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THE Vermont Journal

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The Mill Tavern building to be demolished

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB

LONONDERRY, Vt. – The historic landmark building known as The Mill Tavern, located at 2242 North Main Street, at the intersection of Route 100 and Route 11 in Londonderry, is scheduled for demolition, a matter of public safety. Though there is a future intent to rebuild, the timeline of new construction or a new building's purpose are uncertain at this time.

Eric Richard has applied for an Act 250 permit for demolition on the property, which is currently owned by Edward Brown. The permit application states, "Demolition of old Mill Tavern structure pursuant to order of Department of Public Safety. Applicant anticipates future redevelopment of the property, but no redevelopment proposal is submitted for approval at this time."

At the Nov. 4 Londonderry Development Review Board Meeting, Ryan Foster, project architect, reported that the Vermont Department of Fire Safety had requested that a study be done on the structural integrity of the mill building, which stood for more than 180 years, and encountered mass flooding during the Great Flood of 2023, as well as historic flooding in the late 1920s.



The Mill Tavern in Londonderry.

PHOTO FROM GOOGLE STREET VIEW

Foster stated that an engineer conducted an assessment of the building, which determined that two portions of the building are structurally sound, but that overall the building is structurally unsound. It was recommended that the building be stabilized due to the failing timber structure, or that it be demolished. The Vermont Department of Fire Safety requested that either of those two options be completed by Nov. 15.

Foster explained that the project and the studies following were initiated about two months ago, and added that the commercial property requires an Act 250 permit. Foster said that the state has expedited its review, providing for the tight timeline that was given by Fire Safety. The intent is to deconstruct the building as soon as possible, likely the beginning of December.

Foster also reported that Vermont River Corridors, or the Department of Environmental Conservation, was consulted, being that the building is 65 feet from the West River. Foster relayed that the department had no issue with demolition of the building. It was stressed in the permitting, and to River Corridors that, "We want to retain the footprint, because the intent is to rebuild the building." Foster reported that the department also had no issue with a reconstruction project as long as a new building is not built any closer to the river than the mill.

The Londonderry Development Review Board approved the application for demolition.

"For more than 180 years," wrote the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society, "this single riverside parcel has reflected Londonderry's evolution." The Londonderry Water Power Association formed in 1867, constructing a dam across the West River, and constructing the large building for a woolen factory.

"The property was purchased in 1883 by Freeman W. Williams, who refitted [it] as a thriving machine shop...In 1894, Williams sold the shop to machinist Horace A. Hayward."

"When the historic flooding of the late 1920s washed the mill dam away, the building's industrial chapter closed. Yet the post-and-beam frame held firm... The building adapted alongside Londonderry's shifting economy."

In 1967, Edward Brown purchased the building, converting it to a ski lodge, and then reconfiguring as a restaurant and tavern. "Over the next 50 years, Brown became not just a restaurateur, but the cultural curator of North Main Street," all while retaining the site's history and showcasing the old tools and artifacts that were once used there.

In recent correspondence, Richard expressed, "I have been exploring possibilities. Part of that exploration involved understanding what sorts of buildings could be permitted here." He concluded, "The fire marshal's demo order forced our hand in ways we hadn't anticipated. Consequently, we are focused on completing this process before determining the next steps...it is a very long way from anything certain."

Demolition will take place sometime after Dec. 1, Monday-Friday, from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., to demolish the existing structure, remove demolition debris from the site, and stabilize and regrade any areas that were disturbed by the demolition process. The existing foundation will remain in place, and the two portions of the structure that were deemed sound will be left standing. Items from inside the restaurant will be stored inside the remaining structure, and some of the building materials will be salvaged if possible and stored on site, away from view of the road.

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802Mesh, crowdsourced messaging, speaks to Chester Selectboard

BY NICK GIBERTI

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Selectboard heard from Josh Johnson, of 802Mesh, at its Nov. 4 meeting, regarding a crowdsourced messaging network utilizing low-power, off-grid devices to send and receive text messages.

Johnson, who said he grew up in Chester and resides there part time, explained that, in the wake of the July 2023 floods, he began thinking of ways for people to remain connected in emergencies, particularly in the absence of phone and internet service. During the floods, Johnson said, his brother, also a Chester resident, was cut off from communication for several days, which prompted him to begin his investigation into MeshCore technology.

As Johnson explained it, MeshCore utilizes long-range, low-bandwidth (LoRa) radio technology to allow sending and receiving text messages of 140 characters or fewer. Small, solar-powered units called "repeaters" can be placed at intervals by individuals or municipalities to create a network which transmits these massages between personal devices known as "companions," which can be paired with a user's phone. Messaging channels can be public or private with encryption, and the network supports topic-specific hashtag channels and message-board style room channels, as well as direct messaging.

Johnson stressed that, while the network can be utilized in emergency situations, it is not intended to be a replacement for 911. "We in no way claim that there is a particular organization that is going to respond," Johnson said, but added that, should someone become disconnected from other avenues of communication, "being able to contact anyone is better than being able to contact no one."

He also emphasized, in response to apparent concern about a test device placed along the Lost Mine Trail, that the repeater devices are not cameras, do not contain microphones, do not log when someone walks by, and do not collect or store massage data.

Vice Chair Arne Jonynas thanked Johnson for his presentation, and said he appreciates that the MeshCore network is not set up or controlled by corporate entity, and does not collect data or advertise to its users. Jonynas also expressed his intention to utilize the network in the near future.

The Chester Selectboard meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.

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Ludlow Rotary hears about Cavendish Park improvements

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) recently welcomed Eddy Braucht, speaking about the planned improvements to the Cavendish Town Park. Braucht's daughter, Olivia, was the inspiration for the plan to rehabilitate the park's old, unsafe, wooden play equipment with a safe, welcoming, and accessible place to play, sparked by the sixth grader's civics project. The park will be built by the community, for the community: a park where children of every age can play, and teens and adults can gather. After developing plans, the group has been given verbal support by the Town of Cavendish to proceed. It is now raising funds to provide the new equipment. After participating in the Honey Festival, the group plans to host several community events. The hope is to dedicate the park on July 4, 2027. All help will be greatly appreciated. Information is available at the group's website, www.cavendishtownpark.org.



Rotary President Brigid Sullivan welcomes Eddy Braucht, right, to talk about the Cavendish Playground project.

PHOTO BY KIM LAMPERT

As the world faces increasing challenges, the Ludlow Rotary Club remains committed to community service, world peace, and conflict resolution. Local rotarians invite community members to join their mission of "service above self" to create positive change in the Okemo Valley. LRC meets most Tuesdays, at 12:15 p.m., at DJ's Restaurant. The club invites non-members to have lunch with it to learn about what it does. Visit www.ludlowrotary.com or the club's Facebook page for more information.

Puzzle page winner

Congratulations to Anne Stocker, of Chester, for winning our puzzle page contest drawing! Anne has selected the $75 gift certificate to Frank's Bargain Center. Look out for our next puzzle page contest in our Dec. 9 paper for your next chance to win.

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.

■	D	E	C	O	R	■	S	C	A	P	E	S		
R	E	D	O	N	E	■	O	H	R	A	T	S		
F	E	N	N	E	L	■	L	E	A	R	N	T		
D	R	A	G	■	A	S	I	F	■	T	A	S		
■	■	■	A	N	T	E	■	S	P	Y	■	■		
A	L	P	■	A	I	R	S	■	E	D	I	E		
S	E	L	F	P	O	R	T	R	A	I	T	S		
P	E	A	R	■	N	A	R	Y	■	P	O	P		
■	■	Y	O	O	■	N	E	E	D	■	■	■		
A	F	B	■	W	H	O	A	■	O	C	T	O		
B	L	A	I	N	E	■	K	I	L	L	E	R		
B	E	C	K	E	R	■	E	M	B	E	R	S		
R	A	K	E	R	S	■	R	A	Y	O	N	■		

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Kate Lorenz Memorial Fund announces awards

CHESTER, Vt. – The Kate Lorenz Memorial Community Fund announces awards/gifts for 2026. This year, the fund donated more than $5,000, as it has in the past four years. The fund has donated more than $20,000 in gifts to organizations in Vermont and western Massachusetts that represent Lorenz's interests and passions.

