meals, Black River Good Neighbor Services is most grateful for support from the community for this valuable program.

For more information, please contact Krey Kelington at 802-228-3663.

FAIR

From Page 1

She had this technique of following the line coming down the cheese, where you could learn to cut exactly a pound, and customers were amazed, and it was always fun to be a part of that."

Eliot and his brother Gardner Orton are now partners, continuing the family tradition as proprietors of the Vermont Country Store, each with children of their own. "It's fun that we've beat the odds. We employ our neighbors and friends, we're supportive of our communities, and we're proud of our employees and what we've accomplished. It makes me proud to be part

of the Vermont community," Eliot said.

The Weston Village Fair & Jubilee began with a day of fun-filled activities for all ages. Inside the Vermont Country Store, illustrator and author R.W. Alley hosted a book signing, along with a live demonstration showing how to draw Paddington Bear.

A John Deere tractor led the parade, followed by a series of unique cars, floats "Follow the Call of the Disco Ball" and "The Vermont Country Store – Orton Storekeepers," a horse-drawn wagon, a group of bicyclists, and the Weston Fire Department's Engine No. 1.

The streets and stores

were busy with activity and speeches at the bandstand, as well as a moment of silence in memory of 9/11. Horse-drawn wagons passed by, fair games and food tents lined the Green, food trucks parked along Park Street, and live bands played for dancing in the street.

Back inside the Vermont Country Store, standing beside the old cast-iron, potbelly stove, Lyman explained, "We're leaning on the potbelly stove, cast iron, 19th century. You fed the wood into it or even coal, if you had that. That was in every country store, and that's what heated the store."

"The tradition was there was always chairs around it, and there's a checkerboard, because people would come in – the old timers, and play checkers. They'd sit around in the chairs and talk, go

over the day's things. The old country store was the center of the town...the conversation area," Lyman recollected. "We got the chairs, we got the checkerboard, and so people sit down and they play checkers, and they say, 'Hey, I haven't played checkers in years!'"

The store is set up to welcome local townspeople and visitors from all over. "The conversation area stays here, and we like to talk to the customers who come in... we want to get to know them and say 'Hi.' It's fun to talk to people," Lyman said.

"My parents started the business when I was 5 years old, so 1946. I had a built-in summer vacation/winter vacation job my whole life, working in the store. I grew up in the store, I worked in the store, and when I got out of college, I went to college

in Middlebury College, I put my apron back on and I went back to work, and the rest is history," Lyman said, adding, "My sons have taken over the ownership of the store."

Asked about the store's success and how it has survived over the past 80 years, Lyman explained, "Essentially, we're in the nostalgia business. What we look for, and find, and bring back or recreate are products that were popular some years ago, that people remembered, and then they went away... big companies bought them and forgot about them, stopped marketing them, stopped selling, because they couldn't sell a gazillion dollars' worth. Well, I don't need a gazillion dollars, I just need a bit more. So, we find these products and revive them and offer them back, and people's memories are such

that – oh my god, I remember that, and that's the praise we hear all the time. That's connecting the past to the present, and so it's great fun. We love doing it."

"It's hard to keep a business going for 80 years," Lyman said. Reflecting on those eight decades, he noted the catalog has been instrumental in bringing people to the store, to Vermont, and to the Town of Weston. "It drives people...all of the time, we're welcoming people who it is their first time here, and they're clutching the catalog or it's their 10th time here, and people order from all over the country," he added.

"Having been in the business my whole life, I'm about to turn 85," Lyman said. "So here we are about to celebrate my birthday and the birthday of the Vermont Country Store."

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WESTON

From Page 1

voted to "cure" the violation by amending the posted minutes within 14 days to include the missing public comments.

The selectboard met again in regular session on Sept. 8, at which time Vice Chair Jim Linville announced the town had hired Brian Vandeweerd as a member of the road crew. Linville said Vandeweerd was available to start the next morning.

The board also heard from resident and Chair of the Weston Development Review Board Deborah Granquist. Granquist, also chair of the Wilder Memorial Library Board of Trustees, read a prepared statement expressing concern regarding the proposed Lawrence Hill Road Bridge design committee. The full statement is available for public viewing on the town website, attached to the end of the Sept. 8 meeting minutes.

Granquist referred to a comment Linville made

at the recent special town meeting acknowledging the public's apprehension regarding the specifications of the new bridge. Linville told residents at the time that the board intended to create a design committee made up of "stakeholders" who would consult with Stone Engineering during planning and de-

sign stages. Granquist made the point that any resident of Weston could be considered a stakeholder, stating that the bridge "is a town-owned public asset [and] an important transportation link" for residents. She asked that the item be added to the agenda for the Sept. 22 selectboard meeting.

DERRY

From Page 1

in noncompliance. Dahlstrom felt that in some cases, the fee should be returned to the applicant.

The board generally agreed that clearly stating the application is nonrefundable will encourage applicants to do their research before submitting the documentation and paying the fee, to avoid having people returning for a refund.

STR appeal board members were then appointed for a term of one year: Allison Marino, Maureen Cronin, Paul Hendler, Rich Phelan, and Leanne Alexander.

The board also appointed Taylor Prouty as the selectboard representative to attend the upcoming tax sale. Town Administrator Aileen Tulloch recommended Prouty, in the event that the town wants to purchase any of the properties, because he

is on the land acquisition task force. The tax sale will be held on Sept. 16, at 10:30 a.m., at the town office.

Elio, now representing the town hall renovation committee, requested approval to apply for a Municipal Energy Revolving Fund (MERF) loan. Elio said MERF is a 0% interest loan, not a grant, which would give the committee more flexibility to continue moving forward with renovation projects. He noted that the basement, ADA bathroom, roof, siding, and paint were all issues which still needed to be addressed.

Tulloch stated that the board was previously looking for a proposal from the committee, and a specific budget. The selectboard approved the request for the MERF application, pending its approval of the loan amount.

The board then approved the updated proposal from Hunter Excavating for town hall general contracting services, not to exceed \$284,771. Tulloch reported that figure is close to what is left over in the town hall renovation fund, and recommended having conversations with Hunter along the way to stay in budget and complete as many line items as possible. Tulloch added that the roof project is a separate component and is already under contract.

After an executive session, the board moved to have Tulloch discuss with the state the reallocation of a portion of the North Village ARPA funds to the South Village Phase 2 project, and to seek additional grant funding for the North Village as appropriate.

The Londonderry Selectboard meets on the first and third Mondays of each month, at 6 p.m., at the town office and on Zoom.



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arts & entertainment

Create Together lakefront fundraiser series

LUDLOW, Vt. – Create Together at Fletcher Farm, a cultural anchor of the Okemo Valley for more than 75 years (formerly known as the Fletcher Farm Art & Craft Center), has announced a pair of dynamic “Friend & Fund Raiser” events designed to introduce the community to its newly rebranded vision and secure vital funding for year-round local arts programming.

The two-part event series, themed “Keep Creativity Afloat,” offers full-time and part-time residents a unique opportunity to connect over community art activities outside of the region’s traditional sports and outdoor recreation scene.

