



FREE

THE MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

NOVEMBER 11, 2026 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

PUBLISHED BY THE VERMONT JOURNAL

VOLUME 02, ISSUE 09

Warm Welcome Shelter welcomes guests for fourth winter season —

BY LISA STICKNEY

CLAREMONT, N.H. – In 2023, a small group of members of the Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 120 Broad Street in Claremont, N.H., discussed ways to help people in need of a warm place to go. This effort has since grown into a communitywide effort to provide overnight shelter during the winter months.

The Warm Welcome Shelter will open its doors Dec. 1, to begin its fourth winter season of providing a safe place for people experiencing homelessness in Sullivan County and the surrounding area. The shelter will remain open seven days per week through March 31, 2027, welcoming guests from 8 p.m. – 8 a.m.

In January 2024, the church decided to open its doors and offer coffee and a warm place to sit when temperatures dropped below 32 degrees. The Claremont Police Department and Claremont Fire Department approved the arrangement, but determined that people could not stay overnight.

The following winter, from January through March 2025, the effort expanded. The shelter received permission to set up cots to allow people a warm place to come inside from the cold overnight, though they could not sleep.

By December 2025, the Warm Welcome Shelter was opening a month earlier and operating through March 31. Fundraising efforts during that season allowed the organization to hire and train paid staff members, known as hosts, to help oversee the overnight operation.

Shelly Page, who handles administrative management, explained that Warm Welcome Shelter operates as a low-barrier shelter, meaning people are welcomed regardless of the circumstances they may be experiencing. The shelter has 13 trained staff members and 43 volunteers, and can accommodate up to 24 guests each night. Two hosts are on duty at all times, with a third host called in when the number of guests reaches 17 or more.

Hosts arrive at 7:15 p.m. and may remain until 9 a.m. The shelter is open to guests from 8 p.m. – 8 a.m.

Safety is an important part of the overnight operation. Staff members are trained in CPR and the use of Narcan, and emergency services are contacted when necessary. Page said there were no overdoses during the most recent winter season, although the shelter experienced two incidents during the previous year.

Warm Welcome Shelter also works with several local community organizations to help guests connect with services and resources beyond a place to sleep. "We have community partners and work with TLC, Claremont Soup Kitchen, West Central Behavioral Health Services, and we work with Baby Steps," Page explained.

Representatives from community partner organizations have agreed to visit the shelter in the mornings to meet with guests, learn about their needs, and help them take steps toward accessing additional services. Robin Wittemann, director of Baby Steps, has access to a variety of community resources, including clothing; shower passes at the community center; and help with paperwork for disability benefits, food assistance, and job applications. Guests can also receive aid exploring housing opportunities, including Section 8 housing. The Claremont Soup Kitchen and Pantry also provides three to four meals each week, along with pantry items.

The Warm Welcome Shelter operates in space provided by Trinity Episcopal Church, which also supplies volunteers. Warm Welcome Shelter is responsible for utilities, repairs, and upkeep associated with its use of the space. Southwestern Community Services in Keene, N.H., serves as the shelter's fiscal sponsor. The organization holds the funds raised for Warm Welcome Shelter, manages payroll, and provides insurance coverage.

As the shelter prepares for another winter, fundraising remains an important part of keeping its doors open. The operating budget is approximately $115,000, and the organization has received a $4,000 government grant. Grant applications are pending, and organizers are hoping for continued support from individuals, businesses, and other community donors. Grant awards have also been received from Bar Harbor Bank and Claremont Savings Bank, along with contributions from other donors.

Several fundraising events are planned for the coming months. Josh Hall will perform an acoustic guitar benefit concert at Trinity Episcopal Church on Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. The Common Man is also planning a dine-in fundraising event on Jan. 17, with 20% of the proceeds being donated to Warm Welcome Shelter.

Volunteers are welcome, and monetary and in-kind donations are appreciated. Items needed include coffee, hot chocolate, toilet paper, paper towels, nondairy creamer, and sugar.

Those interested in making a financial contribution or learning more about the shelter's needs can visit www.tinyurl.com/WWWSNeeds.

As Warm Welcome Shelter enters its fourth winter season, its continued operation depends on the combined efforts of church members, volunteers, community organizations, donors, and the people who have come together to make sure a warm place is available when someone needs one.



Pictured from the Warm Welcome Shelter, left to right: Shelly Page, administrative manager; Zadiah Eisenberg, director; and the Rev. Cannon Kelly Sundberg Seaman, steering committee.
PHOTO PROVIDED

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Claremont MakerSpace announces fall artist in residence Tabitha Randall —

BY JOE MILLIKEN

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Located at 46 Main Street in Claremont, N.H., Claremont MakerSpace recently announced its fall 2026 artist in residence, illustrator and comic maker Tabitha Randall. A Claremont native and Stevens High School graduate, Randall studied at Maine College of Art, majoring in illustration.

Randall will be handed the artist baton from summer artist in residence and fellow illustrator and mural artist John Garoutte. Garoutte's latest community mural was installed on the side of the Latchis Building, on Pleasant Street, in October.

The public can meet and mingle with the artist at the upcoming artist reception and open house event on Nov. 19, from 5-7 p.m., at the Claremont MakerSpace, 46 Main Street, sponsored by the Northern Border Regional Commission's (NBRC) Catalyst program along with Eastern Propane & Oil.

Enacted by Congress through the 2008 Farm Bill, the NBRC is a partnership between the federal government four regional states – Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and New York – in which they target specific resources to help promote economic growth, strategies, and projects throughout designated counties. In 2024, the NBRC was reauthorized for another five years.



Tabitha Randall.
PHOTO PROVIDED

In turn, Catalyst is NBRC's flagship grant program, investing in state economic development projects and priorities to support, expand, and revitalize the region's infrastructure to attract and support the region's workforce. These projects may include transportation infrastructure, recreation, the arts, workforce development, and access to childcare and healthcare facilities.

At the reception on Nov. 19, attendees will be able to view some of Randall's unique artworks and learn more about her upcoming residency. Select prints of Randall's are also on view at the Claremont MakerSpace microgallery, located at Claremont's Common Man Restaurant, as well as on her artist website, www.tabitharandallillustration.com.

Guests are also encouraged to tour the facility and observe its variety of workspaces, including a wood shop, a jewelry studio, a metal shop, a fiber arts studio, electronics and photography labs, and a full machine shop and CNC mill. This all-ages event (anyone under 16 must be accompanied by an adult) is free to the public, with light refreshments available. For more information, call 603-504-3419 or email info@claremontmakerspace.org.

Acworth Holiday Fair and Bonfire –

ACWORTH, N.H. – Get into the holiday spirit with a full day of shopping, community connections, and old-fashioned holiday fun at the Acworth Community Project Holiday Fair on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Acworth Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Road in Acworth, N.H.

