



THE Vermont Journal

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Sam's Steakhouse demolished



LUDLOW, Vt. – Sam's Steakhouse, in Ludlow, was demolished on Sept. 28. The building was bought out by FEMA after extensive flood damage. Further work continues as



crews cleared the debris and leveled the lot, which will be maintained as a flood plain area. PHOTOS BY SHAWN TAE WEBB

Brattleboro Birthing Center survives possible shutdown

BY JOE MILLIKEN

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – The Brattleboro Memorial Hospital (BMH) Board of Directors recently announced that the hospital's popular birthing center will remain open, after it was announced in July that sustaining the center beyond 2026 was unrealistic. The financially struggling medical facility had announced that it would shut down its birthing center due to the loss of millions of dollars over multiple years. However, an outcry from the birthing center staff, doctors, midwives, and many community members, and a grassroots-style rally to raise awareness, convinced hospital officials to reconsider closing the regionally important birth center.

The result, according to BMH's obstetrics department head, Corina Tennant, was the raising of \$325,000 in pledged donations over just a week's time. "These are not rich people," Tennant stated in a recent hospital statement. "These are people who saw the risk of losing this [facility] and dug deep into their pockets to give an amount of money that they've probably never given to any cause in their life." After previous hospital attempts to receive state assistance from Vermont Gov. Phil Scott had failed, an early-September press release from hospital officials announced that BMH would receive funding from the state's Rural Health Transportation Program. However, it re-



Brattleboro Memorial Hospital birthing center. PHOTO PROVIDED

mains unclear how much funding the hospital will receive. "The board believes strongly that access to local maternity care is essential to the health and wellbeing

of our community," Chloe Learey said in a recent hospital statement. Learey is the chair of BMH's board of directors. "We are very encouraged by the progress that has been made

and by the opportunity to continue improving how we deliver care." Hospital officials have mapped out a new plan to operate the birthing center much more effectively and efficiently, which will include increasing the availability of patient appointments, making staffing adjustments, and upgrading billing practices and office management. Moving forward, BMH officials also plan to combat the struggles rural areas face, such as high fixed costs, by advocating for higher reimbursement rates, including Vermont's Medicaid program. Hospital-based maternity care has been struggling throughout the state, with birthing centers in Springfield and Morrisville closing in recent years.

Locally inspired book released

CHESTER, Vt. – Author Carol Ann Leofanti has released her new book, "The Stone House Killer," available on Amazon. Leofanti describes her book as a psychological thriller that takes place in a small town in Vermont, following a man named Dale who becomes fascinated with the story of his distant relative Phineas P. Gage, the railroad worker who survived a tamping iron passing through his skull only to emerge a completely different man. The story captures Dale's imagination and, over the years, that fascination slowly deepens into something far more consuming. Leofanti was born in Worcester, Mass., and has fond memories of her childhood growing up in Grafton, Mass. After graduating from Grafton High School, she went on to explore a variety of different careers in the Worcester County area, including owning and operating a breakfast/lunch restaurant, Gormandize Haven in Uxbridge, Mass., and earning a certification in early childhood educa-

tion at Becker College in Worcester, Mass. In 2011, Leofanti received her nursing pin as recognition for becoming a licensed practical nurse, and has enjoyed working in a variety of positions in the healthcare industry. In 2018, Leofanti and her boyfriend, Mark Ouellette, owned and operated Stone House Bed & Breakfast and Kettle Corn Company in Chester, Vt., for five years. In 2021, Carol became part owner of Head Case Creations LLC, a company that sells fire sprinkler head protective cases used to provide temporary protection to fire sprinkler heads during active periods of construction, demolition, renovation, and mechanical services. Living in Wells, Maine, Leofanti enjoys walking on the beach, photography, painting, writing, and spending time with family and friends. She can be contacted at leofantcarol@gmail.com.

West River Coffee Barn adds EV charging station

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – West River Coffee Barn, a women-owned community coffee shop in Londonderry, has installed a new dual-port Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) charger in its parking lot at 2309 North Main Street in Londonderry, Vt. The project was fully funded by a Workplace EV Charging grant from Charge Vermont, with support from Green Mountain Power. The new ChargePoint CP6000 station can charge two vehicles at the same time. The station roughly doubles the public charging in Londonderry. Until now, the only public chargers in town were at Neighborhood Connections on the other side of town. For drivers passing through on their way to the mountains, to foliage viewing, or to other towns, a Level 2 charger at the Coffee Barn means they can add range while they get a coffee and a bite to eat.



West River Coffee Barn's new dual-port Level 2 EV charger. PHOTO PROVIDED

"We've been connected to Londonderry since the 1960s and love seeing the town evolve. Our mission when we opened the Coffee Barn was to bring this heavily trafficked corner back to life in service to

the community. It is our hope that this new charging station makes it easier for people to live here, work here, and visit," said Kristin Nelson, managing co-owner. "We are pleased that anyone stopping in can plug in, grab a latte, and head back out with more range." "We're grateful to Green Mountain Power and Charge Vermont. Grants like this help small rural businesses take part in Vermont's move to cleaner transportation," added co-owner Karen Nelson.

CORRECTION:

The article "Weston elects two new members to selectboard" published in the Sept. 30, 2026, edition of The Vermont Journal, stated that Duane Hart was a road foreman, but failed to clarify that he served in the position for the Town of Londonderry, not Weston. It also stated that Hart had called for selectboard members' resignations. While Hart did allege open meeting law violations by selectboard members, he did not call for them to resign.



Scarecrow Festival contest winners

CHESTER, Vt. – The Scarecrow Festival on the Green in Chester, on Saturday, Oct. 3, was a great success. Matilda and Three Bears is pleased to announce the winners of the Chester Scarecrow competition. First-place prize and \$50 gift certificate was awarded to Six Loose Ladies. Second-place prize and a \$35 gift certificate was awarded to Gussie's Place. Third-place prize and a \$25 gift certificate was awarded to The Inn Between. Gift certificates are to Matilda and Three Bears, the sponsor of the event. PHOTOS PROVIDED

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OUR OFFICE

OFFICE ADDRESS:
8 High Street • PO Box 228 • Ludlow, VT
BILLING ADDRESS:
PO Box 116 • Rutland, VT 05702
PHONE NUMBER:
802-228-3600
WEBSITE:
www.VermontJournal.com

CONTACT US

SHAWN TAE 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.

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A vicarious visit to New Zealand at St. Luke’s

CHESTER, Vt. – Many people yearn to visit New Zealand, but have been held back by a host of reasons: time, health, finances, and so on. But here’s a chance to visit this amazing place at no cost, locally, deliciously, and vicariously. St. Luke’s Church, the gray church at 313 Main Street in Chester, Vt., is offering a free slideshow visit to the South Island on Tuesday, Oct. 13, from 2-3:30 p.m., in its Willard Hall, located underneath and behind the church. David Carey was smitten by the island, which he claims is “one of the most exciting places to visit.” He touts its many features that include mighty snow-capped mountains with glaciers running almost into the sea; large areas of untamed, unspoiled wilderness; and beaches that stretch far into the distance, plus two very distinct cultures living side by side in an area the size of Illinois with a population of just 1.25 million – about the same as the population of



David Carey in New Zealand.

PHOTO PROVIDED

San Diego. Whether one is adding New Zealand to one’s bucket list, researching amazing places to see, or enjoying a vicarious visit to the land of the kiwis from the comfort of one’s chair, this short excursion promises an easy and pleasurable afternoon to a faraway land of interest

and beauty. No reservation is necessary for this free program, which is open to the public and offers refreshments of coffee, tea, and baked goodies. For additional information on other interesting events, visit www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org/specialevents.

Chester No Kings: Vote Early event

CHESTER, Vt. – This October, millions of Americans will participate in No Kings: Vote Early. This day of action is not purely a protest, it is a day of nonpartisan voter participation.

The Chester No Kings: Vote Early event is sponsored by Indivisible Two Rivers Area and will take place on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 2-4 p.m., on the Chester Green. The event will celebrate democracy and provide information to voters so that every eligible voter knows their options for how

to vote and has a plan to vote early. Early voting is available to all Vermont voters for any reason.

Voting is democracy in action. Please share this No Kings: Vote Early information with your friends and neighbors.

To sign up for Chester’s No Kings Day, visit www.mobilize.us/nokings/event/1035844. To find another No Kings Day event, visit www.nokings.org/#map. For more information, email styeve35@gmail.com.

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Rotary learns about the sport of dog tracking

LUDLOW, Vt. – Have you ever wondered what your dog can really do with its nose? The Tracking Club of Vermont (TCV) is introducing more Vermonters to the fascinating sport of AKC tracking, a dog-led activity that challenges dogs and handlers to work together as a team. Marianne Sutherland, president of TCV, educated members of the Ludlow Rotary Club at a recent meeting.

In tracking, a dog follows the scent of a person along an unknown route, navigating turns and

natural obstacles such as woods, fields, water, brush, and stone walls. Handlers learn to read their dogs and, perhaps most importantly, to trust them. Dogs of all breeds, sizes, and ages can participate.

The Tracking Club of Vermont is licensed by the American Kennel Club to conduct sanctioned tracking tests, where successful dog-and-handler teams can earn AKC tracking titles. The club offers tests at various skill levels throughout the year.

TCV is a volunteer-run organization supported by its members, instructors,

judges, tracklayers, and volunteers. Those interested in learning more about the sport, attending an upcoming event, or becoming involved with the club are encouraged to visit the Tracking Club of Vermont website, www.tracking-clubofvermont.org.

The Ludlow Rotary Club meets most Tuesdays for lunch in Ludlow. The LRC is always welcoming new members. If you would like to attend a meeting and learn how you may make a difference while enjoying the fun and fellowship of others, please contact any rotarian.

FOLA presents legislative candidates forum

LUDLOW, Vt. – In keeping with its tradition, Friends of the Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA) will conduct a candidates forum for those candidates seeking the three Windsor County seats in the Vermont Senate, as well as those seeking the Rutland-Windsor-1 District (RW-1) Vermont House seat representing Ludlow, Mount Holly, and Shrewsbury.