“In 2025, we rebranded as Create Together to ensure that no one in the Okemo Valley is priced out, pushed out, or left out of a rich creative life,” said the organization. “Today, we face a bit of an identity crisis: Many neighbors don’t know we exist, while others only know

who we were. This series is about changing that narrative, making new friends, raising vital funds, and shaping our collective future.”

The series features two distinct lakefront experiences. The first is “Barn Quilt Paint & Sip” on Friday, Sept. 19, from 1-5 p.m., at Lake Rescue in Ludlow, Vt., hosted by Amy and Steve Fisher. Guests will enjoy a guided painting and social afternoon focused on crafting traditional Vermont barn quilts while enjoying seasonal beverages.

The second event is “Dock Party & Photo Tips” on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 1-5 p.m., at Round Pond, in Ludlow, Vt., hosted by Amit Khanna. A relaxed afternoon gathering by the water featuring professional photography insights and styling tips to help capture the beauty of the changing seasons.

The fundraiser series is made possible through the generous support of community partners, includ-

ing hosts Amy and Steve Fisher, and Amit Khanna, featured local artists Piper Strong and Karen Leonard, and corporate sponsor LaValley Building Supply.

Space is limited, and exact addresses for the private lakefront locations will be provided to guests upon registration. Community members are encouraged to attend one or both special events. To secure a spot, please visit www.createtogethervt.org/workshops.

For those who are unable to attend but still wish to support the mission to build a permanent, accessible creative home in Ludlow, tax-deductible donations can be made online at www.createtogethervt.org/donate or by sending a check to Create Together, 611 Route 103 South, Ludlow, VT 05149. Opportunities to volunteer or teach are also available.

“Lost Nation” to screen

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Jay Craven’s newest film, “Lost Nation,” will screen on Thursday, Sept. 24, at 5 p.m., at The Nolan Murray Center in Springfield, sponsored by the Springfield Town Library. Admission is free. Craven will appear at the screening for a post-film Q&A.

“Lost Nation” is a Revolutionary War-era action drama set in the early upstart Republic of Vermont. The picture stars Irish actor Kevin Ryan as Vermont founding father and rebel schemer Ethan Allen, who leads resistance to New Yorker land claims, launches an ill-fated attack on British forces in Montreal, and leads invasions by his Green Mountain Boys into the Yorker strongholds of Guilford and Brattleboro. The film is also relevant to Massachusetts history – partially set in Deerfield and Northampton, and shot on Nantucket.

The film’s parallel and intersecting story features Ke-

nyan actress Eva Ndachi as pioneering poet Lucy Terry Prince, who was enslaved at the age of 3 in western Massachusetts, and settled a Guilford, Vt., homestead with her family during this same time. Like Allen, the Princes found themselves caught up in turbulent times that threatened their prospects for the land and freedom they sought. Like Allen, Prince upset the status quo in her assertive use of early Vermont’s legal and political systems to defend her family from encroachment, harassment, and intimidation.

The Prince family’s antagonist, aspiring Guilford politician John Noyes, is played by Rob Campbell. British intelligence chief and former Green Mountain Boys co-founder Justus Sherwood is played by Barry Del Sherman, and Lucy Prince’s daughter Drucilla is played by young actress and Spelman College student Karma Bridges, daughter of popular rapper

and film star Ludacris. Vermont actors Rusty DeWees and Ariel Zevon play Yorker Asa Locke and Mary Allen, respectively.

“Lost Nation” was shot on 52 Vermont and Massachusetts locations, including the Town of Leyden. It includes 43 speaking characters, including Vermonters Ira Allen, Seth Warner, Gideon Brownson, and Thomas Chittenden, and founding fathers Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, and Samuel Adams (played by his direct descendant, Samuel Adams).

Acclaimed singer, composer, and Juilliard-trained violinist Mazz Swift composed and conducted the “Lost Nation” film score.

For more information, visit www.springfieldtownlibrary.org or contact Craven at jcraven1590@gmail.com.

Homegrown Music Series at 24 Main Street

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – The newly launched Jesse’s Homegrown Music Series continues its semi-monthly run at 24 Main Street in Saxtons River on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m. The intimate, down-to-earth showcase will feature a collaborative duo performance by local favorite Jesse Peters and regional mainstay George Nostrand.

The performance marks the second installment of the new music series, which aims to bring local and out-of-town guests together for stripped-down, community-focused sets. Both Nostrand and Peters

share deep roots in the Bel-lows Falls and Saxtons River area. Having built a long friendship and history of collaboration, the duo will deliver a joyous evening of varied, dynamic, original songs and choice covers traversing rock and folk styles.

Nostrand has long been celebrated as a cornerstone of Rutland’s vibrant live music scene, while Peters has spent the last two decades anchoring live music on Vermont’s eastern front.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. ahead of the evening performance at 24 Main Street in Saxtons River. Admission is by suggested cover at the door, though orga-

nizers emphasize a strict no one turned away for lack of funds policy to keep the event accessible to all community members.

The historic 24 Main Street venue is overseen by 24 Main Street Ltd. and serves as a central hub for civic, cultural, and community activities benefiting the citizens of Saxtons River and surrounding areas. Programs and historic preservation efforts are made possible through the generous support and donations of community members and patrons. 24 Main Street is located directly across from the Saxtons River Village Market, and there is plenty of street parking available.

“A Life in Art: Toni Streeter” at the Great Hall

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield on the Move is thrilled to announce a captivating evening celebrating the incredible talent of local artist Toni Streeter in the Great Hall, on Friday, Sept. 25, from 5-7 p.m. This exclusive one-woman art show will feature

Streeter’s stunning sculptures and a diverse array of paintings that explore various genres and mediums, representing a lifetime of painting and sculpture presented for the benefit of the environmental defense fund and Springfield on the Move.

Streeter, a talented and

diverse artist residing in Springfield, Vt., invites you to immerse yourself in her creative journey. This is a unique opportunity to experience the beauty of her work and support local art.

For more information, please contact Vanessa Re-bentisch at springfieldon-themove@gmail.com.

Liam Purcell & Cane Mill Road and Diane Zeigler at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present Nashville-based bluegrass quintet Liam Purcell & Cane Mill Road, and Vermont-based singer-songwriter Diane Zeigler at Next Stage, on Sunday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m.

Characterized by No Depression as “the future of bluegrass,” Liam Purcell & Cane Mill Road twine innovation, tradition, and excellence into a unique musical experience.

The winner of eight national songwriting awards, Vermont’s Zeigler combines a crystalline vocal

style with distinctive open-tuning guitar work, crafting songs that have earned her respect among songwriters and critics as “one of the most talented singer-songwriters New England has produced,” according to The

Music Matters.

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



Join us on Sundays!

