CROSSWORD COUPON CONTEST
See Page 3 for a chance to win!



Fall Home Improvement
Get ready for the winter season
See Page 11

FREE

THE MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

OCTOBER 14, 2026 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

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Claremont thanks cleanup participants

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont community came together for its cleanup event in a big way on Friday, Oct. 9. There were more than 60 volunteers on Pleasant Street who pulled weeds, trimmed plants, put in fresh mulch, and planted mums. They worked so hard it only took four hours from start to finish.

The City of Claremont extends a massive thank-you to LaValley Building Supply, Lambert Supply Co., Claremont Home Depot, Runnings, Claremont Spice & Dry Goods, The Barn Cafe, Granite State Hobbies, Violet's Book Exchange, TLC Family Resource Center, and all the other Claremont businesses that came out spontaneously to help or donate.



Volunteers helped clean up and beautify Pleasant Street in Claremont on Oct. 9.

PHOTO PROVIDED

So many amazing volunteers came out from the SRVTC, Sullivan House, and Claremont Garden Club, as well as dozens of community members looking to lend a hand.

Follow the City of Claremont at www.facebook.com/cityofclaremont for information on how Pleasant Street will be maintained through the spring, summer, and fall of 2027, and how you can get involved in the effort.

Chili Cook-off winners – and Fall Festival

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Fall Festival and Chili Cook-off, hosted by Claremont Parks and Recreation and Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, Oct. 3, was a resounding success. There were 13 participating contestants, who each provided 10 gallons of chili, and many ran out around 1 p.m.



The Chili Cook-off and Fall Festival saw a good crowd.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Winners were announced for three categories as follows: individual category, Shane Garrow, Melanie Cramer, and Cory O'Dell; business category, Konky's Creative Kitchen and Lettuce Plan & Save LLC; and nonprofit organization category, American Legion Post 29, Sullivan County Healthcare, and TLC Recovery and Family Resource Center.

Additionally, secret judges selected their top three for Judges Choice awards, regardless of category: Sullivan County Healthcare, American Legion Post 29, and Shane Garrow.

Finally, a Fr. Mike Award was granted to Konky's Creative Kitchen for receiving the most votes overall.

The chamber shared, "Thank you to everyone who came out to [the] Fall Festival and Chili Cook-off! We loved seeing our community come together and enjoy the fun."

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North Star Health opens pharmacy in Charlestown

BY LISA STICKNEY

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – North Star Health Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 22, for its three new in-house pharmacies, including the one at its Charlestown Health Center.

Locals were invited to tour the space and chat with the pharmacy staff. The other two pharmacies are located at the Springfield Health Center in Springfield, Vt., and the Mountain Valley Health Center in Londonderry, Vt.

"Patients coming in will have access to the pharmaceuticals that they need in a timely manner," said Jessica Everlith, communications and development director at North Star Health.

The pharmacies are full-service and fill prescriptions. They also stock a curated selection of over-the-counter generic medications, which generally are sold for less than name brands of the same medication. This includes generic versions of common medications, such acetaminophen, ibuprofen, naproxen sodium, allergy medications, and bismuth subsalicylate. Name brands are also available.

Everlith said having pharmacists in the same building as patients' care teams makes it easier to coordinate care, and helps to disburse medications to patients quickly. Any profit goes back into the health centers, supporting North Star's mission.

As a federally qualified health center and 501(c)(3) nonprofit, North Star can take part in the 340B drug pricing program and manufacturer rebate programs. This allows the pharmacies to get medications at a discount and pass the savings onto the patients. Staff also help patients find manufacturer coupons, with the goal, Everlith said, of finding "the best way to get them out [having paid] the least amount."

The savings are already adding up. In August, patients saved $23,292 through uninsured patient assistance and manufacturer copay assistance.

Each location has a pharmacist, a pharmacy technician, and a doctor of pharmacy serving as manager. The pharmacies are open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., and close from 1-1:30 p.m. for lunch. They accept self-pay patients and select insurance plans.



Erinna Wichland, senior director of nursing; Michael Lansing, pharmacy manager; and Julie Martin, North Star Health board of directors, at the Charlestown Pharmacy ribbon cutting ceremony.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The pharmacies are all located within the North Star Health facilities. In Springfield, the pharmacy is on the first floor next to the elevator, beside the walk-in clinic and across from physical therapy. In Londonderry, it's down the hall to the right of the reception desk, past the main entrance.

To learn more, visit www.northstarfqhcpharmacy.org/react-app. Those who want to support this or other projects can send gifts to North Star Health, Attn: Charitable Gifts, 100 River Street, Springfield, VT 05156.

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OFFICE ADDRESS:
8 High Street • PO Box 228 • Ludlow, VT

BILLING ADDRESS:
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PHONE NUMBER:
802-228-3600

WEBSITE:
www.VermontJournal.com

CONTACT US

SHAWNTAE WEBB
publisher@vermontjournal.com
ads@vermontjournal.com

NICK GIBERTI
editor@vermontjournal.com
calendar@vermontjournal.com

JOE MCCAFFREY
sales@vermontjournal.com

LISA STICKNEY
messagesales@vermontjournal.com

PAULA BENSON
billing@vermontjournal.com

DEADLINES

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

EMAIL CALENDAR EVENTS
calendar@vermontjournal.com

EMAIL ADS AND CLASSIFIEDS
ads@vermontjournal.com

EMAIL PRESS RELEASES
editor@vermontjournal.com

Imperial Auto & Body Work becomes U-Haul neighborhood dealer

CLAREMONT, N.H. – U-Haul Co. of New Hampshire is pleased to announce that Imperial Auto & Body Work signed on as a U-Haul neighborhood dealer to serve the Claremont community.

Imperial Auto & Body Work, 152 Washington Street, will offer essential services like U-Haul trucks and moving supplies. Normal business hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Reserve U-Haul products at this dealer location by calling 603-287-4126 or visiting www.uhaul.com/Locations/Truck-Rentals-near-Claremont-NH-03743/019721.

Imperial Auto & Body Work owner Mike Lapierre is proud to team with the industry leader in do-it-yourself moving and self-storage to better meet the demands of Sullivan County.

U-Haul has teamed with independent dealers to offer rental equipment to do-it-yourself movers since 1945. During these challenging times for small businesses, more than 23,000 dealers across the U.S. and Canada are generating supplemental income through their U-Haul affiliation. When customers rent from a U-Haul dealer, they are directly supporting an independent small business in their community. Because no financial investment is required to be a dealer, these local affiliates are not U-Haul franchises. They are simply small businesses that have committed a portion of their lot space for U-Haul equipment, and a portion of their time to help meet the mobility needs of their neighbors. Learn more about the dealer program and how to join by visiting www.uhaul.com/dealer.

Fall and winter yoga at The Well Collaborative NH – Claremont

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Join the Well Collaborative NH on Mondays, at 5 p.m., from now through Dec. 14 (excluding Nov. 23), at 72 Pleasant Street, for an accessible and grounding, all-levels slow flow yoga class.

No preregistration is required – come as you are. There is a fee per class. For more information on fees and registration, visit www.donorbox.org/events/762431.

Certified yoga instructor Christy Catsos explains, "In this hour-long class, you can expect to move through a series of yoga poses while connecting breath and movement, and gently building strength, balance, and flexibility. This class is appropriate for all levels, including beginners. Variations will be offered to make the practice accessible to all.

Please bring your own mat and any props you prefer – blocks, blanket, bolster, etc. Dress comfortably, arrive a few minutes early, and plan to stay for the full hour."

Classes are held in a large, bright room with high ceilings and stained-glass windows. There will be plenty of room to spread out, several bathrooms for changing, comfortable chairs available as needed, and a water and tea station for added comfort.

"Cybersecurity With Mark" in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Saturday, Oct. 17, at 11 a.m., community members are invited to join "Cybersecurity With Mark: Click Smart, Not Sorry!," an interactive and practical discussion designed to help everyday internet users recognize online scams and protect themselves from becoming victims.

Scammers don't need to be computer experts, and you don't need to be one either to protect yourself. This easy-to-understand program will explore common phishing attempts and online scams delivered through email, text messages, phone calls, websites, and social media. Participants will learn how to spot the warning signs and take simple steps to verify suspicious messages before they cause financial or personal harm.

Participants will learn to recognize common red flags, including unexpected messages, urgent demands, threats or attempts to create fear, requests for money, requests for passwords or verification codes, suspicious links and attachments, and requests to keep things secret.

The program will also examine realistic examples of common scams, including fake bank alerts, package-delivery scams, family-emergency scams, fake government calls, tech support scams, and online romance and investment scams.

Participants will have opportunities to test their scam-detecting skills by voting "Scam or Legit?," identifying suspicious clues, and discussing what they would do in real-world situations.

No technical experience is required. Whether you're highly comfortable online or simply want to feel more confident navigating today's digital world, you'll leave with practical information you can use every day.

The program will be presented by Mark, information technology director for the Springfield School District, where he manages the technology infrastructure supporting approximately 1,200 students and 400 staff members.

A certified information systems security professional with a master's degree in IT management, Mark brings decades of leadership experience in cybersecurity and information technology.

To sign up for an event reminder, visit www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar.

Author Ryan Bernsten talk—

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join award-winning speaker and author Ryan Bernsten via Zoom on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 5:30 p.m., for an engaging conversation, "Is America as Divided as It Seems?"

Oxford University graduate student Bernsten takes a 23,000-mile journey through all 50 states of his home country to answer whether America is truly as divided as it seems. "50 States of Mind: A Journey to Rediscover American Democracy" is a work of travel nonfiction in the style of Alexis de Tocqueville that takes readers on a long and winding journey through all 50 states to explore the complexities of today's America.

Leading with the desire to listen and overcome preconceived notions, Bernsten ultimately offers a hopeful vision for the future of America as he embarks on a search for meaning and reflects on what it means to be American. Join this conversation and unpack how you have overcome preconceived notions and changed your mind yourself.

Bernsten is an award-winning speaker, author, and playwright. He is a graduate of Oxford's creative writing master's program and has written for The Oxford Political Review, The Fulcrum, USA Today, The Infatuation, and The Trevor Project, where he currently serves as senior managing editor. His plays have been produced internationally from New York to the U.K. You may have seen Bernsten chatting with Helen Mirren as a Slytherin contestant on "Harry Potter: Hogwarts Tournament of Houses" on HBO Max.

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

Painting the colors of fall in watercolor at Vault

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Robert O'Brien is offering a one-day watercolor workshop painting the fall landscape of New England in all its splendor at Gallery at the Vault, on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The class will begin with a demonstration by the instructor, who will explain his techniques for capturing the vibrancy of autumn colors through a layering process and for creating light and shadow. Students will paint for the remainder of the class with hands-on assistance from the instructor. A critique and discussion will be held at the end of the session.

All levels are welcome. A materials list will be provided at registration. The cost of the class is discounted for gallery members. Please register by Oct. 17. If more than six participants register, the workshop will be held at the Great Hall, 100 River Street in Springfield.

Gallery at the Vault is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, visit galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org and Facebook. Gallery at the Vault is accessible.