The holiday fair is a wonderful opportunity to shop local and support talented area crafters, artisans, and small businesses. Visitors will find unique, handmade gifts and one-of-a-kind treasures just in time for the holiday season. It's also a great chance to catch up with friends and neighbors and enjoy the warmth of this close-knit community.

Children of all ages are invited to stop by and visit with Santa Claus between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Bring the kids and your holiday wish lists.

Local vendors and artisans are invited to participate in this year's holiday fair. Whether you make crafts, bake delicious treats, or create something special, the Acworth Community Project would love to have you as a vendor at the fair. To reserve a table, email michaelaron66@yahoo.com, and you will be sent a registration form.

And the festivities don't end at the fair. At 3 p.m., everyone is invited to gather in the back field behind the South Acworth Village Store for an old-fashioned community bonfire, weather permitting. Enjoy live music, hot chocolate, and warm cider while gathering around the fire with friends and neighbors. It's a wonderful way to celebrate the season and enjoy the simple pleasures of community.

Local midterm election results

REGION – Below are the results of the New Hampshire state legislature elections relevant to the coverage area of The Message of the Week.

New Hampshire Senate

District 8: Jim Creighton (R)

District 10: Donovan Fenton (D)

New Hampshire State House

Cheshire-5 (Walpole, Surry): Lucy McVitty Weber (D)

Cheshire-9 (Alstead, Gilsum, Marlow, Stoddard): Jim Gruber (D)

Sullivan-3 (Charlestown, Newport, Unity): Skip Rollins (R)

Sullivan-6 (Claremont, Croydon): Lisa Gosselin (D), John Cloutier (D), Chris Cogswell (D)

New Hampshire Executive Council

District 2: Karen Liot Hill (D)

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DEADLINES

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New Hampshire Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant

WALPOLE, N.H. – The 10 New Hampshire conservation districts are thrilled to announce the sixth grant round of the New Hampshire Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant.

The mission of the New Hampshire Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant is to support and empower local farmers to build climate resilience throughout the Granite State. This will be done by reducing the impact of agriculture on climate change (mitigation) through greenhouse gas emissions reduction and carbon sequestration, and by increasing the resiliency of New Hampshire farms in a changing climate (adaptation), while meeting farms' conservation goals and needs. Extreme weather events, frequent and prolonged droughts, and increased pest pressures are increasing challenges for New Hampshire farms. This grant through the New Hampshire county conservation districts seeks to support farmers in meeting those challenges.

Since 2022, the grant has awarded $1,446,773 to 184 on-farm projects across the Granite State. Funds are available for projects that mitigate the impact of agriculture on climate change and enhance the on-farm adaptations to projected climate conditions. Preference will be given to projects that can demonstrate strong potential in mitigation and adaptation.

This year's applications will be due on Feb. 1, 2027. An optional Zoom informational session for interested applicants will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 16, from 5-6 p.m. Registration is required at www.cheshireconservation.org/event-details/nh-conservation-districts-climate-resilience-grant-informational-session-3.

For the 2027 grant round, three virtual office hours supported by the Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement Grant will be offered for brainstorming, reviewing, and sharing your draft application. Dates and links to registration can be found at www.cheshireconservation.org/events.

If you are interested in applying, contact your local conservation district for more information, or visit its website to view the full request for proposals and application.

This grant program is made possible through the generous contributions of private donors. If you would like to make a donation to support future funding of the program, please do so on the Cheshire County Conservation District's website, www.cheshireconservation.org/donate. Donations to the fund may also be made by mail; checks can be made payable to "CCCD" and addressed to 11 Industrial Park Drive, Walpole, NH 03608. Please include "Climate" in the memo line. Contributions of any amount are greatly appreciated and make a difference.

Since 1945 and 1946, the 10 New Hampshire conservation districts have promoted the conservation and responsible use of the Granite State's natural and agricultural resources. For more information about the programs offered in your county, contact your local conservation district.

Alltown Car Wash offers free car wash on Veterans Day

CLAREMONT, N.H. – In recognition of Veterans Day, Alltown Car Wash will offer veterans and active-duty military personnel a free car wash of any package on Wednesday, Nov. 11, as part of its participation in the annual Grace for Vets program.

The nationwide initiative brings together car wash operators to show appreciation for the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country. Through this annual tradition, Alltown Car Wash is proud to join fellow operators in thanking military personnel for their service and recognizing the important role they play in the communities we call home.

Veterans Day is an opportunity to recognize the dedication, courage, and sacrifice of the individuals who have served our country. Through its continued participation in Grace for Vets, Alltown Car Wash is turning appreciation into action by offering a complimentary wash to those who have served. Alltown maintains two locations in Claremont, N.H., at 170 Charlestown Road and 225 Washington Street.

To find a location or learn more, visit www.alltowncarwash.com/charity.

Book talk with New Hampshire author

GRAFTON, Vt. – On Sunday, Nov. 15, from 2-3:30 p.m., at the Grafton Public Library, 204 Main Street in Grafton, Vt., New Hampshire neighbor and writer Jarvis Coffin presents selected essays from his published collection, "Calmly on the Waters: Seasonal Essays From Monadnock," as part of the Grafton Public Library's ongoing Neighbor-to-Neighbor Discussion Series.

Described as an author with "a light humor and gentle touch," this retired media and sales executive and former co-owner of The Hancock Inn will delight you with his "acutely observed" essays about the natural world. Now a full-time writer, he pens the "Off the Highway" column in the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript and has published fiction in Down in the Dirt, The Swannanoa Review, and Ellipsis…literature and art. "Calmly on the Waters" is his debut essay collection.

Author Sy Montgomery, a neighbor of Coffin in their shared town of Hancock, states that his essays, "sometimes funny, sometimes surprising, always delightful – give you a feel for the place I love most in this sweet green world."

Come to the Grafton Public Library on Sunday for a welcome respite during a busy time. Relax into Coffin's essays as he takes listeners on a seasonal ramble through his corner of New England. There will be time for a Q&A session, and books will be available for purchase. Refreshments will be served. Reservations are strongly encouraged; please call the library at 802-843-2404.

Farm on the River Thanksgiving boxes, pickup available in Walpole

REGION – The Farm on the River Thanksgiving CSA Box is a celebration of the fall harvest – everything but the turkey. The gorgeous organic produce is freshly picked from the farm's fields and ready for the holiday table.

Inside the box are more than 20 pounds of the most beautiful mix of late-season vegetables, perfect to feed a large Thanksgiving gathering, or a smaller gathering with leftover veggies for you to enjoy for up to a month or more. They will store perfectly.



