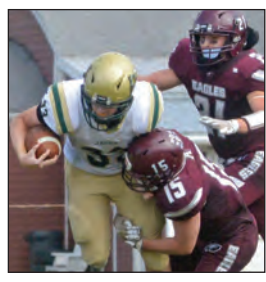




## Alive to write

A near-death experience prompts a collection of poetry. Hear the author read. See Arts + Leisure.



## Crunch time

Tough defense and explosive rushing lead the MAV football team to a big win. See Page 1B.



## Around home

Thinking about solar, gardens, flooring and weatherization? See our Home & Garden section.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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## ACSD is sizing up its building needs

### Architect helps evaluate nine schools

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — An architectural firm working with the Addison Central School District to map out improvements to the ACSD's nine school buildings has suggested \$20.8 million in upgrades to Middlebury's Mary Hogan Elementary. It would address deferred maintenance and create more appropriate K-5 learning spaces.

The suggested upgrades for Mary Hogan School got a cursory review

from the ACSD board Sept. 22 as it contemplates a major list of repairs that have accrued across the district's seven elementary schools, along with Middlebury Union middle and high schools. The ACSD Facilities Committee, in conjunction with the firm TruexCullins Architecture & Interior Design, has been sizing up a major list of renovations and repairs that have been pushed off for financial reasons.

During the coming weeks and (See ACSD, Page 13A)

## Lincoln woman raises rare white monarch butterfly

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — Marilyn Ganahl has long aimed to make her home a welcoming place for pollinators.

Over the years, she's cultivated pollinator habitats on her Lincoln property and raised thousands of monarch caterpillars found in vulnerable spots. While Ganahl sees hundreds of pollinators pass through her backyard each year, she recently encountered an unexpected visitor — a white monarch butterfly.

White monarch sightings are extremely rare, with just a handful of these butterflies being spotted around the

continental United States each year.

"It was like hitting the lottery," Ganahl said of the experience.

One of Ganahl's first projects upon purchasing the property two decades ago was to restore some previously mowed areas into pollinator habitat.

"That's the big message here; is that we need to conserve and embrace broadening our pollinator habitat," she said. "Without pollinators, you don't grow food."

Ganahl began encouraging the growth of milkweed and native plants like wild asters and goldenrod on her property, all of which are popular among pollinators.

"Monarchs have to have milkweed, it's the (See Monarch, Page 13A)



### Leaves above and below

IT'S BEEN A beautiful fall in Addison County, and then all of a sudden we noticed that peak foliage season is upon us. Pause, look up and enjoy the seasonal show before all the leaves are on the ground. See more foliage photos on Page 9A.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

## Locals are welcoming new animal welfare unit

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — Local animal welfare advocates are optimistic about how a new division within the Vermont Department of Public Safety could help address and prevent cases of animal cruelty in the state.

The Division of Animal Welfare was established through legislation enacted in 2024. It's aimed at addressing the fragmented nature of Vermont's animal welfare system, which previously lacked a centralized, state-funded entity for investigating and enforcing welfare requirements.

The Department of Public Safety this past spring hired Lisa Milot to serve as director of the (See Animal welfare, Page 16A)

## Herbalism on display at Lincoln library

### Exhibit shows history, power of local plants

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — It's hard to miss the plethora of plants that line Addison County's country roads and fill its green spaces. What perhaps remains more unseen is the rich history of many of those plants, which have for centuries been used to treat anything from battle wounds to an upset stomach.

The medicinal uses of such plants lies at the heart of a fall exhibit at the Lincoln Library. The "Herbal (See Herbal medicine, Page 8A)



## By the way

Just back from a performance at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Middlebury's Mark Saltveit will take the stage locally this Friday to present the one-man show that he did in Scotland. It's called "Ego Tourism: How the Tao made me (a bit less) weird," and features a 50-minute monologue written and performed by Mark, and directed by Olga Sanchez. Look for humor, insight and a bit of tai chi as Mark shares funny and touching stories about growing up in the second half of the last century. It's not too much of a spoiler to repeat Mark's line that "the one place (See By the way, Page 8A)

## Nonprofit arm will aid our local news

### Seeks more community engagement

In an era in which community newspapers and other local media have struggled against social media giants like Google, the Addison County Independent has been a welcome outlier. But while the newspaper has maintained a strong, award-winning news team and a strong sales department, Independent publisher Angelo Lynn recently announced a new revenue mix that will help keep the newspaper vibrant and competitive.

"We all know the newspaper industry's economic model has been disrupted for the past two decades, and that a new revenue mix would be needed to remain vital," Lynn said, adding that the paper has been making that transition over the past several years. The thrust of those initiatives is three-fold:

• The newspaper has dedicated two employees to expand digital services for local businesses. (See Nonprofit, Page 11A)

## Flowers earns regional honor for his investigative reporting

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — Veteran Addison Independent reporter John Flowers on Friday, Sept. 26, was presented with an A-Mark Prize for outstanding investigative journalism. He was one of only three Vermont journalists to be so honored at a New England Newspaper & Press Association (NENPA) awards ceremony in Northampton, Mass.