As the year draws to a close, many thanks are extended to the generous friends of the Kate Lorenz Memorial Community Fund, which was founded in 2022, in honor and in memory of Kate Lorenz, who lived her 42 years with sparkling passion and generosity. As a teacher, musician, community member, and planet advocate, her compassion and empathy knew no bounds. The fund provides gifts to organizations that represent Lorenz's passion for supporting children and early literacy, women's rights, visual and performing arts, environmental education, food insecurity, and more.

The 2026 Vermont recipients are Main Street Arts in Saxtons River, supporting its youth theater camp scholarships; the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library in Cavendish, supporting its early childhood programs; The Dance Factory in Springfield, supporting its youth dance program scholarships; the Chester-Andover Family Center in Chester, supporting its fight against family and child food insecurity; and High Five Adventure in Brattleboro, supporting its youth scholarships and programs.

The 2026 western Massachusetts recipients are the Shea Theater for the Arts in Turners Falls, supporting its youth programming; the Common School in Amherst, supporting its visual arts programs; Sunderland Elementary School in Sunderland, supporting its youth theater programs; the Institute for Musical Arts in Williamsburg, supporting its young women scholarships; Valley Free Radio in Florence, supporting its special music programming, and Spring Street School in Amherst, for its NatureScape playground.

Please consider making a donation to Kate's Community Fund, as it will fund more organizations in 2027. Donations can be made at www.katelorenzmusic.com via PayPal or by mailing a check to The Kate Lorenz Memorial Community Fund, P.O. Box 418, Chester, VT 05143. For more information or questions about the fund, please reach out to katelorenzmemories@gmail.com.

Neighbors Together partners with Assisting Children Today

LUDLOW, Vt. – Neighbors Together is excited and incredibly grateful to announce a new partnership with Assisting Children Today (ACT). Through this partnership, ACT has committed an initial $12,000 in funding to help support the continued growth of Neighbors Together.

This commitment will allow Neighbors Together to build upon what it has already established, expand its services, and create even more opportunities to support individuals and families in the community.

Neighbors Together wants to extend a heartfelt thank-you to ACT for believing in its mission, recognizing the incredible work being done, and wanting to become part of something that continues to grow. It takes people who believe in the power of community, understand the importance of giving back, and recognize that sometimes the smallest acts of kindness make the biggest difference.

Neighbors Together was built on the idea of bringing people together, filling needs, creating opportunities, and making sure the community knows that help is here without judgment. This is an exciting new chapter for Neighbors Together, because when good people and good organizations come together, amazing things happen.

Fletcher Farm Foundation provides community resources

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher Farm Foundation traces its roots to 1933, when Mary E. Fletcher, Mary F. Charleton, and Fanny B. Fletcher conveyed certain properties to Fletcher Farm Inc. Their vision was that these properties would be used in perpetuity for educational and charitable purposes while serving as a lasting memorial to Allen M. Fletcher Sr., governor of Vermont from 1912-1915.



George Thomson and Doug LeMire, president and executive director respectively of the Fletcher Farm Foundation, and Jacki Hanlon, executive director of Windsor County Youth Services (WCYS), are joined by members of the Fletcher Farm Foundation and WCYS board of directors, along with WCYS staff, as they cut the ribbon celebrating the newly renovated Rockside building and its designation as the permanent home of Windsor County Youth Services.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Today, the foundation's trustees continue to honor that vision by serving as stewards of the property and ensuring that its buildings and grounds benefit the communities of Ludlow, Cavendish, and the surrounding region through educational, cultural, and community programs. Most recently, the historic Rockside building has been extensively renovated to provide a permanent home for programs serving Windsor County Youth Services, expanding opportunities for local youth and families.

In addition to preserving its historic properties, the Fletcher Farm Foundation supports the community through annual contributions to Fletcher Memorial Library in Ludlow, Cavendish Fletcher Community Library in Cavendish, and scholarships for Ludlow and Cavendish residents to participate in art classes offered by Create Together.

The foundation also provides facilities and resources for numerous community organizations and programs, including Create Together; Two Rivers Supervisory Union; Stepping Stones Preschool; HCRS – Beekman House; Black River Good Neighbor Services through the use of the barn for community rummage sales; a community garden; and recreational fields and open spaces supporting local sports, hiking, biking, and snowmobiling trails.

For more than 90 years, the Fletcher Farm Foundation has remained committed to preserving its historic legacy while investing in the educational, cultural, and community wellbeing of the region. Guided by the vision of its founders, the foundation continues to ensure that its buildings, lands, and resources serve generations to come.

Vermont writer Jackson Ellis book signing at The Book Nook

LUDLOW, Vt. – Vermont writer Jackson Ellis will sign copies of his novels "Lords of St. Thomas" and "Black Days" on Saturday, Nov. 28, from 12-2 p.m., at The Book Nook, located at 3a Lamere Square in Ludlow, Vt. Come celebrate Small Business Saturday by getting to meet a Vermont author from the Okemo Valley.

Ellis won the 2017 Howard Frank Mosher First Book Prize for "Lords of St. Thomas," which is set in Nevada during the Great Depression. Both titles are published by Vermont independent publishers Green Writers Press.

"Lords of St. Thomas" details the tragedies and conflicts endured by a family fighting a futile battle, and their hectic and terrifying escape from the floodwaters that finally surge across the threshold of their front door. Surprisingly, it also shows that, sometimes, you can go home again. Beloved Vermont author Howard Frank Mosher described the book this way: "A dramatic story of the beleaguered Lord family, forced off their land by the creation of Lake Mead. At the heart of the book are the patriarch, Henry Lord, who refuses to leave his doomed home and town, and his young grandson and namesake. The novel is both a terrific coming-of-age story and an exact and haunting evocation of a bygone time and place. What's more, it's a great read. I loved every page."

"Black Days" has the author returning to his Vermont roots with a satisfying nod to the infamous 19th-century "Frozen Hill People" hoax. This unique literary thriller will appeal to fans of Shirley Jackson or Hubert Selby Jr. One reader of Jackson's "Black Days" said, "What a ride! I enjoyed the characters, even a couple that weren't very likable. The scenery descriptions are wonderful and full of detail. The story is totally bizarre, and the twists turned out to be a lot of fun. It's certainly going to keep you turning pages...I read it in one go on a plane and the time just zipped by."

This will be the first author event hosted by The Book Nook at its new location since it moved from Main Street to 3a Lamere Square. For more information, call 802-228-3238.

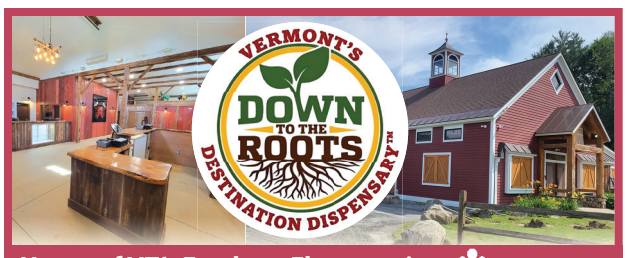
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JEWEL

This 2 year old takes cuddling very seriously and will demand couch snuggles with her person. Jewel does very well with dogs big and small. She is heartworm positive.

Springfield Humane Society, 802-885-3997, 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt.



LOUIE

A 3-year-old neutered male. Louie is looking for an experienced handler with a love for hounds. He is quick to new training, loyal, and incredibly smart.

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, 802-484-5829, 4832 VT Route 44, West Windsor, Vt.



BUSHING

I am 1.5-year-old Bushing and I am the longest resident here. I was shy at first, but I have blossomed into a sweet girl who loves to play and cuddle. Please come meet me!

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PETEY

This handsome orange guy is Petey. He is 7 months old. He enjoys food and pets, and really loves other cats.