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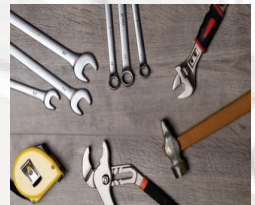
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health & opinion

Salmonella detected in eggs from Windsor County

READING, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM) and the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) have detected salmonella enteritidis in eggs and environmental samples at Leaping Bear Farm in Reading. The eggs from this farm are sold at various farmers markets locally and at other retail establishments in the area. Upon confirmation of the salmonella strain in lab test results received recently, Leaping Bear Farm has agreed to recall all eggs with cartons dated between June 1, 2026 and September 5, 2026.

If you currently have eggs related to this incident, they should be thrown in the garbage for disposal in a landfill. Do not discard them into your compost pile. Approximately 1,800 hens have been impacted by this event. According to VDH, 14 cases of

salmonella illnesses in Vermont have been linked to the strain identified in the eggs. Other states also have genetically linked cases.

The owners of Leaping Bear Farm agreed not to sell or distribute any chicken eggs until such time that VAAFM determines that the salmonella enteritidis strain in the eggs is no longer a public health threat. The agency thanks the farm owners for their support and concern in protecting public health.

If you currently have eggs from Leaping Bear Farm labeled between June 1, 2026, and Sept. 5, 2026, do not eat them. Discard them in the trash. Do not compost affected eggs. Wash items and surfaces that may have touched affected eggs, including the refrigerator, using hot soapy water or a dishwasher.

People with salmonella

infections can develop diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps. Symptoms usually begin six hours to six days after infection and typically last four to seven days. Most people recover without treatment. Contact a healthcare provider if you have these severe symptoms: diarrhea or vomiting lasting more than two days; bloody poop (including diarrhea) or pee; a fever higher than 102 F; and/or signs of dehydration, including little or no peeing, having very dark pee, being very thirsty, having a dry mouth or throat, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or crying without tears.

Long-term complications can include diarrhea lasting months, infection that spreads to other parts of the body, and reactive arthritis.

Young children, adults 65 and older, and people with weakened immune systems

are more likely to develop serious illness from salmonella.

Everyone should follow routine safety precautions to prevent salmonella and other food-borne illnesses. Wash your hands, kitchen tools, and produce often. Wash hands, utensils, and surfaces with hot, soapy water before and after handling raw eggs, meat, poultry, and seafood. Keep raw eggs, meat, poultry, and seafood away from ready-to-eat foods. Use a food thermometer to be sure food is cooked to a safe temperature. Cook eggs until both the yolk and the white are firm and cook dishes containing eggs to 160 F. Refrigerate perishable foods quickly and keep your fridge at 40 F or below. Drink pasteurized milk and juices.

Dear Editor,

We wish to express our gratitude and thank everyone who joined us in enjoying a small chocolate soft serve at Dari Joy on Aug. 26, our son Eric's birthday. Also, our thanks to Kristopher Radder for his article and tribute that was published in the Brattleboro Reformer on Wednesday, Sept. 2.

In addition, we wish to note Paul Sackevich's contribution in acting as Eric's mentor and caregiver from 2011-2023. Among other activities, he helped Eric with Meals on Wheels deliveries and Special Olympics bowling,

soccer, and basketball. He also took Eric to King's Table activities, where Eric interacted with the pastors, Mike and Carol Gibson, and loved helping.

Eric's brothers, Davey and Mick, and his sisters, Cilla and Cherie, also express their gratitude for the community outpouring of love for their brother.

Eric's love and light continue to shine!

In gratitude,
Dave and Priscilla Lambert
Rockingham, Vt.

Dear Editor,

After my husband suffered a stroke, we expected our greatest challenge would be recovery. We never imagined that one of our greatest obstacles would become the healthcare system itself, particularly from an organization designated as a comprehensive stroke center.

We sought follow-up care, rehabilitation, answers, and accountability. When we believed important concerns had not been addressed, we did what patients and families are repeatedly told to do: We spoke up.

We used the medical center's grievance process, believing it would provide an opportunity for honest review, correction of problems, and improvement for future patients. Instead, our experience raised a troubling question: What happens when a healthcare organization becomes more uncomfortable with the complaint than with the problem it describes?

As our concerns continued, our ability to communicate with members of the care team became increasingly limited. Portal access to providers was restricted. Questions went unanswered. Care team members were removed from the portal. Concerns were redirected or dismissed. Whether or not these actions were intended as consequences for speaking up, their effect was the same: Communication became more difficult at precisely the time we were trying to advocate for appropriate care.

raising concerns may result in restricted communication, dismissal, or other adverse consequences, some will simply stop speaking. That silence is dangerous. Problems remain hidden. Missed opportunities for improvement are lost. And the same failures may affect the next patient.

No healthcare organization is perfect. What distinguishes a trustworthy organization is not the absence of problems, but how it responds when someone identifies them. Does it listen? Investigate objectively? Acknowledge shortcomings? Correct them? Or does it become defensive and focus more on managing the person raising the concern than understanding the concern itself?

A persistent patient advocate should not be viewed as a problem to be managed. That person may be providing some of the most important information an organization can receive about where its system is failing.

Our experience leaves us with a question that extends far beyond our family: Are patients truly encouraged to speak up, or only when what they have to say is convenient? Patient-centered care must not end when a patient or family member raises difficult questions and concerns. In fact, that may be the moment when patient-centered care matters most.

Healthcare organizations should welcome good-faith concerns as opportunities to learn, improve, and prevent harm. Patients should be able to ask difficult questions without fearing that the act of asking will itself become a problem.

Ultimately, this is not simply about the right to complain. It is about the right to speak up without becoming the problem. And so, I return to the questions every healthcare organization should be willing to answer: Does the system – and do the people within it – listen? Investigate objectively? Acknowledge shortcomings? Correct them? Or, when patients and their advocates continue asking difficult questions, does the system respond by shutting down communication, dismissing their concerns, and treating the advocate as the problem rather than addressing the problems being raised?

If healthcare organizations truly want patients to speak up, they must be willing to listen when what patients have to say is difficult to hear.

Brattleboro VA outpatient clinic resumes

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Effective Sept. 1, the Brattleboro, Vt., community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC), part of the White River Junction, Vt., VA Healthcare System (WRJ VAHCS), resumed normal operations after closing in February for repairs. The Brattleboro VA clinic is located at 71 GSP Drive, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

The White River Junction VA Healthcare System leadership team is grateful for

the flexibility of veterans, staff, and community partners while renovations and repairs were completed. Veterans were cared for at nearby VA clinics in Keene, N.H., and Greenfield, Mass., as well as utilizing virtual options and community partnerships. Other veterans chose to travel to the main VA campus in White River Junction, Vt., until the necessary repairs were completed.

For appointment infor-

mation or to contact their care team, patients usually seen at the Brattleboro VA Clinic should call 802-295-9363 and use the following

extensions according to their needs: specialty care, Ext. 6657; primary care, Ext. 6364; and mental health, Ext. 5760.

Billing for small medical practices

REGION – Small medical and dental practices routinely have claims denied by insurance companies. A practice with one or two providers usually has nobody on staff whose job is to appeal those denials. When the appeal window closes, the practice either writes the money off or bills the patient for it. The patient then owes money their insurance should have covered.

