CROSSWORD COUPON CONTEST SEE PAGE 3 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN! FREE

THE MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

NOVEMBER 04, 2026 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM PUBLISHED BY THE VERMONT JOURNAL VOLUME 02, ISSUE 08

Claremont agrees to aid Charlestown with police dispatch

BY ANNE DEMPSEY

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Claremont Police Chief Brent Wilmot spoke before the Claremont City Council, on Oct. 28, about a new dispatch service agreement with the Charlestown Police Department. The Charlestown chief of police has had difficulty staffing Charlestown's dispatch center, and looked to the Claremont Police Department for help. Chief Wilmot drew up a four-phase tentative contract to assist Charlestown. He then had his dispatchers take on 32 hours of coverage for Charlestown for two weekends in a row as an experiment to find out what the workload placed on Claremont's dispatchers was. Across these two weekends, there were 17 calls for service over each 32-hour period. This was deemed manageable by the dispatch center. Legal counsel reviewed the contract and sent it to the state's attorney general for review. The attorney general approved the contract, but required that the contract be signed by both Charlestown Selectboard and Claremont City Council. The city council approved this contract.

City Assessor Steve Hamilton addressed property taxes for the elderly and the disabled. The proposed exemption qualification standard for the elderly takes into account the 3.7% inflationary increase, their income, and asset holdings not including their home. Income of $29,500 or less for a single person and $38,900 or less for a married couple makes the elderly eligible for this type of property tax relief. Forty-five properties fall into this category.

Likewise, eligibility for the disabled takes into account the 3.7% inflationary increase, their income, and asset holdings not including their home. Single people with incomes of $26,400 or less and couples with incomes of $35,600 or less are eligible for this type of property tax relief. Seven individuals fall into this category. There will be a last reading of this ordinance at the next city council meeting, when the public is invited to comment, and the council will put it to a decisive vote.

Human Resource Director Shannon Thibodeau reviewed Merit System Attachment B, which was comprised of job descriptions and job titles for nonunion employees and addressed the 5% pay increase for employees who worked under the merit system. There will be a last reading of this ordinance at the next city council meeting, with an opportunity for public comment prior to the council's vote.

Director of Public Works Alex Gleason requested the expenditure of $15,076.40 for a new compressor, and related parts and labor to replace the old compressor which had completely failed on the HVAC unit on the roof of the police station. The council voted to approve request.

City Council member Andrew O'Hearne reported that the chairperson of the Tolles Home Board has resigned her seat but remains on the board. The former vice chair is now acting chair. In addition, the maintenance supervisor and the site manager have given their notices.

Interim City Manager Rick Bergeron had a number of procedural announcements: Comcast has completed work on the broadband matching grant, which has extended service to 97 addresses and also added connections to 41 additional addresses that weren't included in the grant at no cost. The cast iron fountain in Opera House Square will be removed before winter, sandblasted, repaired, and painted before its reinstallation in the spring. The city lost its part-time payroll technician recently, along with a staff member in Central Connections. Human resources is working on filling both of these positions. The finance department has completed its bookkeeping for fiscal year 2026, which shows an increase of $145,430 in the fund balance. Figures have not yet been validated by the auditor. And finally, Wilmot is looking into converting the position of part-time parking enforcement officer into a part-time officer who can enforce city ordinances in the Pleasant Street area.

The Claremont City Council meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 6:30 p.m., in the Claremont City Hall Council Chambers.

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Duncan Watson: One man's trash is another man's treasure –

WALPOLE, N.H. – A Walpole resident and recently retired assistant director for the Keene Public Works Department in Keene, N.H., Duncan Watson is what you could call a renaissance man, yet not in a way anyone could imagine.

For, along with his nearly 35 years of service as a solid waste manager overseeing the operation of the Keene Recycling Center and Transfer Station on Old Summit Road, Watson's real "claim to fame" actually occurred when he was just a teen: He performed the voice of the iconic and loveable Peanuts character Charlie Brown in several animated specials from 1975-1977. Additionally, Watson published his first book in 2024, titled "Everyone's Trash: One Man Against 1.6 Billion Pounds."

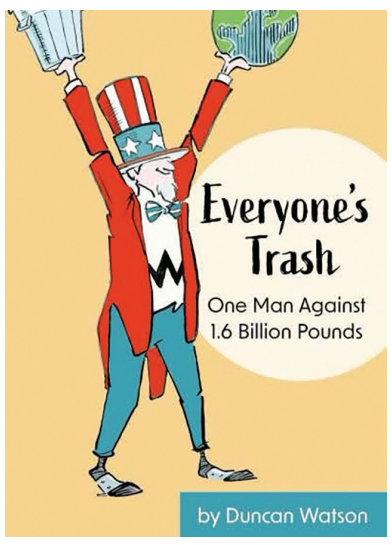
Originally from Montclair, N.J., Watson has lived in various locations – among them Mexico, Utah, and California – before settling in southern New Hampshire. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1985 and attended graduate school at Antioch University.

In 1975, at the age of 12, Watson began his acting career, cast as the official voice actor of Charlie Brown while appearing in four films over a three-year span. Watson was discovered by Peanuts producer Bill Melendez while he was attending Reed Elementary School in East Longmeadow, Mass.

During recess, Watson saw an unusual line forming outside a classroom and got in the line, not even knowing what it was for. When it was his turn to enter the room and the casting director asked Watson what character he was reading for, he simply said that he did not even know why he was in the room. When the casting crew suggested he read for the character of Charlie Brown, young Watson read a few simple lines from the script before being sent back to class.

The honesty and nativity worked like a charm, for a few weeks later, Watson's parents received a very surprising phone call from the Peanuts crew inviting him back. After a series of callbacks and interviews, Watson finally secured his role as Charlie Brown.

Watson would go on to do the character voice for four animated titles over a three-year period, including the television specials "Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown" (1975), "You're a Good Sport, Charlie Brown" (1975), and "Happy Anniversary, Charlie Brown" (1976), as well as the feature film "Race For Your Life, Charlie Brown" (1977). Watson also voiced the character of Franklin in "You're a Good Sport."



"Everyone's Trash" by Duncan Watson.
PHOTO PROVIDED

In 1976, "You're a Good Sport" won a television Emmy Award, "Happy Anniversary" celebrated 25 years of the Peanuts comic strip with a prime-time special, and "Race For Your Life" was just the third feature film ever produced by the iconic franchise.

"Race For Your Life" would be Watson's final Peanuts appearance, after which he would pursue a career in environmental management and public service. In the early '90s, he began working for the City of Keene, and would spend the next 35 years as both the solid waste manager and assistant director of public works, retiring just a few months ago.

In 2024, Watson published his first book, a funny and unique memoir which explores the social aspects revolving around subjects such as local landfills, recycling, and area waste disposal.

Just as you would imagine Charlie Brown could, Watson cleverly turns the process of recycling into positive and even fun action that truly makes a difference in our world. You're a good man, Charlie Brown!

Upcoming community events at Nova Arts —

KEENE, N.H. – On Nov. 5, Nova Arts, 48 Emerald Street in Keene, N.H., will be welcoming Cooperative Action Monadnock back for its public discussion series, "The Fall Elections, Our Community & You." This event will serve as a public forum regarding the upcoming midterm elections and an opportunity to discuss various political crises, including shared social, political, environmental, and economic concerns. Cooperative Action Monadnock is an organization that prioritizes cooperation, equity, and collective responsibility, while connecting the Monadnock region through the aforementioned categories.

This event is free, open to all ages, and will run from 5-7 p.m. For more information about Cooperative Action Monadnock, visit www.cooperativeactionmonadnock.org.

On Nov. 7, four-piece punk rock band Slob Drop will be stopping by Nova Arts with Young Other and Deadweight for a night of alternative rock and dynamic live performances. Slob Drop hails from Brattleboro, Vt., and released their debut album, "Drinkin' Fightin' Skatin'," in 2025. The band has mastered a blend of energetic, tongue-in-cheek lyricism alongside some carefully articulated guitar riffs and influence from soft rock, punk, and country.