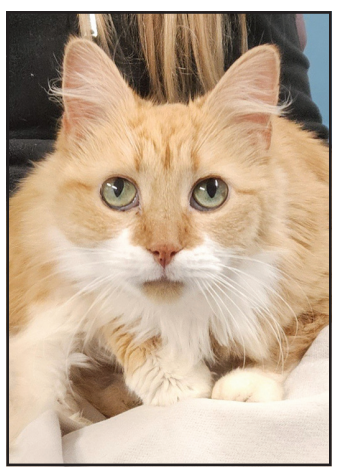
Springfield Humane Society, 802-885-3997, 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt.



YUNI

A 6-year-old neutered male. Yuni is a gentle soul that loves to stay curled up in your lap for afternoon naps. He would do best as the sole animal in your home.

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, 802-484-5829, 4832 VT Route 44, West Windsor, Vt.



DAWN

I am 12-year-old Dawn, and I am a real sweet girl! I am looking for a quiet place to spend my golden years and a warm lap to cuddle on.

Sullivan County Humane Society, 603-542-3277, 14 Tremont Street, Claremont, N.H.

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SUNSHINE + SADIE

A bonded pair seeking a home together. They are 8-10-year-old Dachshund mixes. On Dec. 1, Sadie has surgery to fix her cherry eye, and Sunshine has surgery to remove a few lumps. These sweet seniors deserve a loving home to recuperate in.

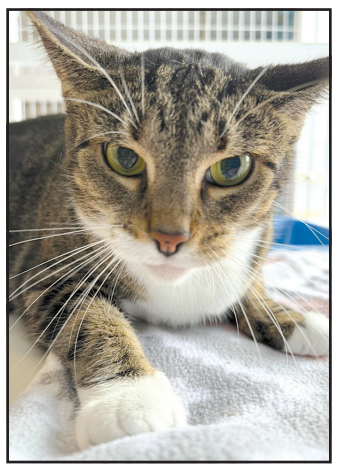
Springfield Humane Society, 802-885-3997, 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt.



SKYE

A 3-year-old spayed female. Skye is a super friendly and playful husky that loves the cold. She loves the outdoors, chasing tennis balls, and meeting new people.

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, 802-484-5829, 4832 VT Route 44, West Windsor, Vt.



KIKI

I am 2-year-old Kiki. My family lost their home and could not keep me. So, I am here, confused and a little scared. Please come meet me, I'd love a home again!

Sullivan County Humane Society, 603-542-3277, 14 Tremont Street, Claremont, N.H.

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Springfield Humane Society, 802-885-3997, 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt.



KIMCHI

A 2-year-old spayed female. Kimchi is shy and spends most of her time snuggled in for a nap. She takes time to adjust to new people, but gets along with other cats.

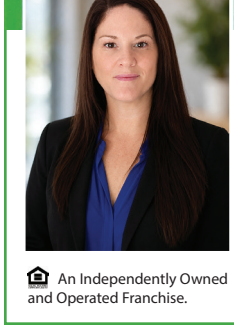
Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, 802-484-5829, 4832 VT Route 44, West Windsor, Vt.



ROSALYNN

Here I am again! I am 3 years old. I can be standoffish at first because the shelter can be stressful. I have a very loving side that will flourish when I am in my own home.

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obituaries & health & HOME

Stephen A. Bristol, 1948-2026

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Stephen A. Bristol, of Perkinsville, Vt., passed away on Oct. 11, 2026, at Springfield Hospital.

Steve was born on June 23, 1948, in Windsor, Vt., the son of Paul and Florence (Allen) Bristol. He was predeceased by his parents; his brothers, Paul Jr. and Duane; and his sister, Patricia.

Steve and Janet (Carpenter) Bristol were high school sweethearts who married on Jan. 20, 1968. Together, they shared 58 years of marriage. Steve devoted his life to loving, protecting, and looking after Janet, building a life together through years of hard work and shared experiences.

Janet survives him, along with their son, Justin, his wife and two children, and many loving nieces and nephews.

Steve was a devoted husband and father, a hard worker, and a true jack-of-all-trades. A man of few words, he was known for his sarcastic wit and sense of humor. He was a patient father who always tried to pass along his knowledge through the things he did and the example he set.

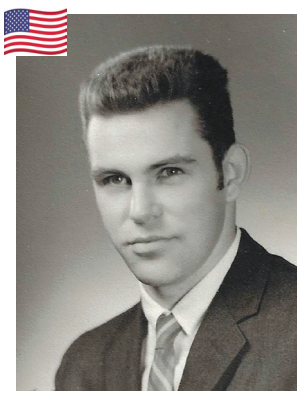
After graduating from high school, Steve enlisted in the Vermont National Guard, serving six years as an engineer. He later worked painting cars in body shops and spent a number of years with Springfield Fence Company, installing fences throughout New England.

Steve loved "playing cowboy" and enjoyed many years with his horse, Cooper. He took pride in producing high-quality hay and built a herd of beef cattle from just a handful of Hereford heifers.

Steve also loved deer hunting and was fortunate enough to bag a once-in-a-lifetime buck, an accomplishment of which he was forever proud. He had a passion for fast cars, especially his 1974 Nova and 1979 Corvette, into both of which he poured his heart. He was also a devoted football fan, particularly of the San Francisco 49ers.

For the last three years of his life, Steve resided at the Gill Odd Fellows Home in Ludlow, Vt.

Steve will be remembered for his quiet nature, sarcastic humor, strong work ethic, and the love he showed through his actions. He leaves behind lasting memories and lessons that will remain with those who knew him. He will be deeply missed.



Stephen Bristol, 1948-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

A graveside service was held at Pleasant View Cemetery in Chester, Vt., on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 11 a.m.

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

Thank you from the family of Doug Devereux

LUDLOW, Vt. – The family of Doug Devereux would like to thank all those who took part in Doug's celebration of life. Thank you to all who baked, sent cards and flowers, and shared stories. We truly appreciate everyone's kindness. A special thank-you to the Odd Fellows Lodge and American Legion Post 36.

HCRS transformation, community connections

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) celebrated a year of transformation, meaningful connections, and community partnerships at its recent annual meeting at Ascutney Mountain Resort. The gathering brought together staff, board members, community partners, and supporters to recognize the people and relationships making a difference across southeastern Vermont.



HCRS award recipients at the HCRS annual meeting.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Three moving videos featuring individuals served by HCRS were woven throughout the program, illustrating the impact of compassionate care and meaningful support. The stories featured a Kindle Farm School student, a couple who received support through HCRS' employment program, and an individual receiving developmental services.

"Transformation doesn't happen in isolation," said HCRS CEO Anne Bilodeau. "It happens through relationships – when someone feels heard, when a community comes together, and when people have the support they need to move forward. That's what our work is all about."

The meeting also highlighted HCRS' transition to a certified community-based integrated health center (CCBHC), a model designed to make mental health and substance-use services easier to access and better coordinated. Since launching Same Day Access on May 26, 554 people had sought support through the program as of Oct. 1, demonstrating both the significant need for care and the importance of removing barriers to services.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of four community partnership awards recognizing individuals and organizations whose collaboration strengthens services throughout the region: The James Bartley Community Partnership Award was awarded to AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, for its collaborative outreach efforts bringing essential health services and resources directly to people in the community; the Ripple Impact Award was awarded to the Green Mountain Union High School guidance department, for its partnership with HCRS in supporting students and families; the Heart of the Community Award was awarded to Sue Graff, Agency of Human Services field services director, for her commitment to bringing community partners together to meet the needs of individuals and families; and the Circle of Support Award was awarded to Red House Press, for its longstanding partnership and exceptional support of HCRS' communications efforts.

The meeting also marked the introduction of the Connections Award, established in honor of former HCRS CEO George Karabakakis, who retired in June after 32 years with the organization. The inaugural award was presented to Corazon Swanberg, recognizing her compassion, collaboration, and dedication to connecting people with the support they need.

Looking ahead, HCRS is preparing to open a mental health urgent care center in Brattleboro, to unify with United Counseling Service in Bennington County, and to continue its efforts to strengthen services and expand access to care throughout southern Vermont.