Flowers was specifically lauded for a two-part series of articles he wrote this past February chronicling growing dissatisfaction among stakeholders in Addison County's criminal justice system with Addison County State's Attorney Eva Vekos.

Through more than a dozen interviews and by combing through myriad court records, Flowers found, among other things, a high (See Flowers, Page 14A)



JOHN FLOWERS

## 6th-graders' shift to middle school a smooth move in ANWSD — but why?

### Outreach, teachers were key factors

Part 2 of two parts

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — After years of discussion among Addison Northwest School District

administrators, teachers and community members, in the fall of 2024 6th-graders started attending Vergennes Union Middle School, which has its own classroom wing in the Monkton Road building that also houses Vergennes Union High School.

By 2023, six years after the issue

was first considered and after it was rendered moot for two academic years by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ANWSD board was ready to approve the change, and 5th-graders at Vergennes Union Elementary and Ferrisburgh Central schools (VUES and FCS) were told to be prepared (See 6th-graders, Page 14A)



VERGENNES UNION MIDDLE School 7th-graders, from left, Nova Provencher, Katie Johnstone and Colvin Killon were a year ago members of the first class of 6th-graders to join the middle school that shares a building with Vergennes Union High School. They agree with school administrators and teachers that the inclusion of their class and a new class of 6th-graders this fall at the school has worked out well. Independent photo/Andy Kirkaldy

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### Student-made murals

LAST SPRING THE Beeman Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization sponsored a workshop for its students with Julie Cousino of Handiworks Studio. The students created their own mini murals to take home as well as helping plan and paint beautiful murals for the New Haven school — each class created a triangle of the mural. On Friday, Sept. 19, the six murals were hung in Beeman's beautiful playground pavilion for students, staff and the public to enjoy every day.

Photo courtesy of Ashley Bessette

## Mosquito with EEE found in Vergennes

By CHARLOTTE OLIVER, VTDigger.org

VERMONT — The Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus has recently returned to Vermont, with mosquitoes in Orleans, Addison and Franklin counties testing positive for the virus.

Health officials are urging Vermonters to protect themselves from mosquito bites, warning the virus — while rare — can be serious and deadly to humans. Last year, one Chittenden County man in his 70s died of the virus in one of two cases of serious illness in the state.

In September, mosquitoes have tested positive for the virus in Swanton and Vergennes, and a horse in Brownington is also suspected of carrying the virus.

The Vermont Department of Health strongly encouraged Vermonters to take measures to prevent mosquito bites. Officials encouraged people to wear long-sleeve shirts and pants outdoors, use bug repellent that's effective against mosquitoes, avoid leaving standing water and limit time outside around dawn and dusk.

Mosquitoes may be more likely to carry the virus in areas where it's been detected, said Natalie Kwit, the state's public health veterinarian.

From June through October, technicians with the Agency of

Agriculture, Food and Markets venture out to about 110 surveillance sites around the state, where they trap mosquitoes for testing, according to Patti Casey, who oversees environmental surveillance for the agency.

Scientists with the agency currently monitor the West Nile virus, the Jamestown Canyon virus and the Eastern equine encephalitis virus. It's the first summer state scientists have tested for the Jamestown virus, with the first human case of the virus in Vermont confirmed earlier this month.

While it's rare, people who do experience serious illness from EEE suffer from symptoms like fever, headache, vomiting or body aches. "The risk is low because most people don't tend to get sick, but among those who do, it could be very dangerous," Kwit said.

Among those with symptoms, only 5% get seriously ill, Kwit said. But one-third of people who experience serious symptoms die, she said.

Last year's EEE surge was the first time scientists saw an uptick in the virus in Vermont since 2012, Kwit said. Then, alerts from health officials prompted organizers in Vermont's Queen City to cancel a number of outdoor events or move them inside.

The virus typically comes to the Northeast in 8-to-10-year cycles,

often ramping up for several years at a time, Casey said.

Scientists believe that pattern happens because the virus "amplifies" in an exchange between mosquitoes and bird populations — and birds' migration patterns bring the virus across the country, Casey said.

Primary vector mosquitoes feed almost exclusively on bird populations. They transmit the disease among birds until many mosquitoes and birds are carrying the virus, Casey said. Then, bridge vector mosquitoes, which feed on birds and other animals, transfer the virus beyond birds — notably to humans and horses, Casey said.

Horses cannot transfer the virus to humans and are recommended to be annually vaccinated for the virus, Casey said. Horses who are sick with the virus tend to suffer neurological symptoms, like falling over and stumbling, she said.