Farm on the River's Thanksgiving box produce.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Buyers will also receive a beautiful chef-created digital recipe set to help them turn this box into a complete Thanksgiving feast – simple, elegant dishes that let the ingredients shine.

The boxes can be picked up in Springfield, Vt., or Walpole, N.H., on Monday, Nov. 23.

This box is not part of Farm on the River's regular 2026 season CSA; it is open to the public. For more information or to purchase, visit www.farmontheriver.com/shop.

New England 776, seven marathons in seven days

REGION – Runners will have the opportunity to tackle seven marathons in seven consecutive days across all six New England states through New England 776, a regional endurance challenge taking place June 6-12, 2027, created and directed by Dave McGillivray, founder of DMSE Sports.

The seven-day journey covers 183.4 marathon miles and begins at Hadlock Field in Portland, Maine, before continuing through Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The final day returns to Massachusetts, with the marathon starting on the Dave McGillivray Track at Hormel Stadium in Medford, each loop passing through Torbert Macdonald Park, and the finish returning to the track. Funds raised through the event will benefit the Dave McGillivray Finish Strong Foundation, which supports youth through running, reading, and acts of kindness.

McGillivray developed the concept after completing the 2018 World Marathon Challenge, during which he ran seven marathons in seven days on seven continents. New England 776 brings a similar consecutive-day endurance challenge to the region where he has spent much of his running and event management career. Ron Kramer serves as the operations director for New England 776, coordinating operations for the seven-day event.

"I've spent my career encouraging people to set goals, challenge themselves, and give back to others," said McGillivray, race director of New England 776. "New England 776 brings those ideas together, and knowing that we're also raising money to help young people through the Finish Strong Foundation makes this event even more meaningful."

The seven-day route begins in Portland, Maine, and concludes in Medford, Mass., with the following marathon locations: Day 1, Hadlock Field, Portland, Maine; Day 2, Polar Park, Worcester, Mass.; Day 3, Ten Mile River Greenway, East Providence, R.I.; Day 4, Windsor Locks Canal State Park, Windsor Locks, Conn.; Day 5, Delta Dental Stadium, Manchester, N.H.; Day 6, Toonerville Rail Trail, Springfield, Vt.; and Day 7, Dave McGillivray Track at Hormel Stadium and Torbert Macdonald Park, Medford, Mass.

Runners can choose from three ways to participate. Those taking on the full 776 will attempt all seven marathons across the seven-day event, totaling 183.4 miles. Participants can also register to run one or more marathons at locations of their choice, or participate as part of a two-to-five-person relay team to share the challenge.

Additional event and registration information is available at www.newengland776.com.



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health & history

Natural remedies workshop at Springfield First Congregational

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Discover how natural remedies and a healthy lifestyle support your wellbeing on Sunday, Nov. 15, at 4 p.m., in the vestry of the First Congregational Church of Springfield, 77 Main Street in Springfield, Vt.

As part of the LifeStyle Matters' Healthy Living Series, the organization invites the community to a free workshop focused on herbal remedies and a healthy lifestyle. Peggy Schauffler will share her knowledge of herbs, charcoal, and spiritual tips on how to improve your health outlook, and how these health factors support general wellness. Attendees will learn about natural remedies that support immune health and improve mental vigor, natural remedies for those who are are already sick, and other health habits that increase alertness and provide a sense of wellbeing. There will be samples of what is demonstrated, as well as free giveaways. Come curious, leave inspired, and take home practical ideas for your wellness routine.

The seminar is free. To preregister, please call 978-496-5006.

Learn Yang 24 tai chi this winter with Jo Bregnard

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Explore the well-known tai chi form Yang 24, in person or online, this season. Following the principles of safe and effective practice, you can play with these movements under the guidance of Tai Chi Vermont teacher and Springfield resident Jo Bregnard.

This winter program will step through the movements of Yang 24, the most popular tai chi form in the world. Sessions will also include supportive breath awareness, centering mindfulness practices, and qigong warmups and cooldowns. Practice both standing and seated – if being on your feet for an extended time is challenging for you, join right from your chair.

Meet on Tuesdays, at 10 a.m., Nov. 17, 2026 – April 27, 2027, at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse in Springfield, Vt., 21 Fairground Road, and via Zoom livestream online. Classes are 60 minutes, and recordings will be posted afterwards so you can access them on your schedule, whether you're able to attend the live session or not.

Choose from a variety of payment options, including monthly and weekly payment plans, and pay-what-you-wish. For complete details and to save your spot, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/96859.

Experience with any style of tai chi, including Fall Prevention, Sun style, bafa wubu, or Seated Yang, will be helpful for this class, but it's not required. For answers to specific questions, email Bregnard at jo@jobregnard.com. All are welcome.

Kitten Yoga at The Well Collaborative NH

CLAREMONT, N.H. – In partnership with the Sullivan County Humane Society (SCHS), join certified yoga instructor Christy Catsos on Saturday, Nov. 21, for a joyful, gentle, beginner-friendly kitten yoga class at The Well Collaborative NH, 72 Pleasant Street in Claremont, N.H., featuring adoptable kittens from the Sullivan County Humane Society. As you flow through your practice, curious kittens will roam the room, curl up beside you, and bring smiles to every pose. Whether you are a seasoned yogi or brand new to the mat, this class is open to all levels and all animal lovers. After class, enjoy extra time for kitten cuddles, photos, and chats with SCHS staff about adoption opportunities. Come for the stretch, stay for the snuggles, and maybe even leave with a new furry best friend.

Kitten yoga will be held in two sessions limited to 15 participants per session. The first session will be held from 9:30-10:30 a.m., and the second session will be held from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Preregistration is required. Those ages 12 and older are welcome. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to sign the waiver. Please bring your yoga mat and any props you enjoy using and arrive 10-15 minutes early to check in and complete a waiver.

Tickets to this event can be purchased at www.donorbox.org/events/976462.

Please park along Pleasant Street, behind Citizens Bank and Claremont Savings Bank, in the public lot next to Mascoma Bank beside the American Legion, or behind the old theater building off Pleasant Street. Enter through the side garden (iron gate) on the Pleasant Street side of the church. Use the ramp entrance and go up the stairs once inside. Elevator access is also available.

Ignat Solzhenitsyn to speak in Proctorsville

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Nov. 17 marks an important date for the work of the Nobel Laureate and Soviet dissident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. On this date in 1962, "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich" was published in Novy Mir, ushering in a new understanding of Stalin's forced labor camps, the Gulag. In 2026, Nov. 17 is the publication date of "Love the Revolution: An Unfinished Novel," in English.