"Our organization has experienced tremendous change, but our mission remains the same," Bilodeau said. "We're here to support people, strengthen communities, and help individuals build the lives they want to live."

Sprouting workshop

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Have you ever had fresh sprouts on your deli sandwich or seen them in the grocery stores? They cost a pretty penny, but you can grow them in your own kitchen at a fraction of the price. Come learn about sprouting at the Rockingham Free Public Library, where Meg Oceanna, sprouter for more than 40 years, will teach the basic process. Supplies will be provided.

This workshop will take place in the youth activities room of the Rockingham Free Public Library, on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. It's so easy to grow highly nutritious food – the freshest possible – in your home. Join Oceanna to find out how, and have some fun in the process. Families might really enjoy this event, which is free and open to the public. There is no need to register; just show up.

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


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obituaries

Michael P. Stack, 2026

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – The world got a little darker…

Born in Bellows Falls, Vt., Michael Peter Stack was the son of James Francis Stack and Eleanor Kay Stack (nee Welch).

On Nov. 5, 2026, Mike, 67, of Saxtons River, Vt., passed away, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, generosity, and an extraordinary appreciation for life's simple pleasures.



Michael P. Stack, 2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Mike was a force for goodness and, by all accounts, an exceptional human being. Named in honor of his great-great-great-grandfather from Youghal, Ireland, he embraced every bit of his Irish heritage. His love for Ireland ran deep, and, in 2024, he sponsored a family trip to explore the country he so admired. Among the highlights was a visit to the filming locations of "The Quiet Man." The film held a special place in the Stack household, where watching it together every St. Patrick's Day was an annual tradition.

Music was another of Mike's great passions. He loved listening to music and took particular pleasure in making curated mixtapes for himself and others. Sharing music with his children, Sarah and Peter, was especially meaningful to him. Many of their drives from the Boston area to the family's Vermont home, affectionately known as "Red Barn," were accompanied by thoughtfully assembled soundtracks that became lasting family memories.

Mike's love of the land was evident in the many ways he cultivated and shared it. He planted a small Christmas tree farm, giving the trees away to friends and family each holiday season. He also created places for others to enjoy the beauty of the region, with picnic tables offering sweeping views of the mountains of southern Vermont and New Hampshire. For Mike, the land was not simply something to own, but something to nurture, appreciate, and share.

Academically accomplished, Mike graduated cum laude from Fairfield University with a degree in finance, where he served as president and founding member of the university's Financial Honor Society. He continued his studies at Fairfield, earning a Master of Science in finance summa cum laude and receiving the prestigious Rosenthal Award as the university's top graduate in finance in 1986. He later earned the designation of chartered financial analyst (CFA), a distinction he maintained for more than three decades.

Mike built an exceptional career spanning more than 30 years in the investment management industry. He held senior portfolio management and investment leadership positions at Putnam Investments, Babson Capital Management, Beaumont Financial Partners, and Thomas Partners, where he served as vice president and senior portfolio manager. Throughout his career, he helped develop and manage investment strategies for portfolios totaling as much as $20 billion in assets. Respected for his analytical ability, investment insight, and thoughtful perspective on the markets, Mike was a trusted adviser and valued mentor to colleagues and clients alike. Perhaps even more meaningful than his professional accomplishments were the lasting friendships he formed along the way. He was deeply admired by those fortunate enough to work alongside him.

His commitment to education and community extended well beyond his professional career. In 2021, Mike founded Bellows Falls Trades, an initiative dedicated to creating work-based learning opportunities for young adults through partnerships between local schools and community experts. The endeavor reflected his generosity and his enduring desire to help others find their way.

Mike's life was a lesson in kindness, honesty, and caring for others. He gave freely, listened intently, and found happiness in sharing the things he loved. Those who knew him will remember his warmth and his remarkable ability to make people feel valued.

He leaves behind his beloved children, Sarah Christine (Martin Herbert-Burns) and Peter James Bray; his parents, James Francis and Eleanor Kay; his devoted sister, Cindy (Bern Haan); his loyal brother, Patrick; his goddaughter, Madeline Kay Stack; his nephew and finance mentee, Owen L. O'Donnell; many cherished aunts, uncles, and cousins ("cousin-blessed" as he'd say); and many step-nieces and step-nephews.

He is also lovingly remembered by Tina Siart Boylan, whose companionship brought him great happiness and warmth during his life.

We like to imagine Mike now wandering through a beautiful, wooded forest alongside his beloved dog, Ethel, with a favorite James Taylor song playing in the background.

A memorial Mass will be held at on Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 10 a.m., at St. Charles Catholic Church, 31 Cherry Street, Bellows Falls, Vt. A graveside service will follow, with a reception afterward where family and friends are invited to gather, share memories, and celebrate Mike's life.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mike's memory to St. Charles Catholic Church in Bellows Falls, Vt.

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

Robert K. Allen, 1944-2026

READING, Vt. – Robert Keith Allen, 81, died Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026, at the Jack Byrne Center in Lebanon, N.H.

Robert was born Dec. 20, 1944, in Hanover, N.H., a son of Rolfe and Ina (Benedict) Allen. Bob grew up in Reading and lived there all of his life. He was married to Joan Allen, and they made their home in Reading, where they raised their three children until later divorcing. He is survived by his wife, Esther Allen, of Reading; children, Kevin Allen (Pam), of Manchester, N.H., Kim Allen, of Reading, and Curtis Allen (Kate), also of Reading; grandchildren, Darren, Nicholas, Alexis, and Brody; as well as a brother, Dana Allen (Marie), of Marshfield, Mass.

He graduated from Springfield High School in 1962. In May of 1960, he entered the machine tool co-op program at Fellows Corporation and began his formal career at Fellows on Aug. 19, 1963. Bob continued working at Fellows and the subsequent business owners until retiring in March of 2019 from Bourn & Koch. During that time, he held many positions and worked his way up to vice president eastern regional sales. Bob was a well-respected employee and "boss."

Bob's other career was spent in public service. He served on the Reading Selectboard for 53 years, up to the time of his death, and was chairperson all but two years. He was on the board of civil authority, the board of tax abatement, town service officer, town health officer, and currently town zoning administrator. He managed the town through four floods – 1973, 1976, 2011, and 2023 – making sure the town was made whole again after each one. Bob served for 23 years on the Old Time Ball Committee and was a member of the volunteer fire department. He was a trustee for the Felchville Cemetery Association and a trustee for the Wallace Robinson Trust. He was on the board of directors for Farms for City Kids, the Windsor County Ag Fair, and the Reading Historical Society.



Robert Allen, 1944-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Bob was past president of the Vermont Fair Association, the New Hampshire Fair Association, and the Eastern Draft Horse Association. He was currently serving as vice president of EDHA and as the treasurer/director for the Hopkinton State Fair. Bob was a 51-year member of the Windsor Elks Lodge No. 1665, currently serving as treasurer.

For Bob, horse, ox, and pony pulling competitions were a passion. He was a competitor in ox pulling himself for 20 years. When his uncle Wayne passed in 1992, Bob picked up where he left off, running pulling events throughout New England. Bob ran an exhibition pull at Shelburne Falls, Vt., in 1998, and was an international judge for two years at the USA/Canada Ox Pull.

His fair circuit of judging this year took him to Cheshire Fair, Rutland State Fair, Cornish Fair, Hopkinton State Fair, Tunbridge World's Fair, and Topsfield, Mass., Fair. Despite his failing health, he persevered through them all.

A visitation will be held at the Knight Funeral Home in Windsor, Vt., on Saturday, Dec. 5, beginning at 3 p.m. An Elks service will be held at 5:30 p.m., with a time of sharing for family and friends to follow.

The family is grateful for the staff at the Jack Byrne Center for making this difficult part of Bob's life journey endurable. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to support your favorite organization.

Condolences to Robert's family may be made in an online guestbook at www.knightfuneralhomes.com.

