



THE Vermont Journal

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Chester Fall Festival sees great turnout

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Festival Team thanks the community for a great turnout at the Chester Festival, relocated this year to Gateway Field next to the American Legion. “We are overjoyed by the incredible turnout this year. Folks from near and far traveled to Chester to shop small and tune into Vermont’s small town culture. Our community joined together to pull off the biggest event yet. Thank you to every single person who had a role, no matter the size, you helped make this a huge success. We’re so grateful!”

PHOTO PROVIDED



Chester Celebrates Special Vermont Foods

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Celebrates Special Vermont Foods festival, held on the Chester Green on Saturday, Sept. 19, was a great success. Many food vendors served hot, prepared food; premade sweets and pastries; canned jams, jellies, and pickled items; and drinks. Various crafters also set up along the Green with an array of festive goods. Horse-drawn wagon rides brought passengers around the village, the Chester Conservation Commission led hikes on the Brookside Trail, and the Chester Historical Society hosted several cemetery



tours. Thank you to all of the businesses, volunteers, and individuals who helped make this event happen. And thank you to everyone who visited and enjoyed Chester Celebrates Special Vermont Foods on the Green.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Weston elects two new members to selectboard

BY PAULA BENSON

WESTON, Vt. – On Saturday, Sept. 26, Weston voters elected two individuals to fill the vacancies on the selectboard. Duane Hart and Susan Morris will join Vice Chair Jim Linville and board members Katie Moriarity-Fitzpatrick and Brian Gehlich at the next selectboard meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

A total of 115 votes were

cast for Article 1, filling one selectboard seat for the remainder of the term ending in March 2029. Hart was chosen with a total of 64 votes. Candidate Nicole Dernier received 46 votes, and Denis Benson received one, with four spoiled votes. Morris was elected by a vote of 54 out of 102 on Article 2, for the remainder of the term ending in March 2027. Dernier received 39 votes, Benson received five,

and one vote was cast for former board member Pam Dickman, with two spoiled votes. A resident of Weston, Hart has served as town road foreman, and was one of the complainants to present allegations of open-meeting violations by members of the selectboard and to call for their resignation. Morris is a Weston resident, an attorney, and the

current vice chair of the town’s development review board. Morris has also been vocal in her criticism of how the selectboard has been managed recently. At an Aug. 11 selectboard meeting, Morris told the board that “transparency is not optional, [but] the baseline expectation of public service.” “Weston deserves leadership that is confident, lawful, transparent, and

focused on the people it serves,” Morris stated at the time. It seems the voters of Weston wanted to give Morris a chance to help bring those goals to fruition. One of the items Morris and Hart should expect to address as they begin their service to the Town of Weston will be to elect a board chair, as the selectboard has been without one since the summer resigna-

tion of Denis Benson. Another will be to determine the scope of the bridge design committee.

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Chester Selectboard grapples with communication

BY NICK GIBERTI

CHESTER, Vt. – Communication with townspeople and voters became a central issue for the Chester Selectboard in its two September meetings as it continued discussing several changes to the town’s major operations, including possible adoption of a fund balance policy, the change from a calendar year to a fiscal year, and the change to voting on the town’s budget by Australian ballot. The board addressed all of these concerns on Sept. 2, beginning with the fund balance policy, the draft of which calls for maintenance in the general fund of 60 days worth of operating expenses for the town, or about \$730,000. The fund balance is intended to reduce the town’s need to borrow money to cover expenses, and to be used in emergency situations. To that end, during the discussion, board members proposed that weak language in the draft suggesting

that the balance not be used to cover recurring operating expenses – “should not” – be changed to the stronger “will not,” to prevent future boards from relying on fund balances to support the town’s general operations. The apparent need for this change was reinforced by the town’s auditor, Ron Smith, who was present at the meeting and told the board that “discipline” will be the main way in which the board can keep the fund balance from becoming a well from which the town continually draws. Vice Chair Arne Jonynas asked Smith how the town can, in fact, begin to build up reserves for the fund balance. Smith responded with several possibilities, but confirmed Jonynas’ suggestion that one of the possibilities – and a likely one, due to the town’s current thin operating margins – is a line item in the town’s budget. This is where, the board felt, communication with voters and taxpayers would become important, as the increased