According to the Solzhenitsyn Center, the major part of this unfinished novel was composed in 1948, during Solzhenitsyn's stay in the Marfino sharashka. The writer had to leave behind what he had written when he was shipped to Ekibastuz in 1950, but was able to retrieve this material when he returned from exile. Solzhenitsyn's original intent was for "Love the Revolution" to be an account of his entire military career, but his attempt to resume the narrative after returning from exile failed, and the work remains fragmentary.



Ignat Solzhenitsyn.
PHOTO PROVIDED

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 6 p.m., Solzhenitsyn's son Ignat will be speaking about his father's latest publication at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, 573 Main Street in Proctorsville.

Ignat Solzhenitsyn is internationally known as a pianist and conductor, and is currently the editor of Solzhenitsyn's "The Calf Who Bullied the Oak," due to be published April 1, 2027.

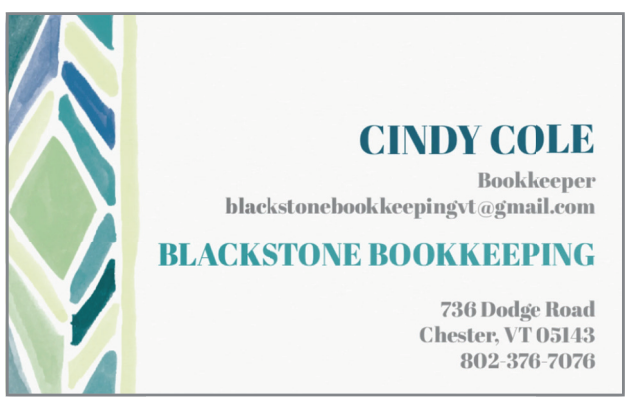
The Vermont Historical Society's exhibit "Solzhenitsyn in Vermont" continues to be on display at the Cavendish Library, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., until Dec. 5. These events are free and open to the public. For more information, email margocaulfield@icloud.com or call 802-226-7807.

Heritage potluck and BRAM members meeting

LUDLOW, Vt. – A heritage potluck sponsored by the Black River Academy Museum (BRAM) will be held on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 6-8 p.m., at the Church of the Annunciation, 7 North Depot Street, to celebrate the early Finnish, Polish, and Italian immigrants who settled Ludlow. Please bring a favorite family recipe or a dish inspired by these cultures to share.

The guest speaker will be Phillip Gatenby, a passionate historian and researcher who has personally visited and recorded 100 of Vermont's historic covered bridges. Gatenby will take listeners on a visual and historical journey across the state, sharing the unique stories, architecture, and engineering marvels of these iconic landmarks.

BRAM invites both those who are already members and those who might like to become members to this fun and educational evening with wonderful food. If you are not able to cook or bake a cultural dish, please bring a salad or dessert to share. For more information, contact Sharon Bixby at seb1@tds.net or 802-228-8823.









real estate

PROS TO KNOW

Is it better to rent or own a home?

REGION – October is Financial Planning Month, which makes it a good time to look at one of the biggest financial decisions many of us make: Does it make more sense to rent or own a home?

There's no one-size-fits-all answer. Renting can offer flexibility and fewer responsibilities, while homeownership can provide stability and the opportunity to build equity over time. The key is making sure you're comparing the whole financial picture, not simply your current rent to a potential mortgage payment.

Start with the monthly costs. For renters, that typically means rent, utilities, and renters insurance. For homeowners, the picture may include principal and interest, property taxes, homeowners insurance, mortgage insurance, HOA fees, utilities, and maintenance. But monthly expenses are only part of the equation.

With a mortgage, a portion of each principal and interest payment may go toward reducing what you owe, helping you build equity over time. Your home may also appreciate in value, although appreciation is never guaranteed. Renting doesn't offer that same opportunity to build ownership in the property.

There are also up-front costs to consider when buying, including a down payment, closing costs, and moving expenses. And this is where one of the biggest homebuying myths can get in the way: Do you really need 20% down to buy a home?

No. A 20% down payment is not required for many homebuyers.

It's a common misconception, and one that can cause people to put off exploring homeownership because they assume they haven't saved enough.

Depending on your financial situation and eligibility, there may be conventional loan options requiring significantly less than 20% down, as well as FHA, VA, and USDA loans, and down payment or closing cost assistance programs. Some options may even allow qualified borrowers to purchase with little or no down payment.

Before you assume buying is out of reach, PrimeLending can help you look at your income, savings, debts, a comfortable monthly payment, and longer-term goals. Then you can compare loan programs and down payment scenarios to understand what's actually possible.

Homeownership can also have tax implications, but they vary based on your individual circumstances. This is an important conversation to have with your accountant or tax professional.

Consider asking the following questions: Could I potentially benefit from deductions related to mortgage interest or property taxes? Would owning a home affect whether it makes sense for me to itemize deductions? Are there tax considerations I should understand before buying or eventually selling a home? And how could buying a home fit into my broader financial plan?

So, is it better to rent or buy?

It depends on your finances, goals, lifestyle, local housing costs, and how long you expect to stay in the home. That's why PrimeLending encourages people to start with their numbers, not general assumptions about whether renting or buying is better.

PrimeLending's rent vs. own calculator, which can be found at lo.primelending.com/vblodgett/calculators/rent-vs-buy, is a great place to start. You can compare the potential costs of renting and homeownership and see how different assumptions may affect the numbers over time.

Then, PrimeLending can help you take the next step by exploring your financing and down payment options, answering your mortgage questions, and giving you real numbers to consider.

You don't have to be ready to buy to start the conversation. Sometimes, simply knowing what's possible can make your next financial decision a whole lot clearer.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, PrimeLending, Ludlow, Vt.

Saxtons River chef uses foraged ingredients at Mission Farm —

KILLINGTON, Vt. – Dandelions,dogwoods and dock, are among the many plants growing and thriving at Mission Farm in Killington, some intentionally planted and others taking up residence to thrive in the fertile floodplain soil. In May, the Ottauquechee Natural Resources Conservation District (ONRCD) received grant awards from the Trees For Streams program and from Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited to partner with Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) on planting the bank of the river along an area of Mission Farm, a historically farmed parcel that now hosts a variety of public walking trails, a community kitchen, and a charming and welcoming 1890s Episcopal church.

At a recent workshop sponsored by the ONRCD, participants enjoyed a guided tour of the recently-planted riparian buffer, a wide strip of vegetation the roots of which will help stabilize the bank soil the next time the Ottauquechee River rises. The afternoon session featured guest chef Charlotte Galley, of Saxtons River, as she shared a collection of delightful recipes featuring foraged natural ingredients, such as crab apples, autumn olive berries, and even acorns. From tart and tangy fruit leather to a freshly baked loaf of crabapple and acorn bread, Galley tantalized everyone with delicious treats created right from the landscape and sent everyone home with recipes.