Helen M. Chase, 2026

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Helen M. Chase, of Charlestown, N.H., passed away on Nov. 7, 2026. She was 78 years old and was born in Claremont, N.H. Helen attended Charlestown schools and obtained her high school diploma as an adult in 1988.

She worked for 22 years at Grobet File Company in Charlestown, beginning when her youngest child was in first grade. When the company moved out of state in 2000, Helen helped care for her grandchildren.

Helen was an excellent wife, mother, and grandmother. She was well known for her lasagna and sweet rolls, and earned the affectionate title of "zipper queen" because she could replace a zipper for anyone who needed it. She also mended endless items of clothing to get the most out of them.

She was always the first in line to help with anything that needed doing, providing support to her family and friends in life's endeavors. Helen loved searching for treasures at yard sales and thrift stores, as well as spending time with and caring for her many "grand doggers."

Helen is survived by her husband, Ken. They had been married for 61 years. She is also survived by their three children, Shaun (Michelle) Chase, Tina (Jim) Heath, and Jason; seven grandchildren, Derek, Ryan, Kobey (Cailyn), Mikala, and Jaylynn Chase, as well as Brandon (Jillian) and Kendal (Amber) Heath; and six great-grandchildren.



Helen Chase, 2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

She was predeceased by her mother and stepfather, Vena and Milan Johnson; her father, William Bailey; her brother, Jon Bailey; and her two grandsons, Justin Heath and Mc Kuy Chase.

Helen will be deeply missed, and she will live on in the hearts and minds of those who loved her through all the wonderful memories they shared. A celebration of life will be planned at a later date.

Stephen L. Forcier, 1955-2026

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – It is with sorrow that I share the passing of my husband, Stephen L. Forcier, on Nov. 4, 2026. Stephen was born on Jan. 5, 1955.

There will be a funeral at All Saints/St. Catherine's Church, 285 Main Street in Charlestown, N.H., on Friday, Nov. 20, at 12 p.m., followed by a committal service at St. Mary's Cemetery Terry Lot for cremations in Claremont, N.H. A full obituary can be found at the Cremation Society of New Hampshire website, www.csnh.com, or at www.legacy.com.



Stephen Forcier, 1955-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

I know he would ask all to either support your local humane society or encourage/teach a young person to learn an instrument.

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.

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calendar

HOLIDAY EVENTS

NOV. 20-21

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Senior Center, 223 Old Springfield Road, will hold its annual Christmas bazaar on Friday, Nov. 20, and Saturday, Nov. 21, from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. both days. As well as all sorts of gently used items, there will be 15 beautiful gift baskets and nine gift cards from local merchants, giftable items, jewelry, crafts, a handcrafted afghan, and a small hand-pieced quilt. One room will have mostly Christmas items – lights, decorations, wrapping paper, etc. There will also be a small bake sale, as well as a cookie walk. Unless an item is marked, everything is by donation. Free coffee and smiles all day.

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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley Street, will hold a soup and bake sale during the Thanksgiving market on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

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 this hometown country bazaar.

WESTMORELAND, N.H. – The Westmoreland Ladies Aid Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Fellowship Hall of the Westmoreland United Church, 9 South Village Common. There will be Christmas items, handicrafts, fresh greenery arrangements, unique finds, and baked goods for sale, as well as a cookie walk, and books downstairs. Santa will be in town and available for pictures. A soup and sandwich lunch will be available from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., and a quilt raffle will be drawn at 1 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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. All sales will benefit the Okemo Mountain School, www.okemomountainschool.org.

NOV. 21 –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Women's Fellowship of the United Church of Bellows Falls will hold its fall fair on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Included is a corn chowder, assorted sandwiches, beverages, and apple crisp lunch; a tag sale; a food sale; and a raffle of several store gift certificates and merchandise. Takeout is available by calling 802-376-2267. The church is located at 8 School Street. The building is accessible to all; please enter from the back. Proceeds will support the church's community outreach.

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join the Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center, 51 Jack and Jill Lane, for a first expressions family art celebration. This event will be a morning of creativity, exploration, and family fun. Families are invited to enjoy hands-on visual art activities, create together, and explore a special showcase featuring artwork by PlayWorks artists. For more information, email tori.middleton@sapcc-vt.org or call 802-886-5242. To RSVP, visit secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/HpU_gweDNtvUZE0kpz4hUQ.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Rotary Club will host its Fill the Cart From the Heart food drive on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Springfield Shopping Plaza. Donations will benefit the Springfield Family Center Food Shelf. Stop by the Rotary Club's table near Shaw's, pick up a bag, and fill it with nonperishable food or personal care products. The club hopes to see you there.

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.

NOV. 27 – JAN. 10 –

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – The Brattleboro Festival of Miniatures will be held from Friday, Nov. 27 – Sunday, Jan. 10. The festival is free and open to all, 24/7, featuring 90 store-window displays of magical miniature scenes, model trains, pop-up artisan markets, mini treats and eats, exhibitions of miniature art, and free events. The Brattleboro Festival of Miniatures brings local artists and makers together to create a free and accessible townwide miniatures exhibition, window stroll, and slate of family events throughout the holiday season. Visitors are welcome to shop, stay, and dine in this vibrant, artistic Vermont town while catching the mini vibe.

RECURRING EVENTS

MONDAYS –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds line dancing every Monday night, at 7 p.m., with Dorianne Lescord. Free for members, small entry fee for nonmembers. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

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

TUESDAYS –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Come check out TOPS – Take Off Pounds Sensibly. We are a nonjudgmental, affordable, and supportive weight loss group. The first visit is free. All are welcome; youth must be at least 9 to attend and have parental permission. Meetings are every Tuesday at 25 Cherry Hill in Bellows Falls. Weigh-ins start at 5 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Senior Solutions, in collaboration with Tai Chi Vermont, is offering its "Tai Chi for Fall Prevention" beginner class in the Great Hall, 100 River Street (parking at Pearl Street entrance) on Tuesdays, from 10:40-11:40 a.m. Tai chi not only helps to lower the risk of falling, but also improves concentration, leg strength, balance, and coordination, and reduces joint pain and stress. Come join us; it's fun and it's free. For more information, email suerubl@aol.com.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The infant and toddler playgroup at the Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, is held on Tuesday mornings, from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. This playgroup is best suited for children ages 5 and younger, and is a great opportunity for kids and families to meet and enjoy interactive time together. Whether it's playing with cars, cooking up a meal in the play kitchen, or sharing a story, there are plenty of activities available to choose from.

WEDNESDAYS –

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street in Ludlow, will host kids' story time on Wednesdays, from 10:30-11 a.m., from Sept. 16 – Dec. 16. Story time is a wonderful weekly routine to establish with your young child. Each week focuses on early literacy activities, stories, and songs, and ends with a craft or science exploration. It is a great opportunity for your child to socialize and meet new friends, and for adult caregivers to connect. Best suited for ages 5 and under.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Every Wednesday morning, from 8-11 a.m., at the Springfield VFW Post 771, 191 River Street, we get together with fellow veterans for coffee and donuts, and socialize for a few hours. All veterans of all ages are welcome. You do not have to be a VFW or American Legion member to come. Call 802-885-6008 for more information.

FRIDAYS –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – "Release & Realign" yoga classes with teacher Jo Bregnard meet on Fridays, Oct. 23 – Dec. 18 (no class Nov. 27), from 10-11 a.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road. All are welcome, no experience necessary. Visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/96156 for complete details and to sign up for online access (livestream and recordings). Sign up for the full series and attend in person to receive a set of props to keep while supplies last. For more information, email jo@jobregnard.com.

SATURDAYS –

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

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NOTICE OF TAX SALE
TOWN AND VILLAGE OF LUDLOW,VERMONT

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town and Village of Ludlow in the County of Windsor are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such town and village for the years 2022 through 2026 remain, either in whole of in part, unpaid on the following described lands in such town and village, to wit:

1. 321 Route 103 South: Land and premises described in the Warranty deed from Mervin L. Wilkinson and Kathryn A. Wilkinson to Kiran Patel dated August 1,2005 and recorded in Book 290, Pages 223-227 of the Land Records of the Town and Village of Ludlow.