All the candidates seeking the Windsor Senate seats have agreed to participate, as well as those seeking the RW-1 seat. The event will be held at the Ludlow Town Hall auditorium on Oct. 15, at 7 p.m. It will also be accessible via Zoom. Details of the Zoom meeting will be announced in the near future.

The event will seek the candidates’ positions on various issues facing the state gov-

ernment. The program will begin with questions from the moderator, followed by questions from the audience. The moderator of the event will be Jim Alic, FOLA chairman. Jacalyn Diesenhause will be the timekeeper, and audience monitors will be Darlene Remy and Kevin Kuntz.

The forum is open to all interested residents of Windsor County and the three towns making up RW-1.

LRC hears from Vermont Symphony Orchestra director

LUDLOW, Vt. – Elise Brunelle, Vermont Symphony Orchestra (VSO) executive director, spoke to the Ludlow Rotary Club about the varied programs and concerts the orchestra performs. The VSO places a high priority on youth exposure to classical music in

addition to its traditional concerts performed around the state.

The 80-90 musicians perform more than 40 concerts statewide annually. Concerts range from small ensembles, like the free wind ensemble coming to Ludlow’s Heald Auditorium on Oct. 18, at 2 p.m., to school educational performances, to the extravagant July 4 outdoor concerts. The full orchestra performs regularly, including its upcoming concert at the Paramount

Theater in Rutland on Nov. 14, with Judy Collins. Its goal is to make music accessible to all Vermonters.

In its ongoing effort to reach Vermonters in all parts of the state, Brunelle noted that Music Director Andrew Crust posts Facebook videos regularly. The statewide orchestra started in 1934, with Brunelle as executive director since 2020. As the face of the VSO, she looks forward to seeing many locals at its concerts this season.

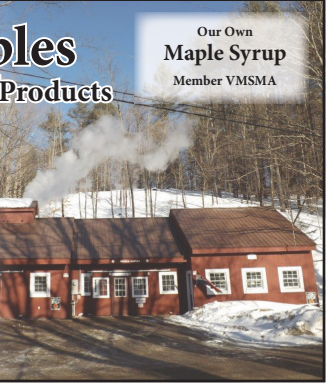
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arts & entertainment

Fall Art at Custer Sharp

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Celebrate fall with a trip to one of Vermont’s hidden gems, the Custer Sharp House in Londonderry. Nestled in the trees just up the hill from the center of town, at 2461 Middletown Road, is a charming 1880s farmhouse once owned by two artists. In 1992, the home was bequeathed to the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society by artist Bernadine Custer Sharp, who was a founding member of Southern Vermont Artists. Members of this creative group of painters exhibited their work in southern Vermont begin-

ning in the 1920s, leading to the creation of the celebrated Southern Vermont Arts Center in Manchester in the 1950s. From now through Oct. 10, you can see the work of local artists beautifully displayed in the rooms of this historic home. You’ll find landscapes that capture the beauty of Vermont in all its seasons, intimate photos of Vermont wildlife, joyful garden paintings, fine prints, calligraphy, collage, exquisite pottery, handmade books, and beautifully crafted tables and woodwork. A new addition this year is a collection of fine crafts, displayed in

the rustic studio room. All the works displayed are for sale, making the Custer Sharp House the perfect stop for finding a treasured souvenir or fine addition to your art collection. Commissions from sales go to support the programs of the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society. The Fall Artists’ Exhibition is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through Oct. 10. You can find out more about the exhibit and Londonderry Arts and Historical Society at www.lahsvt.org.

Dot mandala workshop at Gallery at the Vault

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the Vault is happy to offer a new, fun dot mandala workshop with Antje Ruppert on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 2-4 p.m. Participants will use special dotting tools to create their mandalas. Ruppert will introduce the tools and their applications, and will provide practice sheets and a series of patterns to try out for the perfect dot placement, namely a sort of half-round, almost bead-like dot, to create a 3D feel. Participants will be provided with an 8 by 8 inch sheet of heavy card stock in a variety of colors on which the center is already pre-



Dot circle mandala by Antje Ruppert. PHOTO PROVIDED

marked for the placement of the first dot, and a strip of six small paint pots, and can choose from a variety of acrylic paints. This is a very meditative and calming creative experience and absolutely beginner friendly. Paint pots may be taken home and used to make

more creations. Ruppert will also explain how tools can be fabricated from things you have at home (e.g., toothpicks, cotton swabs, dowels, pencils with erasers, etc.). The cost of the class is discounted for gallery members. Register by Wednesday, Oct. 14. Gallery at the Vault is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org, Facebook, or Instagram. Gallery at the Vault is accessible.

Vermont Zydeco Party to feature two zydeco bands

PUTNEY, Vt. – Two area zydeco bands will perform at the annual Vermont Zydeco Party at Next Stage Arts in Putney, on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 3-8:30 p.m. The event will take place in Next Stage’s community room, with its wooden floor providing plenty of space for dancing. The afternoon will start with a beginner Zydeco dance lesson at 3 p.m., giving those new to Zydeco an introduction to the basic steps and an opportunity to get comfortable on the dance floor. A second, more advanced dance lesson will be offered later in the afternoon for more experienced dancers. ZydeGroove will take the stage first, bringing its

country zydeco sound to the party. The band draws on the roots of the genre, combining the traditional sounds of zydeco with the country influences that are part of its musical heritage. A potluck buffet will be served during a dinner break, providing an opportunity to enjoy a meal and visit with friends and other dancers. Next, Planet Zydeco will perform traditional, accordion-driven zydeco inspired by the music of Louisiana’s rural dance halls. Their repertoire includes up-tempo songs, blues, and traditional waltzes. The cost of admission includes both dance lessons, performances by the two bands, and the potluck.

A cash bar will also be available. For more information or to get involved, contact vtzydeco@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/vtzydeco.

Roger Clark Miller and Michael Tarbox at Stage 33

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Roger Clark Miller is the founding guitarist of the highly influential rock band Mission of Burma, and has performed nationally and internationally as a solo artist and leading a variety of bands and ensembles. He’s also a respected writer, music historian, and more. The songs on his new album, “The Green Man,” have a different feel from anything he’s done previously, evolving out of a series of “Unplugged From a Band” shows. This record has been a long time coming, and Miller will

be performing selections solo with just his guitar, voice, and a looper. Michael Tarbox writes songs anchored in rock ‘n’ roll, backwater blues, hill-billy music, and country – rough-hewn, immediate, and hard-won. His songs have been used in the television shows “Sons of Anarchy” and “Supernatural.” “My inspirations are musicians from a world that’s vanished. I let them guide me, but my goal is to create something new,” he says. Tarbox began his career with the Tarbox Ramblers, a hard-hitting quartet that released well-received albums on Rounder and played

countless shows throughout the U.S. and Canada. Roger Clark Miller celebrates his new album, “The Green Man,” in a 3 p.m. matinee concert on Sunday, Oct. 11, at Stage 33 Live in Bellows Falls, Vt. At Miller’s request, Tarbox shares the bill. Tickets can be purchased at www.stage33live.com, or at the door as available. Advance tickets guarantee entry. Only 40 tickets will be sold. Advance sales will close at midnight the day before the show, or when 40 tickets are sold. Ticket proceeds go entirely to the performers. The performances will be recorded and filmed.

Rachel Spigel art show at Rockingham Library

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Free Public Library recently held an opening reception for artist Rachel Spigel’s new exhibition at the library. Join the library in welcoming Spigel’s show to the library, on display from Oct. 1 –

Dec. 31. Spigel is an artist based in Bellows Falls who loves animals and sees art as an opportunity to connect personally with nature and the world around us. This reception is free and open to the public. Can’t make the opening? The art show will be avail-

able to see during the library’s regular operating hours through Dec. 31. For more information about this and other programs and events, call 802-463-4270, visit www.rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

FOLA announces October events in Ludlow

LUDLOW, Vt. – Jim Alic, chairman of Friends of Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA), announced recently three major events in October. On Saturday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m., the Enerjazz Orchestra will return to the auditorium to provide its jazz and popular music numbers. The group, made up of talented musicians, will offer a number of old-time and current musical treats, as well as music for dancing.

On the following day, Sunday, Oct. 18, at 2 p.m., the Vermont Symphony Orchestra will present a woodwind concert. A quartet from the VSO will present a variety of classical music pieces accentuated by the music of the wood-

winds. All of these events are free to all who wish to attend. Donations are appreciated to help FOLA continue presenting future events. For more information on these events, call 802-855-8896.

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health & community

Medicare planning at Claremont Senior Center

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Medicare members will be facing many challenges again in 2027. There will be some disruption to the Medicare program similar to what was experienced during the annual enrollment period last year.

To help Medicare-eligible people get prepared and better understand their options during this year's enrollment period, Jim Twombly, a local licensed independent insurance broker, will be hosting several community meetings at the Claremont Senior Center. Twombly specializes in Medicare planning and has been advising eligible Medicare participants

throughout New Hampshire on their best Medicare plan for more than 16 years. During this year's scheduled presentation, Twombly will review the components of Medicare and plan options to consider, will answer any questions you may have, and can assist you with next steps. These Medicare meetings are open to the public, and there are no fees or obligation to attend. Twombly does not represent all the companies that offer plans in the Medicare insurance industry, but does represent many of the insurance plans offered in the region. Twombly will also remain on hand following each meeting to answer

additional questions attendees many have.

Anyone who is unable to attend and would like more information or would prefer a personal appointment may contact Twombly directly at 603-204-8490 or jtwomb@comcast.net. Twombly is currently Licensed in New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts.

Meetings will be held Tuesday, Oct. 13, from 1-3 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.; and Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 1-3 p.m., at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights in Claremont, N.H.