budget would create the appearance of increased expenses and taxes. The board and Smith felt that the increase would be offset by a decreased need to borrow to cover expenses, thereby eliminating or significantly reducing interest payments on loans for the town, but that this concept needs to be effectively laid out for town residents. The the board postponed its vote to approve the fund balance policy to a future meeting in light of the proposed language changes. The transition to a fiscal year budget was next on the agenda, with Smith lending his support to the proposal, saying that a July 1 – June 30 fiscal year aligns better with school and state budgets. The change to a fiscal year would also entail quarterly tax payments, which, like the fund balance, are intended to obviate the need for borrowing money while the town awaits tax payments in full, as is currently the case. Quarterly payments would

be due on Sept. 1, Dec. 1, March 1, and June 1. However, due to the six-month gap between the current end of the town’s budget on Dec. 31 and the proposed start of the fiscal year on July 1, voters would need to approve a stopgap 18-month budget at Town Meeting in 2027, creating the appearance of a drastic increase in spending by direct comparison with the previous budget, and necessitating the first four quarterly payments to be about 1½ times greater than they would otherwise be with a 12-month budget. Over time, however, the amount of taxes collected would be approximately equal to if the town had remained on its current calendar year, but divided differently, and paid on a different schedule. The board once again discussed the need for communication with voters to accurately explain the way in which the transitional budget would affect their taxes, tax payments, and future operating

expenses, with Town Manager Julie Hance suggesting a sample tax bill to be presented at Town Meeting. Finally, the board turned to its discussion of changing the town’s budget vote at Town Meeting to Australian ballot, rather than the current floor vote. This change would need to be approved – by a floor vote – at Town Meeting in 2027. Objections to the change largely centered on the concern that switching to an Australian ballot vote would effectively eliminate Town Meeting, as voters would no longer need to be present at the budget informational meeting to actually vote on the budget. Board member Tim Roper summed up the tension of the board’s discussion by saying that, while he believes that increased voter participation is a net positive, he “think[s] that Town Meeting is really important to the town, to the culture of the town, to getting people face

See **CHESTER** on Page 2

Londonderry hashes out dam options

BY SHAWN TAE WEBB

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Londonderry Selectboard discussed options for the future of the Williams Dam at its Sept. 21 meeting. The failing dam reserves water in Mill Pond, an emergency water source for the town. It was reiterated that Ben Green, dam safety engineer from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, had previously warned the town that if it does not take action, the state would step in and would likely remove the dam at the town’s expense. A proposal for a grant for an engineering design to re-

move the dam was recently posed to the board by Ron Rhodes from the Connecticut River Conservancy, and was presented at the meeting. “Before we even start,” Chair Tom Cavanagh stated, “the town has not decided one way or another what we are doing with the dam. This is just an opportunity that was brought to me.” Rhodes explained a potential merged grant opportunity with the Town of Weston if Londonderry decides to proceed with removal of the Williams Dam. Rhodes reported that Weston is putting together a proposal for the removal

of its dam, and is applying for a grant from a private, anonymous organization, which requires a 20% match in funding. The organization usually gives around \$300,000, of which Weston will not need the full amount. Rhodes proposed allocating \$50,000 of the grant funding to Londonderry, which could be put toward an engineering design plan for the removal of the dam. Rhodes confirmed that the organization already agreed it could divide the funding as such, and that Londonderry could not apply for the \$50,000 individually. Rhodes also clarified that

the Connecticut River Conservancy has a five-year history with the national foundation, which typically only funds dam removals and culvert projects that are publicly owned. The organization has a primary focus on opening waterways to native species such as the local brook trout. Rhodes clarified that it would be highly unlikely that the organization would provide funding for floodplain relief, wetland protection, or dredging, as those options do not directly pertain to broader fish passage and migration. The deadline to apply for the grant is in March, and awards would be dis-

persed in June, so the engineer would theoretically be on site in the fall of 2027. Rhodes confirmed that the selectboard can apply for this grant and still decide to opt out as late as May or June if the town does not want to move forward with removal. He added that he would need a decision from the town by February in order to add a budget line item for Londonderry on Weston’s grant application. Frustrated citizens voiced their concerns that the Williams River Dam Committee had already spent a significant amount of time