No Kings early voting events

REGION – On Saturday, Oct. 17, early voting events will be held in Rockingham and Westminster, Vt., as part of a national "No Kings: Vote Early" day of nonpartisan voter participation. Both events will be hosted by Indivisible Greater Falls and joined by Grafton's Supporters of Democracy. Voters are encouraged to bring their completed ballots with them to deposit in the ballot drop box. Voter registration will also be available for new voters or those who have moved since the last election.

Rockingham voters and their families are invited to gather at 10 a.m., at one of two locations: the recreation center, 10 Playground Road, off Williams Terrace; or the Wells Street playground. Participants will march on sidewalks through the neighborhood to bring their ballots to the drop box next to Rockingham Town Hall in The Square. Residents may join in as the group makes its way from Williams Terrace down the hill into The Square. The route from Wells Street will run south on Atkinson Street to School Street, and down the stairs to The Square. Those who would prefer not to walk are invited to show up at Town Hall anytime before noon. There will be cider, doughnuts, and activities for children. Creative costumes are encouraged. Participants can RSVP for the Rockingham event or just show up.

For Westminster voters, there will be an early voting rally on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., in front of the Westminster Town Hall, 3646 U.S. Route 5. There will be cider, doughnuts, music, "I voted" stickers, and a children's activity. Registering in advance for the Westminster event is optional.

"Our communities are strongest when everyone who is eligible to vote has a plan, knows their options, and follows through," said Meg Lucas, co-leader of Indivisible Greater Falls.

Ballots for the Nov. 3 general election were mailed to all qualified Vermont voters by Oct. 1. Early ballots must be received at your town clerk's office by close of business on Nov. 2. If you're mailing your ballot, allow a week for delivery. If you decide to vote in person on Nov. 3, bring your ballot with you to your polling location.

Voters who are registered in Rockingham or Westminster and wish to participate in "No Kings: Vote Early" should bring their ballots with them to the event in their town. Those who are unsure whether they are registered to vote can check their registration at vote.vermont.gov.

For more details or to register for an Oct. 17 early voting event, go to www.mobilize.us/nokings.



North Star pharamcy

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Sarah Weidhass, chief medical officer; Samantha Tyrrell, pharmacy manager; and Joshua Dufresne, chief executive officer, at the Springfield Health Center Pharmacy ribbon cutting ceremony, on Tuesday, Sept. 22.
PHOTO PROVIDED

FMRHS Alumni scholarship fund raffle

LANGDON, N.H. – The Fall Mountain Regional High School (FMRHS) Alumni Association has officially launched its 2026 alumni raffle to raise funds for student scholarships. The highly anticipated drawing will take place during the FMRHS homecoming celebrations on Oct. 16.

Designed to give back to the next generation of Fall Mountain students, the raffle features more than $4,000 in high-value prizes sourced through community and local business partnerships. Participants do not need to be present at the homecoming drawing to win.

Alumni raffle prize packages include "The Ultimate Cookout Package," a Blackstone Grill complete with a propane tank and a $200 gift certificate to Lisai's; "Premium Comfort," a recliner generously provided by Aumand's Furniture; and "Professional Tool Kit," a comprehensive tool and equipment package from Sanel NAPA in Londonderry featuring two Milwaukee leaf blowers, one Milwaukee pack-out kit, one Milwaukee hacksaw kit, one TopDon jump pack, and one Carlisle jumbo wrench set.

Tickets are priced to encourage broad community participation, and can be purchased individually or in discounted bundles of five. Community members, alumni, and supporters can purchase tickets directly online by visiting www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/fmrh-saa-2026-raffle.

The FMRHS Alumni Association extends its gratitude to the local businesses providing this year's prizes and to the broader community for continuously supporting Fall Mountain scholarships.

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Formal Presentation: 5:00-5:30pm
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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
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CROSSWORD COUPON CONTEST

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CROSSWORD COUPON CONTEST

The Rules

Participants must complete the Crossword or the Sudoku puzzle and mail this page to The Vermont Journal, PO Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149. Must be received by Friday, Oct. 23, 2026. Limit one submission per person.

One participant will be selected by random drawing, and can choose one coupon from participating businesses on this puzzle page. Coupons are not valid until one is chosen by drawing winner. Coupon of choice will expire on November 30, 2026, and will be mailed to the winner.

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

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ TOWN: _____

COUPON OF CHOICE: _____

Weekly SUDOKU

8		6			7		5	3
	1	7	2	5	6	4		
	4	5						2
				6	9			
6	9			7	2	5		
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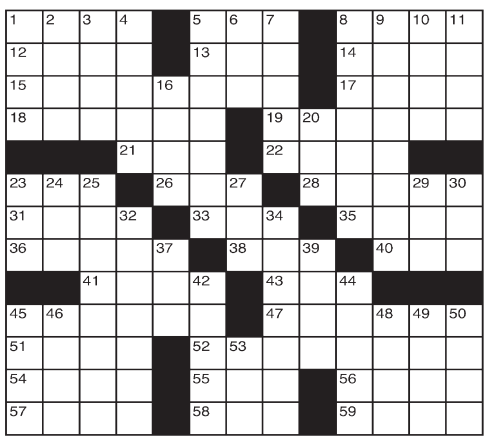
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Havana's land
5 High tennis shot
8 Pitt of "Moneyball"
12 Spoken
13 Shock partner
14 Shakespearean villain
15 Military groups
17 Bar fight souvenir
18 Order by classes
19 Vehement protest
21 High school subj.
22 Poi base
23 Likely
26 Small battery
28 Cowboy in "Toy Story"
31 Indy winner A.J.
33 Away from SSW
35 Peevish fit
36 Seized vehicles
38 Business mag
40 Punker Vicious
41 Shacks
43 Cyclades isle
45 1912 Olympic legend
47 Relatives of loons
51 Mine, to Marcel
52 Spoofs
54 Dresses in
55 Org. with a style manual
56 Squad
57 Celeb's aide
58 Tummy muscles
59 Young fellows

DOWN
1 Club in a Manilow song
2 Web addresses
3 Sheepish remarks
4 Choir members
5 From Vientiane
6 Personal
7 Make drunk
8 Casual eateries
9 Masked mammals
10 Lab gel
11 "Finding Nemo" fish
16 Killer whale
20 Motor City labor org.
23 Ghana's cont.
24 "The Bells" writer
25 Violent storms
27 Blackbird
29 Nero's 502
30 Since Jan. 1
32 Sightseer
34 Bafflers
37 NASCAR advertiser
39 Business abbr.
42 1965 march site
44 Capital of South Korea
45 "I did it!"
46 Med. plan options
48 — fide (genuine)
49 Oklahoma city
50 Bygone jets
53 Cleric's tunic

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THE MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

health & community

HCRS new mental health urgent care center

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) has been approved for $3.6 million in grant funding from the Vermont Department of Mental Health to develop a new mental health urgent care center in Brattleboro, creating a community-based option for adults and youth experiencing mental health, substance use, and co-occurring crises.

HCRS plans to begin offering 24/7 walk-in mental health urgent care services in January 2027, with additional components coming online as implementation progresses. The project will also expand residential stabilization capacity for children and youth, with four short-term residential beds planned as part of the initiative.

The new center will address a critical gap in southeastern Vermont's crisis continuum: a therapeutic place for people to go when they need more support than can be provided through Mobile Crisis, but emergency department or inpatient care may not be necessary.

"For years, we have worked to ensure that people experiencing a mental health or substance-use crisis have a place to call and someone who can respond. This new funding allows us to build the next critical piece: a safe, therapeutic place to go when someone needs more support," said HCRS CEO Anne Bilodeau.

The mental health urgent care center will provide adults and youth with peer support, crisis intervention and stabilization, medical support, care coordination, assessment, and connection to ongoing services. The center will also support individuals experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions. The center is specifically designed for mental health and substance use crisis care and is not intended to replace emergency medical care for physical health emergencies.

Four short-term crisis stabilization beds will be dedicated to children and youth who need a safe, therapeutic level of support but do not require inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.

The center will operate in close coordination with 988, HCRS' Mobile Crisis services, local hospitals, outpatient providers, schools, peer support organizations, first responders, housing providers, and other community partners. HCRS will work with regional partners to establish referral pathways, warm handoffs, and coordinated follow-up to help individuals move more seamlessly between levels of care.

The initiative responds to needs identified through HCRS' Community Needs Assessment and regional crisis data, including high emergency-department utilization, barriers to timely crisis stabilization, and the need for additional community-based alternatives. Southeastern Vermont has experienced particularly high emergency department utilization associated with mental health crises, underscoring the need for another option for individuals who require immediate support but not hospital-level care.

HCRS is currently working to finalize leased space in Brattleboro for the Center. Over the coming months, HCRS will prepare the facility, recruit and train staff, develop operational workflows, and continue coordinating with community partners in preparation for the January launch. The new center is expected to create approximately 34 positions. Visit the www.hcrs.org career page for more information.

Additional information about the center, including its location, access, available services, and referral processes, will be shared as implementation progresses.

Disability Awareness and De-escalation Training

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Neighborhood Connections is pleased to announce an important event in its Soup and Sandwich Series. On Thursday, Oct. 20, from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Dr. Kendra LaRoche, executive director of the Special Needs Support Center (SNSC), will be the guest speaker at Neighborhood Connections, 5700 Vermont Route 100. She is the creator of the Disability Awareness and De-escalation Training program. She is offering continuing education credit for all attendees who may benefit from it. We welcome all emergency responders, but all are welcome.

Emergency responders are often the first to assist individuals with disabilities in times of stress or crisis. The Disability Awareness and De-escalation Training helps police, fire, and EMT personnel build awareness, empathy, and skills needed to respond safely and effectively. The program will also be very helpful for private citizens who are working with emotionally challenged individuals.

The course links evidence-based de-escalation strategies with an understanding of how the brain processes emotion and stress. Through interactive instruction and real-world scenarios, participants learn techniques for emotional regulation, validation, and active listening, while gaining practical insight into mental health; and intellectual, developmental, and learning disabilities. The training also introduces SNIP communication tools that support clear, respectful, and person-centered interactions.

Upon completion, participants will be able to identify visible and invisible disabilities and understand how they affect behavior and communication; apply de-escalation strategies using validation, empathy, and active listening; recognize the neurological connection between emotion, stress, and behavior; use communication boards and SNIP identification tools to improve safety and understanding during emergency encounters; and reflect on past experiences to strengthen professional judgment in future situations.

For more information or to RSVP, please call Neighborhood Connections at 802-824-4343 to reserve a spot. For questions about the program, contact Suzanne Burge at 802-824-4343 or Suzanne@ncvermont.org.

Release and realign this fall with gentle yoga

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join Springfield yoga teacher Jo Bregnard in person or online from the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road in Springfield, Vt., for a gentle, accessible practice inspired by the wisdom of fall in Chinese energetics.

Release & Realign classes meet on Fridays, Oct. 23-Dec. 18, from 10-11 a.m., (no class Nov. 27) for eight weeks. All are welcome, no yoga experience is necessary.