This month, one horse in Brownington is suspected to have had the virus, but tests weren't able to explicitly confirm it was infected, Casey said.

Kwit said no vaccine exists for humans, and there's no approved treatment for people with symptoms. To protect themselves, people should follow recommendations from health officials, she said.

## Weybridge eyes options for town hall, library

By JOHN FLOWERS

WEYBRIDGE — In an effort to better define and propel their community center, Weybridge residents are seeing if new life can be infused into two slumbering town-owned buildings that were once local touchstones: The Cotton Free Library and the neighboring Weybridge Town Hall. The buildings both sit on the same lot on the west side of Quaker Village Road.

The Weybridge town hall was built in 1847 and originally served as the Wesleyan Methodist Church before becoming Weybridge's first and only town hall in 1893. The single-story, wood-frame structure is capped by a tower; the interior boasts significant Greek Revival woodwork.

The adjacent Cotton Free Library, a noted local example of colonial revival architecture, was built in 1913, following a bequest by local resident Joseph Cotton. The library — once located in basement of the town hall — was electrified in 1922.

Both structures were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1996 and are admired by locals and passersby. But the adulation these days is largely confined to exterior glances.

The buildings lack water and sewer service, as well as convenient access for folks with disabilities. They have, through the years, lost their utilitarian identities to more modern structures in and out of town.

The larger, more modern Weybridge Elementary School has become the town's community meeting hub, and the Cotton Free Library hasn't operated as such since the 1980s. Weybridge residents instead frequent Middlebury's Ilsley Public Library.

So, the old town hall and library have largely served as a pretty portrait that some local residents fear will begin to crack if left to the whims of time. Around 60 Weybridge residents turned out at their elementary school on Monday to give their opinions on whether the buildings should rejoin the community fold, and if so, how to do it in a way they'll actually be used and at a reasonable price.

Weybridge Selectperson Kelly Flynn stressed the town isn't on the cusp on doing anything with the buildings. Monday's discussion was about laying out four potential remedies and seeing if any of them warrant further examination.

"This may go somewhere, and it may go nowhere," Flynn told the *Independent*.

It's an exercise prompted by responses to a 2023 community survey that asked Weybridge residents, among other things, what improvements they'd like to see. More housing stock and pinning down a community gathering space topped the local wish lists, with some folks recommending the town hall and/or library be factored into the gathering spot conversation.

The call for a community gathering space has become more pressing, given state pressure (through Act 73) to consolidate public schools in wake of declining enrollment. Weybridge operates one of the smallest

schools in the Addison Central School District; the smallest — Ripton Elementary — closed in June.

Using \$42,076 of its American Rescue Plan Act allocation, Weybridge officials last December commissioned Vermont Integrated Architecture (VIA) of Middlebury to study the feasibility of reclaiming the two town buildings in a way that'd promote their use.

### FOUR CONCEPTS

VIA's Andrea Murray and Susan Coddairé earlier this summer unveiled four separate concepts, ranging from improving the buildings where they stand, to relocating the town hall to the current Weybridge municipal office site at 1727 Quaker Village Road.

Murray said VIA drafted the four concepts based in part on a series of preferences Weybridge citizens have aired at public meetings. Those weighing in have urged, among other things, that:

- The two buildings be actively used.
- That the solution include space for town offices, currently housed in a very small building.
- That having an "attractive and accessible town center" would increase Weybridge's cachet for current and future generations.

At the same time, Murray

acknowledged trepidation from some residents about going all-in on a library/town hall project. Some residents are concerned about water and sewer issues at the current town hall/library site, while others have stated that developing more workforce housing should be the community's top priority.

Via officials engaged two companies — Otter Creek Engineering and Engineering Ventures — to help them map out concepts for making the library and town hall spaces more accessible and functional. In brief, here at the four concepts, which can be found in more detail at [tinyurl.com/56smcaxp](http://tinyurl.com/56smcaxp):

- Joining the town hall and library with a connecting addition. This plan would require the town hall to be set on a new foundation, four feet lower than its current height, which would place it on the same level as the library. The connector addition would host most of the town office functions. The library would include a small meeting room at a book lending function, while the town hall would host large community gatherings and the municipal vault in the basement level. The additional rooms would be placed between the two historic buildings.
- Joining the two buildings

(See Weybridge, Page 3A)



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## Unique historic site seeks qualified buyer

By IAN CURRY

CORNWALL — The historic Old Stone Blacksmith Shop at 1488 Route 30 in Cornwall is up for sale. Barbara Harding, the shop's owner, is selling the building and the land on which it sits for \$49,000.

The shop, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was built sometime between 1791 and 1805 by Thomas Pritchard. It has passed through a long line of blacksmiths and farriers who produced handmade metal implements for local residents.

For more than a century, the building was a functioning smithy until its final blacksmith, Frank Brown, died in 1908. Now that the building is once again up for sale, Harding hopes a new blacksmith will be interested in reigniting the shop's furnace.