On Wednesday, Oct. 1, Luxen is running a free medical billing clinic for 20 independent Vermont practices with less than \$750,000 in annual revenue. Each practice brings its unpaid and denied claims. We tell them which ones can still be recovered, exactly what to file, and by when. They leave with ap-

peal letter templates and a filing deadline calendar for Vermont's main insurance plans. This is a no-cost clinic.

Spots in this workshop are limited, so if you are a bigger clinic, please allow space for smaller clinics. Clinics can register at www.luxentalent.com/workshop/vermont. Registration closes Friday, Sept. 26.

Luxen is a medical billing company which works commercially for practices with more than \$1 million in revenue. The clinic is that same work, given free to the practices below the \$750,000 line, which are the ones least likely to ever hire a billing company.

Monthly chair yoga

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – September's monthly chair yoga class, led by Jo Bregnard, will be held at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street, on Friday, Sept. 18. Join in person or online to learn supportive, acces-

sible movements you can do right from your seat. With attention to brain boosting and nervous system nourishment, this 60-minute practice will leave you feeling mobile as well as grounded.

Simply walk into the library and join live, in person, for free; there is no need to preregister for this option. For more information, email jo@jobregnard.com.

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Chronic Pain Management

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

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

Workshop: Pain Management

WHAT THE PROGRAM OFFERS
Support and education, including:

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

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

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

To take the first step, visit:
MYHEALTHYVT.ORG

Upcoming Chronic Pain Workshop:

Ludlow Community Center
Wednesday's:
Sept 30 - Nov 25
10:30 am – Noon

Sponsored by:
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802-228-3663

Contact: Caitlin Moroney
802-859-5913
Caitlin.Moroney@vermont.gov
Contact: BRGNS
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Visit MyHealthyVT.org for more info and to register.

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SERVICES

obituaries

ALSTEAD, N.H.

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

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Open Bible Baptist Church, 168 Cemetery Rd.
Sunday services are being held in the church. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m., Sunday morning service is 11 a.m., and the afternoon service is 1:30 p.m. Wednesday evening service is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at 802-674-2266 or visit www.obbcvt.org.

Vision of Light Church of Spiritualism and Healing, P.O. Box 133, Windsor

The Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with Lay Pastor Dawn Hancy via Zoom. Sign up for the Vision of Light newsletter and Zoom links on Facebook @VOLChurch.

ATHENS, VT.

Community Christian Church of Athens, 126 Brookline Road
Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., and prayer meetings are held Wednesdays, at 7 p.m. If you have questions, call 802-869-2513. The 9:30 a.m. Sunday service is also streamed on Facebook Live at the Church's Facebook page.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.
Services are held most Sundays at 10 a.m., in person. Please join us. All are welcome. For more information go to Facebook @ImmanuelEppiscopalChurch or to our website www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

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

CAVENDISH, VT.

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.
Please join us Sundays, at 8:45 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/stjamesumproctorsville.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

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

CHESTER, VT.

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

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

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

CLAREMONT, N.H.

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

GRAFTON, VT.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St.
Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to www.graftoncommunitychurch.org.

graftoncommunitychurch.org or call 802-843-2346.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

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

LUDLOW, VT.

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

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WALPOLE, N.H.

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

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

WESTON, VT.

Old Parish Community Church, 644 Main St.
A diverse, informal, and welcoming congregation. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Jon Bliss, minister, at 802-299-6721 or email oldparishchurchweston@gmail.com, or visit www.oldparishcommunitychurch.org.

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

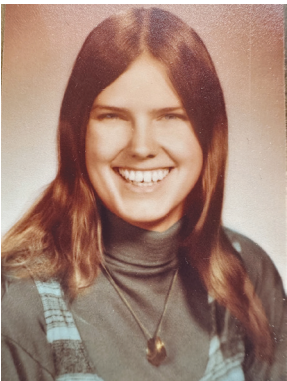
Jason Mank, 2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Jason Mank, 52, passed away on Sept. 5, 2026. He is survived by his mother, Charlena Burns, of Bellows Falls, Vt., and four half brothers. Funeral services will be held Sept. 19, at 11 a.m., at Renewed Life in Jesus Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the church.

Christine B. Parker, 1954-2026

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Christine Belle Parker, 72, of Proctorsville, Vt., passed away at the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative and Hospice Care in Lebanon, N.H., on Sept. 2, 2026. Chris was born on Feb. 17, 1954, at Springfield Hospital, to Belle (Spaulding) McKnight and Fletcher Johnson.

Chris grew up in Proctorsville, Vt., and Chester, Vt., and lived briefly in Glendale, Calif., as a child. She graduated from Green Mountain Union High School in 1973. She married James Parker, of Proctorsville, in 1984, and had one son, Joshua, in 1985. The family moved from downtown Proctorsville and built their new home on their family farm, Meadowbrook Farm, in 1993, where Chris lived for the rest of her life. She was an employee of Springfield Hospital and worked privately as a caregiver. She was a lifelong member of the Assembly of God Church in Proctorsville. Chris enjoyed flowers and spending time with her grandson, Coltrane. Christine is survived by her son, Joshua Parker, and his wife, Danielle Singleton; her grandchildren, Coltrane Parker, Sage Joselyn, and Sydney Reid; and many beloved cousins, aunts, and uncles. She was predeceased by her husband, James Parker, and parents, Belle McKnight and Fletcher Johnson. There will be no services at this time. Donations in Christine's name can be made to the Proctorsville Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 81, Proctorsville, VT 05153. The family would like to express its deepest gratitude to the staff at the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative and Hospice Care for its compassion and support.



Christine Parker, 1954-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

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.

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

UPCOMING

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 Mr. 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.

SEPT. 19-20 – BRIDGEWATER CORNERS, Vt. – The Bridgewater Grange Craft, Yard, and Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, and Sunday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., rain or

shine. Reserve a table or spot to sell for a small fee, discounted if you reserve for both days. Call Alice for information at 802-672-3790. The Bridgewater Grange is located at 129 Route 100A.

SEPT. 19 – WALPOLE, N.H. – Charles Andros, former New Hampshire and Vermont apiary inspector, will hold a beekeeping workshop on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 1-4 p.m., at 18 MacLean Road. Topics of discussion will include treatment of nosema and mites (including using oxalic acid), winter preparations, winter protein and carbohydrate supplements, and making beeswax hand creams. Bring a veil if you have one, as we shall be opening some colonies. Water and sunscreen are also a plus. We’ll be inside if it is a rainy day. Registration is required. To register, email lindename1@gmail.com or call 603-756-9056.

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

a career spanning over three decades, Bogguss has earned a Grammy Award, a CMA Award, and multiple platinum-selling records. This upcoming performance offers fans an intimate evening, featuring a vibrant mix of her classic golden hits, alongside newer material from her critically acclaimed recent album, “Prayin’ for Sunshine.” Written and produced alongside her husband, Doug Crider, “Prayin’ for Sunshine” represents a deeply personal and introspective journey, blending swampy grooves with stunning acoustic arrangements that shine in a live theater setting. Tickets are on sale at www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com. This concert is presented by Ray’s The Roof Productions, devoted to keeping the spirit of beloved Bellows Falls lawyer Ray Massucco alive through the music he loved, in conjunction with Rockingham Entertainment Development, a volunteer nonprofit organization.