Massachusetts-based rock band Young Other will be taking the stage that same night with a performance showcasing their heartfelt, expressive lyrics and unique sound. The band's 13-track debut album, "Enlightenment," was released in 2025 and serves as a well-crafted collection of the band's work from previous years. Local band Deadweight will also be returning to Nova on Nov. 7, following their last Nova performance during Mutual Aid: Battle of the Bands in September. Deadweight covers all eras and genres of rock and took home the winning prize after their Battle of the Bands performance.

For the Nov. 7 show, doors will open at 7 p.m., and music starts at 7:30 p.m. Seating will be first-come, first-served. Thanks to Savings Bank of Walpole's support, access for all/pay what you can tickets are available, but Nova encourages buyers to pay full price if they are able. For tickets and more information, visit www.novaarts.org/events.

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INDEX

Health & Community....4
Obituaries & Services....5
Calendar....6
Legal Notices....6
Classifieds & Opinion....7
Home & History....8
Arts & Events & Outdoor....9

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DEADLINES

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Grace Hayes named DAR Good Citizen Award recipient

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS) is pleased to announce that Grace Hayes, daughter of Sarah and Ken Hayes, of Rockingham, Vt., has been selected by BFUHS faculty and staff as the school's 2026-2027 Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen.

Established in 1934, the DAR Good Citizen Award recognizes high school seniors who demonstrate the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. Each participating high school selects one senior for this honor, recognizing a student who consistently demonstrates strong character and a commitment to others.

Hayes has been an active member of the BFUHS community throughout her high school career. She has participated in student council for four years, serving as treasurer, and has also been involved in the athletic leadership council, prom committee, and environmental club. Through these activities, she has taken on leadership responsibilities, worked with her peers, and contributed to school activities and events.

Community service has also been an important part of Hayes' high school experience. She has volunteered as a youth hockey coach for both 10U and girls' development programs, served as a Montessori summer camp counselor, assisted with gardening projects at the middle school, and participated in trail cleanup efforts. These experiences reflect her willingness to give her time to others and make a positive difference in her community.

Hayes is also a three-sport varsity athlete, participating in soccer, hockey, and softball. She has been a member of three consecutive state championship hockey teams and has served as captain of both her varsity soccer and hockey teams.

In addition to her leadership and service, Hayes has earned several academic and character-based honors, including the Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award, Endicott College Book Award, Excellence in Geometry Award, Green and Gold Scholar recognition, and the Person of Integrity Award. She has also been recognized as an Elks Student of the Month.



DAR Good Citizen Grace Hayes.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Hayes' selection as the DAR Good Citizen reflects the respect she has earned from BFUHS faculty and staff, and the positive impact she has made throughout her high school career.

Bellows Falls Union High School congratulates Hayes on this well-deserved honor.

Kurn Hattin Annual Meeting, momentum and transition

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – On Sept. 23, Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children held its Annual Meeting of Trustees and Incorporators. On the heels of historic momentum and strategic transition for the residential and academic community, the board elected five new incorporators to three-year terms: Jahyde Bullard, of Pittsfield, Mass.; Deb Hamel Gay, of Hernando, Fla.; Bruce Maysilles, of Advance, N.C.; Heidi Schwieger, of Keene, N.H.; and Cynthia Staniszewski, of Swarthmore, Pa.

In addition, the board reelected seven incorporators to another term: Heather Hunter, of Grafton, N.H.; Lyssa Jackson, of Gansevoort, N.Y.; Shannon Nolan, of Boston, Mass.; Michael Obuchowski, of Montpelier, Vt.; Bob Swartz, of Keene, N.H.; David Therrien, of Alstead, N.H.; and Rennie Washburn, of West Chesterfield, N.H.

New trustees, to serve three-year terms, include Charles Kelsey, of New London, N.H.; and Shannon Nolan. Previous trustees Susan Johnson, of Walpole, N.H.; and Leslie Rennie-Hill, of Harwich, Mass., were reelected to the position.

For officers and executive committee members serving one-year terms, Vice President Eric Velto, of Springfield, Vt.; and Chairman Jerry Bardwell, '73, of Middleboro, Mass., were reelected. Toni Ciampaglione, of Keene, N.H., was appointed to serve as the new board president, with Charles Kelsey replacing her as treasurer. Diane Bazin, of Westminster, Vt., previous incorporator, was elected to serve as secretary. Retiring President Christopher Hackett, of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., will remain on the board as a trustee.

Executive Director Sue Kessler, speaking to these newly elected and reelected incorporators, trustees, and officers, reflected on recent organizational realignment to better serve the children of Kurn Hattin, saying, "For 132 years, Kurn Hattin has weathered change, evolved with the times, and remained committed to our fundamental mission: transforming the lives of children and their families. We are still here. And we are still making a difference."

Kessler also recognized Hackett for his "leadership and commitment" during his time as board president, especially in an "important period of transition." Kurn Hattin staff, the "heart and soul" of the organization, were praised for their "compassion, dedication, creativity, and deep commitment to the children's success."

Another highlight of the afternoon was the official unveiling of a championship banner to celebrate Rezig Akot, '25, and his outstanding 2025 track and field season. Akot became the 2025 Vermont Middle School State Champion in discus with a throw of 112 feet, 8 inches. His accomplishments, now represented in the Wheeler Gymnasium, will inspire the Kurn Hattin athletes who follow in his footsteps.

Marked by inspiring new leadership, the event represented exciting potential for Kurn Hattin and the power the organization has in transforming lives.

Woman's Club hears from GFWC-VT

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – At the Oct. 13 meeting of the Bellows Falls Woman's Club, Darlene Remy, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Vermont (GFWC-VT), spoke on the history of GFWC and the benefits of belonging to this worldwide organization for women. The local club is a member of GFWC, whose signature project is domestic and sexual violence awareness and prevention. Also at the meeting, plans for the upcoming food and bake sale, to be held in conjunction with the Walpole Library's book sale at the Walpole Middle School, on Oct. 24, were discussed. It was announced that the club's Community Improvement Project committee will donate its budgeted funds to the Rockingham Recreation Department for use in purchasing new picnic tables for the Bellows Falls playground.

Members of the Bellows Falls Woman's Club will meet on Nov. 10, at the United Church, 8 School Street in Bellows Falls, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The meeting presenter will be Charlie Hunter, local arts and music promoter, speaking on offerings at the Bellows Falls Opera House.

Area women are invited to join the club and to participate in its programs and projects; call Sally McGaffigan 603-445-2527. The club meets on the second Tuesday of each month, from September-May, at 1:30 p.m., at the United Church. Programs are varied. Community volunteering and outreach is central to the members' sense of belonging to the organization.

Windham Harvest Gathering and Square Dance

WNDHAM, Vt. – The Windham Harvest Gathering and Square Dance will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m., at the former Windham School, 5940 Windham Hill Road.

The Windham Harvest Gathering is hosted by the Windham Community Organization (WCO), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. This is WCO's fall fundraiser. This year, the WCO is not able to host its traditional Harvest Supper due to ongoing renovations to the Windham Meeting House.

The event will be serving seasonal pies and desserts along with ice cream, popcorn, apple cider, and a few savory snacks to enjoy. All proceeds will go toward aiding Windham residents in need, organizing community events, and supporting local food shelves and social service agencies. During the evening, take the opportunity to view the entries in the "Capturing the Beauty of Windham" photo contest sponsored by the Windham Library and vote for your favorite photos. Winners will be featured in the 2027 Windham Library calendar.

Music will be provided by talented Windham musicians, with Sally Newton calling the square dance. Newton will give detailed instructions regarding the moves so that you can hit the floor dancing and join in the fun. The music will begin at 6:45 p.m.

The WCO will also be collecting donations for its local food shelves at this event. Financial donations as well as nonperishable pantry staples, kid-friendly snacks, personal hygiene items, and pet food are encouraged.

This is a fun family community event. Admission is free, and donations to WCO are welcome.



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puzzle page

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The Rules

Participants must complete the Crossword or the Sudoku puzzle and mail this page to The Vermont Journal, PO Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149. Must be received by Friday, Nov. 13, 2026. Limit one submission per person.