"I'm really hoping that a smith buys it," Harding told the *Independent*.

Constructed with coarse limestone slabs, the shop is built into a shallow hill. According to the 1975 document nominating the building to the National Register of Historic Places, the Old Stone Blacksmith Shop is the "earliest surviving representative of a service industry essential to the early development and prosperity of the town of Cornwall."

"That's what makes it unique," Harding said.

Harding noted the shop's evolution

over the years is highly visible. She said there are still horseshoes hanging on the walls and stanchions built into the shop indicating horses at some point were regularly brought in to be shod. There still exists evidence of the wooden gutter system used by previous smiths to bring recycled rainwater into the forge.

"I love to be inside it ... I love the smell of it; the smell of metal and the dirt floor," Harding said.

She mentioned that while she had commissioned repairs to the roof during the early 2000s, "we kept it historically correct."

"It's just really awesome," Harding added.

Addison-based blacksmith John Baker of Wildflower Ironworks echoed those sentiments, saying the shop offers an amazing opportunity, especially for a young blacksmith looking for a forge.

"To me, blacksmithing is important," he said.

Baker, who for the most part creates custom railings, said that with a world economy transformed by mass production, the number of blacksmiths in the area has steadily been declining. He said it's gotten harder to find blacksmithing courses being offered locally.

"It's not a dying trade, but it's not practical for a lot of people ... (There's) not a lot of money in it ... You have to want to be in the production world,"

Baker said.

North Chittenden blacksmith Scott Hawley agrees, saying the blacksmithing trade is hot and dirty, but nonetheless rewarding.

"Something a good blacksmith makes will last generations," he said.

Hawley, who for more than a decade has been demonstrating his iron-working skill at Addison County Fair & Field Days, says the world has become far removed from the artisanship and effort that goes into crafting the things we consume.

"I think we've become so detached now from how things are made. It's such a disposable type of environment we live in. Most people don't have a clue on how things are made," Hawley said.

Despite this, he's noticed a great deal of fascination surrounding blacksmithing and he enjoys being present at Field Days to ensure the trade stays visible.

"A lot of people tell me they didn't realize anyone's doing it anymore... It's nice to be able to answer questions of how things are made and why I'm doing it the way I'm doing it," Hawley said.

Both Baker and Hawley hope to see the forge at Cornwall's historic blacksmith revived by the younger generation and see the continuation of a trade that's been so central to the development of Vermont's communities.

"I'm always willing to get a fire going," Baker said.



OLD STONE BLACKSMITH SHOP

## Weybridge

(Continued from Page 2A)

• Joining the two buildings as outlined above, except the additional space would be added behind the buildings.

• The two buildings would stay where they are, with a connecting addition between the two buildings that would require a set of stairs to access the higher town hall structure. The front library room would become a reception area for the clerk and town offices; the library would provide a lending function, meeting room and desks for records review.

• The town hall building would be moved to the current Weybridge municipal office site at 1727 Quaker Village Road. The town hall space would absorb the municipal offices, and that smaller building — nearing the end of its useful life — would be taken down.

"This means a new life for the town offices, in the town hall, with a little addition to it to provide accessibility and toilets," Coddaira said.

The library would stay at the same spot, with a small addition and a bigger parking lot.

### WATER & SEPTIC

VIA officials stressed that potential water/septic service needs more study. But they pointed to the possibility of establishing a sewerage link between the two buildings and the current municipal office site. If the town hall is moved, it could pave the way for on-site septic service for the library, VIA officials said.

As a bonus, VIA officials pitched a fourth option that shows a housing subdivision across the street from the current town/hall library site. The town hall would be relocated to the subdivision side of the street, while the library would stay put.

VIA officials said this fourth option is the most hypothetical of all, as the "subdivision" land is privately owned.

"One of the things we were thinking about is, 'In order for this to become a town center, it needs more density and more services,'" Murray said, noting the privately owned parcel — if it ever came up for sale — might also be appropriate for a town green and/or a general store.

"It could start with just moving

the town hall and seeing how things move organically from there," she added.

So what happens now?

Flynn said the selectboard will assess the VIA work and residents' feedback, then provide their own input to allow the company to complete its final report. That will help determine whether one of the four scenarios gains momentum and eventual public approval.

One thing is clear, according to Flynn — the town will seek grants and donations to pursue a project, as opposed to asking for taxpayer money.

"The selectboard initiated this process because the community asked for it. It's more about what our town identifies as, because right now we identify very strongly with our school," she said. "If we need to come up with new ways to identify ourselves, I think these two buildings are great assets that we have. We should explore who Weybridge is."

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

## Addison tax rates see big drop

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON — In Addison owners of both residential and non-residential real estate saw a major drop in their property tax bills when they opened them in July.