SEPT. 20 – CAVENDISH, Vt. – National Flood Awareness Week is Sept. 20-26. To kick things off, the Cavendish Historical Society (CHS), Black River Action Team (BRAT), and the Dartmouth Rural Rivers Project are teaming up for a program on the history and health of the Black River, and what has being done to help mitigate flooding.

This program includes a site visit to Greven field in Proctorsville and a medicinal plant walk with herbalist and medical anthropologist Charis Boke. Boke has an academic appointment at Dartmouth College, where she teaches and conducts research. Meet at the CHS Museum, 1958 Main Street (Route 131), at 2 p.m., to carpool to Greven Field. This event is free, open to the public, and takes place rain or shine. For more information, call 802-226-7807 or email margocaulfield@icloud.com.

SEPT. 21 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will serve lunch on Monday, Sept. 21, at 12 p.m. The menu will be Lou’s veggie lasagna, garlic bread, and apple crisp. Free cash bingo will follow. Reservations are required, call 802-228-7421. All ages are welcome.

SEPT. 22 – CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior, 5 Acer Heights, will host Sip ‘n’ Paint on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 1 p.m. The project will be a lighthouse. BYOB and a snack. Please call Cheryl to sign up at 603-543-5998.

SEPT. 23 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, will celebrate its 63rd anniversary on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 1 p.m. Mark Shelton will perform. For more information, call 802-

885-3933.

SEPT. 24 – LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, Vt., 2051 North Main Street (Vermont Route 11) will hold its September community lunch on Thursday, Sept. 24, at 12 p.m. The menu will be ham, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, and dessert. All are welcome. A free-will offering will be gathered. No takeout is available. For more information, call the church office at 802-824-6453.

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

RECURRING

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.

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Plymouth Historical Society, at the former Plymouth Elementary School, will be open every Sunday afternoon, from 2-4 p.m. Watch for the “open” flag.

MONDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Free Tobacco Quit class led by Sarah Doyle, Mondays,

from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls. Dinner included. Call or text Sarah at 802-289-0045 or email sdoyle@springfieldmed.org.

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.

TUESDAYS – CLAREMONT, N.H. – Cribbage is played at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Tuesdays, at 1 p.m. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Men’s pool games are played every Tuesday and Thursday, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights. All men are welcome. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

WEDNESDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Every Wednesday morning, from 8-11 a.m., at the Springfield VFW Post 771, 191 River Street, we get together with fellow veterans for coffee and donuts, and socialize for a few hours. All veterans of all ages are welcome. You do not have to be a VFW or American Legion member to come. Call 802-885-6008 for more information.

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

SPRINGFIELD, VT

Library Roof

General Notice:
Town of Springfield (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:
Replacement of Springfield Library Roof
Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the office of the Town Manager located at 96 Main Street, Springfield, VT 05156, until Monday, October 5th at 2:00 PM local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project includes the following Work: Springfield Library Roof Bid Specifications

Obtaining the Bidding Documents:
The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:
Northeaster Roofing Consultants
c/o Jeff Radel
9 Cranberry Lane, Kennebunk, ME 04043
207-310-8320
jeffradel@nerooftingconsultants.com

Prospective Bidders may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office. Bidding documents may be examined at the Town Manager’s Office, 96 Main Street, Springfield, VT 05156.

Pre-bid Conference:
A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on Thursday September 24 at 2:00 PM at Springfield Library, 43 Main Street, Springfield VT 05156. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is required.

Instructions to Bidders:
For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

This Advertisement is issued by:
Owner: Town of Springfield
By: Scott Pickup
Title: Town Manager
Date: 09-09-26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC) will hold a public hearing on September 28, 2026, at 12:00 noon at The MARC office in Ascutney , VT, to consider approval of the draft 2026 Weathersfield Town Plan and confirmation of the Town of Weathersfield’s planning process pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4350. The draft 2026 Weathersfield Town Plan is intended to address the requirements of Act 181 and will replace the 2017 Weathersfield Town Plan (last amended 2024).

The draft 2026 Weathersfield Town Plan is available for review on the MARC website at www.marcvt.org/town-of-weathersfield.html. For more information or to request a hard copy of the draft plan, please contact MARC at (802) 674-9201.

Town of Plymouth

Public Notice of Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment

Conditional Use Hearing

Public hearings will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Town Municipal Building, 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont. The following applicants seek a Conditional Use Permit.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/9788686006?pwd=RVYz9U64lhLsWIG8ggUHfc9asaobTF.1&omn=96136223282>
Meeting ID: 978 868 6006
Passcode: 565333

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Applicant:	Randall & Mona Di Stefano
Property Owners:	Randall & Mona Di Stefano
Property Address:	62 Dublin Rd.
Project:	Variance & Rural Small Enterprise within the Village Zone
Applicant:	Josh Rourke, ID3 Designs
Property Owners:	John & Kim Abate
Property Address:	1634 Scott Camp Rd.
Project:	Addition to existing structure within the Shoreland Overlay
Applicant:	Georgiana Whalen
Property Owner:	Georgiana Whalen
Property Address:	78 Dublin Rd.
Project:	Variance to add a 4'x8' enclosed porch within the Village Zone setbacks
Applicant:	Plymouth Fire Department
Property Owners:	Rebecca Tremblay
Property Address:	Russell and Abigail Hurlburt
Project:	Install dry hydrant in Right of Way within the Shoreland Overlay and Flood Hazard Protection Overlay

TOWN OF OF CAVENDISH

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION

A public hearing before the Cavendish Development Review Board (DRB) will be held at the Cavendish Town Hall On October 7th 2026 at 6:00 PM to consider a 4 lot subdivision application.

Applicant: Jeffery Sterns
Property Location: Power Plant Road
Cavendish, VT

Reason For Hearing: The subdivision is considered a major application which requires a public hearing as per the Cavendish Subdivision Bylaws.

The above application is available for inspection at the Cavendish Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing to the Cavendish DRB. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Cavendish DRB PO Box 126 Cavendish VT 05412 either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Tim Calabrese
For the Cavendish DRB 9/10/2026

TOWN OF CAVENDISH

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION

A public hearing before the Planning Commission for the town of Cavendish will be held at the Cavendish Town Hall on October 7th 2026 at 6:30 PM. to consider a conditional use application regarding the proposed improvements at 866 Main Street. A site visit to the property will be on October 7, 2026 at the above address at 4:00 PM.

Appellant: Stephanie Sheehan
Property Location: 866 Main St
Proctorsville, VT

Reason For Hearing: Proposed improvements are within the River Corridor as defined in the Cavendish Flood Hazard Regulations which require a Conditional Use Hearing with the Cavendish Planning Commission.