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

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

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ TOWN: _____

COUPON OF CHOICE: _____

Weekly SUDOKU

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

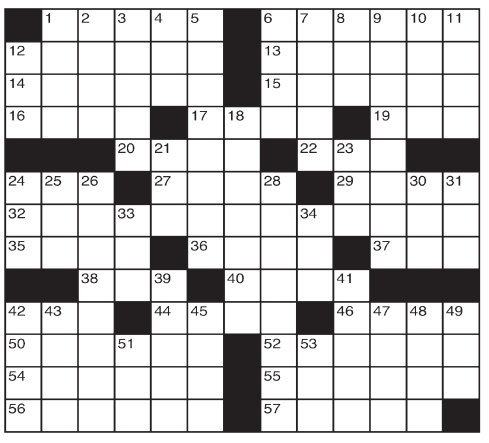
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Interior design
6 Views
12 Made over
13 "Phooey!"
14 Aromatic herb
15 Found out, to Brits
16 Party pooper
17 "Dream on!"
19 Prof's helpers
20 Poker pot money
22 Covert agent
24 Jungfrau, for one
27 Melodies
29 Emmy winner Falco
32 Paintings of artists, say
35 Dessert fruit
36 Not even one
37 Mom's mate
38 "— -hoo!"
40 Grant basis, at times
42 Home for mil. jets
44 Horse's halter?
46 Eight (Pref.)
50 Illusionist David
52 — app
54 Boris of tennis
55 Hearth remains
56 Gardeners, at times
57 Synthetic fabric

DOWN
1 Woodland grazer
2 Writer Buchanan
3 Line dance
4 Small bill
5 Affinity
6 Pieces for one
7 Kitchen VIPs
8 Coach Parseghian
9 Bowlful served with chips
10 Sicilian spouter
11 Swift jets
12 "Mayberry —"
18 Hot chili pepper
21 Snooze
23 Pod dweller
24 Nile viper
25 Director Spike
26 Listen to a recording
28 Football game prankster
30 Judge Lance
31 Mentalist's claim
33 Swing to and —
34 Deli bread
39 Proprietor
41 Surround sound name
42 Shortened wd.
43 Dog bane
45 Towel word
47 Jazz singer Laine
48 Shore bird
49 Hosp. areas
51 Mamie's man
53 "— Little Teapot"

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health & community

New southern Vermont initiative targets healthcare needs

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – This year, Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) will partner with employers and local training providers to create a new Southern Vermont LNA Hub. The hub was launched with funding from Vermont's Rural Health Transformation Program, which aims to strengthen the rural healthcare workforce network. This initiative will support training and recruitment for licensed nursing assistants (LNA), who are key to frontline healthcare delivery. The hub will make investments to improve training options and outcomes, including low-cost and no-cost training and job readiness support for LNA trainees.

One of the initiative's goals is to build a better understanding of local employer needs across nursing homes and hospitals. BDCC will survey local employers to assess current and projected needs. The collaboration will also generate recommendations and data to sustainably meet the region's entry-level healthcare needs.

The LNA Hub will create more on-ramps into health professions, increase job readiness, and build new employer partnerships, including new connections with schools. It is designed to welcome individuals who wish to pursue a career in healthcare but aren't sure where to start.

If you are an individual looking to start your career in healthcare, or a healthcare employer looking to get involved in the hub, please contact Jack Spanierman at jspanierman@brattleborodevelopment.com or fill out an interest form at www.cognitoforms.com/BDCC1/LNAHubInterestForm.

Dartmouth joins effort to increase lung cancer screening

LEBANON, N.H. – Dartmouth Cancer Center (DCC) joins healthcare organizations across New Hampshire in a statewide effort to increase awareness of lung cancer screening and help eligible residents determine whether they could benefit from this potentially lifesaving test.

Led by the NH Cancer Partnership, the initiative brings together hospitals, health systems, healthcare professionals, and community organizations with a shared goal: increasing the number of Granite Staters who receive recommended lung cancer screening.

DCC encourages people to understand their risk for lung cancer and talk with their healthcare teams about whether screening is appropriate for them. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States, and screening with a low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) scan can help detect lung cancer at an earlier, more treatable stage, yet only 31.1% of eligible New Hampshire residents are currently up to date with recommended lung cancer screening, according to 2024 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data.

"Throughout my career as a pulmonary physician, I have seen firsthand how much of a difference it can make when lung cancer is found early," said Dr. David J. Feller-Kopman, chief of pulmonary and critical care medicine at Dartmouth Health's Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC). "I want people to understand that screening is not about blame or judgment – it is about finding lung cancer as early as possible, when we have the best opportunity to treat it successfully. If you think you may qualify for screening, please ask. It could make all the difference."

People may be eligible for lung cancer screening if they are 50 to 80 years old; have a 20-pack-year history of smoking, such as smoking one pack of cigarettes a day for 20 years, or two packs a day for 10 years; and/or currently smoke or quit smoking within the past 15 years. Screening can identify lung cancer before symptoms develop, when treatment may be more effective.

"Lung cancer is unique in that it rarely causes symptoms until it has reached advanced disease, where treatments and survival are limited," said Dr. Dana M. Ferrari-Light, thoracic surgeon at DHMC. "But through a simple, painless, low-dose CT scan, we can catch it in its earliest stages. When we find lung cancer early, thoracic surgeons can use minimally invasive techniques to remove the tumor completely, turning what could have been a devastating diagnosis into a curable condition. Lung cancer screening doesn't just buy time – it saves lives."

At Dartmouth Cancer Center, patients with lung cancer have access to a multidisciplinary team of specialists, including pulmonologists, radiologists, thoracic surgeons, medical oncologists, and radiation oncologists.

The statewide campaign includes community education, outreach through local organizations, educational resources, and engagement with healthcare professionals to improve awareness and increase referrals for screening. By working together, participating organizations hope to reduce barriers to screening and ensure more New Hampshire residents have access to information and care.

Residents are encouraged to visit the campaign website, www.dhhs.nh.gov/lungscreening, to learn who qualifies for lung screening, understand the benefits and potential risks of screening, and talk with their healthcare team about whether screening is right for them.

For more information about lung cancer screening services at Dartmouth Cancer Center, speak with your healthcare team or visit cancer.dartmouth.edu/lung-thoracic/lung-cancer-screening.

Neighborhood Connections home heating assistance applications

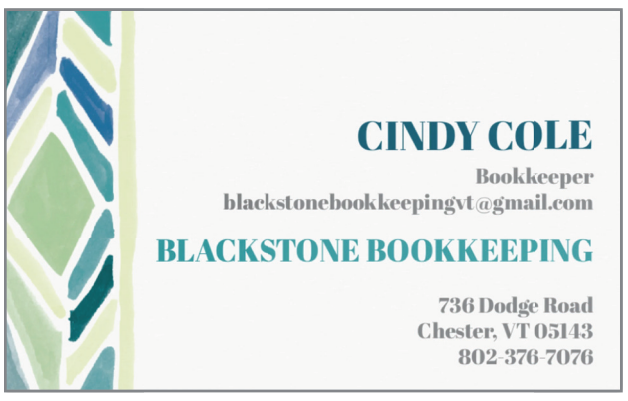
MANCHESTER, Vt. – The heating season is upon us, and fuel prices are up. Do you need help paying for heating oil, propane, wood, pellets, or electricity? If so, you may qualify for low-income home energy assistance. A household of two may qualify if its income is $3,336 or less per month. A single person may qualify if their income is $2,460.50 or less per month.

A representative from Neighborhood Connections in Londonderry will be at the Manchester Community Library on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., to help with applications for fuel assistance and Green Mountain Power's energy assistance program, as well as other government benefits programs.

From 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., the representative will be available to answer your questions concerning fuel assistance and other government benefits that are available, such as 3SquaresVT and 3SNAP (SNAP) benefits, health insurance, VPharm/Dr. Dynasaur, Medicaid (both general and long-term care), and Medicare Savings Programs. From 1:30-4:30 p.m., the representative will be available to help you apply for benefits. To schedule an appointment for application assistance, please call Neighborhood Connections at 802-824-6913 and ask for Malcolm Hamblett.







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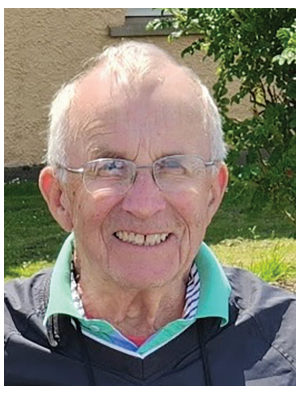
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obituaries

Wendell "Skip" Brown, 2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Wendell "Skip" Brown passed away suddenly on Monday, Oct. 19, 2026.