Bone builders at Claremont Senior Center

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Bone Builders are coming to the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights in Claremont, N.H., starting Monday, Oct. 5. They

will be here on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, from 9-10 a.m. Bone Builders no-impact weight training classes are designed to increase or

maintain bone density, improve balance, and decrease the risk of falls and fractures. Participants need medical clearance to join the class; a packet may be picked up at the senior center. This is a free class if you are a member of the senior center, otherwise there is a small fee per class.

HCRS Same Day Access connects people, services

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Since launching Same Day Access at the end of May, Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), the community mental health agency serving Windham and Windsor counties, has welcomed more than 400 people seeking mental health and substance-use services through its new walk-in model.

As of mid-September, 472 people have come in for services through Same Day Access since its May 26 launch, demonstrating both the significant need for services in southeastern Vermont and the importance of making it easier for people to reach out when they are ready for support.

Same Day Access allows individuals to visit one of HCRS' three regional offices during designated hours and begin the process of accessing services without first scheduling a traditional intake appointment. A virtual option is also available.

"Reaching out for help can be difficult, and when someone makes that decision, we want to make it as easy as possible for them to take that first step," said Anne Bilodeau, HCRS chief executive officer. "The number of people who have come through our doors since May

tells us that this approach is meeting a very real need in our communities. We want people to know that support is available, and they don't have to navigate that first step alone."

Same Day Access is available each week at HCRS' regional offices in Brattleboro, Hartford, and Springfield. Hours are Tuesday, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Wednesday, from 1-3 p.m.; and Thursday, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Individuals may visit any of the three locations during these hours. A virtual option is also available during these hours by calling 802-886-4500, Option 3.

During Same Day Access, individuals meet with an HCRS team member to talk about what is bringing them in, identify their needs, and begin connecting with appropriate services and supports. There's no need to call ahead. The service is designed to reduce barriers that can make it difficult for people to begin care, particularly when they may already be experiencing stress, uncertainty, or other challenges.

HCRS initially launched Same Day Access on May 26 as part of its transition to Vermont's Certified Community-Based Integrated Health Center (CCBHC) model. The response was immediate: 100 people utilized Same

Day Access within its first four weeks. Participation has remained strong throughout the summer. In the two most recent weeks alone, 55 people came to HCRS through Same Day Access.

HCRS continues to evaluate and adjust staffing to respond to this demand, including expanding support from clinicians across the organization.

"Every one of these numbers represents a person who decided it was time to ask for help," Bilodeau said. "That's what matters most. Whether someone has been struggling for a long time or has only recently realized they could use some support, we want them to know there is a place they can turn."

Same Day Access is available to people seeking HCRS mental health and substance-use services. No advance appointment is needed during designated Same Day Access hours.

HCRS encourages anyone interested in services to visit www.hcrs.org or call 802-886-4500 for additional information, including how to access virtual services.

Individuals experiencing an immediate mental health crisis can continue to access HCRS crisis services 24 hours a day, seven days per week by calling 800-622-4235 or 988.

Claremont Savings Bank coat drive

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Claremont Savings Bank will collect items for its winter coat drive from now through Oct. 22. Donations may be dropped off at all Claremont Savings Bank locations: Claremont, West Lebanon, Charlestown, and Springfield. Coats, hats, and

gloves for children and adults are needed. All coats will be available free to community members on Oct. 22, at Claremont Savings Bank in Claremont, 356 Washington Street.

For more information, contact Katie Berndsen at katie.berndsen@graniteuw.org.



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SERVICES

obituaries

Leonard W. McAuliffe Jr., 1941-2026

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. – Leonard William “Len” McAuliffe Jr., 85, passed away peacefully at his home on Sept. 29, 2026.

Len was born on March 12, 1941, in Bellows Falls, Vt., the son of Leonard Sr. and Geraldine (Dinan) McAuliffe. He graduated from St. Charles School in 1955 and Bellows Falls High School in 1959.

Following high school, Len attended the New England Institute of Embalming and Funeral Directing in Roxbury, Mass., where he lived and worked at the P.E. Murray Funeral Home. He later relocated to Keene, N.H., where he completed a two-year apprenticeship at Fletcher Funeral Home. After earning his license, he remained in Keene and continued his work in funeral service.

In 1963, Len joined the U.S. Army. Following basic training, he was assigned to the U.S. Mortuary System in Europe and stationed in Kaiserslautern, Germany, where he served as a funeral director and embalmer. Before receiving his honorable discharge, he was promoted to E-5 (Sergeant) and served as the NCO in charge of the “K-Town” Mortuary.

During his time in the Army, Len returned home to marry his beloved wife of 61 years, Maggie (McGettigan) McAuliffe. They were married at Sacred Heart Church in Wilton, N.H., on June 26, 1965.

Following his military service, Len returned to Fletcher Funeral Home before beginning a new career as a salesman for Will Ross Inc., a national manufacturer and distributor of medical products. His territory covered northern Vermont and northern New Hampshire. Len and Maggie relocated to Barre City, Vt., where they purchased their first home.

Although Len’s territory was initially the smallest in the country, his determination and natural ability quickly distinguished him. Within a few years, he consistently ranked among the top three sales representatives in the United States for both sales and gross profit.

In June 1974, Len was promoted to division manager for Will Ross/GD Searle, overseeing six New England states from the company’s office and distribution center in Stoneham, Mass. His career brought numerous promotions and gave Len and his young family the opportunity to live in beautiful areas of Wisconsin and Texas.

In 1981, Len moved his family to Portsmouth, N.H., where he opened a home care company, Medical Market. The business grew to include several locations throughout southern New Hampshire.

Len and Maggie spent the following decades in their welcoming Portsmouth home, which became a gathering place for family and friends. Their home and



Leonard McAuliffe, 1941-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

pool were filled with friends of Kara, Jack, Marty, and Jimmy, and later with their children’s spouses, and, most importantly, their grandchildren.

Len was known as an avid storyteller and historian. His recollections were often humorous and filled with wonderful stories about the many people he had known and the experiences he had shared throughout his life. He had a remarkable ability to bring the past to life, and his stories were a gift to his family and friends.

One of Len’s greatest joys was spending time with family and friends. He loved nothing more than having people around him, telling stories, and enjoying the simple pleasure of good company and Maggie’s cooking. His homes in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, and later at the lake house in Middleton, N.H., became special gathering places where family and friends came together and made lasting memories.

Len also found great happiness in gardening. He tended his gardens and enjoyed watching things grow, whether planting flowers, caring for his yard, or simply spending time outdoors. Gardening gave him peace and satisfaction, and he loved sharing the beauty of his surroundings with the people he cared about. Both homes reflected his love of the outdoors and his enjoyment of creating welcoming places where family and friends wanted to gather.

Len is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years, Maggie; his daughter, Kara Loch and her husband, Stephen; his sons, Jack McAuliffe, Marty McAuliffe and his wife, Steffany, and Jim McAuliffe and his wife, Amy; and his grandchildren, Tommy, Mikey, Ezra, Cal, Delaney, Ben, Katy, Jordan Fletcher, and Jordan Trombino. He is also survived by former son-in-law Dan Jolly; relations in County Sligo, Ireland; and his brothers, Jim and Gerald McAuliffe.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother.

There will be no calling hours. A memorial funeral Mass will be celebrated at Immaculate Conception Church (Corpus Christi Parish), 98 Summer Street in Portsmouth, N.H., on Thursday, Oct. 8, at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at a later date at the McAuliffe family lot at St. Charles Cemetery in Bellows Falls, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Corpus Christi Parish in Portsmouth.

Robert E. Anderson Jr. service notice

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Robert Edmund Anderson Jr., of Westminster, died unexpectedly at home on Sept. 11, 2026. He was born on Nov. 15, 1963, in Burlington, Vt., the son of Jean Ward Anderson and Robert E. Anderson Sr.

A Mass will be held at St. Charles Church, 31 Cherry Hill Street in Bellows Falls, on Oct. 17, at 10 a.m., with a celebration of life to follow at 12 p.m., at the cafeteria at Kurn Hattin Homes in Westminster.

A Mass will also be said on Oct. 24, at 9 a.m., at St. Mark Parish on North Avenue in Burlington, Vt., and a celebration of life will be held at the Bove’s Factory Cafe in Milton, Vt., at 11 a.m. Burial will be private.

We welcome family and friends to join us as we celebrate Robert’s life and share



Robert Anderson, 1963-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

memories together.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you honor Bob with a donation to Kurn Hattin Homes, allowing his impact to continue.

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

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

BELLOWS FALLS

First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church St.

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

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

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

CAVENDISH

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.

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

CHARLESTOWN

Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St.

Sunday service starts at

CLAREMONT

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

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

LUDLOW

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.

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

MOUNT HOLLY

Village Baptist Church, 32 Church St.

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

Elmer Kruse, 1928-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Elmer Kruse, of Springfield, Vt., passed away at his daughter’s house in Essex, Vt., on Sept. 19, 2026, following a period of declining health. He was born on Jan. 31, 1928, to Werner Kruse Sr. and Agnes (Fish) Kruse, in Woodstock, Vt. He graduated from Woodstock High School in 1946, and in 1952 he married Lorraine Strong.

He was predeceased by his parents; his wife, Lorraine; a son, Lawrence; a brother, Werner Junior; an aunt and uncle; and several cousins.

He is survived by his brother Merrill; his son Steve; his daughter, Sherrie Fuchs and her husband, Steve; his granddaughter Emily Fuchs and her partner, Jasmine Bruce; his granddaughter Stephanie Belfiglio and her husband, Conrad; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Friends and relatives may call at the Davis Memo-



Elmer Kruse, 1928-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

rial Chapel in Springfield, on Friday, Nov. 6, from 6-8 p.m., followed by a service at the Springfield Congregational Church, on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 1 p.m. There will be a gathering at the church afterward.

Donations may be made to the Springfield VFW Club or the Springfield Congregational Church.

To read the full obituary, please visit www.davismemorialchapel.net/obituary/elmer-i-kruse.