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Route 100 reopens

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – Vermont Route 100 between Plymouth Union and West Bridgewater has reopened to traffic at the Bridge 116 site. Over the last two weeks, crews have poured concrete for the bridge, bridge railing curb, and approach slabs, completing the structural concrete work for the Bridgewater project. While

the concrete cured, crews continued working away from the bridge. They placed, graded, and compacted crushed stone for the roadway base throughout the project limits. The contractor has also continued placing and shaping stone along Madden Brook near the bridge.

Restructuring Ludlow, Mount Holly Schools

REGION – The legislature and the governor have acted to require larger class sizes and significant reductions in spending at Ludlow-Mount Holly schools starting next year, with further reductions in the following years. If these reductions are not made, residents will pay much higher taxes and penalties. The Ludlow-Mount Holly School Board created a restructuring committee to gather information and make recommendations. It identified the following options: (1) continue the current school structure and pay the increased taxes that will result; (2) close one school and bring all students to the other; (3) keep students at their current schools and combine grades into multi-age classrooms; (4) bring grades seven and eight back to one of the elementary schools and make it a middle school, perhaps with grades five to eight, while the other school becomes a primary school. Currently, tuition for these students is more than \$1 million; (5) eliminate one of the principal positions and give one person responsibility for both schools.

By the end of the year, the school board will have to decide how to deal with the problem. Before it decides, it wants to hear from residents about their opinions. The board poses three questions to the community: (1) What do you value most about our schools? (2) What concerns you about possible changes? (3) What would you like the school board to investigate before making decisions? The board hopes residents will share their ideas and preferences, either by completing the survey (see the link at www.trsu.org) or by emailing the superintendent, Layne Millington, at layne.millington@trsu.org. It will also be holding listening sessions in Mount Holly on Nov. 2, and in Ludlow on Nov. 4. The board welcomes residents to express their opinions at school board meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. The board stressed that no decisions have been made, but that the state is forcing difficult changes.

CHESTER

From Page 1

to face.” Roper suggested the possibility of moving Town Meeting to a week-end day to allow more voters with day jobs and families to participate. However, Wanda Purdy, who has been a town employee and board member in the past, expressed her support of the change, asserting that she has spoken with townspeople who feel that attending Town Meeting is an exercise in futility because all measures pass with minimal discussion or dissent. Purdy felt that residents are often hesitant to be seen voting against their fellow citizens or the majority. Resident Derek Suursoo, who is also a former selectboard member, echoed Purdy’s comments. “People do not like speaking up negatively against their neighbors,” Suursoo said, adding that often “the people who do show up are there to make sure that their special interest...gets through.” Suursoo noted that, during his time on the selectboard, he had been in opposition to a change to Australian ballot, but that he has since changed his stance, and now supports it.

In response, however, board member Lauren Fierman questioned whether the impersonal nature of rejecting ballot questions was a positive. “I’m not sure it’s good for us,” Fierman said, “to have it made easier for us to say ‘no’ without having to look the people that you’re saying ‘no’ to in the eye.” Again, the discussion turned to communication with voters to ensure people are informed of the pros and cons of the change when Town Meeting Day arrives. While several suggestions, including short-form videos such as Facebook Reels and YouTube Shorts were bandied about, no concrete decision on the most effective manner of communication was reached. At its next meeting, on Sept. 16, Hance informed the board that she had heard from citizens that, if the board chose not to add the Australian ballot question to Town Meeting in 2027, there was likely to be a petition to do so. In light of this fact and in consideration of the petitioners, Hance asked the board if it would entertain setting a deadline for its decision. While the board demurred on setting itself a hard deadline, it pledged to add the Australian ballot discussion to its meeting