"First, we'll discharge the excess energy that leaves us jumping from one thing to another and unable to focus," Bregnard said, describing her classes. "We'll tune in to our breath, then we'll move through some shapes designed to settle the jitters and slow the mind-roll so we can reconnect with the rhythm of the natural world around us. Autumn trees teach us to let go, so we'll explore discerning what to release – like doom scrolling – and what to keep as we head toward winter."

Most of the practice will be on the floor – or in a chair, if that's preferred – where attendees can discover the stillness of yin yoga and the support of props for restorative postures, balancing out dynamic "yang" daily activities. In the meantime, Bregnard will offer tips for settling, techniques for nervous system soothing, and tools for improving mobility.

"We want to be able to focus when it's work time, rest when needed, and play like a kid afterwards," she said.

Come to the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse to attend classes in person, or tune in live online via Zoom. All registrants get access to recordings to access on their own schedules. Pay upfront or with a payment plan, pay-what-you-wish, or drop in to individual sessions. For complete details and to register, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/96156.

As an added bonus, those who register for the full series and attend in person will receive a set of props to keep: a mat, a pair of blocks, a strap, an eye pillow, a yoga wedge, and a neck pillow, while supplies last.

For more information, email jo@jobregnard.com.



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KinneyDrugs®
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.

obituaries

Dartmouth Health Children's joins Golisano Children's Alliance

LEBANON, N.H. – Dartmouth Health Children's, the region's most comprehensive pediatric health system, has received a philanthropic investment of $30 million from entrepreneur and visionary child-health leader Tom Golisano. In recognition of this gift, Children's Hospital at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, the only children's hospital in New Hampshire, will be renamed to Golisano Children's Hospital at Dartmouth Health in perpetuity. This is the largest philanthropic gift Dartmouth Health has ever received and will be a catalyst for growing capabilities by enhancing the workforce and accelerating priority projects to modernize critical spaces at the children's hospital, and to expand services at Dartmouth Health Children's clinics in southern New Hampshire.

"It is with great pride that I provide this important investment to the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, marking its transition to a Golisano Children's Hospital and welcoming them into the Golisano Children's Alliance," said Golisano. "This investment is intended to elevate pediatric care by advancing services and building a new, modern intensive care nursery and pediatric intensive care unit to address the needs of the sickest babies and children and their families. With this shared vision, the hospital will strengthen its position in pediatric medicine, providing life-changing care of the highest quality with dignity to children and their families."

In 2025, Golisano launched the Golisano Children's Alliance, a national initiative that provides strategic funding and brings together children's hospitals across the United States to elevate pediatric care by expanding services, strengthening collaboration, and ensuring that children and families have access to the highest quality medical attention close to home.

This investment will drive a leading-edge, complete renovation of the critical care units at the children's hospital in Lebanon, N.H. It will support the construction of newly designed and fully equipped state-of-the-art individual patient and family rooms in the intensive care nursery, while a transformation and expansion of the hospital's pediatric critical care unit will create a more functional space for the region's most acutely ill and injured pediatric patients, bringing the top-tier standards of the highest specialty care to more children and families than ever before in the hospital's history.

"I have profound gratitude to Tom Golisano for his generous investment in children and families across our region," said Keith J. Loud, physician-in-chief of Dartmouth Health Children's. "We are honored to join the Golisano Children's Alliance and excited to collaborate with such a select group of leading children's hospitals to share knowledge that allows all of us to deliver the best care, where it matters most – close to home."

"This gift will accelerate the growth of pediatric healthcare in the ways our communities need it most: reimagined neonatal and critical care facilities, an expansion of pediatric specialty services closer to home, and new ways to connect our rural health system to a national network of excellence," said Dr. Joanne M. Conroy, CEO and president of Dartmouth Health. "At its core, it ensures we will always meet families where they are, in their most difficult moments, with both expertise and compassion. We are honored to carry the Golisano name forward in service of our shared mission."

This announcement is part of a recent $225 million investment by Golisano, which includes five other children's hospitals joining the alliance: Children's Minnesota, Johns Hopkins All Children's, Renown Health, Children's Hospital Colorado, and Vanderbilt Health's Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital. The addition of these hospitals brings the total number of Golisano Children's Alliance hospitals to 21 across the U.S., past the halfway mark toward Golisano's goal of 40.

Tina Rosen, 1949-2026



Tina Rosen, 1949-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. – Tina Phyllis Weinberg Rosen passed peacefully on Oct. 4, 2026, at the age of 77. Born on Valentine's Day, 1949, in Bronx, N.Y., Tina was a print and runway model, fashionista, entrepreneur, dog lover, and proud mother and grandmother. While Tina would joke, "You can take the girl out of the Bronx…," she made Ludlow, Vt., her home for 30 years, including as a ski instructor at Okemo Mountain, and her beloved clothing boutique, Tina's Fun Stuff to Wear.

She is survived by her husband and retired physician, Jeff; her older son and tech executive, Josh, and his wife, Erin Morgan; her younger son, entertainment attorney and film producer Jeremy, who still calls Ludlow home; and her granddaughter, Hazel Mae. Tina will be buried at Riverside Cemetery in Woodstock, Vt. We will forever hold our Valentine Girl in our hearts.



BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

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

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

CAVENDISH, VT.

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

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

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

CLAREMONT, N.H.

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

LONDONDERRY, VT.

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

PERKINSVILLE, VT.

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5, Weathersfield Bow
Sunday services are 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study and prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-546-4902.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

First Congregational Church, UCC, 77 Main St.
Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in person. Singing is encouraged! For more information, call 802-885-5728, email fccucc@vermontel.net, or go to www.firstchurchspringfield.org.

North Springfield Baptist Church, 581 Giddings Street, North Springfield.
All are welcome and invited to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. For more information, please email the church office at office@nsbcvt.org, or call 802-886-8107. We are handicap accessible.





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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

OCT. 16 & 17 –
ACWORTH, N.H. – The Female Charitable Society of Acworth will hold a rummage sale on Friday, Oct. 16, from 2-5 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the United Church of Acworth, 16 Town Hall Road. Come find treasures, clothes, shoes, knickknacks, toys, and so much more.

OCT. 16 –
WESTMORELAND, N.H. – The internationally acclaimed Apple Hill String Quartet returns to Westmoreland on Friday evening, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m., in the Westmoreland United Church, 9 South Village Common. Admission is free. There will be refreshments by Westmoreland Ladies Aid following the concert.

OCT. 17 –
S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The South Londonderry Free Library is honoring librarian, storyteller, and puppeteer Pura Belpré with a puppetry workshop on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 10:30 a.m. Learn about this champion of bilingual literature and make your own mini puppet theater with art teacher Casey Junker Bailey. This art workshop is open to all ages and is free of charge, thanks to a grant from Vermont Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. Each family will also receive a copy of the beautifully illustrated book "Planting Stories" to keep. So, save your empty cereal boxes and learn how to turn them into charming puppets and puppet theaters when you come to the library for some creative fun. For more information about this and other programs, visit www.slflibrary.org or contact the library at 802 824-3371.

OCT. 18 –
BRIDGEWATER CORNERS, Vt. – On Sunday, Oct. 18, at 2 p.m., Roger Allbee, author and former Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, will present a program entitled "Turning the Soil: 250 Years of Vermont Agriculture," a historical look at changes in rural communities, farmers' activities, agricultural production, and farm policies over a period of more than 250 years. The presentation will comprehensively analyze agriculture from the grassroots, state, national, and global levels. The program will be held at the Bridgewater Grange Hall, 129 Route 100A, and is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities.

OCT. 22 –
LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, 2051 North Main Street (Vermont Route 11), will serve a community lunch on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 12 p.m. The menu will be a traditional turkey dinner and dessert. Fun, fellowship, and great food. All are welcome. A free-will offering will be gathered. No takeout available. For more information, call the church office at 802-824-6453.

OCT. 23 –
BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – A screenplay reading of Alfred Hitchcock's 1955 film "The Trouble With Harry" will be held on Friday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m., at the Latchis Theatre, 50 Main Street. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.app.arts-people.com/?show=363446.

OCT. 24 –
CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester-Andover Family Center will host its Empty Bowls fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 4:30-7 p.m., at the Chester American Legion, 635 Vermont Route 103. There will be raffles, a live auction, delicious soups, and tasty treats available.

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

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness Airport in Springfield. The Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force tasked with the mission of supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. Cadets as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of volunteers.

MONDAYS –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Free Tobacco Quit class led by Sarah Doyle, Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls. Dinner included. Call or text Sarah at 802-289-0045 or email sdoyle@springfieldmed.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Overeaters Anonymous 12-Step Recovery Program is Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension in Bellows Falls. The program is free, and is for anyone suffering from obesity, binge eating, anorexia, or bulimia. All are welcome. For more information, call 802-376-3507, or visit www.oa.org.

WALPOLE, N.H. – Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Parish Hall, Walpole.

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

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

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Beginner tai chi classes are held at the Westminster Institute, 3534 Route 5, on Tuesdays, at 10:30 a.m. Admission is on a sliding scale.

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

WEDNESDAYS –
LUDLOW, Vt. – A gentle yoga flow class with strength building with bands and body to reconnect to your center, build strength, and invite ease into your body and mind will be held Wednesdays, from 9-10 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street. All levels welcome. Mats and blocks available. Contact Lori Wright at loriwright163@gmail.com or 603-401-8123 to register, or with any questions.

THURSDAYS –
WALPOLE, N.H. – Alcoholics Anonymous women's meeting, a 12-step recovery program for women who have a desire to stop drinking, is happening every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of Westminster and Elm streets in Walpole, N.H. For more information, call Viva at 802-732-8330.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard will be at the Rockingham Library on Thursdays, from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. Both beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Certified instructor Helena Wu will teach tai chi classes every Thursday, from 9-10 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street in Ludlow. Classes are free, and are limited to 10 participants. Registration is required. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 802-228-7421, or Helena Wu at 802-289-7369.

FRIDAYS –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Fridays from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., John Bohannon will teach tai chi and qi gong at the Rockingham Library in Bellows Falls, Vt. No special equipment or clothing is required.

CHESTER, Vt. – Alcoholics Anonymous meetings held every Friday at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, located at 96 South Main Street in Chester. If you have a problem with alcohol, this is an understanding place to come to.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

Okemo Mountain Road Closed

The upper portion of the Okemo Mountain Road from the Base Lodge area to the summit will be closed to public access between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2026 and Sunday, October 18, 2026 for the Killington Sports Car Club Time Trials.