PMNRCD is planning a seed collection workshop in the coming months, inviting the public to participate and learn to identify local plants, shrubs, and trees, and help harvest seeds that will be propagated in the PMNRCD nursery for future plant sales. If interested, please contact Sadie Brown at sadie@pmnrcd.org.

Learn more about outdoor opportunities and public events at Mission Farm at www.missionfarmvt.org; for more information about riverbank buffer planting, contact Ottauquechee NRCD at onrcd1@gmail.com or 802-369-0697.



Charlotte Galley cooks up foraged treats and shared recipes.
PHOTO PROVIDED

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2055 & 2071 MAIN & 28 PLEASANT STREET, CAVENDISH - $399,000
Three properties are being sold together with some owner terms possible. 2071 Main Street could be used as a single family or two units. The upper level renovation is nearly complete. Prep work has begun in the lower level. Includes a large barn. 2055 Main Street has a newer concrete foundation at the back of the previous structure and is capped and covered. This property also has a large barn. 28 Pleasant Street is behind the Main Street properties and has a separate access off Pleasant Street.
Please view https://bit.ly/4pBUaFC or call Ty Murray at 802-777-8047.
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SERVICES

obituaries

ASCUTNEY, VT.

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

Vision of Light Church of Spiritualism and Healing, P.O. Box 133, Windsor
The Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with Lay Pastor Dawn Hancy via Zoom. Sign up for the Vision of Light newsletter and Zoom links on Facebook @VOLChurch.

ATHENS, VT.

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

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

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, VT.

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, N.H.

Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St.
Sunday service starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 603-826-3335.

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

CHESTER, VT.

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

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

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

CLAREMONT, N.H.

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.

GRAFTON, VT.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St.
Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to www.graftoncommunitychurch.org or call 802-843-2346.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

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

LUDLOW, VT.

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.

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

MOUNT HOLLY, VT.

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.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.
Sunday services are 9:30 a.m. in person. Services are still streamed at www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt. For more information, go to www.calvarylovesspringfield.com.

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

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

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

WALPOLE, N.H.

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

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

WESTMINSTER, VT.

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

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.

Leslie A. Cole, 1948-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Leslie Alvin Cole, 78, died at the Springfield Center for Living and Rehabilitation on Monday, Nov. 2, 2026. He was born on Sept. 14, 1948, in Springfield, Vt., to Norman and Lois (Stoddard) Cole.

Leslie worked as a logger, enjoyed hunting, and loved to be outdoors.

He is survived by a daughter and his three brothers, Calvin Cole, Dennis Cole, and Gerry Cole.

Leslie is predeceased by his sister, Linda Hallett.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., is assisting with arrangements.

Howard Ryan, 1929-2026

WINDSOR, Vt. – Howard Ryan passed peacefully on Nov. 3, 2026, in Windsor, Vt. Born in Moretown, Vt., on Feb. 28, 1929, to Herman and Irene (Belisle) Ryan, Howard received his elementary education in a one-room schoolhouse in Moretown, then attended Montpelier High School. He left school in 1947, but later in life received his GED diploma.



Howard Ryan, 1929-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Howard was employed by Bryant Grinder in Springfield, Vt., as a machinist, for 40 years, until his retirement in 1990. Hobbies included deer hunting and old cars.

Howard was predeceased by Dorothy, his wife of 75 years, as well as a special brother, Lyle. Howard is survived by his sons, Wayne and his wife, Colleen, of Saranac, N.Y.; and Mike and his wife, Lynn, of Colorado. He is also survived by his grandsons, David, Matthew, Duncan, and Nathan, and their wives and children.

Interment will be in Berlin Corners Cemetery at the family's discretion. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your local humane society.

Knight Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed in an online guestbook found at www.knightfuneralhomes.com.

John A. Davis, 1956-2026

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – John Albert Davis, 70, of Charlestown, N.H., died at the Jack Byrne Center, on Oct. 31, 2026. A burial service will take place at Oakland Cemetery on Nov. 12, at 1 p.m. His full obituary can be seen at www.davismemorialchapel.net/obituary/john-davis.



John Davis, 1956-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Stephen Saunders, 1957-2026

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Stephen "Stevie" Saunders, 69, of Saxtons River, Vt., passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 13, 2026, at the Springfield Hospital. He was born on April 6, 1957, the son of Patricia Saunders Kenyon, of Saxtons River, Vt., and the late Donald Saunders, of Waldoboro, Maine.

Stevie worked in the farming industry and also in the concrete industry with his nephews, Chase and Riley Saunders. He especially loved playing his guitar with his sister Janie, creating cherished memories through their shared love of music.

He is survived by his mother, Patricia Saunders Kenyon; his son, Jared Saunders, of Denver, Colo.; his sister Janie Hisler, of Waldoboro, Maine; his significant other, Sawyer Trevorrow, of Saxtons River, Vt.; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his father, Stevie was predeceased by his sister Amy Saunders and his brother, Michael Saunders.



Stevie Saunders, 1957-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Stevie will be remembered fondly by his family and all who knew him.

A graveside service will take place at the Saxtons River Cemetery on Nov. 28, at 2 p.m., with Pastor Harold Noyes officiating. Immediately following, there will be a reception for family and friends at the Bartonsville Grange.

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









calendar

HOLIDAY EVENTS

NOV. 14 –

ACWORTH, N.H. – Get into the holiday spirit with a full day of shopping, community connections, and old-fashioned holiday fun at the Acworth Community Project Holiday Fair on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Acworth Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Road. The holiday fair is a wonderful opportunity to shop local and support talented area crafters, artisans, and small businesses. Visitors will find unique, handmade gifts and one-of-a-kind treasures just in time for the holiday season. Children of all ages are invited to stop by and visit with Santa Claus between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

NOV. 21 –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, will hold a Christmas bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Start your holiday shopping early. There will be plenty of baked goods and tasty treats, as well as many vendors. A luncheon will be available. If you are interested in making food items for the bazaar, there is a signup sheet at the senior center.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main Street, will hold its 35th annual Christmas bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Purchase a pie for your Thanksgiving table or many other food treats: breads, cookies, candy, and tasty gifts. Luncheon will be served from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. There will also be wonderful gifts and holiday decor, and numerous basket raffles, with a drawing at 2 p.m. Come visit the Up-Attic Thrift Shop and the bookstore with gently used pages for all ages. For more information, call 603-826-3335. Shop our hometown country bazaar.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 –

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The South Londonderry Free Library invites children of all ages to make Marc Chagall-inspired oil pastels with art teacher Casey Junker Bailey on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 10:30 a.m. Learn about the famous Russian-French artist known for his colorful, dreamy, and whimsical paintings, and receive a copy of the beautifully illustrated book "Through The Window: Views Of Marc Chagall's Life And Art." The program is free of charge thanks to a grant from Vermont Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. All materials are provided, and the workshop is appropriate for all ages. For more information, contact the library at 802-824-3371 or visit www.slflibrary.org.