As well as actions taken this spring by state officials to provide school tax relief, according to town officials the Addison selectboard late in 2024 voted to apply the town's remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding — about \$399,000 — to offset town spending in the current fiscal year.

That action substantially lowered the amount of money that Addison needed to raise in taxes to cover town spending in the 2025-2026 fiscal year (FY2026).

As a result, the municipal rate, including a small separate rate to pay for a veterans' exemption, dropped by 12.37 cents per \$100 of assessed value, from 61.18 cents to 49.11 cents. That rate applies to all

classes of taxable real estate.

Meanwhile, Addison's new homestead school tax rate dropped from \$2.0864 per \$100 of assessed value to \$1.8916. That's a 19.49-cent drop of over 9%.

Thus, including the town's lower school tax rate, Addison's new overall residential property tax rate stands at \$2.3827, a full 31.85 cents, less than the FY2025 rate of \$2.7012.

For Addison residents who pay on the full assessed value of their homes, that means almost \$320 less in taxes for every \$100,000 in town-appraised value, or close to \$1,300 in tax savings in a home valued at around \$400,000.

It's important to remember that about two-thirds of Vermont homeowners pay property taxes based on their incomes and are not likely to see the full extent of the savings as do those who pay solely based on property valuations.

Owners of non-residential property, which includes commercial and rental property and second homes (including many properties on Lake Champlain) are also seeing significant tax savings.

The same town rate with its 12.37-cent decrease applies across the board, and the town's non-residential school rate dropped by 7.21 cents from \$1.9226 to \$1.8505.

Addison's FY26 non-residential rate is thus \$2.3413 per \$100 of assessed value, which is 19.25 cents, lower than the FY25 rate. It rounds to an 8% decrease.

That means about \$190 less in taxes for every \$100,000 in assessed value for owners of non-residential property in Addison.

Addison mailed out its tax bills on July 8. Those who paid by Aug. 1 received a 2% discount on the municipal portion of their bills. Addison's property taxes are due by Nov. 1.

## Elderly Services, Inc.

### Fall 2025 Community Education Series

#### October 28:

##### Advanced Care Planning

A presentation and Q&A session with Vermont Ethics Network Advance Care Planning Program Manager, Taylor Murray. Find out more about how the Vermont Advance Directive process works, get free forms and informational brochures and ask your questions about how to get started with your advance directive including:

- Having advance care planning conversations with your loved ones and clinicians.
- Available tools to plan for your healthcare (advance directives, DNR/COLST, disease-specific addendums).
- How to complete your advance directive and other health planning documents.
- What decisions can we make in advance directives?
- How to use advance directives to make a plan for serious illness or end-of-life circumstances.

**Presented by:** Taylor Murray, Vermont Ethics Network Advance Care Planning Program Manager  
**Tuesday, October 28: 4:00-5:30 PM**  
 Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, Middlebury

#### November 4:

##### Know the 10 Early Warning Signs and Symptoms of Alzheimer's and Dementia

Memory loss that disrupts daily life may be a symptom of Alzheimer's or other dementia. Alzheimer's is a brain disease that causes a slow decline in memory, thinking and reasoning skills. There are 10 warning signs and symptoms. Come to this program to learn more about how to identify and respond to these warning signs.

**Presented by:** Jordan Cotto, Vermont Chapter/ Alzheimer's Association  
**Tuesday, November 4: 4:00-5:30 PM**  
 Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, Middlebury

#### November 5:

##### Aging with Enjoyment and Meaning

Positive Psychology offers good ideas to help us in our later years. We'll discuss meaning, savoring, adapting, and brain re-training. Amidst problems and worries we face in aging, can we also feel peace and enjoyment?

**Presented by:** Joanne Corbett, Center for Positive Aging  
**Wednesday November 5: 4:00-5:30 PM**  
 Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, Middlebury

#### November 12:

##### Combating Fraud in the Digital Age

Learn how to protect yourself from the growing threats of fraud targeting older adults. This session will cover current computer, telephone, and mail scams, including impersonation fraud, check fraud, phishing and more. Learn how to recognize common fraud tactics and discover practical steps to safeguard your personal information, bank accounts, and businesses. We'll provide easy to understand tips on protecting yourself from identity theft, securing your digital banking, and avoiding falling victim to fraudsters.

**Presented by:** Erin Small, M&T Bank  
**Thursday October 30: 4:00-5:30 PM**  
 Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, Middlebury

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# Editorials

## Shutdown: GOP's radical 'clean' bill is bunk; Dems have the voice of reason

Let's be clear what the current government shutdown is about. Republicans have slim majorities in the House and Senate and control the White House. The way our system of government works is that the House can pass legislation with a simple majority, but the U.S. Senate requires 60 votes. Because Republicans have 53 seats in the Senate, if they got all of their caucus to support the proposed budget resolution, they would still need 7 votes from Democrats to pass the proposal.