The above application is available for inspection at the Cavendish Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing to the Planning Commission. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Cavendish Planning Commission PO Box 126 Cavendish VT 05412 either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Tim Calabrese
Chair, Cavendish Planning Commission 9/11/2026

LEGAL NOTICES

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ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

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FOR RENT

CHESTER, Vt. – Share home with LGBTQ-friendly couple offering lovely furnished space on rural property with saltwater fish, two dogs, chickens. \$650/month. Compatible dog considered. No smoking. Covid vaccine required. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background

checks required. EHO.

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Senior woman sharing beautifully situated home. 2nd floor bedroom. Plenty of outdoor storage available. Guest to share cleaning, firewood, yardwork. No smoking, no drugs, no pets. Separate studio space available. Covid vaccination required. \$500/month. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Single mom offering furnished, 1st floor studio apartment on an easy road. Seeking responsible adult for overnight presence, childcare, transportation, dog outings. Compatible dog considered. Kid-friendly and dog-friendly is a must! \$700/month. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks

required. EHO.

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW, Vt. – Part time sales representative wanted to assist area businesses in marketing their services in our papers, while promoting special sections and featured events. Must be available every Thursday and Friday. Salary based on experience, plus set weekly mileage compensation. Room for growth of days and territory. Please email publisher@vermontjournal.com or call 802-228-3600.

YARD SALE

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Yard sale Saturday, Sept. 26 and Sunday, Sept. 27, 7:30-1:30. Machine shop items: vises, big microm-

eters, carbide inserts, drills, taps, hardware, CNC items. Don't miss! 126 Atkinson Street, Bellows Falls.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Massive yard sale, Friday-Sunday, Sept. 25, 26, and 27, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. No early birds please. 10 Royal Street, Springfield. Electronics, tools, tons of men and women's clothing, cashmere sweaters, vintage and collectibles, jewelry,

and more.

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9 Lovell Drive, Bellows Falls, VT 05101
<https://wblake.com/company/careers/>

**WATER FLUSHING NOTICE
VILLAGE OF LUDLOW**

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

**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

OPINION POLICY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Subject to space. May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication.

POLITICAL LETTERS: Political letters are charged at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. Political letters include endorsing, electioneering, or campaigning for, or against, a sepcific candidate or party. The submission must be in letter format, and may not read as a news release. Per Vermont law, we are required to include the name and mailing address of the person, candidate, political committee, or political party that is paying for the communication.

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

yellow
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(09/16/26 - 26)

real estate

PROS TO KNOW

Your mortgage may be costing you more than it should

REGION – When groceries, utilities, insurance, and everyday expenses all start to cost more, your monthly budget can start to feel tight. And you're not the only one feeling the pinch.

The usual advice is to spend less. But there could be another way to save money that you haven't looked into yet – your mortgage.

Depending on your loan and the equity you've built, a few adjustments could help you lower your monthly expenses. How? By lowering your payment, reducing the interest you pay, or making the payment easier to manage throughout the month.

Remove a monthly cost

If you didn't have 20% to put down when you bought your home, you may have used private mortgage insurance (PMI) to help you with the purchase. Fast forward to today, and you may still be paying PMI even if you don't need it anymore.

A refinance could help you remove PMI from your mortgage depending on the loan type chosen. Without paying PMI each month, that could mean you have more money in your budget to cover your everyday expenses without having to cut everything out.

Keep in mind, refinancing means closing costs and a new rate. So, let's talk about your options to make sure a

refinance will improve your overall budget, not just one part of your payment.

Make your payment easier to manage

Sometimes, it's not the mortgage payment itself that gives homeowners stress. It's that an amount that large leaving their account all at once has started to hit their wallet harder than it used to.

If that feeling sounds familiar, it may be time to consider biweekly payments. With biweekly payments, you can break your monthly mortgage payment into two smaller ones made every two weeks. This can feel easier to manage, especially if your paychecks fall on the same schedule.

An added bonus of biweekly payments is that, if you stick to it, you can make one extra full mortgage payment each year. That means you could pay down your loan faster and reduce the amount of interest you pay over time. Make sure you talk to your loan servicer about how to set up your biweekly payment schedule so that your payment is always completed

on time.

Let your mortgage carry more of the load

When the cost of living gets more expensive, you may not have to immediately cut out all the little things that make life fun. First, take a look at what your mortgage could be doing better. Whether it's re-

moving PMI to lower your monthly payment or making biweekly payments so things feel more manageable, there's more than one way save with your mortgage.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, PrimeLending, Ludlow, Vt.

Financial workshop for southern Vermont nonprofits

WARDSBORO, Vt. – Nonprofit directors, staff, and board members from across southern Vermont are invited to attend “Financial Strategies for Strong Nonprofits.”

The workshop, held by Brattleboro Development

Credit Corporation's Southern Vermont Economy Project, will take place Thursday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., at Wardsboro Town Hall in Wardsboro, Vt. Find more information at www.brattleborodevelopment.com/event/np-financial-strategies.

The day begins with a series of engaging presentations covering the essentials of nonprofit financial sustainability, including writing a business plan for your nonprofit operation, building budgets, development strategies that account for true costs and diversify revenue, and aligning your mission and income streams for long-term organizational health.

Dani Delaini, assistant director and director of business acceleration at Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC), will present “Building a Business Plan for Your Nonprofit,” with a focus on needs and market analysis, operational planning, partnerships, and organizational structures beyond the traditional 501(c)(3), including fiscal sponsorship, social enterprise models, cooperatives, and joint ventures.

Siobhan McDermott, of Strategic Management Consulting, will present “Funding for Sustainability: Budgets and Development Strategies.” McDermott will

address how organizations can balance fundraising streams, develop budgets that account for the true costs of their work, and build more resilient development strategies.

Susan Still, board chair of Main Street Arts and a retired nonprofit consultant, will present “Aligning Income Streams and Mission: The Matrix,” a framework for evaluating programs through the dual lenses of mission impact and financial sustainability.

Following the presentations, participants will move into interactive, hands-on workshops to begin applying the concepts to their own organizations.

The event is open to nonprofit directors, staff, and board members from across southern Vermont, and organizations are encouraged to send more than one participant.

The cost of registration includes coffee and a light breakfast. Organizations registering two or more participants pay a discounted rate using discount code TWOFOUR. An optional brown-bag lunch may also be ordered for pickup at the conclusion of the workshop.

Anyone for whom the registration fee would be a barrier may contact installoff@brattleborodevelopment.com for a scholarship code.



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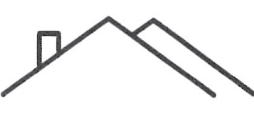


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Chester special foods

Chester Celebrates Special Vermont Foods



Scarecrow by Gussie's Place.
PHOTO PROVIDED



Inn Victoria scarecrow on the Green.
PHOTO PROVIDED



Chester Celebrates Special Vermont Foods festival will take place on Sept. 19, on the Chester Green.
PHOTO PROVIDED

CHESTER, Vt. – There is a new venue on the historic Green in Chester this fall. Welcome to “Chester Celebrates Special Vermont Foods.”