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. 15 –

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – "Earth's Greatest Enemy," a documentary by Abby Martin looking at oil and the U.S. military-industrial complex, will be shown on Sunday, Nov. 15, at 4 p.m., at the Flood Brook School, 91 Vermont Route 11 in Londonderry, as part of the Consciousness and Contact conference. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Martin, and conference speakers Paul Levy discussing the wetiko and Elana Freeland discussing Dr. Rudolf Steiner and the Eighth Sphere. This event is free and open to the public.

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 register 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 EVENTS

SUNDAYS –

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Plymouth Historical Society, at the former Plymouth Elementary School, will be open the first and third Sundays of every month, from 2-4 p.m. Watch for the "open" flag.

MONDAYS –

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

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

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

TUESDAYS –

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS –

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

THURSDAYS –

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

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

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

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 –

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

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

SATURDAYS –

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

DAILY –

REGION – If you want to drink that's your business, but if you want to stop, that's ours. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at www.aavt.org or call your local hotline at 802-802-2288 and join a meeting. You are not alone.

LEGAL NOTICES

ACT 250 NOTICE
MINOR APPLICATION 700038-2
10 V.S.A. §§ 6000 - 6111

Application 700038-2 from Eric Richard 226 Old Tavern Road, Weston, VT 05161 and Duke Enterprises, Attn: Edward Brown, PO Box 1363, West Townshend, VT 05359-1363 was received on October 19, 2026 and deemed complete on October 30, 2026. The project is generally described as the demolition of the Old Mill Tavern structure. The project is located at 2242 North Main Street in Londonderry, Vermont. The application may be viewed on the Land Use Review Board's website (https://act250.vermont.gov/) by clicking "Act 250 Database" and entering the project number "700038-2."

No hearing will be held and a permit may be issued unless, on or before Tuesday, December 1, 2026, a party notifies the District 2 Commission in writing of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required, and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1)(E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. To request party status and a hearing, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board's website: https://act250.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form, and email it to the District 2 Office at: Act250.Springfield@vermont.gov. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing.

For more information contact Stephanie Gile at the address or telephone number below.

Dated this November 5, 2026.

By: /s/ Stephanie Gile
Stephanie Gile
District Coordinator
100 Mineral Street, Suite # 305
Springfield, VT 05156-3168
802-261-1943
Stephanie.Gile@vermont.gov

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Springfield Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at 96 Main Street, Springfield, VT to receive public input and take testimony on the following applications.

DRB 2026-01: Downtown design control district review application for painting and exterior alterations to the structure at 40 Main Street, parcel 26-5-11. Zoning District: CB.

DRB 2026-02: Site plan application for addition of a third dwelling unit to the 2-unit building at 1 Slack Avenue, parcel 27-2-64. Zoning District: MDR.

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.

Town of Westminster
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DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB)

WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL
Westminster, Vermont

Legal Notice

The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:00 pm on **Monday**, **December 7, 2026** to consider the following:

Application # 27-19 — **Linda Fawcette (Owner & Applicant)** property located at 3505 US Route 5. The owner is requesting to remove existing shingles and sheathing and replace them with stone coated metal shingles in the Historic Village District of Westminster, Vermont. This Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 445 Historic Village District Zone; & Article IX Historical Preservation Overlay District** of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Application # 27-20 — John MacArthur & Isabeall Logan (Owners & Applicants) property located at **110 Arnof Way.** The applicants are requesting a Change of Use – adding a studio apartment to one section of the Barn / Home Business. Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 448 Resource Conservation District; and Section 215 Zoning Permit Procedure** 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.

LEGAL NOTICES classy & opinion

Dear Editor,

Twenty years ago, on Nov. 6, 2006, I walked through the doors of what was then called the Southern Vermont Health and Recreation Center for my first official day of work. At the time, I was an employee of the Greater Burlington YMCA, contracted to help get this new organization off the ground. The walls weren't finished. The pools had no water. The locker rooms needed lockers. There were no operational plans, no established routines, and certainly no playbook for what lay ahead.

There was, however, one very clear directive: Be open for business by Dec. 31.

Looking back, I'm not entirely sure we appreciated the magnitude of what we were undertaking. We were building more than a recreation center. We were creating an organization, developing a team, and asking a community to believe in something that hadn't yet opened its doors.

I would like to recognize the individuals who brought me here and placed their trust in me during those early days. Edgar May, George Lamb, Bob Flint, Rick Bibens, Doug Priestley, Clint Martin, Marie Gelineau, Nora Swierczynski, and Ted Cody were among the board members whose vision, commitment, and determination helped bring this facility to life. Sharon Ayer, who served as the organization's administrative staff member at the time, was also an important part of those earliest days. I remain incredibly grateful to each of them for the opportunity they gave me and for their belief in what this organization could become.

Something else stands out when I reflect on those first months: how welcoming this community was to me. I arrived here as someone new to Springfield, tasked with helping open a facility that so many people had worked hard to make possible. From the beginning, I was met with kindness, encouragement, and a genuine sense of community. That welcome, and the relationships I've built here over the years, are among the biggest reasons I'm still here 20 years later.

Over these two decades, I've watched children learn to swim who are now adults. I've seen friendships develop, people overcome challenges, and countless individuals discover the benefits of being active and connected to others. I've also had the privilege of working alongside dedicated staff, volunteers, board members, donors, and community partners who have given so much of themselves to make the Edgar May what it is today. Whatever success we've enjoyed has always been a collective effort.

There have been plenty of challenges along the way, and certainly more than a few lessons learned. But there has also been an incredible sense of purpose in being part of something that means so much to this community.

As we approach the Edgar May's 20th birthday on Jan. 1, I am particularly excited about what lies ahead. In many ways, our work to redevelop the neighboring foundry property reminds me of those early days in 2006. We have a vision for what is possible, a great deal of work ahead of us, and a community whose support will be essential to making it happen.

I didn't want this anniversary to pass without acknowledging this milestone and, more importantly, saying thank you!

Thank you for welcoming me into this community 20 years ago, for believing in the Edgar May, and for continuing to make this place such an important part of so many lives. It's been quite a journey, and I'm looking forward to what comes next.

Sincerely,
Christian Craig, Executive Director
Edgar May Health and Recreation Center

Springfield Senior Center seeks vendors for Christmas bazaar

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street in Springfield, Vt., is looking for more vendors for its Christmas bazaar. If you are interested in being a vendor, please call the senior center at 802-885-3933.