Skip was born in New London, N.H., the son of Wendell Stone Brown and Natalie Robinson Brown. The family lived in Grafton, N.H., during earlier years of his childhood, and moved to Saxtons River at the time he entered high school. He graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1961. He attended the University of Vermont, following which he entered the United States Army. Skip served a year of active service in Vietnam, from 1964-1965.



Skip Brown, 2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Upon his return home, he began working at Holmes Transportation Inc. It was there that he met the woman who would become his wife, Leona Lamotte. Skip and Leona were married on Oct. 2, 1971, this year marking their 55th wedding anniversary. After briefly residing in Sanford, Maine, they returned to the Bellows Falls area, where they settled and began to raise their family. Skip worked as general manager for Burtco and Northeastern Culvert in Westminster for 20 years. Upon his departure from Northeastern Culvert, he branched out into positions in the petroleum and LED lighting industries, where he spent the remainder of his career, the last 20 years as a manufacturer's sales representative for TR2 Corporation of Mahwah, N.J. At the time of his death, he was still involved on a part-time basis. Skip thrived in this culture, which enabled him to maximize his talent and abilities.

Skip was a kind and caring man, generous in his willingness to help others in need. He was devoted to his family, ever involved in the kids' academics, sports, and music activities. This support carried through in his support of his grandson, Evan, the apple of his eye, as he and Leona made countless trips to Georgia to take in Evan's baseball and basketball games.

A sports enthusiast himself, Skip's passion was golf. Starting as a young boy caddying at Hooper Golf Club, he carried this passion lifelong, playing up to the time of his passing. He held the honor of being Bellows Falls Club Champion three times.

Skip leaves behind his wife, Leona; his daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Jon; his son, David; former daughter-in-law Teresa Brown; and his grandson, Evan.

There will be no calling hours. A memorial service and celebration of his life will take place at the Bellows Falls Country Club in May. Notice will be published prior to this. Those who wish to honor Skip's memory may make a donation to Dartmouth Cancer Center, the Multiple Myeloma Research Fund, or the White River Junction Veterans Administration Medical Center.

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

Paula D. Collins, 1944-2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Paula Diane (Clemens) Collins, 81, of Bellows Falls, Vt., died on Oct. 27, 2026.

Paula was born on Nov. 5, 1944, to John and Virginia (Griffin) Clemens. She grew up in Bellows Falls, graduated from Bellows Falls High School, and attended Cardinal Cushing College in Boston, Mass. She married Paul Collins in 2000.

For more than 30 years, Paula worked as a senior outreach specialist at Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS). She often took the people she served to evening events and outings on her own time, without pay, because she believed everyone deserved a full life and experiences that mattered.

She was a life member of the Women of the Moose, Chapter 1123, where she volunteered countless hours and sponsored 37 women into membership. She earned her Academy of Friendship Degree (1999) and her College of Regents Degree (2008), and went on to receive her red stole and red tassel, marking the final level of the College of Regents. Bingo was another big part of her life, and many of her friendships began at the bingo hall.

Paula believed that God made every person equal and loves each of us, no matter who we are, and she said so often. She lived that belief, standing up fiercely and without hesitation for anyone she felt was being treated unfairly or not being heard.

Above all, Paula was devoted to her family. Her daughters and granddaughters were the center of her life, and her love and support for them never wavered.

Paula is survived by her husband, Paul Collins; her daughters, Nancy Capron and Susan Dearborn and her husband, Bryn; her granddaughters, Grace, Sadie, and Beatrice; her brothers-in-law, Graham Collins and Richard Collins; her sister-in-law Anne Collins; and her cousins, Robert Griffin and Sandra (Griffin) Valiquette. She also leaves her lifelong friends, Catherine Welch and Claire (Kahkola) Buckley; her longtime friends and partners in adventure, Felicia Aron King and Karen Thomas; and her devoted canine companion, Molly.



Paula Collins, 1944-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

She was predeceased by her sisters-in-law Angela (Capron) Kneeland and Sandra Carnon, and her niece, Anne (Kneeland) Swanson.

A celebration of Paula's life was held on Monday, Nov. 2, from 4-7 p.m., at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls. The Women of the Moose, Chapter 1123, will hold a memorial ceremony in her honor, followed by food and time to share memories. All who knew and loved Paula are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Paula's memory may be made to the Vermont Kidney Association, 1 South Prospect Street, Burlington, VT 05401, www.vermontkidneyassociation.org.

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

Constance Laplante, 1930-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Constance Koski Laplante passed away peacefully, at the age of 95, on Oct. 6, 2026, at the Thompson House in Brattleboro, Vt. Connie lived a full life as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, valuing her family above all else.

Constance was born in Ludlow, Vt., on Dec. 23, 1930. She was raised by Fred and Jennie Koski. The family moved to Springfield, Vt., where she grew up and graduated from Springfield High School.

During her life, she delighted in cooking fabulous meals for family gatherings and making every holiday special, and she loved sending greeting cards to people she cared about.

In high school, she met her true love, Reine Laplante. They married in May 1949. Following graduation, she was employed as an office manager at Young's Furniture, where she worked for many years.

Reine and Connie began ballroom dancing, for which they received rave reviews. Connie shined on the dance floor with her elegance and graceful style. They spent many weekends traveling around New England dancing with different bands and making lifelong friends over the years. She loved music and enjoyed attending various concerts in the area. They thrived on attending their grandchildren's many events, including swim meets, cross-country events, and many band concerts. You name it and they were there.

In the winter months they spent time in Florida, giving them lasting memories which they loved to reflect back on. Connie and Reine were also very active alumni and took pleasure in meeting with classmates.



Constance Laplante, 1930-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Connie was devoted to her church. Her strength and faith brought light to those around her. Connie will be remembered for her elegance, warmth, smile, and kindness.

She was predeceased by her son Stephen; her parents, Fred and Jennie Koski; her sisters-in-law Laura Walker and Anita Wehler; her brother-in-law Albert; her husband of 76 years, Reine; and her daughter-in-law Ellen Laplante.

Constance is survived by her brother-in-law Al; her sister-in-law Elaine Minadeo (Claude); her sons Mark (Sheila) and David; her grandchildren, David Charles, Christopher, Julianne, and Travis; and her great-grandchildren, Adam, Matthew, Penelope, and Gemma.

A graveside service will be held at St. Mary's Cemetery in Springfield, Vt., on May 22, 2027, at 11 a.m., with a reception to follow.

The family requests in lieu of flowers that you extend a thoughtful act of kindness to someone in need.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

Joyce A. McCue, 1941-2026

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Joyce Ann McCue, 85, of Saxtons River, Vt., passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family, on Oct. 27, 2026. She was born on Oct. 18, 1941, in Gilsum, N.H., to Wayne and Evelyn Buffum, and attended school in Alstead, N.H.

Joyce married the love of her life, Virgil McCue Sr., on Dec. 31, 1959. Together, they built a life and family filled with many years of memories. Virgil predeceased her, along with her brothers and sisters Ralph Buffum, Evelyn Buffum, William Jackson, Mildred Johnson, Isabel Owens, Ernest Buffum, Wayne Buffum Jr., and Arthur Buffum.

Joyce worked as a bank teller for many years, but her greatest joy was always her family. She had a special way of making everyone feel loved and welcomed, and she treasured the time she spent with those closest to her. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren held an especially dear place in her heart, and the bond she shared with them was truly special.

In her free time, Joyce enjoyed life's simple pleasures. She loved gardening, watching the birds that visited the feeders she always kept filled, spending time outdoors, and going for walks. She found happiness in the beauty of nature and the everyday moments that made life meaningful.

Joyce leaves behind her daughter, Jodi McCue, and her partner, Brett Goldsmith; and her son, Virgil (Chuck) McCue Jr., and his wife, Christie.

She will be lovingly remembered by her grandchildren, Kassandra Maxfield and her husband, Tim Maxfield; Chelsea Jones and her husband, Jeff Jones; Christopher McCue; Corey McCue; Selena McCue; Paige Rohane; Katherine Howard; and Caleb Rohane.