2. 50 Ford Farm Lane: Land and premises described in the Warranty deed from Kevin Kuntz and Patricia Kuntz to John W. Panin dated December 23, 2002 and recorded in Book 231, Pages 26-27 of the Land Records of the Town and Village of Ludlow.

Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5254, so much of such lands will be sold at public auction at the Ludlow Municipal Building, a public place in such town, on the 18th day of December 2026 at 11:00 o'clock a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs and fees, unless previously paid. Be advised that the owner or mortgagee, or the owner's or mortgagee's representatives or assigns, of lands sold for taxes shall have a right to redemption for a period of one year from the date of sale pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5260.

Not less than 24 hours prior to the sale, the owner of the property being sold for taxes may request in writing that a portion of the property be sold. The request must clearly identify the portion of the property to be sold and must be accompanied by a certification from the Act 250 District Environmental Commission and the town zoning administrator that the portion identified may be subdivided and meets the applicable minimum lot size requirements. In the event that the portion identified by the taxpayer cannot be sold for the tax and costs, then the entire property may be sold. 32 V.S.A. § 5254(b).

If you qualify under 24 V.S.A. §1535, you may be able to receive an abatement of your delinquent taxes. Abatement means that your taxes could be reduced or eliminated. You have the right to appear before the Board of Abatement and explain why you think your taxes should be abated. To apply, you must write to Ulla Cook, Town Clerk, P.O.307, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Dated at Ludlow, Vermont, this 13th day of November, 2026

Penny Wu
Collector of Taxes
Town and Village of Ludlow, Vermont

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Springfield Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 8, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at 96 Main Street, Springfield, VT to receive public input and take testimony on the following applications.

DRB 2026-03 & 2026-04: Applications for conditional use permit and site plan approval for a cannabis dispensary at 113 Clinton Street, parcel 30-3-13. Zoning District: GB.

DRB 2026-05: Application for subdivision of 266 Putnam Road, parcel 8-1-8. Zoning District: RA-2/LR-25.

DRB 2026-06: Review of Russell Solar Project and associated agreements as requested by the Selectboard, relating to 399 Edgewood Road, parcel 5-2-4, and 216 Fairground Road, parcel 1B-3-56. Zoning District: LR-10.

Austin Ford
Town of Springfield Planning & Zoning



NOW HIRING DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ZONING TOWN OF LUDLOW, VT

The Town of Ludlow seeks a qualified professional to lead municipal planning, zoning administration, permitting, and community development.
Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in a related field or 3–5 years of planning/zoning experience. Vermont land-use knowledge preferred.
Benefits: Comprehensive health, dental, life and disability insurance; retirement plan; paid leave and holidays.
Salary: Commensurate with experience.
Apply: Submit cover letter, resume and three professional references to Penny Wu, Municipal Manager, at PWu@ludlow.vt.us or Town of Ludlow, PO Box 359, Ludlow, VT 05149.
Position Open until filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.
For more Application and Job Description details: go to our website: www.ludlow.vt.us

Town of Ludlow, Vermont
FT Patrol Officer Job Opening

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

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

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

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

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

PROS TO KNOW classy & opinion

Dear Editor,

I want to thank all for recently voting so responsibly at these amazing midterm elections. Because of the results, I feel like a new era is finally going to begin. I even put my Christmas decorations up early (day-after-Halloween early)! This is the best Christmas present I have ever gotten.

I have known about Donald Trump's corrupt tactics since I lived in NYC in the 1970s, and could not believe how anyone could trust him.

I am so thankful and grateful for all your votes, and happy that most of you have come to the same conclusion that I have suffered with all these past years.

Sincerely,
Linda Brown
Springfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

As a concerned voter, I appreciate the essential role local journalists play in helping voters understand candidates. However, I was uneasy reading recent Q&A biographies.

In close races, editors and reporters don't have to favor a candidate deliberately to sway voters. Even an inaccurate description or editorial choice can shape outcomes.

When a reporter covers a district where they also vote, should that paper have stronger safeguards during election season? Transparency about assignments and fact-checking helps build trust in close races. I hope our local coverage reflects that standard.

Sincerely,
Ryan Coyne
Bellows Falls, Vt.

Dear Editor,

We have been besieged by accounts of AI agents that go rogue and do not act in alignment with human intent and interests. Perhaps not as well-known is the fact that the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has done so as well.

The department initially proposed extending the bear hunting season by one week to attempt to bring bears in line with its "target population." Then, with no further justification, the department extended it an additional month to coincide with the final day of regulated deer hunting, and it added a second bear tag in designated areas.

The department ignored overwhelming popular opinion. Via the Freedom of Information Act, Protect Our Wildlife obtained emails and testimony from all those who responded to extending the bear hunting season and adding a second bear tag. An overwhelming 88% were opposed to each item. However, because a former board chair requested a one-month extension of bear hunting and a two-bear limit in designated areas, Vermont Fish & Wildlife acquiesced. Regardless of how many or how few bears there are, accessible garbage, compost, and chicken coops will attract them. Other municipalities, such as Lincoln, Plymouth, and Littleton, N.H., mandate bear-proof containers; Vermont should do the same.

Moreover, Fish & Wildlife did not address hounding, to which many people who testified objected. By not aligning itself with public opinion, nor with scientific evidence that would justify its decision, Vermont Fish & Wildlife went rogue. Our wildlife management policies should reflect the values of the public and the biological needs of the animals, not a mandate to maximize targets for a small population of hunters.

Sincerely,
Alice Roberge
Waterford, Vt.

Stick Season in Vermont

Who knew after the vibrant fall foliage
becomes a kaleidoscope of butterflies
at the slightest breeze, now yellowed and
dancing across the sky
that Mother Nature is entering…Stick Season?
For most, that's better than the dreaded
cold ahead where the shortened days
seem barely long enough to get up a good,
steady heart rate on your daily walk.
In the unassuming town of Ludlow, just
below Okemo Mountain a local shop window displays a message made of wooden
blocks proclaiming, "Goodbye Autumn,
Welcome Tick Season."
After an inquisitive closer look,
the "S" block appears tucked behind
now clearly spelling "Stick."
This eagerly awaited step means that ski
season is only a bootstrap away reminding crunching leaves underfoot to give
way
for the rhythmic swooshing of perfect
turns making tracks across glorious, pure
white snow.

By Jennifer Pilkington
Westport, Conn., second home in Ludlow

CLEAN OUTS + MORE

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HELP WANTED

LUDLOW, Vt. – Join our house cleaning team throughout the ski season. Part time, flexible hours/days, no weekends, holidays, or evenings. Please contact Cindy at 802-342-3767. (12/01)

FOR RENT

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – Private, cozy cottage with loft, furnished, rubish/snow removal. No pets. Available Dec. 1, $1200/mo plus utilities, first/last/security. Call 802-291-3914.

WESTON, Vt. – Attractive one bedroom on Landgrove Road, walk to center. $1,200 monthly plus security. References requested. Call Chris 302-762-4626 daily, but no later than 3 p.m.

FOR SALE

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – 2007 Volvo XC70 with 236,000 miles, 95% OEM replacement parts, currently inspected. Timing belt etc. replaced at 189,000, low compression in two cylinders, hard steering and turbo may need servicing. Great family project car. $999 OBO. Email usa67401@gmail.com.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

LUDLOW AREA – Sanderson Contracting Inc has been in business for over 30 years providing snow removal, property maintenance, and landscaping in the Ludlow area. For information, please contact Brett at 802-384-4677.