agendas until it reaches a consensus. The board also approved a loan of \$50,000 from the Chester Economic Development Fund, matching an amount from the Springfield Regional Development Corporation, for Bright Beginnings, an infant-to-school-age childcare center which its owners, Meredith and John Sylvester, say they hope to open by the end of this year. The Sylvesters currently own two other childcare centers in Springfield and are renovating the building on Main Street, which formerly housed the law firm of Dakin & Benelli, for their third location. Also on Sept. 16, the board heard from several department heads and personnel. Chester Housing Commission Chair Joe Karl was unable to attend the meeting, so Preston Bristow, the town’s primary staff person attending commission meetings, spoke in his stead. Bristow expressed that the commission faces a struggle to encourage housing development in the town, as the state’s priority is on larger and low-income housing, which are most viable in larger population centers such as Brattleboro and Springfield, leaving towns like Chester competing for

a limited number of smaller, low-market-rate housing projects. Bristow also said he feels that the town’s zoning reform has successfully removed zoning-related barriers to development, but that there are still issues at the state level which are creating difficulties. Another impediment to housing development, according to Zoning Administrator Hugh Quinn, is the fact that the town does not own developable land in the village. Quinn suggested that, if the town was able to find money for its housing reserve fund, that money could then be used to purchase land for housing projects in more desirable locations for developers when the opportunity arises. “If you don’t own the land,” Quinn emphasized, “you’re not starting.” Finally, Hance reported to the board that Chester will interview four candidates for its fire chief position on Oct. 8, and hopes to have “one or two back” for a second interview round. The intention is to have the fire chief start by January of 2027. The Chester Selectboard meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.

DERRY

From Page 1

researching, and spent \$30,000 of taxpayer money, in order to determine what it felt was best for the future of the dam. It was stressed that five people, who did not have the same opinion, voted 3-2 in favor of repairing the dam in July of 2024, and the selectboard has not moved forward with any decision since. One citizen expressed, “After resources already invested, discussion should move forward with repair of the dam...If the board is considering removal, residents deserve to know why [it is going in a] different direction without including the recommendations from the town’s own process.” Cavanagh reported that previous Administrator Shane O’Keefe had spent many hours investigating grants for repair. Cavanagh said the only one O’Keefe had found was through Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which amounted to only \$20,000, and the town would have to put the dam on the historic registry. A few voiced that there are new grants available for repairing dams. One resident said she believed that new information was made available the day of Londonderry’s meeting.

Many felt that dredging would be a viable option, allowing more water to collect in Mill Pond, though some countered that dredging too close to the failing dam only creates more pressure on it, or that the silt would continue to build up again over time. The greatest concern of many in attendance is the fact that Mill Pond is the largest, and possibly the only major, water source for the Londonderry Fire Department. It was expressed that, “Mill Pond is always there,” on a main road, accessible to many fire trucks at any time. If a hydrant fails, a pipe can be run anywhere in the pond to get water in an emergency. Without the dam, the water source would not provide nearly enough to extinguish a fire, and the town would “depend solely on trucking water in” while “the size of a fire doubles every minute.” A bond vote to fund repair or replacement of the dam, or dredging of the pond was discussed. The bond vote would take place at the upcoming Town Meeting. “I think it’s important to recognize that the board is not taking a specific position and saying that we’re doing one or the other,” stated Prouty. “My perspective has been that this is a big enough and serious enough decision