Marilyn A. Mahusky, 1959-2026

CHESTER, Vt. – Marilyn A. Mahusky, age 67, passed away on Sept. 27, 2026. She was born alongside her late twin brother, Thomas, on May 26, 1959, to William and Janet (Lang) Mahusky. She started her public service career interning for U.S. Sen. Howard Metzenbaum in Ohio and continued on to graduate from Franklin Pierce Law Center in 1991. She was a fierce legal advocate and committed her life to representing vulnerable individuals with disabilities at legal aid organizations for more than 30 years.

Marilyn was civic-minded, a devoted Democrat, a passionate feminist, and a political activist in her town of Chester, Vt. She operated with the utmost respect for clients and marginalized people.

Marilyn loved time spent with her family, trips to Cape Cod, walks with her friends, and carefree dancing to Bruce Springsteen. She was an avid gardener



Marilyn Mahusky, 1959-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

and felt most at home in Vermont. Above all, she was dedicated to her family and friends, and is survived by her children, Mary and Brian Anderson; siblings John Mahusky and Sarabeth Mahusky-Petras; and her esteemed gentleman poodle, Ollie.

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date. Instead of flowers, donations can be made to a charitable organization of your choice.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

OBITUARIES:

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

CHURCH SERVICES:

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

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calendar

UPCOMING

OCT. 10 & 11 – BELMONT, Vt. – Cider Days will take place on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 11, from 12-4 p.m., on the Belmont Green. Watch fresh cider being made on an antique press and enjoy home-baked apple treats in a historic mountain village. Cider Days also features live music, food, beer and craft vendors, face painting, a library book sale, and the ever-popular cow plop contest. Fun learning opportunities abound too: The Mount Holly Museum, next to the Green, will be open, and local conservation organizations are also on hand with some participatory activities. Visitors can also cast a ballot in the local photo contest. The winning entries will be featured in the Mount Holly 2028 calendar.

OCT. 10 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Opera House

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

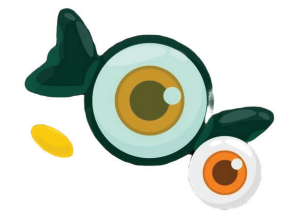
CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Gerry Grimo & The East Bay Dance Combo will perform at the Charlestown Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 7-9 p.m., featuring a variety of music styles for social and ballroom dancing. Small suggested donation. There is a large dance floor and comfortable seating.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

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main Street, invites the

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

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. 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.

RECURRING

SUNDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Six Loose Ladies hosts Odd Bobbins Spinners the second Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. at their location on the Common in Chester.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Meet on Depot Street in downtown Ludlow every Sunday through Oct. 11, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., to shop at our vibrant farmers market. Find a variety of local produce each week, along with fresh baked goods, handmade crafts and gifts, cold beverages, live music, and more. We can’t wait to see you for fresh food, community, and fun.

MONDAYS – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, hosts the Black River Grief Support Group on the second Monday of every month, from 1-2 p.m. This is A safe space for individuals to share their experiences, find comfort, and learn coping strategies after a loss. Offered by Black River Good Neighbor Services. For more information, call 802-228-3663.

TUESDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Tuesday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For

details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Sew What is held Tuesday afternoons, from 2-4 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street. Spend your Tuesday afternoon working on sewing projects in a relaxed and welcoming space. Bring your own supplies and enjoy time to sew, learn, and have fun with others. Sewing machines are provided, or you can bring your own if you prefer. Both groups are free to attend and open to all skill levels. For more information, visit www.springfieldtownlibrary.org, or call the library at 802-885-3108.

WEDNESDAYS – CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds bingo every Wednesday afternoon. You must be at least 55 years old, and purchase your cards by 12:45 p.m. Games begin at 1 p.m. Concessions are available until the game begins. We average around 30-40 seniors who love to attend, visit with their friends, and try to win a little extra money.

THURSDAYS – GRAFTON, Vt. – A free playgroup for children from newborns to age 5 will be held at Grafton Elementary School on Thursday mornings, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Activities will include songs, games, and arts and crafts. Contact Heather with any questions at 802-843-4792.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, will host

a crafting group on the first and third Thursday of every month, at 1 p.m. This will be open to anyone who practices knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, paper crafts, card making, and other crafts. Come work on your craft and enjoy some conversation.

FRIDAYS – PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Shoot trap every Friday, at 5:30 p.m., at Precision Valley Fish and Game Outdoor Range, located at 2879 Route 106 in Perkinsville.

RUTLAND, Vt. – Join Drum Journeys of Earth, Building 5 of the Howe Center, Rutland, Vt., every Friday, from 6-8 p.m., for two hours of class instruction in Afro-Latin dancing. No partner or experience are required. Wear comfortable shoes and attire, and bring friends and water. Each week, we’ll cover a variety of dances to build your knowledge and confidence on the dance floor. Class will focus on getting you ready for your next vacation or for dancing socially within Vermont’s vibrant Latin-dance community. We’ll help you build a strong foundation of body movement and connection that will support you in any dance style. Come for the dance, stay for the amazing community of people from across Vermont.

SATURDAYS – BRIDGEWATER, Vt. – The Bridgewater Historical Society, located in the Old Brick Schoolhouse at 12 North Bridgewater Road, is open the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from May 23 – Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY VERMONT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Londonderry Development Review Board will meet at 100 Old School St at 5:30 PM on Wednesday October 21, 2026, at 5:30 to hold a public hearing for:

An application for a re-subdivision creating one new lot submitted by Elizabeth Merrill for land her parents own at 233 Merrills Ln.

Those interested in seeing the applications, submitting written comments, or attending the hearings remotely should contact the town’s Zoning Administrator at zoningadmin@londonderryvt.gov

Pursuant to24 V.S.A. Sections 4464(a)(1)(c) and 4471(a), participation in the local proceedings is a prerequisite to take any subsequent appeal.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PRINTING OF ANNUAL REPORT

The Town of Springfield is seeking sealed competitive quotes from printing firms for the printing of the Annual Report for the 2026 fiscal year. Sealed competitive quotes will be received at the office of the Town Clerk, 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont, 05156, on or before 4:30 pm on Friday, October 30, 2026. Quotes shall include the price per page and a guarantee that a stringent deadline will be met. Specifications and quote forms for the printing of the Annual Report can be downloaded from the town’s website <https://springfieldvt.gov/> or obtained by contacting Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, at 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont, or by calling 802-885-2104. Sealed quotes should be clearly labeled “Annual Report Printing Quote.” The Town of Springfield reserves the right to reject any and all quotes, to accept the quote most acceptable to the Town of Springfield, and to waive any informality. Bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. November 2nd.

Barbara A. Courchesne
Town Clerk, CVC
Town of Springfield, Vermont
townclerk@springfieldvt.gov

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.

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

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

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

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

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

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

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

Gretchen Hauser, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOWN & VILLAGE OF LUDLOW DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing before the Ludlow Development Review Board will be held on Monday, October 26, 2026 at 6:00 P.M., in the Francis J. Heald auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot Street, and via Zoom, to hear the following applications:

- Gerardo & Kathleen P. Canet | Application # 128-98-PUB, Amd. 75 | Application is to amend a Planned Unit Development to formally add a fourth (4) bedroom to unit 46B at Trailside within the existing footprint. This property is located in the Mountain Recreation district.
- Raymond & Lisa Merrill | Application # SUB-26-010 | Application is to subdivide an existing 21.52-acre site into two (2) lots: Lot 1=15.28 acres; Lot 2=6.24 acres. This property is located in the Town Residential district.
- Tim Maney Jr. | Application # SUB-26-011 | Application is to subdivide an existing 5.7-acre site into two (2) lots: Lot 1=2.77 acres; Lot 2=2.98 acres. This property is located in the Town Residential district.

The meeting Agenda will be available on Ludlow’s Web page, www.ludlow.vt.us with the Zoom ID and the URL link. Additional information about this application is available in the Planning and Zoning office at the Town Hall.

Erin Ladd, MSRED
Director of Planning & Zoning

LEGAL NOTICES

Moover searches for community volunteer drivers

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Emily Hallock, community driver coordinator for the Moover, recently spoke with members of the Springfield Rotary Club about the organization's search for community volunteer drivers.

The Moover works with community and volunteer drivers to provide rides for people in need. Volunteer drivers help local residents get to medical appointments, grocery stores, employment, essential services, and other destinations.

During her presentation, Hallock explained that volunteers can drive as little or as much as they wish depending on their availability. Community drivers are

reimbursed at the current General Services Administration mileage rate of 72.5 cents per mile, which is not considered taxable income.

Community drivers must have a valid driver's license, auto insurance, and a good driving record. Most trips are for people who need transportation to medical appointments. By volunteering, drivers can provide dependable transportation while gaining the satisfaction of knowing they are making a meaningful difference in people's lives.

"Community volunteer drivers provide more than transportation," Hallock said. "They offer reliability, connection, and a helping

hand to people who may otherwise have difficulty reaching the places and services they need."

Individuals interested in learning more about becoming a community volunteer driver are encouraged to contact Hallock at Emily@moover.com or 802-681-6287. To apply to become a driver, visit www.moover.com/volunteer-driver-information-form.

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

Gallery at the Vault calling all local artists

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – You are invited to show your work at Gallery at the Vault in the gallery's Open Wall Show. This is a chance to display your work in a non-juried show. There is no fee. It is a great way for artists who would like to get their work out there for the first time, as well as for seasoned artists. The next show's theme is "Nature's Jewels."

Artists can bring in two works if they are 18 by 20 inches or smaller, or one if it is larger. Sculpture, pottery, etc., are appreciated just as much as wall art. The work needs to be suitable for viewing by all ages.

Our hanging system does require wire on the back of wall art.

The time to bring in creations is Wednesday, Oct. 14 – Saturday, Oct. 17, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. The show will be on display from Oct. 21 – Dec. 26.

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, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org, Instagram, or Facebook. Gallery at the Vault is accessible.

classifieds

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.