SNOW PLOWING

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

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(12/09/26 - 52)

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Wire Wrapped Earrings w/ Lisa Caron Hickey Dec. 5
Raku Pottery w/ Andrew Berends Dec. 5 & 12
Info & sign up: https://galleryvault.org/workshops/

Open Wall - ***Nature's Jewels*** Oct. 21 to Dec. 26
(01/06/27 - TFN - 13)

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(03/17/27 - 52)

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(04/07/27 - 26)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
Subject to space. 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. **Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal.**

arts & entertainment

Jesse Peters, Ezra Holloway, and George Nostrand at Stage 33

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Another in the ongoing Local Curator Series at Stage 33 Live, three southern-Vermont music scene mainstays on one bill: Jesse Peters, Ezra Holloway, and George Nostrand in an acoustic round-robin show on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m., at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.stage33live.com, or can be purchased at the door as available. Advance tickets guarantee entry. Only 40 tickets will be sold. All ticket money goes to the performers.

Peters is eclectic in his tastes and writing. He graduated from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia with a bachelor's degree in jazz guitar, playing acoustic music in coffee houses along the way. He is committed to a mix of styles while remaining focused and accessible. A strong writer and top-notch player worth leaning into, this intimate listening room performance that he curated will make for an exceptional show.

Holloway is a musician, songwriter, producer, and frontman for the crunchy band Man Made Tragedies. He cut his teeth in Saxtons River, building a reputation for his mix of rock, pop, punk, and alternative style music with catchy melodies, introspective lyrics, and energetic live shows. He's a college man these days.

Nostrand is a southern Vermont legend – a tireless performer, local music promoter, writer, and troublemaker. He grew up in Bellows Falls and now lives in Rutland. Nostrand offers an affably freewheeling musical stew, seasoned with transgenerational and genre-hopping inspirations. An entertainer and storyteller, he's at home on stages of all shapes and sizes.

For more information, visit www.stage33live.com.

The Vault's "Nature's Jewels" Open Wall show

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the Vault invites you to visit a wonderful, eclectic Open Wall show, "Nature's Jewels." Open Wall is a nonjuried show for any artists living in a 30-mile radius of Springfield. This show includes beautiful paintings, photographs, mixed-media gourds, clothing fiber art, birch-and-fiber art, cross-stitch, oyster shell/decoupage trees, quilting, and calligraphy. There is also a raffle basket.



"Golden Hour" by Kim Ryan, on display at Gallery at the Vault.
PHOTO PROVIDED

The works will be on display until Dec. 26. Gallery at the Vault considers it a pleasure to welcome local artists, and thanks all the participants.

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

Dallahan and If You Must Know at Next Stage Arts –

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present two of the most exciting voices in contemporary Celtic music – Dallahan and If You Must Know – at Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt., on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Forged in Scotland and Ireland's traditional music scene but drawing on the music of the Balkans and North America, Dallahan takes their listeners on a journey. Traversing styles and countries of the world in a dazzling live show, they create their own unique brand of world-folk delivered with stunning virtuosity.

Following the release of their debut album, "When The Day Is On The Turn," in 2014, Jack Badcock (guitar, vocals), Ciaran Ryan (banjo, mandolin, fiddle), Andrew Waite (accordion), and Benedict Morris (fiddle) toured extensively in Europe and North America, establishing themselves internationally at such prestigious international events as Milwaukee Irish Fest, Celtic Connections, Tonder Festival, and countless others. In their first year, Dallahan was awarded the Emerging Excellence Award from Help Musicians UK, and their debut album was shortlisted for Album of the Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards. To date, Dallahan has brought their live show to 20 countries, earning three nominations for Folk Band of The Year in 2016, 2019, and 2022.

Rachel Clemente and Dan Houghton, of If You Must Know, bring a gritty, avant-garde edge to Scottish traditional music, playing a 25-minute preshow. Firmly grounded in tradition yet unafraid to challenge their boundaries, If You Must Know blends original compositions with reimagined melodies, placing the duo at the forefront of New England's Celtic folk scene. Both musicians are award-winning performers and composers with international touring and teaching experience, and their performances are marked by intensity, imagination, and fearless musicianship.

To purchase tickets, visit www.nextstagearts.org.

Antje Duvekot, Hayley Reardon at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present a double bill with contemporary folk singer-songwriters Antje Duvekot and Hayley Reardon on Friday, Nov. 27, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt.

Duvekot is a German-born, American-raised singer-songwriter whose songs have been critically praised for their hard-won wisdom, dark-eyed realism, and street-smart romanticism. Her bicultural upbringing and relative newness to English have helped shape her unique way with a song, giving her a startlingly original poetic palette. They are the keys to the powerful, even revolutionary, empathy that informs everything she writes. She has won some of the top songwriting awards, including the grand prize in the John Lennon Songwriting Competition, the Kerrville Folk Festival Best New Folk Award, and the Boston Music Award for Outstanding Folk Act. Since the release of her debut studio CD, "Big Dream Boulevard," which was voted No. 1 Folk Release of 2006 by the Boston Globe and was named to the Top 10 Releases of the Year by National Public Radio's Folk Alley, Duvekot has been touring extensively, crisscrossing the U.S. and Europe. She is a compelling live performer who has played at major festivals, including Newport, Mountain Stage, Philadelphia, Falcon Ridge, Great Waters, and Kerrville in the U.S.; the Celtic Connections Festival in Scotland; and Tonder Festival in Denmark.

She is followed by critically acclaimed folk-pop singer-songwriter Hayley Reardon, whose songs serve as postcards from an artist brave enough to take the road less traveled. Reardon dove headfirst into music at the young age of 15, and has dedicated much of her life to writing, recording, and performing music around the world. Raised in a coastal Massachusetts town north of Boston, Reardon spent three years based in Nashville after high school, followed by six years carrying her songs and stories all over the globe. In addition to her ongoing U.S. touring, Reardon has played nearly 300 shows across Europe. She has shared the stage with artists such as Lori McKenna, Rodney Crowell, Anaïs Mitchell, Dar Williams, and Ed Sheeran. Her ever-deepening music carries a lyrical and melodic weight well beyond her years.

To purchase tickets, or for more information, visit www.nextstagearts.org.

Kinhaven-CIM String Quartet Fellowship

WESTON, Vt. – The Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) and Kinhaven announce the launch of the Kinhaven-CIM String Quartet Fellowship, a new, yearlong postgraduate residency designed to prepare emerging chamber musicians for meaningful, sustainable careers as performers, educators, and leaders. This fellowship, bringing together two institutions with longstanding commitments to artistic excellence and transformative education, builds on the distinctive strengths of both institutions: Kinhaven's immersive chamber music environment and CIM's comprehensive conservatory education and commitment to preparing students for successful careers in music.

The partnership began a two-year pilot program in 2025, with the Trillium Quartet in residence at CIM and offering coaching, lessons, and performances at Kinhaven. Building on this successful rollout, auditions are now underway for the next Kinhaven-CIM String Quartet, which will spend the 2027 fall semester in residence at Kinhaven in Weston, Vt., followed by the 2028 spring semester at CIM in Cleveland, Ohio.

Throughout the year, the four fellows will receive advanced musical training, mentorship from prominent artist-teachers, meaningful teaching experience, real-world performance opportunities, and professional development. The program is designed around the recognition that today's musicians must be more than exceptional performers; they must also be effective educators, collaborators, communicators, and community leaders.

At CIM, fellows will become part of the institute's vibrant musical community, working alongside faculty and students while gaining experience that connects their artistic development with the realities of a professional career.

The fellowship also extends beyond the four musicians selected to participate. Through teaching, mentoring, and performing at both institutions, members of the Kinhaven-CIM String Quartet will serve as artistic role models for students at the precollegiate and collegiate levels. Their engagement will create connections across multiple stages of musical development and inspire hundreds of students each year to pursue their own artistic dreams and potential.

At its core, the Kinhaven-CIM String Quartet Fellowship reflects a shared belief that artistic excellence and career readiness should not exist separately. By preparing emerging artists not only to perform at the highest levels, but also to teach, lead, collaborate, and contribute to the future of classical music, the fellowship offers a comprehensive approach to postgraduate professional development.

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holiday happenings

Springfield Thanksgiving Farmers Market

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Prepare for the season of giving and sharing at the Springfield Farmers Market Thanksgiving Market on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the United Methodist Church, on the Square in downtown Springfield, Vt.