that we’re trying to gather the information and let the taxpayers and voters decide.” Residents said that they would like to have an idea of how much it would realistically cost to dredge the pond. Cavanagh reported that he asked Hunter Excavating to provide a quote, and stated that David Chaves Excavating “wanted no part of it.” Townspeople asked that the board put the project out to bid to other, larger contractors equipped for the job. It was added by another resident that while repair is more costly than dredging, it includes fixing the floodgate to be able to open and release sediment from the pond, eliminating the need for continuous dredging. DeBois & King, the company that initially quoted the town for repairs or replacement, recently provided an updated quote to include inflation and contingencies. The new estimate was set at \$1 million for repair, or \$1.6 million for replacement. The board cautioned that the town can discuss repair and replacement, but it has to come up with the money to make that happen. It was also discussed that the Williams River Dam Committee was disbanded after it concluded its research and gave its recommendation to repair the dam. Prouty and many community members were in support of reconvening the committee. Those who are passionate can study the new grants that may be available to repair the dam, and organize all of the facts in a manner that is digestible to the public. The board and town residents all agreed that it is

time to do something with the dam. A decision needs to be made, and all of the facts need to be presented in order for everyone to make their best-informed vote. Further discussion was postponed until the next meeting. Previous studies and reports on the dam are available on the town’s website, at www.londonderryvt.gov/government/select_board/williams_dam.php. On other agenda items, Pamela Spaulding requested that the board have a house on Winhall Hollow Road demolished due to its state of disrepair. The board agreed to have fire and safety personnel look at the building and potentially condemn it if they see fit. The board approved the blasting of a ledge for the Spring Hill Road Culvert project, given that they are running out of time to complete the project and be out of the stream by Oct. 1. Blasting is more efficient than drilling, and furthermore, in some cases blasting is still necessary after drilling, which would cost the town more money. Short-term rental fee structure changes were approved by the board. The meeting concluded with an executive session to discuss a pending or probable civil litigation or a prosecution involving the short-term rental ordinance; and negotiating or securing of real estate purchase or lease options regarding the North Village wastewater project. 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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“Conversation With the Candidates” in Athens —

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

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

This will be a bit less formal

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

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

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

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

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

Windsor-Windham District candidate forum

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

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

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

questions, followed by closing statements from each candidate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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Ludlow VERMONT

Ludlow Village Vision Plan

Friday, October 16

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

Formal Presentation: 5:00-5:30pm

Town Hall 37 S Depot St.

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

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

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

Light refreshments will be provided!

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



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

health & community

Kindle Farm celebrates 30 years, HCRS parntership –

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

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

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

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

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

Today, HCRS’ Kindle Farm School continues

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

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

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

Adult day social program to begin Oct. 7

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

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

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

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

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

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

EMT class at Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad

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

Emergency medical

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

This course is a mix of

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

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

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Free of charge, all are welcome

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HCRS’ Brattleboro Buddy Walk

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

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

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

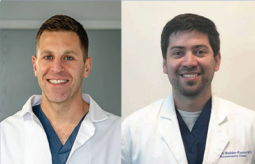
Advance registration is encouraged. Participants can also support the event through individual fundraising and donations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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HEALTH CONT.

services

Kendall B. Crocker Jr. celebration of life

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

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

Stephanie Nelson celebration of life

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

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

ASCUTNEY, VT.
Brownsville Community Church, 66 Brownsville-Hartland Rd.
Sunday service is 9:30 a.m., held in the church with reduced occupancy or streaming online at www.facebook.com/brownsvillecommunitychurch and www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org.

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

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

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

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

Holy Family Parish, St. Joseph’s Church, 148 South Main St.
Saturday confessions at 3 p.m., Mass at 4 p.m.

Wednesday Mass at 9 a.m. For more information, contact stmarys05156@gmail.com, call 802-885-3400, or visit www.holyfamilyvermont.com.

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

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

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

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

SPRINGFIELD, VT.
Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.
Sunday services are 9:30 a.m. in person.

Services are still streamed at www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt. For more information, go to www.calvarylovesspringfield.com.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 90 Park St.
Sunday Liturgy is 9:30 a.m. and Saturday vespers at 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-2615 or Parish Council President Thomas Barton at 802-263-5719.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OBITUARIES:

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

CHURCH SERVICES:

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

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT. 2 –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The

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

PERU ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

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

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

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

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

Town of Ludlow, Vermont

Ludlow Police Department is accepting applications for a Full-Time Patrol Officer

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

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

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

Position open until it is filled.