Her love and legacy will continue through her great-grandchildren, Ashlin, Aubrey, Avery, and Alton Maxfield; Ziya Jones; Omile Meyerrose; Violet and John Ryals; and Luna Hall.

Joyce is also survived by her brother, Earl Buffum, and his wife, Julie Buffum.

Joyce will be deeply missed by her family and all who knew and loved her. She leaves behind a lasting legacy of love, cherished memories, and the gift of making those around her feel special. She will forever hold a place in the hearts of the many people whose lives she touched.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Joyce McCue to Bayada Hospice, P.O. Box 8081, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Services will be held at the convenience of the family. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

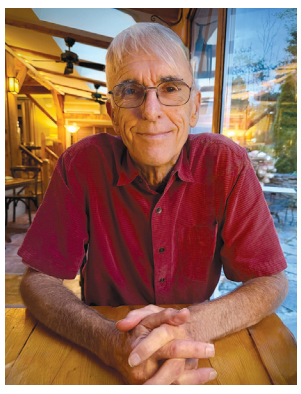
Charles Thomas Lauritsen, 1948-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Charles Thomas Lauritsen, 78, died unexpectedly on Oct. 3, 2026, at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Tom was born on Aug. 31, 1948, in Santa Monica, Calif.

Tom was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, a master carpenter and builder, a politician and environmentalist, and a resolute pacifist.

Tom and Kathleen cofounded Studio Time and Space in downtown Springfield, a nonprofit community space for yoga, meditation, and dance.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen O'Donnell, of Springfield, Vt.; his children, Ramlah Lauritsen, of Springfield, Vt., Mathew Lauritsen, of Portland, Ore., and Seth Lauritsen, of Chester, Vt.; his stepson, Miles O'Donnell; his first wife, Neomi (Meixner) Lauritsen; his son-in-law, Jason Leonard, and daughter-in-law, Melissa Nelson; his grandchildren, Ezra and Asa Leonard, Charles and Mary Chakmakian, and Sophia and Ciaran Lauritsen; and other relatives, chosen family, and many friends, including lifelong family friends Steve and Truddi Greene.



Tom Lauritsen, 1948-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

He loved us, and we loved him.

Family and friends will gather at a later date to be announced. Knight Funeral Home in Windsor, Vt., is handling arrangements.

Mary Jane O'Hara, 2026

LUDLOW, Vt. – Mary Jane O'Hara, 85, a longtime resident of Ludlow, Vt., passed away peacefully in Easton, Pa., while surrounded by her sisters, on Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026.

Services are to be held privately at the behest of her family.

The Finegan Funeral Home, of Easton, Pa., has been entrusted with the arrangements, www.fineganfuneralhomepa.com.

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

NOV. 6 –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church Street, will hold its annual First Friday fundraiser Thanksgiving dinner on Friday, Nov. 6, from 5-6:30 p.m. Donations will benefit the emergency fuel fund administered through SEVCA. The menu includes turkey and all the trimmings. There is a small suggested donation.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Friday Night Bingo at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will be held on Nov. 6. This is open to the public. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and games begin at 6 p.m. You must be 18 or older to play. Concessions will be available, no outside food or drink.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 36 and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 36 will be hosting a ham and turkey raffle on Friday, Nov. 6, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the American Legion Post 36, 133 Main Street. There will be 10 rounds with numerous prizes per round. This event is open to everyone.

NOV. 7 –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Gerry Grimo & The East Bay Dance Combo will perform at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 7-9 p.m. This will be a Roaring '20s-themed social dance. Dress in period costume for good fun. Small suggested donation. There is a large dance floor and comfortable seating. Snacks will be available, BYOB.

WESTMORELAND, N.H. – The Westmoreland United Church, 9 Village Common, will serve a pork supper on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 5-6:30 p.m. Eat in or take out.

NOV. 8 –

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Alfred Hitchcock's 1955 film "The Trouble With Harry" will be screened at the Latchis Theatre, 50 Main Street, on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 2 p.m. Following the screening, there will be a conversation with Jeanine B. Fros and Hitchcock scholar Steven DeRosa, moderated by Vermont filmmaker Bess O'Brien. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.app.arts-people.com/?show=363578.

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – The Perkinsville Community Church, 35 Church Street, is excited to welcome back the Poor Cousins on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 4-5 p.m. Naomi Morse (fiddle, voice) and Emmet McGowan (guitar, voice) have been playing music together since they met in York, England, in 2006. Based in Vermont, the duo performs various styles of roots music, including American old time, New England, Irish, Quebecois, and Scottish, as well as their own arrangements of classical and popular pieces. This concert is free, and everyone is welcome.

NOV. 12 –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The New Hampshire Telephone Museum is coming to the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Nov. 12, at 1 p.m., to present the history of telecommunications from the race to the patent office, the liquid phone, and the undertaker who invented the dial system, plus telephone movie trivia. This program is open to the public at no cost. Bring your family and friends to enjoy this event.

NOV. 14 –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – There will be a cozy and delicious stick season dinner served at the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road, on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 5:30-7 p.m. The menu will include a variety of homemade lasagnas, including meat, vegetarian, and gluten free, as well as fresh garden salad, garlic bread, and dessert. You may eat in or take your meal out. The cost is discounted for children ages 5 and up.

NOV. 16 –

LUDLOW, Vt. – A Red Cross blood drive will be held on Monday, Nov. 16, from 12-5 p.m., at the Ludlow Community Center, 37 Main Street. To make an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED-CROSS.

NOV. 20-22 –

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Okemo Mountain School will be hosting its annual Ski Swap on Friday, Nov. 20, from 4-7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Round House at Jackson Gore. New and used equipment will include skis, snowboards, and gear. To sell your used equipment, it must be dropped off at the Round House on Saturday, Nov. 14, Sunday, Nov. 15, or Wednesday, Nov. 18, between 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. All sales will benefit the Okemo Mountain School, www.okemomountainschool.org.

NOV. 21 –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – A turkey dinner will be served at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Saturday, Nov. 21. Those who wish to attend must sign up by calling 603-678-0433 by 3:30 p.m. the day of the dinner. Please leave your name, how many dinners, a call-back number, and whether you will be eating in or taking your meal out. The menu will be turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, squash, rolls with butter, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

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.

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.

CHESTER, Vt. – American Legion Post 67, 637 Vermont Route 103, holds its monthly meetings on the second Monday of every month, at 7 p.m.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Bone Builders classes are held at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Monday mornings, from 9-10 a.m. These no-impact weight training classes are designed to increase or maintain bone density, improve balance, and decrease the risk for falls and fractures. They are free if you are a member of the senior center, or a small fee per session for nonmembers

TUESDAYS –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds chair yoga every Tuesday morning, at 9:45 a.m., with Brianna Renner. Free for members, small entry fee for nonmembers. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Tai Chi Vermont-certified teacher Jo Bregnard will lead a weekly Yang 24 tai chi practice online and in person from the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road, from 10-11 a.m., on Tuesday from Nov. 17 – April 27. All are welcome, and all classes will be recorded. For pricing details and to sign up, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/96859.

WEDNESDAYS –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Bone Builders classes are held at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Wednesday mornings, from 9-10 a.m. These no-impact weight training classes are designed to increase or maintain bone density, improve balance, and decrease the risk for falls and fractures. They are free if you are a member of the senior center, or a small fee per session for nonmembers.

THURSDAYS –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Women's pool games are played every Thursday, from 12-3 p.m., at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights. Come be a part of this fun activity with likeminded women. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Memory Cafe is held on the second Thursday of each month, at the United Church of Ludlow, 48 Pleasant Street, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The memory cafe is free to attend, snacks included, and offers a safe and comfortable space where caregivers and their loved ones living with dementia or Alzheimer's can socialize, listen to music, play games, and enjoy other appropriate activities. This is a program of Black River Good Neighbor Services. For more information, contact Vicki at 802-376-3388, or Krey at 802-228-3663.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds computer clinics on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month, from 12:20-3 p.m. Bring your computer or laptop in if you need help with it. This is for seniors older than 50 only. Emily and Luke will help you troubleshoot any problems you are having. This is a free service, except for the cost of replacement parts. They can also help you with your cell phone, especially Android phones. To make an appointment, call the senior center at 603-543-5998.