The annual Christmas bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the senior center. There will be plenty of baked goods, a luncheon, and many vendors with goods available for purchase.

For more information, please reach out to Lori Johnson, executive director, at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

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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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In accordance the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Child Find Mandate, Fall Mountain Regional School District, which serves the towns of Acworth, Alstead, Charlestown, Langdon, and Walpole, seeks to locate, identify, and evaluate all children under the age of 22 who qualify for Special Education Services regardless of the severity of their disability.

The Child Find requirements of Fall Mountain Regional School District also apply to highly mobile children, homeless children, and those children in grades K-12 who attend approved, non-public private schools within the geographic boundaries of Fall Mountain Regional School District.

If you know of a child who may need special education services or would like additional information, please contact the Assistant Special Education Director, Emma Kobeski (ekobeski@sau60.org or 603-835-7104) to schedule an appointment for Friday, November 20th from 9am-1pm.

Town of Ludlow, Vermont
FT Patrol Officer Job Opening

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

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

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

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For more Application and Job Description details: go to our website: www.ludlow.vt.us

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Veterans Day ceremonies and celebrations

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The American Legion Post 37, 42 Rockingham Road, in Bellows Falls, will host ceremonies on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Members of the American Legion and the community are welcome to meet at the post, at 5:30 p.m., with ceremonies to start at 6 p.m., including color guard, flag disposal, POW/MIA service, military flag honors, and Post Everlasting. Thank you to all veterans near and far! For more information, call 802-463-0962.

CHESTER, Vt. – The American Legion Post 67, 637 Vermont Route 103 North, in Chester, will host a Veterans Day dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 6 p.m. Veterans and their spouses, and the spouses of deceased veterans, will eat for free. There will be a charge for all other guests. The menu will include roast beef, baked potato, green beans, and dessert.



Honoring our veterans, today and every day.
PHOTO PROVIDED

The significance of Nov. 11

REGION – Nov. 11 is a significant day in world history because it marks the signing of the armistice between the Allies of World War I and Germany, at 5:45 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1918. Though the formal peace treaty, the Treaty of Versailles, was not signed until 1919, and hostilities between the sides continued for hours after the armistice was signed, the day is still viewed as the end of World War I. Today, in the United States, Nov. 11 is celebrated as Veterans Day.

What distinguishes Veterans Day from Memorial Day? The Department of Veterans Affairs notes that Veterans Day honors all those individuals who served honorably in the miliary during both wartime and peacetime. Memorial Day is a day to honor and remember military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who lost their lives in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

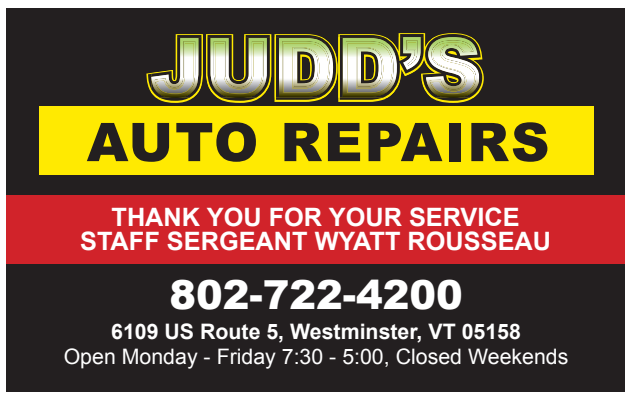






































8 ways to honor veterans

REGION – The term "veteran" refers to a person who served in the active military, naval, air service, or space service, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. In the U.S., there are actually five types of protected veterans, according to the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 (VEVRAA). Under VEVRAA, a veteran may be classified as a disabled veteran, recently separated veteran, active-duty wartime veteran, campaign badge veteran, or Armed Forces service medal veteran.

Veterans deserve respect and admiration all year long, but also get their own holiday each November. Veterans Day celebrates veterans' patriotism and willingness to sacrifice and serve. This Veterans Day, people can consider these eight unique ways to honor the veterans in their community.

(1) Attend events. Organize or participate in local Veterans Day celebrations, such as parades and ceremonial events.

(2) Get involved with veterans' affairs. Support veterans by volunteering with organizations that assist them, such as the VA, local veterans groups, VA hospitals, or charities dedicated to veteran services.

(3) Petition for veteran speakers. Reach out to schools, scout troops, or other groups and arrange opportunities for veterans to share their stories and contributions. Learning about the sacrifices these men and women made can heighten individuals' appreciation for veterans.

(4) Support the families of veterans. Reach out to veterans' families, who also must make sacrifices and concessions. Anything from shopping, to babysitting, doing chores, or making a meal can help the families of veterans.

(5) Make a donation. If finances allow, make contributions to reputable charities that provide services for veterans like those that offer mental health counseling or job placement services. If there isn't a charity that fits with your vision, begin one.

(6) Hire veterans to work. If you are a business owner or hiring manager, consider hiring veterans for open positions at your company. It can be challenging to reenter the workforce after service, so make it known that your firm welcomes veterans.

(7) Offer personal acknowledgements. Take the time to speak to veterans and thank them for their service. If possible, when dining out, ask the server if you can pay for the meal of a veteran who also is dining that day.

(8) Don't forget the fallen veterans. Although Memorial Day is designed to honor those who lost their lives through military service, people still can honor the fallen veterans on Veterans Day by sharing stories or placing flags at veteran cemeteries.

Veterans Day is celebrated on Nov. 11, marking an opportunity to express one's gratitude and support for the scores of veterans who have served honorably.

American Legion Post #37
Bellows Falls, Vt.
VETERANS DAY
Wednesday, November 11th, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
– MEMBERS & COMMUNITY –
Meet at the POST at 5:30 pm / Ceremonies start at 6:00 pm: Color Guard, Flag Disposal, POW/MIA Service, Military Flag Honors, and Post Everlasting

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arts & entertainment

Proctorsville Ghost Walk

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Poctorsville seems to favor a very diverse group of hauntings and spirits. One ghost is actually written into the deed of a home, another has a thing for pennies, child spirits have their favorite haunts, and the village boasts the most haunted inn in Vermont, the Golden Stage Inn.