Notice To Voters

Absentee Ballots for the Vermont General Election being held Tuesday, November 3, 2026, have been mailed by the Secretary of State's Office to all active voters in the Town of Springfield. If you do not receive an absentee ballot from the Secretary of State's Office by mid-October, please contact the Town Clerk. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot, if you did not receive one, is Monday, November 2, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. Absentee ballots may be returned: by using the postage pre-paid envelope that arrived with your ballot; by hand delivery to the Town Clerk's Office; by depositing into the mail slots, when town hall is closed, located in the lower level door that faces Main Street or in the door at the top of the outside stairs; by bringing it to the polls on November 3rd and depositing it into the tabulator. All voted absentee ballots must be received by the Town Clerk by the close of polls at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. The polls are located at Riverside Middle School in the gymnasium and will open on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk's Office will not be open on November 3, 2026. You may register to vote on Election Day at the polls and then proceed to vote on that day. You may also register to vote any time at the Town Clerk's Office or online at https://vote.vermont.gov/public/dashboard Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC - 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156 (802) 885-2104 townclerk@springfieldvt.gov

CLAREMONT MUNICIPAL CEMETERIES FALL MAINTENANCE

CITY OF CLAREMONT

All flowers (real & artificial), vases, and/or valuable items placed in municipal cemeteries must be removed before **November 1, 2026.** After that date said materials will be removed and disposed of by cemetery personnel.

City of Claremont
Department of Public Works

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC) will hold a third and final public hearings on Monday, November 9, 2026, at 12:00 noon in our offices at 38 Ascutney Park Road in Ascutney, VT on the proposed 2026 Regional Plan, which is intended to address the requirements of Act 181 and will replace the 2022 Regional Plan. The intent of this plan update is to meet the new requirements in 24 V.S.A. §4348a as well as to meet the requirements of an "Enhanced Energy Plan" in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §4352.

The MARC is authorized by the Vermont Municipal Planning and Development Act [24 V.S.A. §4348] to develop, adopt, and amend a regional plan. The proposed 2026 Regional Plan includes proposed state designated areas (i.e., Centers and Neighborhoods) and proposed Tier 1B areas that, if approved by the Vermont Land Use Review Board, will provide Act 250 exemptions for certain housing projects. The proposed 2026 Regional Plan is available for review under the "Publications" section on MARC's website: https://www.marcvt.org/2026-regional-plan.html. For more information or to request a hard copy of the draft plan, please contact MARC staff at (802) 674-9201.

TOWN OF READING

The Town of Reading is hiring for the following positions, Town Treasurer/Administrative Assistant to the Town Assessor. The ideal candidate for this dual role will have strong accounting and or bookkeeping qualifications, enjoy and have the interpersonal skills to work effectively in a team, possess exceptional organizational capabilities, have proficiency in multiple computer data platforms, as well as the ability to learn industry specific software, and finally, a high commitment to providing excellent customer service to the taxpayers of the municipality.

Duties include but are not limited to in the Treasurer's position: Processing payroll and managing all payroll related activities, managing all accounts payable and receivable, Town related bookkeeping, managing records and reports, distributing resident correspondence, and preparing grant reimbursements.

The Assessor's Administrative Assistant will be responsible for maintaining property records, assisting with property appraisal and valuation, preparing data for the Grand List, taxpayer communications and information, office budget management, and general administrative support to the Assessor.

This position will be 32 hours/week initially with some schedule flexibility. Compensation will be $24-$28/hr commensurate with experience, with the opportunity for health insurance benefits.

Recycling Coordinator

Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC) is seeking a motivated Recycling Coordinator to support regional waste reduction, recycling, and household hazardous waste programs for the Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District.

This position will coordinate recycling initiatives, support municipalities and transfer station operators, administer household hazardous waste programs, maintain regulatory records, assist with special collection events, and provide public education and outreach.

Qualifications: a bachelor's degree in Community Development, Environmental Science or similar degree preferred. A candidate with no degree but with relevant experience will be considered. Strong communication, organization, and project management skills are essential. Experience in recycling, solid waste management, environmental programs, municipal services, or a related field is preferred.

Schedule: 30–34 hours/week
Pay: $25-$32/hour, depending on education and experience
Benefits: Eligible for MARC employee benefits

For additional information on the position, go to www.marcvt.org

Please email resume and cover letter to:
Thomas Kennedy
Director of Community Development
tkennedy@marcvt.org

Applications must be received by close of business on October 30, 2026.

Mount Ascutney Regional Commission is an equal opportunity employer.

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT Windsor Unit — **PROBATE DIVISION** Docket No.: 25-PR-04955

In re ESTATE of: Kenneth Skillin

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Kenneth Skillin (Decedent)
late of Springfield (Decedent's Town of Residence)

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: 10/9/26 — Signature of Fiduciary

Executor/Administrator		Mailing Address
Stephen S. Ankuda		Parker & Ankuda, PO Box 519
Phone Number: 802-885-2582	Email: parkerankuda@vermontel.net	City, State, Zip: Springfield, VT 05156

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal
Publication Date: October 14, 2026
Name of Probate Court: Windsor Unit Probate Division
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green, Wodstock, VT 05091

LEGAL classifieds/opinion

CLEAN OUTS + MORE

EZ-Dump Enterprises has a 15-yard dump trailer available for rent. We're also here for heating equipment, appliance removal, home/storage unit clean outs, stump grinding, and refinishing/repairing gravel driveways. Serving Springfield, Vt. area. Call/text 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

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FOR RENT

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Office space available in South Londonderry, 375 sq ft, in historic depot. Includes an open reception area, private office, shared kitchenette, and restroom. $830 per month, including heat, electric, and internet. Email uppersection@westrivertrail.org.

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

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

S. READING, Vt. – Host looking for companionship, meal prep, light housekeeping in exchange for rent. Host is an older woman looking to get back to her home after recovering from surgery. She enjoys puzzles, music, walks, bird watching. No pets allowed in this lovingly cared-for home, a little off the beaten path. 802-863-5625 or www.HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

FOR SALE

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – Three 2-year-old, very well built garage/barn doors. 2 ea. 8x7, 1 ea. 10x7. You pick up. Asking $500 OBO. Call 802-263-9876 after 10 a.m. No texting, no voicemail.

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW, Vt. – PART-TIME HELP WANTED: Vacation rental company seeks a Ludlow-area local to inspect condos, handle guest issues, and coordinate repairs. Reliable transportation and some winter weekend availability needed. Earn extra income with room to grow. Text 650-300-9573 or email omg.ludlow@gmail.com to apply.

MANCHESTER, Vt. – Chimney technicians wanted! Black Magic Chimney and Scott's Clean Sweep. Manchester and West Dover, Vt. Starting at $22/hr. Full time, year-round work. Benefits, paid training. No experience needed. Call 802-768-7188.

RUTLAND & WINDSOR COUNTIES – Full-time/Part-time carpenter/handyman needed for local construction company. Pay starts at $35-$75/hour, more skills - more pay. Call Kent at Vermont Services, 802-779-3186.

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.

LUDLOW/CHESTER, Vt. – Do you live in Ludlow or Chester and participate in local selectboard meetings? Write for us! Please email publisher@vermontjournal.com or call 802-228-3600.

SNOW PLOWING

LUDLOW, Vt. – Snowplowing and sanding, Ludlow area, residential only. Reasonable rates. Contact SK Logging at 802-384-0313.

YARD SALE

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Pre-Estate Sale, weekends thru October. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., 20 Commonwealth Ave, Springfield. Tools, toys, trains, boats, cars, furniture.

Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Notice of Ordinance Adoption

The Town of Londonderry Selectboard hereby gives notice pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 1972(a)(1) that on October 5, 2026, the Board voted to amend the Itinerant Vendor Ordinance.

In summary, the Itinerant Vendor Ordinance amendment regulates itinerant vendors to ensure the health and safety of the public, property owners and vendors in the course of doing business in Londonderry, by streamlining the process to obtain a permit and to approve a permit. This amendment supersedes the prior Itinerant Vendor Ordinance.

The complete text of the Itinerant Vendor Ordinance can be examined on the Town's web site (www.londonderryvt.gov) or at the Londonderry Town Clerk's office, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155. Questions or comments regarding this proposed ordinance can be directed to Town Administrator Aileen Tulloch by phone at 802-824-3356, by email at townadmin@londonderryvt.gov, or by US Mail at 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155.

Unless a petition is filed as described below, the Ordinance shall become effective 60 days after the date of its adoption. Notice is hereby given of the right to petition for a permissive referendum vote on this ordinance at an annual or special meeting as provided for in 24 V.S.A 1973. Such petition for a permissive referendum must be signed by not less than five (5) percent of the qualified voters of the Town of Londonderry and shall be presented to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk within forty-four (44) days following the date of adoption.

Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Notice of Ordinance Adoption

The Town of Londonderry Selectboard hereby gives notice pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 1972(a)(1) that on October 5, 2026, the Board voted to amend the Ordinance Regulating Dogs and Wolf Hybrids.

In summary, the Ordinance Regulating Dogs and Wolf Hybrids amendment regulates the keeping of dogs and wolf hybrids and to provide for their leashing, muzzling, restraint, impoundment and destruction, to protect the public health and safety of the Town and preserve the quiet enjoyment of residents' homes and properties, by further defining and clarify the penalties and waivers for each offense. This amendment supersedes the prior Regulating Dogs and Wolf Hybrids.

The complete text of the Ordinance Regulating Dogs and Wolf Hybrids can be examined on the Town's web site (www.londonderryvt.gov) or at the Londonderry Town Clerk's office, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155. Questions or comments regarding this proposed ordinance can be directed to Town Administrator Aileen Tulloch by phone at 802-824-3356, by email at townadmin@londonderryvt.gov, or by US Mail at 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155.

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Dear Editor,

On behalf of Black River Good Neighbor Services (BRGNS), we extend a sincere thank-you to all for supporting another Gigantic Fall Rummage Sale at Fletcher Farm. An outstanding success! Truly, we are most grateful to our community that enables us to continue providing assistance to those in need.

Starting weeks in advance, so many volunteers worked tirelessly setting up this annual fundraiser. Their dedication and commitment genuinely support the organization's core values. Simply put, this sale, a huge undertaking, could not happen without devoted volunteer efforts. And, we certainly do have that! Thank you very much, each and every one of you.

Among the many dedicated volunteers who worked at this event are the board of directors, also working behind the scenes to keep things looking good for shoppers. And, speaking of shoppers, we really want to thank everyone who attended and shopped the sale, making it so very successful.

Please know that your dollars go directly to support our programs that include a food shelf, clothing, community meals, and financial and disaster assistance to those in need, serving the towns of Ludlow, Mount Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville, and Plymouth. We are here to help.

For more information about Black River Good Neighbor Services, please visit our website, www.brgn.org, call us at 802-228-3663, or visit us at 37B Main Street, Ludlow.

Sincerely,
Krey Kellington, Executive Director
Black River Good Neighbor Services

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

YOUR CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT BEGINS HERE

The Town of Ludlow Police Department is seeking a highly motivated individual ready to begin a career in law enforcement.

We'll sponsor and pay you to attend the Vermont Police Academy, upon successful program completion, a position with the Ludlow Police Department awaits you.

Starting pay: During entry-level training: $26.47/hour with benefits including insurances/pension
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Your career. Your community. Your opportunity.
APPLY TODAY!

Town of Ludlow, Vermont
FT Patrol Officer Job Opening

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

Seeking motivated certified candidates. Lateral transfers and out-of-state certified officers are encouraged to apply. Competitive starting pay is $30.96–$49.49/hour, commensurate with level of certification/experience, plus shift differentials of 5% and 7%.