FRIDAYS –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Bone Builders classes are held at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Friday mornings, from 9-10 a.m. These no-impact weight training classes are designed to increase or maintain bone density, improve balance, and decrease the risk for falls and fractures. They are free if you are a member of the senior center, or a small fee per session for nonmembers.

LEGAL NOTICES

Two Rivers Supervisory Union
Employment opportunity, part-time bus driver

The Green Mountain Unified School District is seeking a part-time bus driver. This school year position includes 4 to 6 hours of driving per day in the morning and afternoon. Additional hours are available. Class B CDL license with a school bus endorsement is required along with a background check and DOT medical card. Visit www.schoolspring.com/jobdetail?jobId=5936331 for more information.

CITY OF CLAREMONT

The City of Claremont, NH is soliciting formal proposals for the following:

Highway – 10-Ton Deck Over Trailer
Highway – Equipment Trailer
Highway – Loader
Sewer – Backhoe
Water – Pipe Truck

All Proposals Due: November 30th, 11:00 AM
Public Bid Openings: December 2nd, beginning at 10:00 AM
~Please check the RFP specifications for bid opening times.
~When mailing your bids, please mark your envelope(s) according to the instructions listed on the website for the equipment you are bidding on.

Bid Opening Location: City of Claremont City Hall, 58 Opera House Square, Claremont, NH 03743. For detailed information, please visit the City's Procurement Opportunities page at https://www.claremontnh.com.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

The Town of Londonderry is soliciting bids to plow and sand the Transfer Station for the coming 2026-2027 winter season, with an option to contract for the next two seasons as well. Proposals are due on November 12, 2026, no later than 3:00 pm. Navigate to our RFP page at www.londonderryvt.gov/rfpsto see the full bid document.

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, November 18, 2026, at 5:30 to hold a public hearing for :

An application from Antone Dias for a mixed commercial residential use at land he owns at 2000 North Main St

An application from Matt Fournier & Higher Elevations LLC for a tiny home park on land they own at 441 Magic Mt Access Rd.

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.

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT **PROBATE DIVISION**
Windsor Unit **Docket No.: 26-PR-05933**

In re ESTATE of : Marilyn A. Mahusky

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Marilyn A. Mahusky, *Decedent*
late of Chester, Vermont, *Decedent's Town of Residence*

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

Dated: 10/29/2026 *Signature of Fiduciary*

Executor/Administrator		*Mailing Address*
Brian S. Anderson c/o Barry J. Polidor, Esq.		PO Box 279 | 64 Chester Road
Phone Number	*Email*	*City, State, Zip*
(802) 885-4530	polidorlaw@gmail.com	Springfield, VT 05156

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal
Publication Date: November 4, 2026
Name of Probate Court: Windsor Probate Court
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green, Woodstock, VT 05091

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT **PROBATE DIVISION**
Windsor Unit **Docket No.: 26-PR-04532**

In re ESTATE of : George Noor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: George Noor, *Decedent*
late of Chester, *Decedent's Town of Residence*

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

Dated: 10-27-26 *Signature of Fiduciary*

Executor/Administrator		*Mailing Address*
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LEGAL NOTICES classy & opinion

Dear Editor,

The tables are folded, the shoppers have gone home, and the volunteers who worked the fall rummage sale at Fletcher Farm have probably earned a chance to rest. But the need the sale was organized to meet is not seasonal.

That is the point I hope residents of Ludlow and the surrounding Black River Valley carry away from the Oct. 17 letter by Black River Good Neighbor Services in The Vermont Journal. Executive Director Krey Kellington thanked the community for supporting the sale and explained that its proceeds help sustain a food shelf, clothing assistance, community meals, and financial and disaster assistance. These services reach Ludlow, Mount Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville, and Plymouth.

There is a lesson here that Christians ought to recognize. In Galatians 6, the apostle Paul tells believers to bear one another's burdens. He is not describing the feeling of being generous for one afternoon. Carrying a burden means remaining concerned when the task is no longer convenient or visible.

Rummage sales bring neighbors together in a way that has its own value. A shopper may find an affordable winter coat. Someone clearing a closet can give a useful item a second life. Volunteers work side by side and meet people they might not otherwise know. Those are good things. Yet the greater achievement is what happens later, when a neighbor who has fallen behind on necessities can receive help without being made to feel like a problem.

I am writing from Fort Collins, Colo., and have never volunteered at Fletcher Farm or used the services in Ludlow. I can nevertheless appreciate what the organization's message asks of its own community. The next good step is not simply another round of applause for the people who made the sale happen. It is asking what kind of support the food shelf, clothing program, and community meals will need in an ordinary week this winter.

That question deserves a practical answer from residents who know local circumstances. Some may have time for a shift. Others may be able to offer goods, financial support, or a useful professional skill. Families who need assistance should also know that seeking it does not diminish their dignity. The organization identifies its location as 37B Main Street in Ludlow and provides information about its services through its office.

Jesus taught that loving a neighbor is not the same as being noticed for generosity. In Matthew 25, He takes the needs of hungry and vulnerable people seriously. Christian faith has to reach past our warm feelings and into dependable action. It should also resist turning someone's hardship into a story told for our own praise.

So, thank the volunteers. Celebrate the successful sale. Then remember that a neighbor who needs groceries in February has not missed the season of compassion. The work of loving our neighbors continues after the last table is put away.

Sincerely,
Douglas Vandergraph
Fort Collins, Colo.

Dear Editor,

I recently attended the 36th annual World Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants Conference in Philadelphia – perhaps one of the last gatherings to include several Holocaust survivors. Those survivors were very young children when the Nazi persecution of European Jews began. Today, they fear that when their voices are gone, their stories will be forgotten.

As a founder of Vermont Holocaust Memorial, a child of Holocaust survivors ("2G") and descendant of its victims, I feel a profound responsibility to preserve their legacy. I attended with my daughter, a member of the third generation ("3G"), who is now carrying the mantle of remembrance in her own community. Watching her generation step forward gives me hope, but the urgency of their mission was unmistakable.

Throughout the conference, participants spoke of growing antisemitism, Holocaust denial, and false equivalencies that distort history. They worry that the Holocaust will become a footnote in history books rather than a defining lesson about the consequences of hatred, dehumanization, and indifference.

Eighty-one years after the end of World War II, its effects continue to haunt survivors and their descendants. Conference sessions explored intergenerational trauma, survivor guilt, and a particularly poignant question: "Are we allowed to be happy?" The Holocaust did not end emotionally when the war ended. Its losses reverberate through families, shaping identities and leaving absences that can never be filled.

As we commemorate the 88th anniversary of Kristallnacht, "The Night of Broken Glass," on Nov. 9–10, I am reminded that history is not something that happened only to others. I grew up with the knowledge that my grandfather, aunts, uncles, and cousins had been murdered simply because they were Jewish. I never had the opportunity to get to know them. Before the war, they were ordinary people: shopkeepers, businesspeople, homemakers, students, and playful children. They had dreams and futures that were violently taken away.

Their life stories are part of my inheritance. Descendants of Holocaust survivors and victims carry that legacy, whether they recognize it or not. We inherit the memories, the silences, and the responsibility to ensure that those who were murdered are remembered as individuals, not merely as statistics.

Yet, remembrance must also inspire hope. At the conference, the 3G participants spoke with resilience, confidence, and joy. They are finding new ways to preserve history, using technology and social media to share their experiences and stand proudly in their Jewish identities. Their voices are a breath of fresh air. They reminded us that honoring the past does not mean surrendering the future.

But hope alone is not enough. We must act.

Vermont remains one of the very few states without a requirement to teach the Holocaust in its secondary schools. Although many dedicated Vermont educators ensure that students learn this history, education should not depend on an individual teacher's initiative or a school's priorities.

Every student deserves to learn about Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust, what happened, and how an "enlightened" society descended into genocide. Students must understand the roles of perpetrators, bystanders, and those who resisted. They need historically accurate, carefully vetted resources that help them recognize antisemitism, challenge propaganda, and distinguish historical fact from deliberate distortion.