Failing that, the process is to compromise with the other party to reach agreement. The reason is so all Americans are represented by the legislation passed, not just those represented by the party in power.

Republicans have not compromised. In fact, the budget resolution they are trying to push through had no input from Democrats. They were left out of that process entirely, and Republicans have met only once with Democrats (just last week), but refused to accept any of the Democrats requests.

The budget resolution, remember, is a budget based on Trump's "big, ugly bill" that gives more than \$1 trillion in tax breaks to the richest 1% of Americans, while also making the harshest cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act in history.

Democrats are requesting the GOP's ruthless cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act be rescinded. That is, to leave the health care benefits intact for the lower- and middle-income families who receive them.

It's that simple.

What's not so simple to understand is why Republicans want to cut health care benefits to over 24 million Americans, give outlandish tax cuts to the richest few, and why the American public — the majority of whom will be negatively impacted — doesn't rebel over a budget proposal that will severely raise health care costs for years to come.

Specifically, here's who will be harmed:

- If the Republican budget passes, 15 million Americans, including 45,000 Vermonters, will lose their health care as a result of the largest cut to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act in American history.
- In addition, the price of health care premiums will more than double for 24 million Americans, including some 30,000 Vermonters who get their health care through the Affordable Care Act.
- The Trump administration will continue to restrict access to vaccines that have saved tens of millions of lives. In short, the budget undermines and restricts the distribution of safe and effective vaccines to infants, school children and adults.
- Democrats are also standing up to Trump's increasingly authoritarian acts, such as sending federal troops into cities and states against the wishes of Democratic governors and mayors. It's a violation of the Posse Comitatus Act in 1878, which for the past 150 years has established a national viewpoint that military interference in civilian affairs is a threat to both democracy and personal liberty. Trump's misuse of the military in this manner is trying to disguise an overreach of power, typical of dictators in rogue states.

Democrats are also trying to restrict ICE agents, who have maliciously and carelessly arrested, handcuffed and detained Americans with full citizenship — while also breaking doors down and busting into homes with no cause, as the recent incident in Chicago showed on video. Republicans shrug their shoulders and suggest mistakes happen, but Democrats in the House and Senate want ICE to do a better job of fully knowing who they are targeting before they break into someone's house and arrest them. Arresting innocent Americans, even if only for a few hours, simply should not be tolerated.

Republicans are ignoring these valid points and sticking to a meaningless retort: that it is a "clean" bill that does what the public wanted Trump to do when he was elected. But that assumes the public wanted Trump to kill all efforts to combat climate change (over 70% disagree), wanted Trump to lavish tax cuts on billionaires while cutting health care benefits to millions (no poll would reflect numbers anywhere close to Trump's position), not to mention decimate our national parks, gut government agencies, turn the military into an anti-American force that attacks its own citizens, and on and on.

What Republicans are calling "clean" stinks as bad as a feedlot with 10,000 cattle.

On the contrary, the comprises proposed by Democrats are far from radical. Their bottom line is to preserve a semblance of health care coverage for more than 24 million Americans who will lose coverage or see health care premiums more than double — and in some cases in Vermont, go up by over \$30,000 in a year. They are also trying to protect all Americans from the trauma caused by military-style arrests of legal residents due to careless and callous acts by ICE. It's what elected representatives are supposed to do — Democrats and Republicans.

During this government shutdown, Democrats should hold firm and keep that message front and center. They are the voices of reason, the voices of a more equitable and just society.

Angelo Lynn

*PS: We launched a nonprofit to help bolster our ability to sustain the Addison Independent's strong news team, and develop new ways to reach local readers — including digitally through apps, newsletters and social media, as well as promote civic engagement. Read more about this effort in a story on today's front page. More info about how to get involved will appear next week in this column.*



### Field conditions

WHILE EAGLE FIELD hockey players dodged puddles and Raiders (that's the U-32 mascot) during this past Thursday's game in Bristol, those on the pitch didn't enjoy the luxury of an umbrella during the rainy afternoon.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

## Doctor prescribes 'Just Say Yes'

"Just Say Yes" was the message left by my dear friend Paula Duncan, who passed away a few years back. Paula was a pediatrician who loved working with adolescents, loved it so much that the negative final evaluation written by one of her medical students was, "Dr. Duncan smiles entirely too often when she talks about teenagers."

Paula credited a young patient with changing the course of her medical career. At the end of a routine check-up, Tory asked: "So now you've told me all the things I shouldn't be doing (drinking, having sex, using drugs, eating junk food). I know what to say no to, but what should I be saying yes to?" That question sparked Paula's research.

She learned about a Native American practice called "Circle of Courage" that identifies four crucial characteristics of positive youth development: Generosity, Independence, Mastery and Belonging. Paula began using these four qualities — along with the traditional risk assessment — as a strength assessment with all her patients. Her prescriptions would include the usual suggestions (get more exercise, take this pill, make this change in your diet) but would also list ways to build on the strengths they had mutually identified.