Excellent benefits, including but not limited to, Insurance/Pension/ PTO.

Must possess a valid driver's license, pass background, physical, psychological exams, and meet Vermont Criminal Justice Council requirements.

To apply: Submit resume, cover letter, and completed application to Chief Jeffrey Warfle at Jeffrey.warfle@vermont.gov. Application is available on Town's website www.ludlow.vt.us

yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

$175 for 13 Weeks • $275 for 26 Weeks • $425 for 52 Weeks
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(12/09/26 - 52)

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Paint Fall in Watercolor w/ Rob O'Brien Oct. 24
Needle-Felted Holiday Ornaments w/ Lisa Caron Hickey Nov. 7
Raku Pottery w/ Andrew Berends Nov. 7 & 14

Info & sign up: https://galleryvault.org/workshops/
(01/06/27 - TFN - 13)

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(03/17/27 - 52)

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(08/11/27 - TFN - 52)

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(11/18/26 - 13)

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Gets it Done

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ENDORSED BY GOV. PHIL SCOTT

"Thomas Charlton is a voice for a more affordable Vermont and a vote against unsustainable property tax increases. I'm proud to support his reelection."



Paid for by the Charlton Campaign Committee
PO Box 1032, Chester, Vt 05143

opinion

To the Editor,

I write in strong support of Tom Charlton for reelection as Vermont House representative for Chester, Grafton, Athens, and Windham.

Affordability of life in Vermont is a big issue in this November election. Rep. Charlton's position on affordability is best expressed in his own words: "If you are concerned as to whether you can afford to stay in your home or stay in Vermont, and whether your kids can afford to stay in Vermont and build a career here, you need to vote wisely. And I think that rather than hand an opportunity again to the party which has caused these problems and has had the upper hand for 26 of the last 30 years, and has not fixed the problem, I don't think you should vote Democrat if you are concerned about affordability."

Go to Tom's Facebook page, "Tom Charlton for Vermont House of Representatives," to see Tom's full statement, "Can you afford Vermont?"

Indeed, can you or I, can we afford Vermont?

Respectfully,
Anna Vesely Pilette
Grafton, Vt.
Paid for by Chester Republican Committee, P.O. Box 16, Chester, VT 05143

Dear Editor,

Kendra Rickerby (Letters, Sept. 30) mistakes my argument about the value of AI in the schools as an ad hominem attack. An argument based on untruths is deceptive, whether or not the presenter is aware of its falsity. I apologize if my wording induced Ms. Rickerby to think that I was accusing her of being the deceiver. Only she knows whether she advanced her argument by accepting Silicon Valley's version of the state of AI or by having fully investigated it herself. If the former is the case, then she has indeed succumbed to a Wall Street strategy (AI's impending bubble collapse will be a repeat of the subprime bubble crash). If the latter is the case, then she has a responsibility to reevaluate her recommendation in the light of her experience as a school administrator.

Administrators, unfortunately, are forced to focus on numbers, not on education, and AI, like standardized testing, is one of those horrid things they have to make peace with. Neither Act 46 nor Act 73 address the heart of good education, and until the Legislature decides to do that, she and her colleagues will be like mice in a maze, constrained by walls they are not allowed to see beyond.

Sincerely,
Chuck Gregory
Springfield, Vt.

OPINION POLICY

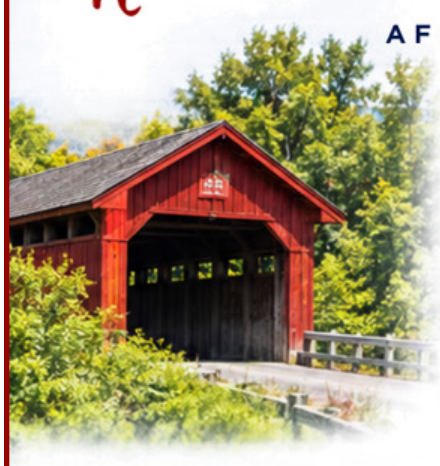
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Vote November 3rd
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WINDSOR DISTRICT



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WINDSOR-2 DISTRICT



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RUTLAND-WINDSOR DISTRICT



TOM CHARLTON
VERMONT HOUSE
WINDHAM-WINDSOR DISTRICT



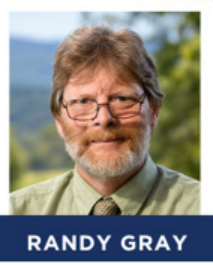
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• ELIMINATE COSTLY ENERGY MANDATES • FIGHTING FOR A BETTER EDUCATION FUTURE
• MAKING COMMUNITIES SAFE AND INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY
• WORKING TO FIGHT ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE
OF WINDSOR COUNTY AND ALL OF VERMONT.

VOTE
November 3rd

Paid for by Windsor County Republican Committee.
PO Box 16, Chester Vt 05143

opinion

Dear Friends,

I am David Trumble, Democratic candidate for New Hampshire State Senate in District 8. District 8 is made up of 20 towns in four counties, from Charlestown and Claremont all the way to Weare.

My wife, Linda, a special education teacher, and I have been married for 30 years and have two grown children, who both attended our public schools. We built our home and farm in Weare, a good place to raise a family and run a small business. I have been an organic farmer for 40 years. I am running for office to help our towns be a great place to live and raise a family for young people today.

Our rural towns need a strong voice for our public schools and our natural environment. I ran for this seat in 2024 and have been active throughout the district. I have been a strong voice at the State House in Concord, testifying over 100 times on legislation to benefit our region and the people of the state.

Here are my top three priorities for common sense solutions.

First, the state should live up to its constitutional duty to provide adequate funding to the public schools. Every child in New Hampshire deserves a good education. Ninety percent of our children attend a public school. They represent the future of our economy and our democracy.

New Hampshire is last in the country in terms of the state's share of funding for public schools. The state provides only 25% of expenses, while the national average is around 50%. For special education, the State of New Hampshire only funds 11%. No other state leaves the cost of paying for the public schools almost entirely to the towns.

The local property tax system is near the breaking point, causing stress for homeowners and renters alike. Seniors are being forced out of their homes. Homelessness in New Hampshire has risen fourfold in the last seven years. More state funding for public schools would provide property tax relief and allow towns to adequately fund their fire departments, roads, and libraries.

Republicans have been in charge for the past 10 years and start each session with a tax cut for the wealthy and large corporations. They expanded the voucher program to provide subsidies to the wealthiest families in the state. Combined, these steps cost the state over $400 million a year in revenue that could go to support all our people.

Second, we need to make New Hampshire a place where young people can afford to settle down. This means being able to own a home, raise a family, and have access to affordable childcare and healthcare, including mental health care.

The state needs to be an active partner in addressing these issues. Instead, the Republicans have defunded the Housing Champions program, which helps towns that want more affordable housing. They defunded the state's major childcare workforce program, refusing to pay early education workers a living wage. They defunded the arts. They have made it harder for people who need food assistance and medical care to get help.

Third, we need to restore civility and treat everyone with respect. There is no room for policies that drive people apart. We are our best when all members of the community are welcome.

We have run a grassroots campaign with hundreds of people volunteering their time or making contributions. You can learn more at www.trumble4nh.com, and on Facebook and Instagram.

When it comes to ballot question No. 2, I urge you to vote "no." It does not solve the chronic underfunding of public schools by the state, and it will force our local schools to cut essential education programs like art, music, career and technical education, AP classes, extra reading instruction, and after-school activities.

I would be honored to have your vote on Nov. 3. Also, I would ask you to please vote for my fellow Democratic candidates. Together, we will work hard for you. Thank you!

Sincerely,
David Trumble
Paid for by Trumble4NH, 52 Poor Farm Road, Weare, NH 03281

Dear Editor,

I'd like to thank Cavendish, Proctorsville, and local fire departments for all their efforts organizing search parties for me on Oct. 4 and 5, when hiking Lord's State Forest. I lost my way, but spent the evening enjoying moonlight in Vermont. I especially appreciate the efforts of all those individuals in the search parties organized by the fire department, state police, and the Windsor County Sheriff's Department who extended use of their drone and infrared technology to help me. Finally, I got back to where I entered Lord's State Forest and connected with Peter Kolenda.

With Gratitude,
Pieter van Schaik
Windsor, Vt.

To the Editor,

Vermont's constitution turns 250 next July. The rights it declares are old; the pressure on them is new.

Vermonters have taken to their village greens in numbers not seen in years. They are finding permits, fees, and insurance requirements waiting for them, and more being written. At least one town in every county in Vermont has an ordinance or policy on the books regulating assembly or speech. And in July 2025, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns advised every city and town in Vermont to adopt a policy on protests. Both halves of that story are close to home. Ludlow's ordinance on unlawful assemblies, already on the books, is arguably in direct conflict with a First Amendment decision of the United States Supreme Court. In Chester, where I own a home, a first draft of a rule for the town Green reached the selectboard for its Oct. 7 meeting.

Vermont's constitution is older than the First Amendment and differently made. It does not say what government may not abridge; it says what the people have. It declares that "the people have a right to assemble together," and it commands that the rights it declares "ought not to be violated on any pretence [sic] whatsoever." It carries a history almost no one remembers: In 1786, asked to confine assembly to gatherings held "in a legal way," a Vermont convention refused. The Vermont Supreme Court has never said how far that promise reaches.

I am a retired lawyer, and I have taken up that question in an article, "The People Have a Right," which makes the case that the promise reaches the village green, and reaches further than the First Amendment does. It can be read or downloaded without charge at www.ssrn.com/abstract=7524318. Until the Court speaks, the towns writing the rules and the neighbors gathering on the greens are both working without Vermont's answer.

Before Vermont celebrates its constitution, Vermonters – and their selectboards – should hear what it says.

Sincerely,
Don Clark
Chester, Vt.

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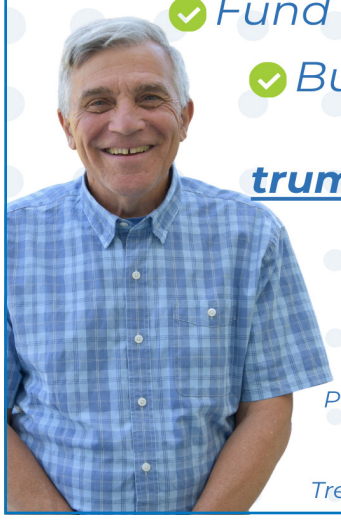
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Vote for a Better NH!
NOVEMBER 3
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PHOEBE TUCKER For VT State Representative 2026 Ludlow - Mt. Holly - Shrewsbury
Thank You!
Thank you to everyone who showed up for our fall hangout in Mount Holly this past weekend to meet State Representative candidate Phoebe Tucker. We are so grateful to the many friends and neighbors who shared food, volunteered their time, and lent their talents!
Thanks especially to **The Belmont Store** for donating cider + wine; the **Oddfellows** for donating our coffee + hot cider set-up; **Seward Farm** for our hay bales + pumpkins; **Mojo Cafe** for the chips + guac; Caitlin Boyle for hosting; Chad Farrar, Bella Tremaine and Eli Tucker for building and painting our Phoebe Float, and Max Cassano for the tunes!
Stay in touch: **www.phoebeforvermont.com**
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arts & entertainment

New art and live jazz at Canal Street Art Gallery

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Canal Street Art Gallery presents the "Form and Function" group show, the "Aspen & Sequoia" duo show, and the Sandy Sherman "Grotoons" solo show, all open Oct. 16 – Dec. 13. Join the gallery on Oct. 16, from 5-7 p.m., for Bellows Falls Third Friday and an opening reception for the artists featuring live jazz by Ashok & Co. All gallery events are free and open to the public; for wheelchair accessibility, call 802-289-0104.