ELECTRICIAN

LEVI ELECTRIC – 917-417-7880 levieletrictv.com – Trusted residential electrician with 10+ years experience. Upgrades, lighting, EV chargers, panels, service calls. Proctorsville-based. Quality work, fair pricing, free estimates.

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.

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

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 handyman needed for local construction company. Pay starts at \$35/hour, more skills - more pay. Call Kent at 802-779-3186.

SNOW PLOWING

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



Town of Westminster
P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158
Tel. 802-722- 4524 Fax 802-722-9816

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB)

WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL
Westminster, Vermont

Legal Notice

The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:00 pm on **Monday, November 2, 2026** to consider the following:

Application # 27-15

Alexander DeFreitas (Owner & Applicant) property located at 152 Sunny Meadow Drive. The owner is requesting a Minor Sub-Division in the North Westminster Village District of Westminster, Vermont. This Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 445 Village District Zone; & Article VIII Subdivision of Land (Minor Subdivision)** of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Participation in the proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeals.

The application is available for review in the Westminster Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5 Westminster, Vermont 05158, Monday – Thursday from 7:30 am - 4:30 pm.

STATE OF VERMONT
WINDSOR COUNTY, SS

NOTICE OF TAX SALES

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

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

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

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

15 Woolson Avenue
For tax years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Matthew Baird-Torney and Shawna Baird-Torney to Artem Mahinko by deed dated June 28, 2023 and recorded in Vol. 683 at Page 78 of the Springfield Town Land Records.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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Vermont Open Studio Weekend Oct. 3 & 4
www.vermontcrafts.com/open-studio-weekend
Russell Porter Retrospective July 23-Oct. 13
Upcoming Workshops
Raku Pottery with Andrew Berends Oct. 3 & 10
Create Felted Acorns with Lisa Caron Hickey Oct. 10
Dot Mandalas with Antje Rupert Oct. 17
Paint Fall in Watercolor w/ Rob O'Brien Oct. 24
(10/07/26 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

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(03/17/27 - 52)

PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION
Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267.
(11/11/26 - 13)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC
Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(08/11/27 - TFN - 52)

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(11/18/26 - 13)

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(10/07/26 - 26)

opinion

To the Editor,

My name is Mia Ferolito, and I am supporting the reelection of Tom Charlton. Here are my thoughts.

A lifelong resident of Vermont and 50-year member of the Chester community, Tom Charlton has traveled extensively in the Middle East, where he participated in archeological digs in the Holy Land. His three sons affectionately call him "Indiana Jones," and he has been known to sport a hat similar to the one worn by Harrison Ford in his iconic role.

A lifelong Boy Scout, Charlton continues to lead a scout troop after years of instilling leadership skills in young men in the Chester area. Charlton and his scout troop supported my work in the return of 131 artifacts stolen from the dead at the Wounded Knee Massacre by organizing a clothing drive to send needed clothing out to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He and his troop attended the ceremony in Barre, Mass., as these sacred pieces were transferred back to the Lakota People, and one of his Eagle Scouts completed his requirements to obtain Eagle status by organizing a major effort to send horse equipment out to Pine Ridge to support the spiritual rides that happen there each year, such as the Big Foot Ride.

As pastor of the Baptist Church in Chester for 25 years, he learned what it means to counsel others during the most difficult times of life: death, divorce, illness, financial loss. He had the benefit of presiding over some of the most joyous times in the lives of Vermonters as well: births, weddings, anniversaries, awards.

Charlton's family came to America in 1630. Our country is founded on immigration and has been so for hundreds of years. Current waves of migration represent new challenges for a state that is predominantly white in its makeup, and residents are being asked to step up to welcome new neighbors from completely different backgrounds. In addition, Vermont faces similar issues as Southern states when confronting the problem of illegal aliens and criminals coming into our state, bringing with them such issues as drugs, sex trafficking, human trafficking, and countless other problems that will destabilize Vermont. However, there is now much more traffic on the northern border, which is not as well policed

as our country's southern line of demarcation. The Vermont Legislature is continually challenged to look at the humanitarian crises that are causing vast numbers of people to migrate elsewhere in spite of the hardships required to make the trip. The economic problems created within the state by undocumented workers willing to perform menial jobs for less than minimum wages sometimes takes away existing income from Vermont residents. It is impossible for a local roofing contractor to compete with those employing illegal aliens and face the threat of their business going under because they are unable to do so. On the other hand, they also provide a much-needed workforce in our hard-strained agriculture industry.

Many Vermonters cannot raise a family without being supplemented by a government program. The costs of housing, health, food, education, and transportation continue to rise, with Vermonters unable to keep up. Policies have been created at the state level that do not have control over inflation, making it much more difficult to accomplish goals in the Statehouse that require complicated decision making. Our relatively new challenge which is unique is we now find affluent communities are setting policies for the rest of the state. This flies in the face of what makes Vermont so special to begin with. The average Vermonter sincerely wants to preserve the Vermont way of life.

Many members of the House of Representatives are willing to collaborate across the aisle and recognize the need to do so. The countrywide popularity of Gov. Phil Scott is a testament to that fact, as Scott is a good example of a politician representing all of his people, regardless of political party. Charlton's view is that the biggest challenge Vermonters are facing is valuing someone else's point of view. We must listen to each other and take on board the opinions of everyone as we find common ground.

People in Vermont are engaged, but not necessarily with each other, only with those neighbors who agree with them. And in the meantime, our children are becoming service providers to the wealthy, who buy up properties around the state. These same wealthy people set policy for everyone. Land

in Vermont represents legacy. Land represents family. For a grandparent to not be able to carve off a piece of land to give to a grandchild due to conservation restrictions sacrifices the Vermont way of life.

The local Republican Party drafted Tom Charlton to run. It took him three weeks to decide to campaign for office, even though politics had never been on his list of things to do with his life. Charlton is not unlike current Gov. Phil Scott. He is a moderate and interested in what is best for all Vermonters, moving far beyond party lines.

Charlton personifies the philosophy put into practice by his family and the residents of Vermont, that of helping each other when needed. His paternal grandmother was an activist in New York City working toward racial reconciliation in Harlem in the late 1920s and early 1930s, while his paternal grandfather served as a member of the school board and as a selectman. His uncle followed in his father's footsteps. Growing up, Charlton remembers sitting at the kitchen table while the local issues of the day were strenuously debated. Volunteerism was the norm in the Charlton house and consistent throughout the State of Vermont. The willingness to help each other during times of crisis is one of the true characteristics of the State of Vermont and part of what makes it so special. If a neighbor's barn burns down, men are there with their tool kits. If there is a death in the family or someone is sick, a casserole or meatloaf is delivered the next day. This is the Vermont way, a lifestyle worth preserving.

In his first term, Charlton focused on his goal of getting his colleagues in the House of Representatives to listen to him and to each other as the difficult and compelling issues within the state were discussed and bills drafted. Retaining a civil discourse can be a challenge when debates become heated and representatives cling to party lines. The fact that Vermont residents are stepping up to protect their own rights and properties has provided motivation for their representatives to listen closely to their wants and needs, expanding the conversation and encouraging creative discourse.

The divide has shifted from historic party lines to a split more driven by eco-



Tom Charlton with his sons.

PHOTO PROVIDED

nomic factors. Small towns and rural farms have just as much right to be heard and considered as Vermont's largest, more-urban communities, such as Burlington.

Charlton votes his conscience. When he was drafted to run, the Republican Party told him that they would never tell him how to vote on any given issue. His decisions were his to make. He is not someone who goes in for grandstanding or photo ops. He speaks when he has something to say or sees a particular point of view not being represented.

As a member of the Housing Committee, Charlton brings his expertise in building and being a landlord, and his extensive experience as a pastor to the table in not only evaluating the practical side of affordable housing, but also the emotional and psychological issues being confronted by financially challenged Vermonters. Combining the ability for geographic areas to work together on such projects as prefabricated housing allows the State of Vermont to take advantage of steeper discounts available to larger developers building low-income housing. Good communication fosters collaboration in this manner and is just one example of a significant benefit to Vermonters. Tom Charlton has played a part in this process.

Act 250 strenuously regulated how large development happens. For rural communities with no zoning, it applies at a much lower threshold. The average person does not have the time or the money to hire a lawyer to obtain a permit for Act 250 approval. High-income individuals have pockets that are deep enough to cover whatever expenses are involved for an Act 250 application, but for local residents, selling their land may become their only option. Land can be an asset but for Vermonters, land is also family. Multigenera-



tional family land is part of the family. It is personal.



PROVIDED

The influx of affluent individuals moving into the state is leveraging people off their land. The cost of taxes and homeowners insurance, for some, is prohibitive. One local example involves a married couple working two jobs each who can no longer afford their homeowners insurance in addition to rising taxes. They are leaving their longtime family home for this reason. The State of Vermont cannot step in to fill the gap for these residents. They cannot go into the insurance business. Addressing the cost of homeowners insurance is simply another complication of the housing issue that creates pressure and economic hardship for Vermonters. Local Vermont residents cannot be pushed out to make way for the affluent and elite to take over. Newer residents need to value not only their stunning surroundings, but also the quality and caliber of Vermont culture.

The State of Vermont is focusing on what it can do to help people play catch-up when they get behind on their rent and other expenses. With organizations around the state such as Neighborhood Connections in Londonderry, SEVCA and the Chester-Andover Family Center in Chester, to name a few, there is support available for those who put in the effort to find it.

Through his work on the Housing Committee, Charlton is helping develop a land bank that acquires vacant and abandoned properties in foreclosure and subject to tax sales. They clean up the title and make that property available for rehabilitation. There are approximately 11,000 abandoned properties in Vermont at this time, which is one-third of the necessary housing units needed to address the needs of homeless Vermonters. Charlton draws the line at children sleeping in cars. There are solutions available if keeping the "eyes on the prize" can be established and maintained. Sixty percent of people in Burlington are renters. Extrapolate that percentage to the countless number of small towns around the state with far, far fewer units available, and you will understand the extreme nature of the problem in our small state. And winter is just around the corner.