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

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

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

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

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

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5254, so much of said property will be sold at public auction at the Weston Town Office, a public place located at 12 Lawrence Hill Road in the Town of Weston, on the 29th day of October, 2026, at 10:30 o'clock in the morning, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

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

Dated at Weston, Vermont this 11th day of September, 2026.

Gretchen Hauser, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

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

OCT. 3 –

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

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

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

BELLOWS FALLS VILLAGE CORPORATION PUBLIC NOTICE WATER MAIN FLUSHING

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

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

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

Travis Kemp
Chief Operator
Bellows Falls Water Dept.

Town of Ludlow, Vermont

Ludlow Police Department is accepting applications for a Full-Time Emergency Services Dispatcher

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

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

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

Position open until it is filled.

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

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

SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT

WATER MAIN FLUSHING NOTICE

MONDAY, October 5 – FRIDAY, October 16, 2026

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

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

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

SPRINGFIELD WATER DEPT.

information, call 603-558-5529.

OCT. 4 –

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

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

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

OCT. 10 –

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

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

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

SUNDAYS –

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

MONDAYS –

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

SATURDAYS –

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

STATE OF VERMONT
WINDSOR COUNTY, SS

NOTICE OF TAX SALES

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

6 Reservoir Road

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

945 Eureka Road

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

32 Valley Street

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

42 Harlow Road

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

15 Woolson Avenue

For tax years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Matthew

Baird-Torney and Shawna Baird-Torney to Artem Mahinko by deed dated June 28, 2023 and recorded in Vol. 683 at Page 78 of the Springfield Town Land Records.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

opinion/classifieds

Dear Neighbors,

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

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

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

What I'm advocating for:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Join us! Our current ad-

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

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

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

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

Dear Editor,

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

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

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

Why am I endorsing him? I am encouraged

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WESTON, Vt. – Attractive one bedroom. Landgrove Road. Walk to center. \$1,200 monthly plus security. References requested. Call Chris at 302-762-4626 and please leave a message.

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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.

Dear Editor,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Kendra Rickerby
Proctorsville, Vt.



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home & outdoor PROS TO KNOW

Taking photos with a trail camera

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, email cavendishcommunityconservation@gmail.com.

Act 250 public information sessions

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

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

habitat-connectors.

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

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

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

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

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PROS TO KNOW

arts & events

Next Stage celebrates 16 years of arts, community

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

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

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

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

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

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

Botanical-drawing workshop

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

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

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

FIR Fall Festival in Reading

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

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

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

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

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

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

Next Stage performances

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

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

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

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claremont fall festival

29th annual Claremont Fall Festival & Chili Cook-off



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



Activities for everyone. PHOTO PROVIDED



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

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

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

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

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

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

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Ludlow harvest fair

Ludlow Safety Fair and 42nd annual Harvest Fair

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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



Enjoy the Harvest Fair!

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Vermont Apple Festival & Craft Show returns to Springfield for 42nd year

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

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

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

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

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

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

scarecrow festival

Chester Scarecrow Festival Weekend



Matilda and Three Bears.
PHOTO PROVIDED



Stone Hearth Inn.
PHOTO PROVIDED



Inn Victoria.
PHOTO PROVIDED

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

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

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Gussie's Place.
PHOTO PROVIDED

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

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Doris Ingram open studio –

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

Ingram is a signature

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

Ingram has painted many

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

Fall Open Studio Weekend at Create Together

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

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



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

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

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

Cider Days returns to Belmont

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

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



An antique apple press in operation.
PHOTO PROVIDED

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

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

Create felted acorns at Gallery at the Vault

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

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

7 at www.galleryvault.org/workshops, by phone, or in person. Gallery at the Vault is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, visit www.galleryvault.org, or visit the gallery's Facebook and Instagram pages. Gallery at the Vault is accessible.