On Saturday, Sept. 19, in an old-fashioned festive fall atmosphere showcasing more than two dozen scarecrows made by local business owners and residents, you have an opportunity to meet almost 20 Vermont food producers who make their living creating amazing tastes to take home and enjoy. Many of them will be offering samples of their products so you can try before you buy, from honey to maple products, specialty breads, jams, pickles, candy, and hot sauces to name a few, we are bringing the special flavor profiles of Vermont to you.

There will also be other vendors set up on the outskirts of the Green with crafts, woodworking, a spring bulb sale from Chester Townscape, handmade walking sticks from the Chester Conservation Commission, and a plethora of fiber items created by Vermont small and micro businesses. The Chester Historical Society will be open and offering cemetery tours several times that day. Hikes will take place on the Brookside Trail throughout the day, guided by the Chester Conservation Commission. The Whiting Library will be holding its annual book sale as well.

A food court in the center of the Green will be home to several entrepreneurs, making their own take on specialty sandwiches, tacos, apple pie, maple cotton candy, and more.

This is a free event, open from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and offers easy walking on the Green and access to all of the businesses that frame it.

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brewfest

UPCOMING: FOLIAGE TRAIN

Claremont Brewfest & 5K on Sept. 19



Kick off the day at the Claremont Brewfest 5K.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Claremont Kiwanis Brewfest features over 30 brewers, games, music, food, and fun.

PHOTO PROVIDED

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Brewfest & 5K returns for its 12th year on Saturday, Sept. 19, and you're invited to be part of the celebration. Set in the heart of beautiful Claremont, this annual event blends local flavor, community spirit, and award-worthy craft beer.

From bold brews to good beats, and a friendly 5K to kick things off, it's a one-day experience with something for everyone. Whether you're here to sip, cheer, or sample everything in between, Brewfest is a can't-miss event for the region.

The "Back to the Brewfest" 5K

The 11th annual Brewfest 5K will start at 11:30 a.m., registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. Please note this is a new start time. Parking for racers is at Barnes Park on North Street in Claremont.

This is a challenging 5K course with several big hills. The race will start at Barnes Park on North Street, and finish at the Claremont Brewfest entrance at the visitors center on North Street. A brief awards ceremony will be held at the visitors center shortly after the conclusion of the race. Age group winners will receive a commemorative Claremont Brewfest pint glass.

Lace up, run strong, and finish with a cold one. The 5K is sponsored by Crown Point Cabinetry.

Claremont Brewfest

Join the Claremont Kiwanis Brewfest event at the Green, at the Claremont visitor center, 14 North Street. The event will feature more than 30 New England brewers pouring everything from microbrews to shandies, ciders, and more.

A special VIP hour begins at 12 p.m. This grants ticket holders with early access to the event for rare pours, a live acoustic set, small bites, and one-on-one time with brewers. The gate for general admission opens at 1 p.m. The last serve is at 4 p.m.

Don't forget to vote for the Battle of the Brews competition. You vote on your favorites, and one brewery takes home the trophy for various categories. Live music and food trucks will be enjoyed throughout afternoon.

This is a 21 and over event. Bring your ID and your best beer-loving crew. Good beer, great people, all for a cause. All proceeds of the Claremont Brewfest go to the Kiwanis Club of Claremont and are used to support the children of the greater Claremont area.

The Claremont Kiwanis Club is the local chapter of

the Kiwanis International organization. Kiwanis is a global network of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child at a time. Through annual fundraisers including bell ringing in the winter, Our BIG Kiwanis Auction in the spring, and the Annual Brewfest & 5K in the fall, the organization is able to support many youth-driven needs in the community, including Kiwanis Cares; Alstead flood relief; scholarships for graduating Stevens High School, Newport High School, Fall Mountain High School,

and Sunapee seniors; Camp Sunshine for terminally ill children; Special Olympics; Davis C. Hemingway Memorial Foundation; Kurn Hattin School; Relay for Life; Claremont Savings Bank Community Center scholarships; and so much more.

Brewfest thanks all of their sponsors who help make this event happen.

Platinum sponsors: Claremont Savings Bank, Claremont Glassworks, Clover Creative Group, Ford of Claremont, LaValley Building Supply, Preferred Building Systems, Mascoma Bank, and National Field Representatives.

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Okemo Valley introduces fall foliage train, 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 rail-

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



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

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.

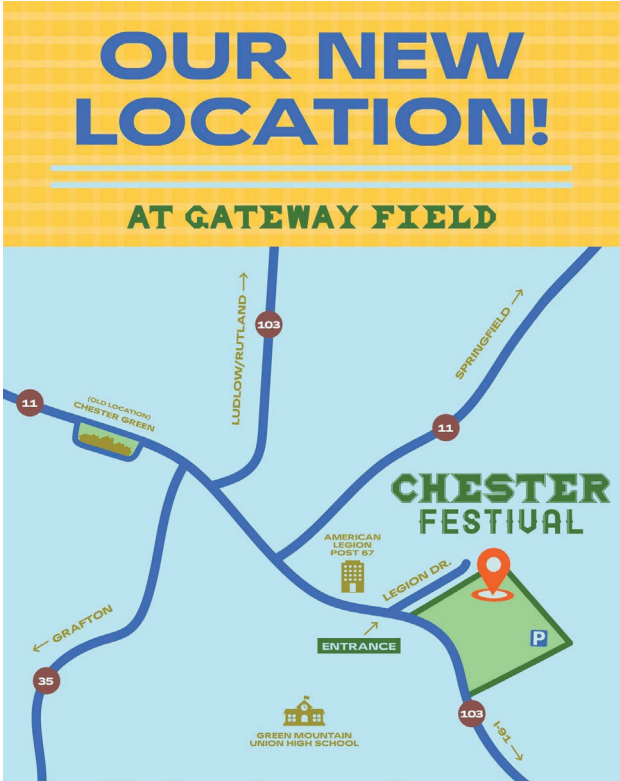
"With the addition of the fall foliage train

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."

Both events are hosted in partnership with Vermont Rail System. Tickets for both the fall foliage train and Holiday Express are available at www.okemov-alleychamber.simpletix.com.

chester fall festival

Chester Festival returns Sept. 19 and 20



The Chester Festival will take place at Gateway Field. PHOTO PROVIDED



Don't miss the Chester Festival, featuring over 100 artisans. PHOTO PROVIDED

CHESTER, Vt. – Back for its 52nd year, the Chester Festival is presented by Chester Community Events Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting a positive image of the Chester community and supporting its local agriculture and artistic roots. For the first time, this two-day family event will be held in one convenient location at Gateway Field, 637 Vermont Route 103 North in Chester, Vt., on Sept. 19 and 20.

The event brings the community together to discover and support local

talent, featuring a vibrant marketplace of handmade artisan goods, live music, and family entertainment. Attendees can enjoy interactive demonstrations, face painting, and wagon rides, while supporting community nonprofits that will be cooking up delicious food, hosting raffles, and selling merchandise to fund their missions.