Tourism is the largest source of revenue for Vermont and Vermonters. For this reason, many rental homes are only available for short-term rental, since these units are investment properties and the owners can charge top dollar during ski season for people to come to Vermont and take advantage of the snow. Doing nothing is not an option. Charlton believes much needs to be done to encourage small landlords to put their units back into the long-term rental market. The motels and hotels designated for emergency housing are not safe in many cases, and in fact are dangerous places for families and their children. People are in desperate situations with their lives be-

ing uprooted to where they can have a roof over their head, even if they are leaving behind other sources of much-needed support, such as medical care, transportation, and daily needs such as food pantries and other community support. No one wants a 100-bed facility to open in their neighborhood, nor should they. It is not the best solution to the complicated issues involved in integrating those in need back in the community as active and productive members. Charlton's role as a pastor for two decades gives him the depth and sensitivity to work with people in this situation in a caring and compassionate manner. Building up confidence and providing support can be just the medicine that restores health in these cases.

Vermont has always maintained itself as an independent state, in the physical sense and also as a state of mind. Vermonters rolled up their sleeves when Hurricane Irene hit or storms deluged local towns and communities were under water. Elitism is not a quality that is welcomed here. History has shown that Vermonters and Vermonters have the strength of character to go it alone if need be. Charlton reminds us that during colonial times, if people did not like living under colonial government elsewhere, they were likely to move to Vermont, where they could govern themselves.

Preserving this Vermont way of life has always been a priority in the Green Mountain State. Vermont has the ability to lead the way for the rest of America in forging a climate where all people live in an environment where respect and consideration for themselves and their neighbor is the norm, not the exception. We all know there is enough to go around for everyone. Vermont needs representatives who are practical, logical, and experienced enough to balance all of the aspects of daily life into a plan that works, not just for some, but for all.

Reelect Tom Charlton to the Vermont House of Representatives representing the Windsor-Windham District.

Sincerely,
Mia Feroletto
Londonderry, Vt.

***Paid for by the Charlton
Campaign Committee
PO Box 1032
Chester, VT 05143
www.charlton4vermont.
us***

Author Mia Feroletto is a native of Vermont. She is an artist, an activist, and the publisher of New Observations Magazine. Feroletto is the creator of ARTWALK NY, which raised \$25 million dollars for Coalition for the Homeless in New York City. ARTWALK NY has been copied around the country since it began in 1995 and raised countless additional funds for other organizations. As an authorized representative of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, she negotiated the return of 131 artifacts stolen from the dead at the Wounded Knee Massacre back to the Lakota People. In November of this year, her fifth conference on consciousness will be held at the Upper Pass Lodge in Londonderry, Vt. Feroletto can be contacted by email at atmia.feroletto@gmail.com.

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Treasurer, David Trumble

opinion

Dear Editor,

My name is Matt Siano, and I am writing to support the reelection of Tom Charlton to the Vermont House of Representatives. Tom Charlton has proven to be a dedicated public servant in the House, fighting for working families. Reelection of Tom and others who care about Vermont's history and future is simply common sense. They say common sense is like a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden, but it is time for all Vermonters to cultivate it. Common-sense voters need to get out and vote to reelect Tom Charlton as state representative so he can continue advocating for our state. Vermont cannot afford to lean any further left, and we need

common-sense leadership to prevent increased government control. Personal freedom in Vermont is becoming increasingly limited under the current legislative majority, which relies on policies that undermine the nuclear family and traditional Vermont life. Furthermore, the current majority prioritizes criminals over law-abiding citizens and has made Vermont the most costly state in which to live. The cost of living for working families continually rises under the current majority, making homeownership increasingly out of reach. We need to vote for common-sense candidates who will strengthen Vermont and allow families to be safe from the wave of

crime, and yet prosper with less governmental control. Tom Charlton has proven to be a common-sense and dedicated public servant in the House, fighting for working families against a majority that has no common sense in its garden. Reelection of Tom and others who truly care about Vermont's history and future is essential... and simply common sense. Sincerely, Matt Siano Grafton, Vt.

Paid for by Chester Republican Committee PO Box 16 Chester, VT 05143

To the Editor,

My name is Clayton Thompson, and I am writing to support the reelection of Tom Charlton to the Vermont House of Representatives. As a younger resident of Grafton who serves on the planning commission and the development review board, I hear the concern: It is becoming harder for young families and longtime residents to afford to stay here. Those problems are directly tied to the decisions being made in Montpelier, especially on housing and education spending. That is why I have followed the work of Rep. Tom Charlton. Affordability in rural Vermont was a central focus of his last term. Serving on the House Committee on General and Housing, he has a direct role in hous-

ing policy and the challenges facing small communities like ours. If we cannot house the people who wish to live here, businesses cannot find employees, young families cannot stay, and towns like Grafton cannot maintain a healthy population. That is why Tom sponsored H.775, to give municipalities additional resources for the financing infrastructure needed for housing development. He also understands the connection between housing and education. Grafton's elementary school system is struggling because fewer young families can afford to live here. As a resident who was enrolled at our elementary school, this issue is especially important to me. During the 2026 session on the House floor, Tom did not waver in his commitment

to fix the underlying issues rather than just another year of adjusting tax rates. He approaches these issues from a rural perspective. Policies written for Burlington do not always work in towns like Grafton. At the local level, we try to balance housing and development while protecting the character of our town. That balance is harder when state policy is made without understanding towns like ours. Tom Charlton has shown a willingness to take on those issues and focus on the affordability challenges facing Grafton. Sincerely, Clayton Thompson Grafton, Vt.

Paid for by Chester Republican Committee PO Box 16 Chester, VT 05143

Dear Editor,

Andrea Murray is running her campaign on affordability in Vermont. Rising prices of gas, diesel, and probably heating fuel are affecting Vermonters. They are caused by Trump and Netanyahu's war on Iran, which has been going on for more than 200 days, and Trump's policies on Russian President Putin's criminal attack on Ukraine. Closing of the Strait of Hormuz, which was open before the Iran war, is a direct cause of rising oil prices. Yet Trump is wrongly blaming solely Ukraine

for this, and is pressuring Ukrainian President Zelenskyy to stop sending drones onto Russia's refineries. As we know, Ukraine is defending itself against the Russian invasion, which targets Ukrainian civilians. Disabling Russian oil production is a big part of this defense. Does Ms. Murray believe that the Iran war is causing prices of gas and diesel to rise, affecting affordability nationwide and in Vermont? How is she planning to make Vermont an affordable place to live without addressing

Trump's foreign policies? We can't find any statements from Ms. Murray on either Trump's war in Iran or on his support of Russia over Ukraine. If she expects us to respect her views on "affordability," she, and any candidate asking for our votes, needs to address these two issues and to acknowledge their impact on Vermont's economy. Sincerely, Svetlana and Kem Phillips Cavendish, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Regarding Proposal 4, the so-called "Equality of Rights" amendment, this does not look like an equal rights amendment. The second sentence has a closed list of groups that would be protected, and the third sentence directs the courts to uphold the government's preferential treatment and benefits to state-sanctioned "historically marginalized groups." Vote "no" on Proposal 4 so that the Vermont Legislature can draft a real equal rights amendment.

Regarding Proposal 3, the so-called "Right to Collective Bargaining": Proposal 3 would permanently prohibit Vermont from adopting a right-to-work law for the private sector. Proposal 3 would shift power from the legislature to unions. People already have the right to form or join a union under the First Amendment's freedom of assembly clause. If farm workers are allowed to unionize under Proposal 3, production would go down and many Vermont farms would fold. This would hurt our state's food security and

working landscape. Illinois passed an amendment that prevented the state from passing right-to-work laws, and people are leaving Illinois. State pensions are underfunded in Illinois just as they are in Vermont, and forcing people to join unions as a condition of employment would only worsen Vermont's existing pension issues and other affordability issues. Vote "no" on Proposal 3. Sincerely, Suzanne Butterfield Stockbridge, Vt.

Dear Editor,

My name is Marlo, and I work at Mascoma Bank as the assistant branch manager. I also serve on the chamber of commerce board and the Turning Point Recovery Center Board. I take a lot of pride in helping and serving our community. I write to you with a rather heavy emotional heart. My father, David, has lived with me since my mother passed away in 2016. He worked hard his whole life and provided for our family very well. Unfortunately, about three years ago, he was diagnosed with vascular dementia and Alzheimer's. We had been able to manage living with this up until about eight months ago. It is then I realized my father needed additional structured, daily care that I personally could not provide him while maintaining my full-time job here in town. At the time, my neighbor was in a hospice situation, and as I went to visit him and spend time with him, I met Jana. Jana works at the Springfield Adult Day Center, and after chatting with her while my dear neighbor prepared to pass this life, she shared with me about the wonderful adult day center in town for my father. I then met Shelly, the director, at a chamber mixer and chatted with her about the center and the provided resources. I was nervous and unsure to try, but I went over to the center and gathered the right paperwork and enrolled him in January of 2025. My father's doctors have supported and highly recommended this service and this center as well for his wellbeing and care. It was and has been the perfect solution, and at the perfect time for him. Since then, my father has had a reason to wake up, a daily purpose, he has something to look forward to, and he is no longer isolated while I work. He is socializing, and, most importantly, he is being cared for by in-

credible, loving people who have made their jobs a way of life to serve others and to care for others. To care for a generation that has been lost because of their aging physical and mental ailments. When someone suffers from this horrific disease, having a regular, consistent schedule with consistent staff and a nurturing environment is the absolute best medicine. This is what the Springfield Adult Day Center has provided my father, along with professional, genuine love and care that allows for him to maintain dignity. Each day I ask my father, "How was your day?" Every day he says, "It was great, I had a lot of fun." He smiles, he brings home his prizes from his bingo wins, he brings crafts home, he talks about his friends, and, most importantly, he talks about how great the staff treats them all. That is the most powerful, meaningful ingredient: How he is being treated. The staff treats him like gold. I have seen what this horrific disease can do and has done to him mentally; it robs him of his confidence and robs him of being able to do things you and I do independently. It robs him of talking in full sentences, robs him of being able to get in a car and drive, robs him of cooking for himself, robs him of working – something he loved to do, working gave him purpose and he lost that purpose – robs him of living everyday life the way you and I do. But it did not rob his heart. He is now very sad, very worried, and very scared. Tonight, he cried because he does not understand why they are closing. "Why would they do that?" he says. To be forced to have to make a decision to possibly have to send him to a far place, a foreign place with strangers, is a very insecure, painful decision for all involved, most impor-