The "Aspen & Sequoia" duo show, by artists Aspen Lapham Fersch and Sequoia Isis Mayer, both based in Rochester, Vt., presents a mixed-media collaboration including portraits of impactful family members and friends, and found objects of deep personal importance. These two series, titled "Mod(ern) Portraits" and "In a Jar" are inspired by both artists' love for the natural world as expressed by observing and immersing themselves in nature, along with travel, encouraging kindness, and the process of learning new things. "In a Jar" is influenced by the book of the same title by Deborah Marcero.

Sherman, based in Stoddard, N.H., has developed a series of paintings titled "Grotoons" inspired by art historical "grotesques," especially figures which appeal to a certain bizarreness, invoke emotions of sympathetic pity, and combine with humor. Examples in painting of such creatures, often mixed between animals and humans, are seen in the margins of illuminated manuscripts, where they are known as a "drollery." Sherman's "Grotoons" paintings are being offered as hand-touched and varnished archival pigment prints on canvas, mounted, matted, and framed by the artist.

The "Form and Function" group show is inspired by the success of the gallery's Form and Function Shop, and the gallery is pleased to welcome new artwork to Bellows Falls by Chris Archer, Whitney Barrett, Robert Burch, Robert DuGrenier, Terresa Flowers, Judi Forman, Corinne Greenhalgh, Nicholas Kekic, Mark Ragonesse, Susi Ryan, Andy Snyder, Sarah Sweeney, and Almut Yakovleff.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street in historic downtown Bellows Falls, Vt., and is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., and the third Friday of every month, from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.canalstreetartgallery.com, call 802-289-0104, or email artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com.

"The Librarians" at Bellows Falls Opera House

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Free Public Library and the Friends of the Rockingham Free Public Library, along with numerous other public libraries on both sides of the Connecticut River, have joined together to present a free screening of "The Librarians" at the Bellows Falls Opera House, on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m.

This timely documentary, winner of the 2026 Emmy Award for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking, follows librarians on the front lines of the growing movement to ban books and restrict access to information in public and school libraries.

Through the stories of librarians, educators, and community members, the film explores the importance of intellectual freedom, the freedom to read, and the role libraries play in protecting the right to access diverse ideas and perspectives.

This event will take place on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m., at the Bellows Falls Opera House, 7 Village Square, Bellows Falls, Vt., and is free and open to the public. All are welcome.

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.

Rupert Wates plus the Early Risers at Stage 33

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Stage 33 Live welcomes the return of Rupert Wates on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m. The Early Risers will open. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.stage33live.com, or at the door as available; advance tickets guarantee entry. Only 40 tickets will be sold.

Though British by birth, Wates has been hailed as "a prime figure in American music." Since 2006, the London-born, Oxford-educated, award-winning songwriter has made his home between New York City and Colorado, performing throughout North America and Europe. He has released 12 acclaimed solo albums earning international airplay, and has received more than 50 songwriting awards. Dozens of recording artists have covered his songs on their albums.

While the doors to large venues and big festivals are open to him, he has a great fondness for intimate listening rooms where the focus is on connection and storytelling. He captivates audiences with his haunting, eclectic blend of acoustic, melodic art/folk infused with elements of jazz and cabaret.

The recognition that regular people are what make the world extraordinary is reflected in his vivid, sophisticated songwriting that by turns is vulnerable and bold, featuring intricate lyrics and memorable melodies, exceptional guitar skills, and his smooth, expressive voice.

Ashley Storrow and Putnam Smith joined forces as the Early Risers in 2015 and have since toured across the country, from Maine, to Texas, to California, to Vancouver, B.C., at notable venues such as Club Passim, Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, and the High Plains Public Radio concert series. Rootsy and lyric-driven, the Early Risers feature close vocal harmonies and arrangements on an array of instruments. Their debut album, "Making Life Sweet," went to No. 1 on the national Folk DJ Charts.

Singer-songwriter Myra Flynn in Claremont

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Singer-songwriter Myra Flynn will perform on Thursday, Oct. 22, from 6:30-8 p.m., at the Claremont Creative Center, 56 Opera House Square in Claremont, N.H., presented by the West Claremont Center for Music and the Arts. Tickets may be purchased on a sliding scale at www.wcc-ma.org/event/myra-flynn-6. Students are admitted free.

Flynn spends her career embracing dichotomy. Half Irish and half African American, her original indie/soul songs blend soulful vocals with a lyrical delivery that doesn't let one get too comfortable.

Flynn is a lyrical storyteller who uses her voice to empower, inspire, and even educate. She fearlessly tackles topics that others shy away from in both her music and in her journalism career. She says that motherhood has left her no more time to be self-conscious and there is no room for shyness. She finds a new strength, independence and inspiration in her daughter, Avalon, and her husband, Phil. Flynn is a singer, songwriter, journalist, advocate, ally, mother, wife, and always, unapologetically human.

Her podcast with Vermont Public Radio, titled "Homegoings," is a "righteous space for art and race." It's a show that invites listeners to be a fly on the wall, privy to candid and genuine conversations about race. It explores themes that fearlessly straddle the line between necessary and uncomfortable, as she speaks with artists, experts, and regular folks all over the country about their literal skin in the game of everyday life. "Homegoings" is storytelling with a heartbeat. No topic is off the table, and there's no such thing as going "too deep."

Currently, Flynn lives a bicostal life, still holding onto her roots in Vermont part of the year while also working and living in Los Angeles under the guidance of Swift Street Management Team. She has created a jewelry line made from recycled piano parts and recently partnered with Shelburne Vineyard in Vermont to create a namesake wine, Flynn.

Performances at Next Stage Arts

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents Tony Vacca and Fusion Nomads with special guest Massamba Diop on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 6 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. Doors open at 5:15 p.m. The concert is part of Next Stage's Local & Global Performance Series.

Led by innovative percussionist and balafon player Tony Vacca, Fusion Nomads brings together musicians whose individual paths through jazz, global traditions, and improvisation create a richly textured, boundary-crossing sound. The ensemble features Jo Sallins on electric bass and percussion, Charles Langford on saxophone, and John Sheldon on harp-guitar.

Joining the group is Massamba Diop, a master of the Senegalese tama, or talking drum, and longtime member of Baaba Maal's internationally renowned band.

On Friday, Oct. 23, Next Stage Arts presents "Buddhadeva," a tender and searching solo performance by Akaina Ghosh, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage Arts. Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

In "Buddhadeva," Ghosh creates a love letter and a conjuring in conversation with the life and work of their great-grandfather, the prolific Bengali writer and poet Buddhadeva Bose. Set along the banks of the Ganga River, a place associated with death and rebirth, the work moves through poetry, music, memory, ritual, love, loss, and translation.

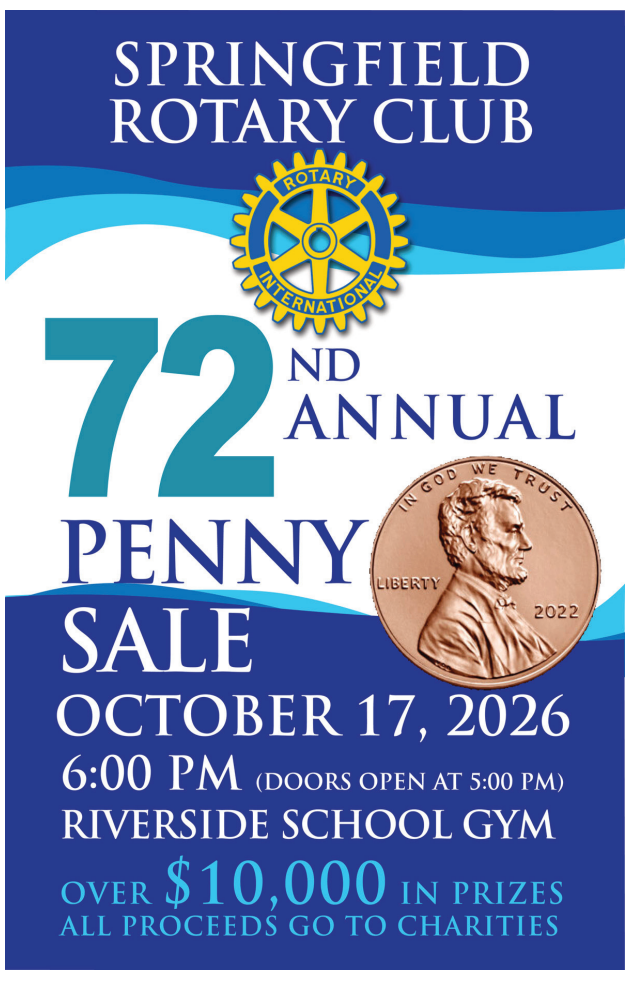
Ghosh, a nonbinary, second-generation American-Bengali artist, seeks connection with an ancestor they never knew through Bose's writings and poetry. The performance considers what can be recovered from a family history that survives in fragments, particularly when language itself becomes a distance to cross.

Tickets and more information are available at www.nextstagearts.org.







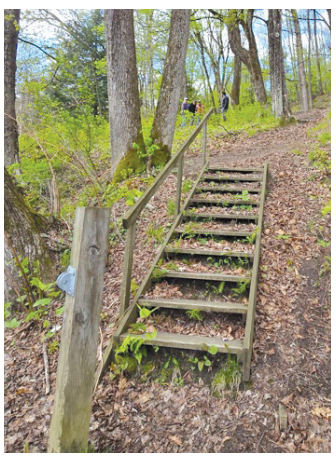




fall home improvement

BRAT installs infiltration steps

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Since 1965, the Meeting Waters YMCA Lewis Day Camp, on Route 5 in Springfield, Vt., provides healthy outdoor adventures for children ages 5-13, including canoeing on the Black River. However, the camp had a problem: Its wooden staircase leading down to the river was aging, the footpath was steep and bare, and heavy rain would wash fine soils down the slope and into the river.



Before. PHOTO PROVIDED



After. PHOTO PROVIDED

Early in 2026, after being contacted by the camp director the previous November, the Black River Action Team (BRAT) applied for a Vermont Enhancement Development, Design, and Implementation Block Grant (EDDIBG) through the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission. Through this funding, BRAT was able to contract with the NorthWoods Stewardship Center, which designed a set of infiltration steps that would replace the existing narrow and steep staircase.