The committee wishes to thank our many donors and volunteers. Without your dedicated support this event would not be what it is today.

The Chester Festival will

be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Gateway Field, next to American Legion Post 67, 637 Vermont Route 103 North, Chester, Vt. Entrance to the festival is free, and parking is on site with volunteers directing traffic.

Proceeds from this annual event directly support local causes and community needs, and are also put right back into making this great event what it is today. To learn more or donate, please visit www.chesterfestival.org.

The festival will feature live music from a variety of local performers. The music schedule is as follows.

Saturday, Sept. 19: 9-10 a.m., Paul Ippolito; 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., The Speckers; 1-3 p.m., Jeremiah Allen Band; and 3:30-5 p.m., Tuff Luv. A veterans benefits and enrollment event will also be held throughout the day at American Legion Post 67,

from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 20: 9-10 a.m., JohnnyO; 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Rust & Ruin; and 1-4 p.m., SammyB. Opening weekend with Green Mountain Softball League at Mackenzie Field will also be held throughout the day, from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Opal Raven Cirque and Crossover Cloggers will also showcase their talents.

Both days will feature fun family events, such as hay wagon rides, face painting with Rachael, face painting with Evie, glitter freckles with Nichole, tinsel fairy hair with Emily, balloon fun with Linda, and chair massages with Amanda.

The festival will also feature live artist demonstrations, such as basket making with Susan Langley, knife making with Keith Barthelmes, wool roving with Liz Willis, wooden sword assembly with Joe Chabot, lathe turning with Ned Mortensen, watercolor painting with Jo-



Live music, food vendors, and crafters all fill the festival. PHOTOS PROVIDED

anna Alix, interactive art creation with Community Art Garden, and so much more.

Fundraising booth to improve Lovers Lane Park

CHESTER, Vt. – Local families and community members are coming together this fall to support and fundraise for improvements to Chester's Lovers Lane Park playground and baby pool area.

A fundraising booth will be held at the Chester Festival on Sept. 19 and 20, located this year in the field next to the American Legion. Festivalgoers are invited to stop by, learn more about the community-led effort, and participate in a raffle featuring prizes donated by local businesses.

Raffle prizes will include gift baskets from the Chester Candy Company, Sage Jewelry, Sugar Bob's Finest Kind, and Black River Produce; gift cards from Salon 2000, Eclipse, Southern Pie Cafe, Fullerton Inn, Body and Sole Wellness, Twin Falls Training Center, Endless Creations, and Cured by Mikhayla; and local experiences including a mini photoshoot from Tegan Coley Photography, a riding lesson from Savage Farm, and a guitar setup from Scott Macdonald.

tions and grants, organize fundraisers, and ultimately bring the vision to life.

"We want to make our hometown park better for our littles," said local resident Kendra Lewis. "This is really about bringing the community together to create a place where families can play, gather, and make memories for years to come."

Community members are encouraged to visit the fundraising booth during the Chester Festival, purchase raffle tickets, and learn more about how they can get involved. Local businesses and residents interested in contributing donations, fundraising ideas, or other support efforts are also encouraged to participate.

For more information or to get involved with the park improvement effort, contact Lewis at jokinen740@gmail.com.

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Chester Disc Golf celebrates 10 years

CHESTER, Vt. – Disc golf arrived on the scene in Chester in midsummer 2016, when the Chester Disc Golf Course was first established. Led by Chester resident Gary King, the course has been maintained by a dedicated core group of volunteers ever since. Starting as a nine-hole course, it quickly expanded to a full 18-hole layout in 2018, when a league was also formed. In anticipation of the course's 10th year, the club installed 18 new Innova DISCatcher PRO28 baskets, a great improvement for the course.

A diverse group of abilities and characters meet regularly on Sundays, at 10 a.m., and Thursdays, at 5 p.m., for league rounds. All are welcome for league rounds, or to try a casual round; disc golf is fun for all ages, low cost, and easy to learn and improve quickly.



Chester Disc Golf.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Londonderry Conservation to host beaver expert

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Beavers are builders of dams, lodges, ponds, and wetlands – and pluggers of culverts. The Londonderry Conservation Commission is offering a lively talk about beavers by naturalist and wildlife rehabilitator Patti Smith, of the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center. She'll talk about these remarkable animals, how to resolve the conflicts their activities can cause, and how people in some Vermont communities are working to

create beaver harmony.

This presentation is for all ages and will include a Q&A session that everyone can join. It will take place on Thursday, Sept.

24, at 5:30 p.m., at the library of the Flood Brook School in Londonderry.

Smith is the author of "The Beavers of Popple's Pond," an account of years spent closely observing a colony of beavers in Marlboro, Vt. As a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, Smith has raised many orphaned mammals, including beavers. This program is supported by a grant from the Broad Reach Foundation.



Patti Smith in the field.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Birding on the Farm workshop

PUTNEY, Vt. – The Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD), in partnership with the Monadnock Nature and Bird Club, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District, Monadnock Outdoors, and Southeastern Vermont Audubon Society, are excited to continue the popular Birding on the Farm workshop series.

Join us for an exciting opportunity to bird on farms throughout our region on Tuesday, Sept. 22, from 7-9 a.m. Learn new skills and about wildlife conservation on the farm. We will meet and park at the Cow Barn, 6 Putney School Road, Putney, Vt. It is right off of Houghton Brook Road and easy to see.

Participants will learn

about farm habitat dynamics for birds, habitat management, wildlife conservation on the farm, farm conservation easements and their importance in supporting local agriculture and wildlife, as well as species identification from experienced bird guides.

This workshop series is open to birders and enthusiasts of all skill levels. Participants should bring binoculars with them, extras may be available, and weather-appropriate attire and boots. Please note that we will take stops for discussion and observation.

The workshops are free, and registration is required at www.cheshireconservation.org/event-details/birding-on-the-farm-the-putney-school. For more information or assistance in online registration, please



Birding on the Farm.

PHOTO PROVIDED

contact CCCD at 603-904-3011 or info@cheshireconservation.org.

Please note that pets and service animals are not allowed at Birding on the Farm workshops due to food safety regulations on working farms.

This event was partially funded through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

Vermont 50 Kids Free Fun Runs, Mountain Bike Rides

BROWNSVILLE, Vt. – Join us Saturday, Sept. 26, from 12-4 p.m., at Ascutney Outdoors, 450 Ski Tow Road, Brownsville, Vt., for the 17th annual Vermont 50 Kids Free Fun Trail Runs and Mountain Bike Rides.

Mountain bike rides

begin at 2 p.m., trail runs start at 2:45 p.m. Choose from half-mile, 1-mile, or 2-mile courses. Helmets are required for all bike riders.

Free for children 14 and under. Donations to Vermont Adaptive are appreciated.

Online registration is

open through Friday, Sept. 25, at 12 p.m. Walk-up registration and bib pickup are available Saturday, from 12-1:45 p.m., at the Big Tent.

For more information, and to register, visit www.vermont50.org/kids-free-run.