Vermont Holocaust Memorial supports educators through annual professional development workshops, exhibits, projects, and a speaker's bureau. These efforts are invaluable, but they cannot substitute for a consistent, statewide commitment.

When Holocaust education is not required, students may graduate without the meaningful understanding of one of history's most consequential atrocities. That allows room for ignorance, denial, and the normalization of prejudice. We cannot leave such an essential responsibility to chance. If it is not in the curriculum, it can be said that it never happened!

As survivors pass, the obligation to bear witness falls to their children, grandchildren, educators, and communities. Our task is not simply to preserve their testimony, but to ensure that the lessons remain relevant to each new generation. It is about equipping students with the knowledge to recognize where hatred leads and the courage to challenge it.

Vermont must make Holocaust education a priority by establishing a statewide requirement and ensuring that teachers have the proper training and resources to teach it responsibly.

I left the conference encouraged by my daughter's generation, but also mindful of what is at stake. When the last of the Holocaust survivors are gone, the world will still need witnesses. Vermont must ensure that future generations are prepared to carry the responsibility forward.

Sincerely,
Debora Steinerman, Co-founder
Vermont Holocaust Memorial
Jeffersonville, Vt.

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Dear Editor,

Would you please join me in donating blood every five weeks in Ludlow?

I am the coordinator of the American Red Cross blood drives, held at the Ludlow Community Center as well as at the Ludlow American Legion in the summer. Years ago, my highest number of donors was 75, but I can't seem to get above 40 these days. It takes about an hour of your time and does so much good for your own body and another person in need.

Thank you to my regular, loyal donors. Please encourage first-time donors. For more information, visit www.redcrossblood.org. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Abi Karner
Ludlow, Vt.

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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.

REBUTTALS: In the event that a direct reply or rebuttal to a letter is published, each party will get only one rebuttal thereafter.

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

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

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yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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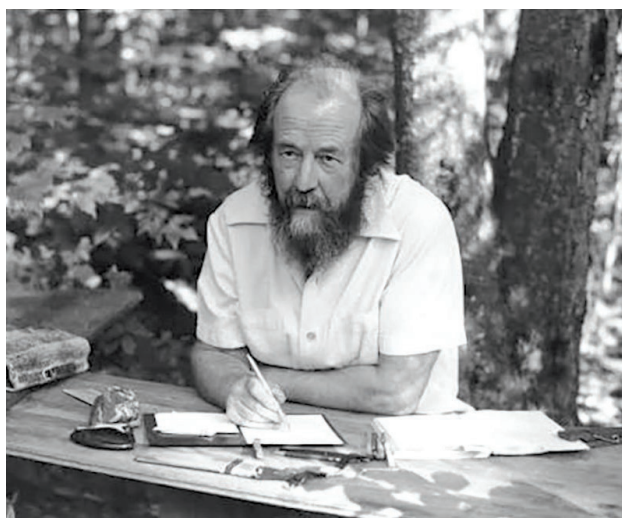
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home & history

"Solzhenitsyn in Vermont" exhibit in Cavendish

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – In celebration of the Russian writer, Soviet dissident, and Nobel Laureate Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who moved to Cavendish 50 years ago, the Cavendish Historical Society (CHS), in conjunction with the Cavendish Fletcher Memorial Library, is pleased to announce the exhibit "Solzhenitsyn in Vermont." This exhibit was developed by the Vermont Historical Society in honor of Solzhenitsyn's 100th birthday in 2018, and is currently on loan to CHS and the library.



Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn at his outside writing desk in Cavendish, Vt.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The "Solzhenitsyn in Vermont" exhibit celebrates the life and work of Russian novelist and historian Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, particularly his time living in Cavendish, Vt., and its influence on his life and work. Telling the story through photographs, quotes, and family memories, the exhibit includes five main exhibit panels, along with four timeline panels noting important moments from Solzhenitsyn's life.

The exhibit is now on display at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, 753 Main Street, Proctorsville, until Dec. 5. In addition to the CHS display are the autographed books Solzhenitsyn donated to the town upon his return to Russia.

The library is open to the public Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. For more information, or to arrange other times, call 802-226-7807 or email margocaulfield@icloud.com.

Podcast episode explores the life of James Hartness

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – What do precision manufacturing, Vermont politics, aviation, and amateur astronomy have in common? The answer is James Hartness, the innovative Vermont industrialist and governor whose influence can still be seen and felt in Springfield nearly a century after his death.



James Hartness with his most successful invention, the flat turret lathe.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The latest episode of the history podcast "That's One for the History Books," hosted by Marty Cohn and Hugh Ryan, explores the fascinating and largely underappreciated life of Hartness in Episode 177, "James Hartness – Vermont's Inventive Governor and Stargazer."

Hartness was much more than a successful businessman. Born in 1861, he entered the workforce as a young man and developed his expertise in the machine shop. He eventually joined the Jones & Lamson Machine Company in Springfield, where his innovations in precision machining helped transform American manufacturing.

"He approached virtually everything with the mind of an engineer," says Cohn. "Whether he was improving a manufacturing process, running state government, looking toward the future of aviation, or studying the stars, Hartness was interested in finding better ways to understand and improve the world around him."

The episode explores Hartness' contributions to precision manufacturing, including his patented inventions and his efforts to improve workplace conditions and education for employees. But perhaps the most surprising part of Hartness' story is his passion for astronomy.

At the Hartness House in Springfield, Hartness constructed an underground observatory featuring a retractable roof. His interest in astronomy brought him into contact with Russell W. Porter, an artist, Arctic explorer, engineer, and amateur astronomer whose extraordinary ability to visualize and explain telescope design helped make astronomy accessible to a broader audience.

Together, Hartness and Porter helped inspire the formation of Springfield Telescope Makers Inc., which ultimately led to the creation of Stellafane Observatory.

"Stellafane means 'shrine to the stars,' and the name captures something important about Hartness' vision," says Ryan. "Astronomy wasn't supposed to belong only to professional scientists. People could build their own telescopes, learn from one another, and explore the universe together."

That philosophy continues today through the annual Stellafane Convention, which brings amateur telescope makers and astronomy enthusiasts to Springfield from across the country.

The episode also examines Hartness' interest in emerging technology. Following the Wright brothers' historic flight, Hartness became an early supporter of aviation in Vermont, recognizing the potential of flight to transform transportation and commerce.

In 1921, Hartness brought that same practical, forward-looking approach to Vermont's Statehouse when he became governor. His administration focused on modernizing government, improving infrastructure, supporting economic development, and encouraging education and civic engagement.

Hartness also governed during a pivotal moment in American history, shortly after ratification of the 19th Amendment gave women the constitutional right to vote.

"James Hartness is a particularly interesting figure because his story crosses so many different parts of American history," Cohn says. "He represents the industrial transformation of the early 20th century, the modernization of government, the emergence of aviation, and the democratization of science. And all of those stories come together in Springfield."

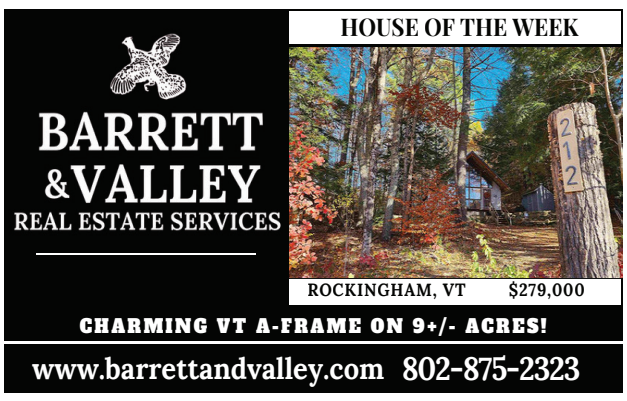
"That's One for the History Books" is a weekly podcast hosted by Cohn and Ryan that brings to light the stories of influential Americans whose contributions may have been overlooked or underappreciated.

Episode 177, "James Hartness – Vermont's Inventive Governor and Stargazer," is available now. Listeners are encouraged to share the episode with anyone interested in Vermont history, American innovation, manufacturing, astronomy, or the remarkable stories of people who helped shape their communities.