Because she was held in deep respect in both the pediatric community and the wider medical community, her strength-based approach to medicine gradually began to change the way others conducted their practices.

In these challenging days, I often get sucked into a

vortex of despair over what is happening to my country: The rule of law is being undermined, cruelty is pushing out kindness, our economy is crashing for all except the rich, history is being whitewashed, environmental protection is being eliminated. I wish I could provide a useful prescription for changing all those things. Then I remember Paula and realize that we can build on the incredible resources of Vermont and our small towns and small institutions to assure that Democracy will still be alive when the smoke of lies and cruelty blow away.

In just the past few weeks, I've been able to participate in so many gatherings that show community and caring are alive and well. The Addison Housing Works celebration on the town green in Bristol: a tribute to community people coming together to make sure we will eventually all be housed. The Coverts gathering in Waitsfield: working to assure that our beautiful, forested land will support us and wildlife. The Bread and Puppet Circus at Field Days: a tribute to the power of the arts in promoting social justice. Depot Day in New Haven: a community coming together to honor the past and plan for the future.

These are only a very few of the opportunities for building community and supporting one another that have been offered in our county in the past month.

When I consider the Circle of Courage checklist: Generosity, Independence, Mastery and Belonging I realize we are moving in the right direction as communities of people who love the earth and love

(See Ways of Seeing, Page 5A)

### Ways of Seeing

By Cheryl Mitchell



## MAUSD study raises questions

The Mount Abraham Unified School District (MAUSD) Administration and Board are currently exploring six new "education delivery options." Soon, they aim to choose one to implement in the 2027-2028 school year. One of those options keeps the same number of schools as currently but moves grades 7&8 to the four elementary schools. The other five options would close two elementary schools. As the Board prepares to meet on October 14 to consider which option to pursue for implementation in 2027-2028, community members in Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro have many questions, including these:

- Articles of Agreement that govern MAUSD (2017) stipulate: "School Closure. The New SD Board shall not close any school conveyed to the New SD by a Forming Elementary District within the first four (4) years of operation of the New SD. After four (4) years of operation, the New SD may close a school conveyed to the New SD by a Forming Elementary District upon affirmative votes of the New SD Board of Directors and the voters, voting by Australian ballot, of the Member Town in which the school is located." Is the Board committed to abiding by this legally binding Article of Agreement?
- What does the research say, and what do the

MAUSD Administration and Board understand, about the value, to students and communities, of small, community schools?

- What does research say, and what do the Administration and Board understand, about the unintended negative effects, on students and on communities, of closing schools?

- What does research and recent practice in VT tell us about whether closing schools will actually save money?
- What current information has MAUSD considered about projected new housing availability in the four towns?
- For each of the options currently being considered, what will be the effect on students' time on buses, and on transportation costs?

- What data has been collected to address the financial cost and feasibility of renovations required for the reconfigurations suggested by the Administration?
- Four of the options under consideration list "PK" (pre-kindergarten) as one of the groups to be served. What are the educational and financial advantages and disadvantages to adding public PK, especially for towns, such as Starksboro, that already have a licensed Cooperative Preschool open to all, partly

(See Community forum, Page 5A)

### Community Forum

This week's forum is from a group of Bristol-area residents.

## Letters to the Editor

### To Birong: Work on issues here

To Mr. Birong:

Whatever opinion one has about the Gaza/Israel situation, the fact that you accepted an all expenses paid trip to Israel from the Israeli government while you have constituents sleeping in the streets is unconscionable. Get to work!

In addition, in the Sept. 25 edition of the Addison Independent, you said you would not endorse the apartheid-free pledge because it could create divisions within our community. What is different about going on this trip that it will not create division?

I mean, really, who could not be against apartheid?

Deborah Young  
New Haven

### Tariffs impact consumers

We are being tarified. On a recent shopping trip to Burlington, I began to wonder if we may be starting to slide gradually into something similar to a third-world economy. Some items were on back order, some in short supply, some empty shelves.

There are arguments for and against tariffs, but it seems clear that we consumers are already paying much higher prices due to tariffs, with wholesale vegetable prices 38 percent higher than a year ago, meat prices higher, as well as cars and clothing.

Tariffs can be a dangerous economic weapon, and higher tariffs helped worsen the great depression of the 1930s.

Our country is not a banana republic, and we consumers should not have to foot the bill for these unwise tariffs.

Robert Anderson  
Bristol

### Let's listen to, help each other

I very much agree with Rep. Laura Sibilia ("Who are they? We need to open our minds" in Addison Independent, Sept. 18), and Davis Rose ("No room for Us vs them"). We need to listen and collaborate with each other respectfully. We need to find solutions to problems that are best for everyone (people, businesses, non-profit organizations, etc.). We need to do this locally, statewide and nationally. We all have needs, we all have ideas. Let's help each other think outside our individual boxes and find solutions respectfully for the good of everyone.