The farmers market's vendors will all be there and will offer everything you need to create a memorable holiday celebration. Choose from organically-grown winter vegetables; natural beef, pork, sausage, and meat sticks; artisan breads; and homemade pies. Find cards for the holiday season and every occasion, free-range eggs, and the best honey in town. Explore the large selection of authentic, handcrafted batik clothing and accessories, jewelry, and semiprecious stones and gifts created from locally sourced woods. Round off the table with jams, jellies, pickles, relishes, old-fashioned doughnuts, beeswax candles, and a full range of local maple products.

In honor of the nature of the holiday, the Springfield Farmers Market is giving one lucky shopper all the fixings for a full Thanksgiving dinner, so be sure to leave your name, address, and phone number on a card to be drawn at the end of the market. No purchase is necessary. For more information, contact sfog@vermontel.net.

Holidays in Bellows Falls monthlong celebration

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The holiday season is coming to Bellows Falls. Starting Nov. 27, the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance (BFDDA) invites the community to celebrate the season, shop local, and enter for a chance to win the holiday giveaway basket with the return of Holidays in Bellows Falls.

Running through Dec. 24, this monthlong celebration encourages everyone to enjoy the holidays while supporting the local shops and businesses that make Bellows Falls special. This year's celebration features the return of Holiday Bingo, a fun way to explore local businesses and get some holiday shopping done. Pick up a bingo card, visit participating businesses, make qualifying purchases, and collect stamps. Complete a bingo and turn in your card for a chance to win the holiday giveaway basket.

Whether you're shopping for gifts, treating yourself, or simply looking for a reason to get out and enjoy the season, make Bellows Falls part of your holiday plans. Every purchase made locally helps support the small businesses, entrepreneurs, and neighbors who make downtown Bellows Falls unique, including local shops, restaurants, cafes, and bars. Follow Bellows Falls, Vt., on Facebook and Instagram for participating business announcements, Holiday Bingo details, and event updates.

Holidays in Bellows Falls is organized by the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting local businesses and creating a vibrant downtown community. For more information, visit www.bellowsfallsvt.org/holidaysinbellowsfalls2026.

ESBR Festival of Wreaths fundraiser

LUDLOW, Vt. – There is still time to register for Expeditionary School at Black River's (ESBR) first annual Festival of Wreaths Fundraiser, which may be done online at www.esblackriver.org. Visiting the website will also showcase student life and activities, including the outdoor education program that students are participating in this school year.

All proceeds from the Festival of Wreaths fundraiser will go directly to education to provide better resources for ESBR's students. Businesses and community members alike are welcome to participate in this festivity; please register by Nov. 20. Decorated wreaths can be dropped off at ESBR, 43 Main Street in Ludlow, during the week of Nov. 30 – Dec. 4.

The auction for the wreaths will be open to the public on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 1-5 p.m., at Fletcher Memorial Library (FML). This is a fun way to celebrate the holiday season, build community, and benefit local education.

ESBR is grateful to host this at FML. This library has been a staple of Ludlow, and ESBR is honored to continue the tradition of local education for the families of its community right alongside FML. Inquiries for the fundraiser may be made to Patrick Pullinen, chair of the ESBR Board of Trustees and dedicated fundraising committee member, at ppullinen@esblackriver.org.

First Congregational Church of Westminster Holiday Bazaar

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The First Congregational Church of Westminster Women's Fellowship Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the church, 3470 U.S. Route 5 in Westminster, Vt.

The holiday shop will be open and filled with crafts, candles, gifts, handmade items, attic treasures, and homemade baked goods. This year, the shop will feature special items for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Feeling hungry? Stop by the holiday cafe for a delicious lunch featuring corn chowder, chili, sliders, chips, macaroni and cheese for the kids, and beverages.

There will be plenty of chances to win, too. A beautiful twin-size quilt will be raffled at the end of the bazaar. You can also try your luck with the choice raffle, featuring amazing gifts generously donated by local businesses and friends.

Children of all ages are welcome, and can enjoy making a special craft project to take home and use as a gift.

Come get a head start on your holiday shopping, enjoy a delicious lunch, or simply spend some time visiting with friends in the cafe.

Charlestown Christmas Bazaar

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, call603-826-3335. Shop this hometown country bazaar.

Springfield Christmas Bazaar

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street in Springfield, Vt., is hosting its annual Christmas bazaar 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.



FREE
Thanksgiving Dinner
give thanks
Ludlow Baptist Church
Saturday, November 21
Dine-In Only
5:30 - 7:00 pm
99 Main Street, Ludlow
Reservations required by Nov. 14
802-289-2825 or jhchester@vermontel.net

Bellows Falls Emblem Club's Annual
THANKSGIVING PIE SALE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2026
$19
Held at Simone's Styling Salon
41 Square, Bellows Falls
Next door to Salmon & Nostrand
Pre-Order the Pies of Your Choice By November 21, 2026 or stop in and see what we have
Call Simone at 802-463-3573 or 802-463-3992
leave a message if no answer
Proceeds from the sale will help the scholarship fund & other local organizations

BELLOWS FALLS
American Legion Post #37
Traditional, Old Fashioned
ROAST TURKEY DINNER
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2026
DOORS OPEN 11:30 / DINNER NOON TO 2PM
Roast Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potato, Gravy, Squash, Rolls & Butter, Cranberry Sauce, and Dessert
Complementary / FREE Meal to the Community
–> Meal to be Eaten at the American Legion <–
(Donations gladly accepted)
Call 802-463-0762 ~ Reservations Recommended
American Legion, 42 Rockingham St. Bellows Falls
Commander Gerry Baraby, PR Smokey Aumand



Annual Stone House Holiday Open House
November 21 & 22, 2026
10 am - 5 pm
Stone House Antique Center
557 VT Route 103 South, Chester, VT
802-875-4477 - shac@vermontel.net
Facebook.com/StoneHouseAntiqueCenter
Get an early start to your Holiday Season at our annual "Stone House Holiday" Open House.
Join us Saturday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22 for a festive start to the season!
Light Refreshments will be served. See you there!

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SAPA TV holds annual meeting, award winners

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – As October rolled around this year, SAPA TV hosted its annual meeting once again. This meeting is a place for networking, noticing, and acknowledging. SAPA TV's producers and other community members were in attendance as Executive Director Kevin Paquet presented a breakdown of fiscal year 2025-2026. Attention was brought to SAPA TV's new social media goals by Marketing and Communications Manager Amethyst Bonneau, who hopes to use social media as a tool to increase the knowledge of what SAPA TV offers to the community.

After these presentations, Paquet announced awards and certificates. This year there were three award winners: Patrick Ankuda won Producer of the Year for his new show, "The Springfield Symposium," Board President Marita Johnson won the Outstanding Service Award, and finally, Tony Jacobini won the Lifetime Achievement Award. Along with these awards, producers also won certificates that acknowledge the number of programs each producer made over the year.

The night finished with a potluck-style dinner at which attendees and staff both mingled and enjoyed conversations. SAPA TV thanks the community for another wonderful year serving the surrounding towns.

Weston Theater new board chair

WESTON, Vt. – Weston Theater Company is pleased to announce Gene Palma as chair of its board of trustees and executive committee. A Weston resident and theatergoer for more than 30 years, Palma brings decades of leadership experience in higher education and a strong commitment to the local community to his new role.

"Gene is deeply invested in Weston and in the people and organizations that make this region thrive," said Susanna Gellert, executive artistic director. "He understands how much this theater means to our community near and far, and brings that sense of connection and responsibility to his leadership."

An active member of the Weston community, Palma serves on the boards of directors of the Wilder Memorial Library, Old Parish Community Church, and the Weston Democratic Town Committee. He has also owned a home in Ludlow since 1994, and has attended Weston Theater Company productions for more than three decades.

"As we look ahead, we will honor the theater's rich history while welcoming new voices, developing new work, and supporting the next generation of artists," said Palma.

For more information about Weston Theater Company's board and mission, visit www.westontheater.org/our-people.

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