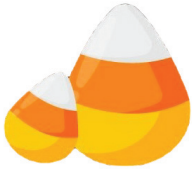
tantly my father and anyone who suffers from this horrific disease. The decision to close the center is devastating to him and to our family. The Springfield Adult Day Center is a part of our family and our community. Community means more than money, if that is what this is about. Providing and caring for our golden generation is important, and frankly all of our duties, especially our local hospital. Not everything is about money, sometimes things are about what is right and what is needed. We may all be where my father is one day, and what will you want your community to provide you and your family? This generation deserves better than to be tossed out – that is what this feels like to him and to all involved. I ask you to reflect on your decision that has a tremendous negative impact on our elders. They deserve better than this. Please do what is right. Sincerely, Marlo Mora Weathersfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to a steady push over the last two years to consolidate Vermont school districts and to close small rural schools on the part of Gov. Phil Scott and his appointed Secretary of Education Zoie Saunders. He is recently quoted by Alison Novak in Seven Days as saying, "Every year of delay means another year of unequal opportunities for students, another tax increase that families can't afford." Yet, neither he nor the Vermont Agency of Education have provided the data to support this claim. The timeline for beginning to implement Act 170 has already begun. Merger study committees are being formed and will start meeting by Oct. 15, even though there is little good information for these committees to investigate. There are at least three major problems with this effort. First, there is no evidence that Act 170 will either make opportunities more equitable or reduce property taxes. As an example, Act 46 was passed more than 10 years ago

with two main goals: to lower property taxes and to improve educational outcomes. There has been no evidence shown that either of these has happened, and in fact most Vermonters agree that local education property taxes are higher than ever. Second, Act 170 as it exists currently only includes the governance part of the law. The funding part of the law will be debated during the upcoming session, with decisions made by June. This means that merger study committees are being urged to rush into decisions without knowing what the costs will be. Secretary of Education Saunders has offered to make information available to the merger study committees, but any data provided before the funding portion of the law is resolved will be partial at best. Thirdly, the timeline for careful consideration of such monumental changes in Vermont education law is way too short. Act 170 was finalized behind closed doors in the last few days of the last session. The governor knows legislators are already talking

about reviewing the timeline of the law in the upcoming session, which is the likely reason to push so hard now before the legislature has a chance to review and change the timeline. He should not be pushing this through quickly. Completely revising Vermont's education system in such a very short timeline will make for problems ahead, both in the unintended consequences of a poorly organized revision, and in terms of working with the Vermont school administrators and the public to understand what is being explored and to build support for any changes. Sincerely, Dan MacArthur Steering Committee Rural School Community Alliance Marlboro School Board Member Marlboro, Vt.



OPINION POLICY

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

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

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

FOR STATE REPS

CHARLESTOWN | NEWPORT | UNITY

Lisa DeBARTOLOMAO

Tim FITZPATRICK

Jeff KESSLER

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NOVEMBER 3

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home & business

PROS

Is owning a home closer than you think?

REGION – If buying a home feels out of reach right now, you may want to take a closer look before counting yourself out.

Housing affordability is a real concern. Home prices, mortgage rates, and everyday expenses all play a role in what buyers can comfortably afford. But the price you see on a listing is only one part of the equation. A better place to start is with a simple question: What monthly housing payment feels comfortable for my budget?

Once you have that number, you can work backward to understand what home price and financing options may fit.

Start with your comfort zone

Before scrolling through listings, take a look at your monthly income, expenses, and financial priorities. Then try PrimeLending’s Home Affordability Calculator at lo.primelending.com/vblodgett/calculators/how-much-home-can-i-afford. Plug in a few numbers and explore different scenarios to get a general idea of what your buying power could look like. You may discover more possibilities than you expected.

Look beyond the 20% down payment

One of the biggest misconceptions about buying a home is that you need to put 20% down. You may not.

Depending on your situation, conventional, FHA, VA, and USDA loans may offer lower down payment options. Some qualified buyers may also be eligible for down payment or closing cost assistance programs, including programs designed specifically for first-time homebuyers. The important thing is to understand which options are available to you, rather than assuming you need to reach a certain savings goal before you can even start looking.

Explore ways to make the numbers work

Your loan isn’t the only factor that can affect affordability. For example, a seller may be willing to contribute toward certain closing costs. A temporary rate buydown could reduce your initial monthly mortgage payments. And, depending on your priorities, expanding your search to a different neighborhood, condo, townhome, or slightly smaller home could bring more choices into your price range.

PrimeLending has extend-

ed its Birthday 1-0 Buydown through Oct. 20. On eligible FHA and USDA loans, PrimeLending foots the bill to buy down your effective interest rate by 1% for the first year, giving you a lower initial monthly payment and a little more breathing room as you settle into your new home.

Replace assumptions with real numbers

Perhaps the most important step is getting qualified early. Qualification gives you an estimate based on your own financial situation.

If buying is six months or even a year away, understanding where you stand today can help you create a plan. You may learn that you’re ready sooner than expected, or you may identify a few things to work on first. Either way, you’ll have something much more valuable than a guess.

Not sure what you can afford? Let’s find out. Set up a quick conversation with me. It costs nothing, and there’s no obligation to move forward. We can look at your budget, run personalized scenarios, and talk through the options that may fit.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, PrimeLending, Ludlow, Vt.

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BDCC new Launchpad Cohort

REGION – Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) is excited to announce the return of Launchpad, its cornerstone entrepreneurship course, beginning Oct. 13. This dynamic, six-week course is designed to help aspiring and early-stage business owners transform their ideas into viable ventures. Offered both in person and

virtually, the program is accessible to participants across the county and continues to see strong engagement, with 97 registrants over the past two years. Whatever your business idea is, we will help you figure out the right pathway, whether that is starting, improving, or discovering that it isn’t financially feasible. Whatever the goal, there is no wrong reason or business stage to participate.

Organized and facilitated by the BDCC and featuring expert contributions from regional specialists, Launchpad provides a supportive environment where participants gain real-world knowledge, develop practical business tools, and connect with resources to bring their ideas to life, including access to LivePlan, a platform to help small business owners create business plans, build financial forecasts, pitch to lenders and investors, and track ongoing performance. Previous programs showcased presenters from various organizations, including Think Dynamic Digital, VtSBDC, SCORE, the Better Business Bureau, and many more.

“Through BDCC’s LaunchPad series, I was able to get a handle on many aspects of my new, growing business. Each week focused on a new topic that offered incredibly helpful information and resources that I never knew existed,” says Tracy Corriveau from Mama T’s Sweet Spot.

The course is a prerequisite to BDCC’s Bookkeeping Loan Program, where BDCC will pay up to 20% of eligible bookkeeping expenses in business startups that fit the qualifications outlined at www.brattleborodevelopment.com/ BDCC-lending.

Entrepreneurs from Windham County and beyond are encouraged to apply. Whether you’re still shaping your business idea or actively seeking to grow your early-stage venture, Launchpad offers a roadmap to success. Space is limited to 15 participants per session. To sign up or learn more, visit www.brattleborodevelopment.com/what-we-do/business-assistance/launch, or contact Dani Delaini at ddelaini@brattleborodevelopment.com.

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PROShistory & outdoor

Vermont CCC camps talk at Landgrove Town Hall

LANDGROVE, Vt. – On Saturday, Oct. 10, at 2 p.m., at the Landgrove Town Hall, 88 Landgrove Road, the Landgrove Historical Society will host author and historian Marty Podskoch, who will give a presentation on his new book, “Vermont Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: History, Memories & Legacy.” The book describes the history of the 36 Civilian Conser-

vation Corps (CCC) camps and supply depots where young men and World War I veterans built dams, state parks, and state forests from 1933-1942.

For the past four years, Podskoch has visited and explored the 36 Vermont CCC camps and gathered the camps’ histories and photos from historical societies, museums, libraries, personal interviews, and

state and college archives. Families of young men and veterans shared their relatives’ memories and photos of camp life and work projects.

The Civilian Conservation Corps began on March 31, 1933, under President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal to relieve the poverty and unemployment of the Great Depression. CCC camps were set up in

many Vermont towns, state parks, and forests. Workers built trails, roads, camp sites, and dams; stocked fish; and built and maintained fire towers, observer’s cabins, and telephone lines. They also fought fires and planted millions of trees. The CCC disbanded in 1942 due to the need for men in World War II.

Vermonters encouraged to button up

REGION – As cooler weather arrives and Vermont faces soaring heating fuel prices this winter, a statewide coalition of energy partners is reminding Vermonters to “button up” their homes. Through weatherization rebates, energy-saving tips, and professional contractors, the annual Button Up Vermont campaign can help all Vermonters prepare for a warmer and more affordable heating season.

Vermonters looking to do their own work can get \$100 cash back for DIY weatherization projects, like adding weatherstripping to doors

or air sealing small leaks.

The average expected savings for a home heating with oil is more than \$380 a year after completing comprehensive weatherization, based on current fuel prices. For homes heating with propane, the average expected savings is more than \$350 a year.

Efficiency Vermont’s Home Performance with Energy Star weatherization rebate offers 75% cash back on professional weatherization, up to \$7,000. Customers of Vermont Gas Services (VGS) can access similar rebates, with low-income

VGS customers eligible for coverage of 90% of a weatherization project, up to \$9,500. Both Efficiency Vermont and VGS work with Vermont lenders to offer no-interest or low-interest financing for weatherization and related home energy improvements. Rental property owners can also get up to \$7,000 per unit in weatherization rebates, improving comfort and affordability for occupants.