A collection of the podcast's third year of weekly scripts, "That's One for the History Books, Vol. 3," is also available in paperback and digital editions through Amazon. For more information about the podcast and upcoming episodes, follow "That's One for the History Books" wherever you listen to podcasts.



















arts, events & outdoor

Wild Goose Players present "Assassins"

PUTNEY, Vt. – The Wild Goose Players will bring one of American musical theater's most provocative and darkly humorous masterpieces to the stage this November with a new production of Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman's "Assassins." The limited-run production will be hosted at Next Stage Arts in Putney, Vt., offering seven performances across two weekends.

"Assassins" is a multi-Tony-Award-winning musical that bends time and space to bring a rogue's gallery of history's most notorious figures together. From John Wilkes Booth to Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, the musical explores the motives, delusions, and twisted American dreams of nine individuals who attempted – or succeeded in – assassinating a president of the United States. Driven by a brilliant, carnivalesque score by the legendary Stephen Sondheim, the production combines a terrifyingly sharp script with powerful music to look beneath the surface of American history.

Brought to life by the acclaimed local performers of the Wild Goose Players, this production promises a striking, intimate look at a masterwork of contemporary musical theater.

"We are excited to bring 'Assassins' to the Putney community at Next Stage Arts," said David Stern. "Sondheim's work is fiercely smart, challenging, and profoundly theatrical. It is a piece that provokes deep thought while delivering unforgettable musical performances, making it a perfect fit for our company and our audience."

The production, directed by Morganna Ekkens, features local favorites, including Isaiah LaPierre-Palmer, of Keene, as John Wilkes Booth; Shayna Bredbeck, of Bellows Falls, as Sara Jane Moore; and Liam Johnson, of Brattleboro, as the Balladeer. Musical direction is led by Carol Cronce, with scenic and lighting design by David Stern.

Evening performances will be held on Nov. 6, Nov. 7, Nov. 12, Nov. 13, and Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Matinee performances will be held on Nov. 8 and Nov. 14, at 2 p.m. All performances will take place at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted for seniors and students, and can be purchased in advance online at www.wildgooseplayers.com or at the box office prior to showtime. Due to the intimate layout of the venue and high anticipation for this production, booking tickets in advance is strongly recommended.

This production contains mature themes and historical depictions of violence, making it best suited for older adolescents and adult audiences.

Decatur Creek and Patty Keough at Stage 33 Live –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Decatur Creek and Patty Keough split the bill in a 3 p.m. matinee on Nov. 8, at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance through www.stage33live.com, or at the door as available. Advance tickets guarantee entry. Only 40 tickets will be sold. All ticket money goes to the performers.

Doug Farrell, Jack Henry, and Beth Eldridge – each a talented singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist – banded together to form Decatur Creek, blending their solo styles to create an original acoustic sound. Influences run from traditional and roots Americana to country and folk, with well-crafted songs, warm vocals with tight harmonies, and crisp musicianship that flows with rhythm, soul, and wit. Decatur Creek is one of the region's real gems.

Keough, after spending time in the corporate mines, took to the stage and never looked back. She writes songs that get people crying; tears of laughter, or shared sorrow. She lives off grid in Vermont with farming friends, plenty of wine, and lots of cats. She does animal rescue – mostly cats, as they're 75% of the stray population – and uses all of her performance income, tips, and donations in her rescue activities.

Eli Burakian author talk on hiking in New Hampshire –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Author and nature photographer Eli Burakian will be presenting a talk on hiking in New Hampshire on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m., sponsored by The Well Collaborative, at 72 Pleasant Street in Claremont, N.H.

Burakian is a photographer, writer, and adventurer from Brownsville, Vt. He has published numerous books over the past two decades, including several hiking guidebooks about the northeast for Falcon Guides. In his talk, he will be sharing images and stories from his most recent guidebook, "101 Classic Hikes of the Northeast," and explaining what it takes to put together a guidebook.

Film showing honors Native American Heritage Month —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Filmmaker Andrea Sadler will help the Friends of the Rockingham Free Public Library in Bellows Falls celebrate Native American Heritage Month when she presents her 55-minute documentary "The Sacred Run, the lotus and the feather," on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 12-1:30 p.m., at the Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls.

The film traces the 1995 ceremonial run by indigenous peoples of the Americas, Japan, and 14 countries, carrying the message "All Life Is Sacred." Their journey concluded in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, marking the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings.

Manna Jo Greene, the founder of Hudson Valley Sustainable Communities Network, describes the film, saying, "'The Sacred Run' weaves together the feather of ancient Native American wisdom with the lotus of Buddhism and indigenous Japanese traditions, showing that all people are one at heart – that we can be united in community, while honoring diversity. It is a powerful call for peace and justice."

A native of Ontario, Canada, world-traveling filmmaker Sadler is an activist for peace, social justice, and the environment. Over the years since she participated in the Sacred Run, she has hosted and joined many other peace walks. Besides her filmmaking and work as a transformational coach, she acts in theater, film, and television. No matter what the medium, Sadler explores balancing spirit through the heart. "I am passionate about consciousness," she explains. "How do we live on the earth in a balanced way with respect for all life? I'd like to inspire us towards awareness of life that flows through everything. This film is very close to my heart and soul."

This event is free and open to all.

Local author romantasy novel

REGION – Local author Jaye Kinton has released her new novel, "Edge," set in the Upper Valley of Vermont. Kinton has been writing almost since she could wield a pen. In the past, her articles have appeared in The Vermont Standard, The Valley News, Local Banquet magazine and other publications, but she much prefers writing dark fantasy.

According to the novel's description, "In the pastoral backwoods of Woodstock, Vermont, something is waking up. Something that will change the shape of the world as we know it. It begins with the arrival of the mysterious fire dancers. It begins with the twisted shadows, and with a sinister sorcerer. It begins – and ends – with ancient beings from before the dawn of time, and with the chill whisper of humanity's demise.

"This is life on Edge, where worlds collide, the lines between waking and dreaming blur, and darkness and danger lurk without and within. Where nothing is as it seems, and forbidden love comes with a catastrophic price. And where you're forced to reassess everything you believe, and everything you think you know about reality."

For more information or to purchase, visit www.edge-thenovel.blogspot.com.



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Create a wreath for the ESBR Festival of Wreaths fundraiser

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR) will be hosting its first Festival of Wreaths fundraiser this upcoming holiday season. Local businesses and community members are welcome to participate. Simply acquire or create your own wreath or wreaths to decorate with your favorite themes to donate to the school. These wreaths will then be auctioned following the Fletcher Memorial Library's open house on Saturday, Dec. 5. Both events will be open to the public, who may view and bid on their favorite wreaths they hope to claim for their own festivities. All proceeds from the Festival of Wreaths will go to ESBR for local education. Please register for the Festival of Wreaths by Nov. 20 at www.esblackriver.org/first-annual-festival-of-wreaths-silent-auction. For more information and locations to purchase wreaths, please reach out to ESBR Chair Patrick Pullinen at ppullinen@esblackriver.org, ESBR Board Secretary Marissa Selleck at mselleck@esblackriver.org, or board member Melody Reed at melodious54@gmail.com.

ESBR is now in its seventh year of operation. As an independent school, ESBR offers a unique opportunity to utilize funding locally and help the community expand. Providing a specialized and financially viable secondary school option will help the community find ways to thrive. Further information on ESBR is available at www.esblackriver.org. If you would like to learn more about the school or get involved, please contact Head of School Michael Kell at mkell@esblackriver.org or visit www.esblackriver.org. Donations can be made by mailing a check to P.O. Box 485, Ludlow, VT 05149.

An evening of community storytelling

LUDLOW, Vt. – Vermont resident Samara Anderson is hosting storytelling events at every public library in Vermont, and you are invited. Come and join in on the creative and vulnerable act of storytelling on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 6-8 p.m., at Fletcher Memorial Library. Hear your neighbors and fellow Vermonters tell their stories, or sign up to share.

If you are interested in telling a story, email anderson_samara@yahoo.com. Anderson will provide details, support, and guidance. First-time storytellers are welcome and encouraged.

This program is free, open to the public, and accessible. Snacks will be available. Fletcher Memorial Library is located at 88 Main Street, Ludlow, Vt. For more information, visit www.fmlnew.org. or call 802-228-8921.

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