Infiltration steps are open-bottomed steps that are dug into the slope, lined with erosion-control fabric, and backfilled with stone. This allows rainfall and snowmelt to permeate through the stones and into the hillside behind, rather than racing down the slope.

The project was completed by the NorthWoods crew in early September over the course of just four days, with assistance from the Black River Action Team. Each step is larger than the wooden slats on the old staircase, providing greater safety and stability for campers. A wooden handrail was added, and a gentler footpath was cleared of vegetation to further protect the river from any eroding sediment. The old footpath was covered with a layer of leaf 'duff' and branches to capture and slow rainfall, and to provide an opportunity for nearby ferns to colonize the area naturally.

Next year's campers will enjoy improved access to the river for safer adventures and more confident footing, and the Black River's banks will be less susceptible to erosion during storms.

State biologist to give talk at Cavendish Fletcher Library

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Vermont offers some incredible online tools to help you learn more about your land and understand its ecological context. Figuring out how to use them can feel a bit overwhelming. Join the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association (CCCA) as it hosts Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Conservation Planner Jens Hilke for an informative session on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 6 p.m., at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, 473 Main Street in Proctorsville, Vt. Hilke will walk listeners step by step through the Vermont BioFinder mapping tool, which enables users to learn more about what's on their parcels and how they fit in with larger forest blocks and waterways. He will also offer a preview of upcoming changes to these tools so users can stay ahead and make the most of them in the coming years.

Hilke works for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department as a conservation planning biologist. He helps towns, regional planning commissions, and nongovernmental organizations with their conservation planning efforts. This includes help with GIS natural resource mapping, advice on prioritizing significant natural features, and help with implementing town conservation goals. Hilke did his undergraduate work at Connecticut College in environmental sociology, and then received a master's degree in botany from the University of Vermont as a field naturalist. Hilke has taught high school science in Vermont, New Hampshire, and New Jersey, and for a study-abroad program in Thailand.

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home & business PROS TO KNOW

Maybe it's time to build your new home

REGION – You've toured the homes. You've scrolled through the listings. But everything seems to be missing something – the right location, enough space, the kitchen you want, a home office, more privacy, or simply a layout that actually works for the way you live. At some point, you may start wondering, "What if I built instead?"

Building a home isn't right for everyone, but if you aren't finding what you want in the existing housing market, it may be an option worth exploring.

Start with the home you want

One of the biggest advantages of building is the opportunity to create a home around your life instead of adapting your life to someone else's home. Maybe your family is growing and you need more bedrooms. Perhaps you work from home and want dedicated office space. You may already own land, want more outdoor space, or simply like the idea of moving into a brand-new home with fewer immediate repairs or renovations.

Building also gives you more say about the details, from the floor plan and finishes to the features that matter most to you. Of course, having more choices also means having more decisions to make. That's why understanding your budget early is so important.

Figure out financing before the floor plan

You don't need to have a builder, blueprints, and every finish selected before you talk to a lender. In fact, financing can be a smart place to start. At PrimeLending, you can begin with a custom mortgage assessment based on your goals, budget, and current situation. From there, we'll help you understand what you may be able to afford and walk you through the construction financing options that could fit. That gives you a more realistic price range before you get too far into plans, land, or builder conversations.

Construction financing doesn't have to be complicated

A construction loan works differently from the mortgage you might use to purchase an existing home, because funds are typically provided throughout the building process rather than all at once.

Depending on your needs, your options could include a one-time close construction loan, which combines construction and permanent financing into one process, or a two-time close option, which allows you to refinance into a traditional mortgage after construction is complete.

You won't be navigating that process alone. A dedicated construction lending team can help keep the financing moving, including coordinating inspections and handling progress payments to your builder as construction moves forward. That leaves you more time to focus on the part you've probably been imagining: watching your new home take shape.

You don't need everything figured out

Maybe you already own land. Maybe you've found the perfect lot, but haven't selected a builder. Or maybe building is simply an idea you've started thinking about because nothing on the market feels quite right. That's enough to start a conversation.

You may also have more flexibility than you realize. Depending on your financial situation and financing strategy, you may not need to sell your current home before construction begins. If you already own land, the value you've built in that property may also factor into your financing options. The best first step is simply finding out what's possible.

If building has crossed your mind, even as a "someday" idea, let's talk. We'll start with your vision, look at the numbers, and help you understand what it could take to turn your plans into a place to call home.

You deserve a home customized to your needs. Why not start with financing that is, too?

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, PrimeLending, Ludlow, Vt.

Headshots & Handshakes networking event

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) is excited to bring its popular BizConnect networking series back to Brattleboro with a special Headshots & Handshakes event on Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 6-8 p.m., at Saxtons Distillery, 155 Chickering Drive in Brattleboro. Register at www.brattleborodevelopment.com/bizconnect.

Cohosted with the Better Business Bureau and in partnership with Vermont Small Business Development Center (VTSBDC), the Brattleboro Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance, this event gives local business owners, entrepreneurs, and professionals the chance to build relationships, refresh their professional image, and expand their network.

Headshots & Handshakes is a program run by the Better Business Bureau, designed to help business owners and professionals strengthen their personal brand and show up with confidence. Participants will have the opportunity to get a free professional headshot taken during the program as well as connect with fellow entrepreneurs, share ideas, and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

BizConnect is part of BDCC's commitment to fostering a resilient and diverse community. Its goal is to ensure you have the tools and connections necessary to achieve your business objectives. Don't miss out on these chances to advance your business knowledge and opportunities. Attendance is free, but registration is required, as space is limited to 70 participants.

BDCC Southern Vermont Employee Ownership Forum

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Southern Vermont is home to one of New England's strongest communities of employee-owned businesses. From nationally recognized ESOPs to worker-owned cooperatives and community-based enterprises, employee ownership has become an important part of the region's economic landscape. This November, Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC), in partnership with the Vermont Employee Ownership Center (VEOC) and regional partners, will bring together business owners, employee-owners, advisors, and community leaders for a full day of learning, networking, and collaboration centered on the power of shared ownership.

The event will feature multiple educational tracks focused on employee-owned companies and business transition strategies, creating opportunities for organizations at every stage – from those simply curious about employee ownership to established ESOPs and cooperatives looking to deepen their ownership culture.

The full-day event features two complementary educational programs designed for different audiences while encouraging shared learning throughout the day. To register, visit www.veoc.org/sovt-eo-forum.

Everyone registered is welcome for lunch, from 12-1 p.m., and reception, at 4:30 p.m.

The morning program, "Business Owner Succession Workshop," from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., is an interactive, small-group session designed for business owners who are actively considering retirement, succession planning, or transitioning their business. Participants will work through key questions surrounding business readiness, valuation, timing, financing options, and ownership transition strategies. The workshop will explore a variety of succession pathways, with a focus on key employee or broad-based employee ownership conversion.

The afternoon transitions from 1-5 p.m. to a broader regional forum focused on employee-owned businesses, bringing together people from employee-owned companies, business owners, and advisors from across Vermont, southern New Hampshire, and western Massachusetts.

Sessions will explore topics including building ownership culture, open-book management and financial education, employee ownership committees, governance and cooperative leadership, leadership succession at employee owned businesses, practical tools for existing ESOPs and worker cooperatives, and roundtable discussions connecting business leaders and practitioners.










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Springfield Dam Run recap —



Runners about to cross the Springfield Dam Run finish line.
PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Saturday, Sept. 12, the Edgar May Health & Recreation Center's revamped Springfield Dam Run saw more than 120 participants, spectators, and volunteers. With the event taking place all at the Springfield Dam, runners enjoyed running along the trail through greenery, taking in scenic views of Mount Ascutney. This year, the Dam Run also welcomed members of the Riverside Middle School cross-country team and their coaches, who joined in on the race.

Children under 12 participated in the free Kids' Half-Mile Fun Run sponsored by HB Energy Solutions, and each received a new Edgar May water bottle and an HB Energy slap bracelet as they crossed the finish line. All children under age 12 who participated in any of the races were entered into a raffle to win a youth mountain bike from Tygart Sports in Ludlow. This year's winner was Arminta Buck, age 7.

This year's new race, the Maniac Mile, sponsored by Mascoma Bank, invited runners to sprint across the finish line with $250 cash prizes for the top male and female finisher in the race. All participants received a Mascoma Bank Maniac Mile cooling towel. Elijah Bodanza, age 17, of Walpole, N.H., was the first to cross the finish line and the top male finisher with a time of 5:50.81. The top female finisher was Heidi Westover, of Walpole, N.H., with a time of 5:59.31.

Bodanza and Westover were also the top male and female finishers of the Springfield Dam Run 5K with times of 17:17.61 and 19:44.84 respectively. They each received a package of pork and beef from Vermont Raised Heritage Meats worth $250. All Dam Run 5K participants received an Edgar May collapsible backpack.

Top male and female finishers in their age groups each received a special Dam Run iron-on patch as recognition of their achievement. This year's top female runners were Eowyn McNaughton for ages 1-9, Nora Waters for ages 10-19, Malia Sinclair for ages 20-29, Stephanie Knockenhauer for ages 30-39, Wendy Doust-McNaughton for ages 40-49, and Susan White for ages 60-69. Top male finishers were Adler Gleeson for ages 10-19, Damir Babic for ages 30-39, Kevin Hollebeek for ages 40-49, Floyd Buck for ages 50-59, and Ken Walker for ages 70-79.

For the second year, the Dam Run event included a family fun zone with concessions by JC's Market & Deli, bananas and apples donated by Black River Produce, face painting with Mona Frye, and a mobile axe throwing unit provided by Keene Axe House.

The Springfield Dam Run was a huge success in large part due to its sponsors: Kids' Fun Run sponsor HB Energy Solutions; Maniac Mile sponsor Mascoma Bank; hydration sponsor Lamb & McNaughton PC; and community sponsors Belmont Septic Design, Claremont Savings Bank, Cota & Cota, Springfield Rotary Club, and VTel.

CPWGA annual invitational

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Crown Point Women's Golf Association (CPWGA) proudly hosted its annual invitational on Sept. 12, at Crown Point Country Club (CPCC) in Springfield, Vt.

A total of 88 women, forming 44 two-person teams, competed in an exciting 18-hole tournament featuring three unique formats: six holes of best ball, six holes of shamble, and six holes of scramble.

Tournament results are as follows:

Flight 1 – Gross score: first place, Kristen Shaeffer and Michelle Devino; second place, Lisa Kelly and Melissa Rice; third place, Darlene Remy and Jojo Valente. Net score: first place, M.K. Oakley and Annie Greenwood; second place, Shelley Murdock and Elizabeth Kolodziej; third place, Robin Pettingell and Jennifer Dow.

Flight 2 – Gross score: first place: Kylie Bailey and Giselle Lafleche; second place, Kathy Martin and Doreen Martin; third place, Heather Hartford and Maddie Streeter. Net score: first place, Mary Patria and Kim Kiniry, second place, Sally Hall and Alanna Farnsworth; third place, Jane Sandelman and Marilyn Scholl.