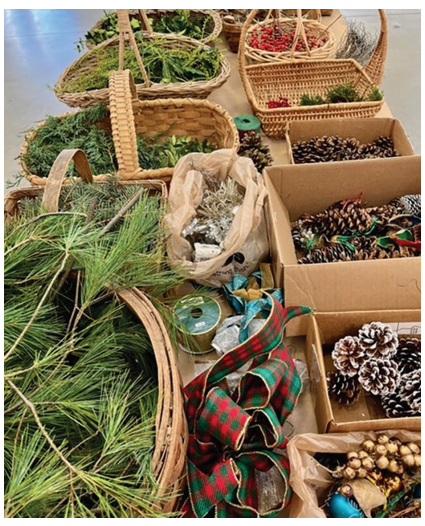
The annual Cavendish Historical Society (CHS) Proctorsville Ghost Walk takes place on Sunday, Nov. 15 , at 2 p.m. Meet at the Proctorsville War Memorial, which is at the intersection of Route 131 and Depot Street. Wear comfortable walking shoes. This tour includes both a visit to the Proctor Cemetery and free copies of the CHS Cemetery Guide.

This event is free and open to the public. Donations are welcomed and appreciated. For more information, email margocaulfield@icloud.com or call 802-226-7807.

Holiday wreath-making workshop through the Vault

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the Vault invites you to create a beautiful 12-inch seasonal wreath using fresh, locally gathered greens, cones, and seed pods with Joanna Bombadil, on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the First Congregational Church, 77 Main Street. This workshop is limited to 10 participants; however, another workshop will be added if there is overflow.

In this class, participants will learn the techniques for securely attaching evergreens to a wire frame and discover creative ways to personalize their wreaths with embellishments. Materials will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring additional items for decoration. Snips and wire cutters are appreciated.



Wreath supplies will be provided.
PHOTO PROVIDED

This is perfect for beginners and seasoned crafters alike. Participants will leave with a stunning, handcrafted wreath to enjoy throughout the season.

The cost of the workshop is discounted for gallery members. Register by Wednesday, Nov.18.

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, Facebook, or Instagram. Gallery at the Vault is accessible.

Bellows Falls Emblem Club annual Thanksgiving pie sale

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Emblem Club's annual Thanksgiving pie sale will be held on Nov. 25, at Simone's Styling Salon, 41 The Square.



Order your pie early.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Please preorder the pies of your choice by Nov. 21, or stop in and see what is available. Call Simone at 802-463-3573 or 802-463-3992. If there is no answer, please leave a message.

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Saturday, November 21
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5:30 - 7:00 pm
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Reservations required by Nov. 14
802-289-2825 or jhchester@vermontel.net

Claremont MakerSpace celebrates local illustrators

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont MakerSpace (CMS) is excited to announce illustrator and comic maker Tabitha Randall is the fall 2026 artist in residence. She takes over the residency from outgoing artist John Garoutte, who is also an illustrator and mural artist. This fall program is made possible thanks to support from both the Northern Border Regional Commission Catalyst program and a sponsorship by Eastern Propane.



John Garoutte's Claremont mural.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Randall is a New Hampshire-born artist specializing in narrative storytelling, character development, and sequential art. Graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in illustration from the Maine College of Art & Design, her diverse practice spans intimate autobiographical comics, psychological horror tales, and evocative standalone illustrations that explore unconventional thematic moments. She shared, "I am currently developing a 12-page autobiographical comic that chronicles my experiences as a recent creative graduate, specifically addressing the professional and mental health challenges encountered during this transition."

For Randall's residency community requirement, she plans to work with area high school students, explaining, "I intend to donate a copy of my comic to the Stevens High School art department, where I aim to speak with students about my college experience and provide guidance as they navigate their own creative career paths." She will also teach classes at Claremont MakerSpace in addition to classes she offers at The Apiary.

Come meet Randall, see some of her work, and learn about her residency plans during an artist reception and open house event on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 5-7 p.m., at the Claremont MakerSpace, 46 Main Street in Claremont, N.H. You can also see a some of her prints at the CMS microgallery at the Claremont Common Man Restaurant, and she created the logo selected for the Claremont Art Walk. Follow Randall's work at www.tabitharandallillustration.com.

Garoutte completed his summer residency in October with the installation of his new mural about Claremont that was installed as part of the Claremont MakerSpace Art Walk, on the exterior of the Latchis Building on Pleasant Street. The residency was sponsored by Canam Bridges, and the community response to his project was extremely positive. "I'm happy to have created a piece of large-scale public art that Claremont residents helped paint and can feel proud of for many years to come," said Garoutte.

Garoutte has been painting murals since 2021, with work displayed throughout Vermont, in Lebanon, N.H., and now in Claremont. He also creates graphics for snowboards, which is his winter passion. Garoutte's past work can be viewed on his website, and also at the Common Man microgallery.

"There is so much artistic talent in Claremont and our surrounding region, and we are thrilled to be able to provide support and exposure to these emerging local artists," said Felicia Dalke, who is the executive director of the Claremont MakerSpace. CMS helped launch the first phase of the Art Walk in the downtown on Oct. 3, in partnership with the city's arts commission and with the many businesses and organizations that already display and sell modern and historic public art. "The Art Walk is a way for us to shine a spotlight on the growing presence of the arts and crafts in downtown Claremont," said Dalke.

The artist in residence program is designed to empower New Hampshire- and Vermont-based artists with tools, training, and space to create compelling new work. Each artist receives $1,000 towards the creation of new work during the residency, three months of unlimited membership, a dedicated studio space, and training to use new tools. In return, the artists teach public classes and/or work with local students. The past recipients can be found on the artist in residence program page.

TwinState MakerSpaces, Inc. is the parent company of the Claremont MakerSpace, and it is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. For more information about the Claremont MakerSpace or to schedule a tour, please visit www.claremontmakerspace.org.

Candlelit Fleetwood Mac experience in Claremont

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Lumos brings a candlelit, classical Fleetwood Mac tribute featuring a string trio playing the band's classic repertoire at the First Congregational Church of Claremont, 72 Pleasant Street, on Friday, Nov. 20. There will be two sittings, the first from 6-7 p.m., and the second from 8-9 p.m. Doors will open for the first sitting at 5:15 p.m., and for the second sitting at 7:30 p.m.

The setlist includes "Go Your Own Way," "Second Hand News," "Dreams," "Don't Stop," "The Chain," "You Make Loving Fun," "I Don't Want To Know," "Gold Dust Woman," "Landslide," "Gypsy," "Little Lies," and "Everywhere."



Lumos brings candlelit Fleetwood Mac tribute to Claremont.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Lumos brings audiences enchanting concert experiences paying homage to world famous artists, in partnership with spectacular locations and churches across the U.K. and U.S. to deliver a concert experience that is nothing short of magical. Tickets can be purchased www.lumos-experiences.com/event/a-fleetwood-mac-candlelight-experience-in-claremont-nh-friday-november-20th.

The First Congregational Church of Claremont is accessible. This event is for those 8 years old and older. For more information, email customerservice@lumos-experiences.com.



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