Statewide, Vermont’s Weatherization Assistance Programs offer free weatherization services for income-eligible households.

To help Vermonters get started, several free Button Up webinars are being offered throughout October. The schedule of these webinars and other events can be viewed at www.buttonupvermont.org/events.

Visit the Button Up Vermont website to register for webinars, find events, and explore weatherization rebates and financing options. Vermonters ready to “button up” can connect with an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor to start their weatherization project.

Chester Main Street historic fires walking tour

CHESTER, Vt. – On Sunday, Oct. 11, and Sunday, Oct. 25, Friends of Yosemite Firehouse Museum will host a walking tour featuring historic fires that took place on Main Street in Chester, as well as a lot of local history. Members of the public are invited to meet at the Cobleigh Field parking lot, at 1 p.m., for the program, which will take approximately 90 minutes and be led by Friends board member Shawn Cunningham. In order to hear the presentation well and to be

able to view the photos that will accompany the talk, the number of participants needs to be limited. Therefore, those interested in attending should email yosemitefirehousemuseum@gmail.com in advance to make a reservation. Donations to Friends of Yosemite Firehouse Museum are requested to continue to help make the future museum a reality.



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apple festival

EVENTS

42nd annual Vermont Apple Festival & Craft Show

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce invites residents and visitors from across Vermont and New England to celebrate the flavors, creativity, and community spirit of the Green Mountain State at the 42nd annual Vermont Apple Festival & Craft Show, taking place Saturday, Oct. 10, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Riverside Middle School, 13 Fairgrounds Road in Springfield, Vt.

Promoted as “Vermont’s Largest One-Day Event,” the Apple Festival will bring together hundreds of vendors, a large farmers market, food trucks, specialty foods, artists, crafts, and a Home and Health Pavilion, all in one location.

This year’s festival offers much more than shopping.



Enjoy bounce houses, an obstacle course, and other activities. PHOTO PROVIDED

Visitors can enjoy a wide variety of activities and attractions throughout the day, including a mechanical bull, Fastest Kid in Town, a kids’ zone, goats and alpacas, drone soccer, a virtual reality game station, and an appearance by Miss Vermont.

One of the sweetest traditions of the festival will be

the pie-baking contest, giving local bakers a chance to put their best recipes to the test. The first-place winner will take home \$100, with a \$50 junior prize also offered.

“Last year we had over 8,000 attendees,” said Mike Schmitt, executive director of the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce.



Vendors line the Riverside gym and outside on the grounds. PHOTO PROVIDED

“This year we are expecting the same crowd and are providing more variety and more vendors, so come on up, down, or over and enjoy a good old-fashioned Vermont event.”

Whether you come for Vermont-made products, locally grown food, hand-crafted goods, family activities, or simply a great fall day

with friends and neighbors, the Vermont Apple Festival & Craft Show is designed to offer something for all ages. The festival also provides an opportunity to support the farmers, makers, artists, craftspeople, food producers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses that help make Vermont communities thrive.

Additional festival information is available at the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce’s Apple Festival page, www.springfieldvt.com/apple-festival, or at Vermont Apple Festival & Craft Show on Facebook.

Fastest Kid in Town

The Fastest Kid in Town Race is back on Saturday, Oct. 10, at Riverside Park,

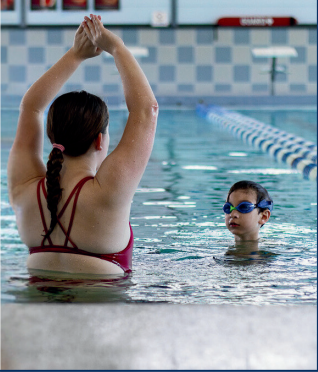
at 10 a.m., as part of the annual Vermont Apple Festival & Craft Fair. Sponsored by the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center and Springfield Hospital, the Fastest Kid in Town Race encourages local youth to get active and incorporate physical activity in their daily lives. The race is fun, free, and open to all children ages 5 to 12.

There will be a 100-yard race for children ages 5 to 8, and a 200-yard race for children ages 9 to 12. Children are divided into age groups: 5 and 6, 7 and 8, 9 and 10, and 11 and 12. Participants will receive a free T-shirt for all entries while supplies last, and the top boy and girl finishers in each category will receive medals.

The race begins at 10 a.m. and will be followed by an award ceremony at 11 a.m. Preregistration is recommended but not required. To sign up for the event, stop by the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center at 140 Clinton Street in Springfield or visit www.edgarmay.org. For more information, contact Zoe Lirakis, youth and family programs coordinator, at 802-885-2568 or zlrakis@edgarmay.org.



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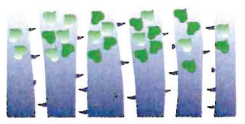


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WoodLife Carving Festival returns to Chester

CHESTER, Vt. – The WoodLife Carving Festival returns to Chester for its second year Oct. 10-12, bringing more than 15 talented chainsaw carvers together for a three-day celebration of chainsaw carving, woodworking, food, and family fun.

Visitors will have the opportunity to watch carvers work throughout the weekend as they transform logs into unique works of art. Carvings will also be available for purchase, giving attendees the chance to take home a one-of-a-kind piece created at the festival.

The festival will feature four quick-carve events throughout the weekend. These fast-paced carving competitions give spectators a chance to watch a carving take shape from

start to finish before the finished pieces are auctioned. New this year, quick carve times are Saturday, at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Sunday, at 1 p.m.; and Monday, at 1 p.m.

In addition to the carving, guests can enjoy chair massages for those looking to relax and take a break while attending the festival. For the kids, there will be a face painter on site.

There will be plenty of options for hungry visitors, with food vendors serving a variety of delicious foods throughout the festival, along with everyone’s favorite fair-style treat, fried dough.

Admission is inexpensive for adults, and children are admitted free. Each paid admission includes a raffle entry for a chance to win a free carving. Additional

raffle tickets will also be available to purchase for those who would like more chances to win.

The WoodLife Carving Festival will be held at 1126 Vermont Route 103 North, Chester, Vt. Festival hours are Saturday, Oct. 10, and Sunday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; and Monday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Whether you are a longtime fan of chainsaw carving or have never seen a log transformed into a work of art, the WoodLife Carving Festival offers something for everyone. Come watch the carvers work, meet the artists, enjoy some good food, shop local, and see what amazing creations come out of the logs this year.

Neil Young tribute at Claremont Opera House

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Harvest & Rust, a tribute to Neil Young, will play the Claremont Opera House, 58 Opera House Square in Claremont, N.H., on Saturday, Oct. 17. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and showtime is 7:30 p.m.

Harvest & Rust has earned acclaim as one of the premier Neil Young tribute bands in the Northeast USA, praised for their stirring and authentic performances.

Their concerts are a journey through Young’s prolific career, featuring songs from his solo work as well as his time with Buffalo Springfield and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. With a commitment to variety, the band ensures that no two shows are alike, mirroring Young’s own approach.

The band promises a dynamic setlist spanning Young’s expansive catalog, from the acoustic intimacy of “Harvest” to the raw energy of “Rust Never Sleeps.”

Led by frontman Garrett Lechowski, the band features Matt Cahill (guitars, piano), Andy Gordon (pedal steel), John Kiernan (drums), and Jim Reynolds (bass). Known for their authentic renditions, Harvest & Rust captures the essence of Neil Young’s music, delivering both beloved hits and deep cuts with precision and passion.

To purchase tickets, visit www.cohnh.org/event/harvest-and-rust-a-tribute-to-neil-young.

Third Ludlow Oktoberfest

LUDLOW, Vt. – The third annual Ludlow Oktoberfest, presented by Johnny’s Kitchen, will be held Saturday, Oct. 17, at three locations: Johnny’s

Kitchen, from 12-6 p.m.; Main and Mountain, from 6-10 p.m., and Eight Oh Brew, from 10 p.m. to midnight.

The festivities will include

games, prizes, face painting, live music by Sammy B, a stein-holding contest, and a best-dressed contest, as well as tons of good food and beer.



THE RULES

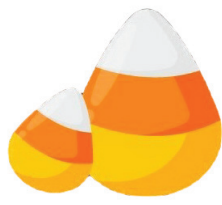
Fill out your name, age, town, and phone number clearly. Complete the activities and find all of the candy. Tear out this page and send it to **The Vermont Journal, P.O. Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149** by **Friday, Oct. 23, 2026**, for a chance to win a BOO Bag! All entries must be received by mail. One winner will be notified by phone.

DRAW THEIR FACES:

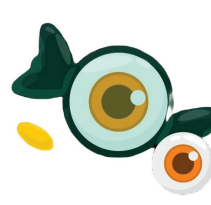


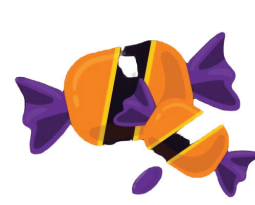
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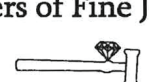


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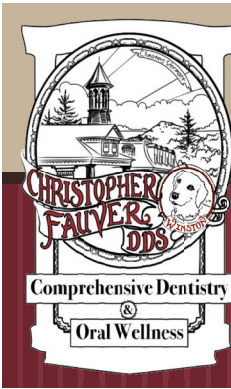


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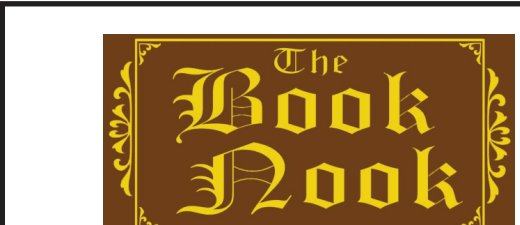
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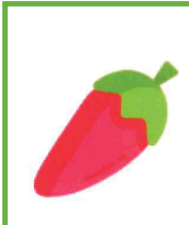
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