Flight 3 – Gross score: first place, Jenny Anderson and Susan Lockerby; second place, Sherry Richardson and Suzy Coutermarsh; third place, Tish Lewis and Doris Ingram. Net score: first place, Celeste Bouchard and Tammy Nelson; second place, Kada Sigl and Hilary Hammond; third place, Barbara Courchesne and Meghan Courchesne.

Special contest winners: Closest to the pin (Hole 5), Alanna Farnsworth; closest to the pin (Hole 9), Kristen Shaeffer; closest to the pin (Hole 13), Linda Dolan; and closest to the pin (Hole 18), Christine Campbell.

CPWGA would like to thank the following sponsors: Gold Sponsors HB Energy Solutions, Skida, and Lundgren Subaru of Claremont; Silver Sponsors One Credit Union, Cannatrol, Cruise Planners, Edgar May Health & Recreation Center, and Surface Creations; Bronze Sponsors All Season Construction, Blended Studio & Suites, Brady/Donahue Attorneys at Law, Bushway Construction, Christopher Fauver DDS, Claremont Savings Bank, Copper Fox Restaurant, Crissy Webster Counseling Services LLC, Davis Memorial Chapel, DHS Designs – Residential Designs, Heiden's Construction, IVEK Corporation, Jerry Farnum State Farm, Lamb & McNaughton PC, Parker & Ankuda, Precision Software, Red House Press, Skip & Carol Cleveland, Springfield Aviation, Springfield Regional Development Corporation, the Richards Group – An IMA Company, the Sanderson family, the Warren family, Ultimate Autobody, and Zen Revolution.

The following businesses provided in-kind donations: Woodbury Florist, Wellwood Orchards, Willow Farm Pet Services, Bibens Ace Hardware, Salon 2000, Claremont Country Club, Shear Beauty Salon, Brattleboro Country Club, Springfield Food Co-op, and Crown Point Women's Golf League.

The CPWGA extends its sincere appreciation to all sponsors, raffle donors, volunteers, and participants for their generosity and support. Their contributions helped make this event a tremendous success and will support continued improvements at Crown Point Country Club.





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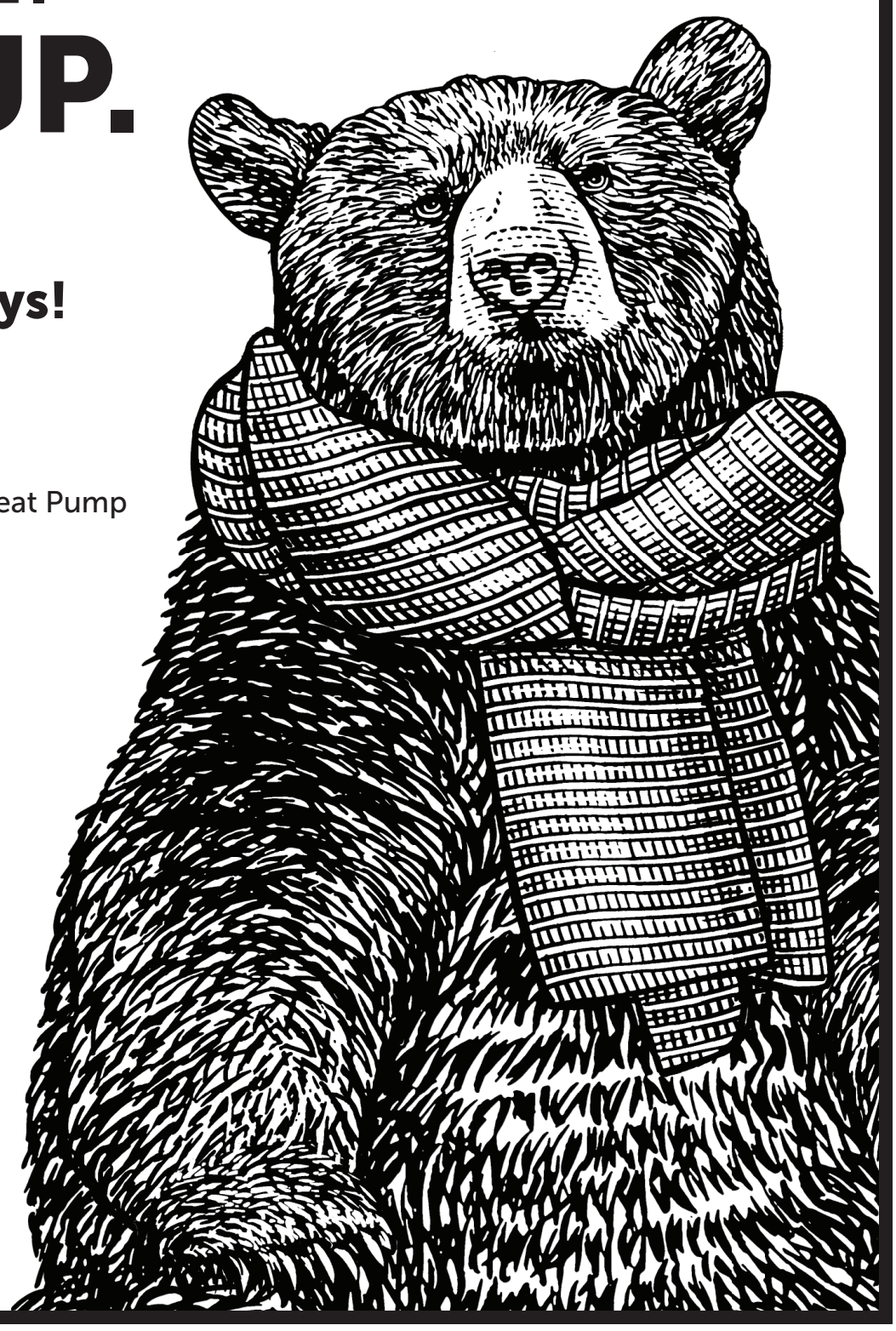
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Local businesses invited to join Benson's Trunk-or-Treat



Join Benson's Trunk-or-Treat.
PHOTO PROVIDED

LUDLOW, Vt – Benson's Chevrolet is inviting local businesses and organizations to join in the Halloween fun at its annual trunk-or-treat on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 4-6 p.m. Come help fill the Benson's Chevrolet parking lot with decorated vehicles, creative trunks, lots of treats, and plenty of Halloween spirit.

Local businesses are invited to bring their business vehicles, decorate their trunks, dress up in their favorite Halloween theme, and bring treats for the kids. Whether the display is spooky, silly, creative, or downright spectacular, Benson's Chevrolet wants you to be part of the celebration.

Trunk-or-treat is a great way for local businesses to connect with families in the community while helping create a fun and safe Halloween experience for local children. So, gather your coworkers, grab your decorations, stock up on treats, and join in.

Register for Claremont Parks & Rec Trunk-or-Treat



Register for the Claremont Trunk-or-Treat.
PHOTO PROVIDED

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Parks & Recreation Department will host a trunk-or-treat on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 3:30-5 p.m., on Pleasant Street in Claremont, N.H., featuring candy, games, and a haunted house. Don't forget to wear your costume!

Please register at www.tinyurl.com/Claremont2026Trunkor-Treat. For more information, call 603-542-7091.

FALL INTO SAVINGS!
60-DAY CHRISTMAS LAYAWAY!
SALE ENDS OCT. 25TH!
HOT LA-Z-BOY BUYS!

NOAH

SOFA $1259
LOVESEAT $1239

KENNEDY

SOFA OR APT SOFA $1369
LOVESEAT $1329

OLSON

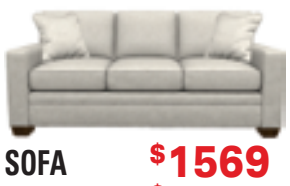
SOFA OR APT SOFA $1399
CHAIR 1/2 $1219

SHILOH

SOFA OR APT SOFA $1429
CHAIR 1/2 $1239

CHARLIE

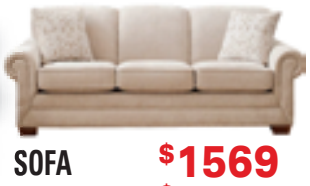
SOFA OR APT SOFA $1429
CHAIR 1/2 $1239

MEYER

SOFA $1569
LOVESEAT $1519

COLLINS

SOFA $1569
LOVESEAT $1519

77 AVAILABLE FABRICS!

MACKENZIE

SOFA $1569
CHAIR 1/2 $1519

LEAH

FULL SLEEPER $1779
QUEEN SLEEPER $1889

RECLINERS BY LA-Z-BOY

SHERMAN

$529

SCARLETT

$699

TROUPER

$819

PINNACLE

$829

ASTER

$979

RANDELL

$999

Best Home Furnishings

CANNES

ROCKER OR WALL HUGGER $599
POWER $699

RAIDER

ROCKER OR WALL HUGGER $619
POWER $719

CONEN

ROCKER OR WALL HUGGER $649
POWER $749

BROSEMER

ROCKER OR WALL HUGGER $689
POWER $789

SEGER

ROCKER OR WALL HUGGER $749
POWER $849

CONQUISTADOR

ROCKER $999
POWER ROCKER $1299

POWER LIFT RECLINERS BY UltraComfort

DESTIN

3 SIZES SMALL MEDIUM OR LARGE
STARTING AT $929

ASPEN

WITH ADJUSTABE HEADREST
STARTING AT $1369

MARBELLA

ADJUSTABLE BACK, FOOTREST, HEADREST & LUMBAR
STARTING AT $1499

POLARIS

ADJUSTABLE BACK & FOOTREST 3 SIZES SMALL MEDIUM OR LARGE
STARTING AT $1799

ALORA

ADJUSTABLE BACK, FOOTREST, HEADREST & LUMBAR NIRVANA HEAT & MASSAGE
3 SIZES SMALL MEDIUM OR LARGE
STARTING AT $2179

ARTEMIS II

ADJUSTABLE BACK, FOOTREST, HEADREST & ECLIPSE
2 SIZES MEDIUM OR LARGE
STARTING AT $2549

OVER 300 RECLINERS & 60 DIFFERENT LIFT RECLINERS IN STOCK BY ASHLEY, BEST HOME, & LA-Z-BOY!

50% OFF SELECT LA-Z-BOY SOFAS & LOVESEATS WHILE THEY LAST!

LAUREL

SOFA
~~REG $1,399.99~~
NOW $700

PIPER

LOVESEAT
~~REG $1,399.99~~
NOW $700

NATALIE

QUEEN SLEEPER
~~REG $1,999.99~~
NOW $1000

Serta MATTRESS CLOSEOUT WHILE THEY LAST!

CLASSIC
DORIAN

XFIRM OR PLUSH
TWIN REG $549.99 NOW $275
FULL REG $699.99 NOW $350
QUEEN REG $749.99 NOW $375

PERFECT SLEEPER
COBALT CALM

FIRM-PLUSH OR MEDIUM PILLOW TOP
TWIN REG $899.99 NOW $450
FULL REG $1099.99 NOW $550
QUEEN REG $1199.99 NOW $600
KING REG $1499.99 NOW $750

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