Bob Donniss  
Bristol

### Rep. Birong not acting morally

Hopefully Rep. Birong will receive a primary challenge before his next election.

Attending a conference sponsored by the worst war criminals of the 21st century and sponsoring legislation from that government in our legislature indicates a severely compromised moral compass.

Terry Eagan  
Sudbury

### Constitution bridges divides

Over three Saturdays — one in July, one in August, and one in September — I hosted a "Constitution Conversation" table at the Better Middlebury Partnership markets. The privilege of having time to give out US Constitutions to passersby was bolstered by the conversations I had with market participants. The US Pocket Constitutions were donated to this activity by Middlebury College Professor Murray Dry, without whose support my crazy idea of engaging "the public" in a Constitution Conversation would not have happened.

During those three Saturdays, I gave out 70 pocket constitutions. I tallied the geographical distribution and the recipients

(See Wadsworth letter, Page 5A)

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# Letters to the Editor

## It's worth remembering what Charlie Kirk stood for

A letter to the editor in the *Independent's* Sept. 25 edition refers to Charlie Kirk — the recently murdered right-wing MAGA leader — as “a beloved national public figure that spoke the truth and gave direction and hope to millions of Americans.”

Along with virtually all Americans across the political spectrum, I share the letter writer's grief and outrage at Kirk's murder. But as we try to heal the wounds of the partisan divide, it's also worth remembering what Charlie Kirk stood for.

How “beloved,” for example, should we regard a leader who:

- Claimed “prowling blacks

go around for fun to target white people”

- Frequently warned of “a war on white people in this country”
- Referred to four prominent female Black leaders (including a U.S. Supreme Court Justice) as “not having the brain processing power to be otherwise taken seriously”
- Said Islam, the world's second-largest religion, is “not compatible with Western civilization” and is being “used to slit the throat of America.”

Charlie Kirk said all those abhorrent things and more. He attacked gay and trans people with ignorant prejudice, claiming “the pride and trans movements

have always been about grooming kids.” He praised a biblical passage that stated men who lie with other men “shall be stoned to death” and said it “affirmed God's perfect law when it comes to sexual matters.”

These are not the views that make America great. Unfortunately they remain all too common among his followers.

Charlie Kirk was an outspoken proponent of free speech. In the aftermath of his death, my hope is that we can learn from the sad example of his divisive bigotry and, in our own speech, turn toward tolerance.

**Greg Dennis  
Cornwall**

## Wadsworth letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

hailed from the following: South Carolina, Maine, Pennsylvania, California, New York (including one from the NYPD), New Hampshire, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Minnesota, Kansas (this person was about to start teaching a high school class on the Constitution), Wisconsin, and many Vermonters.

I generally asked passersby the following starter questions:

- \* Can I interest you in a pocket Constitution? (showing the booklet)
- \* What interests you in having the Constitution?
- \* May I ask where you are from?

On two different Saturdays, interested participants responded (bullet points below) to these questions posed on a white board:

1. What does “We the People” mean to you?
  - \* All people.
  - \* Our government should serve all people, and individual votes carry equal weight; corporations are not people.
  - \* We are all equals under the law! Semper fidelis!
  - \* All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their CREATOR with certain unalienable rights...

- \* It means none of us have more rights or fewer rights than I—or than any of us.
- \* No kings, no hereditary authority.
- \* Everyone gets a say, and every say is equal.
- 2. What does freedom of speech mean to you?
  - \* To be able to freely express my thoughts concerning abortion, religion, or sexual orientation you are born with, without fear of being assassinated.
  - \* Speaking out against the current president without being deported.
  - \* Expression without fear.
  - \* Freedom for the media to express different viewpoints.
  - \* Freedom to question authority.
  - \* The opportunity to hear and learn from diverse viewpoints and make my own conclusions.
  - \* Freedom to express my opinions regardless of opposing viewpoints or feelings.
  - \* The right to speak and change your beliefs.
  - \* The freedom to speak your voice without retaliation.
  - \* Openness and civil discourse with others who may not always agree with us.
  - \* Being safe to express my thoughts.
  - \* Freedom of thoughts—not feeling oppressed. Ability to hear

diverse thoughts.

- \* Freedom to express my thoughts and beliefs even if they contradict the current government or culture.

Reactions to this Constitution giveaway were consistently positive, frequently provocative, and always civil. I'm grateful to the number of visitors who recommended new-to-me news/information sources.

The visitors who stopped by my table were universally concerned about the future of our country, regardless of political affiliation. Each knew the importance of our US Constitution, acknowledging the need to read, reread, study, and understand the implications of this important document. Many were aware of the apparently contrasting and conflicting interpretations—originalism versus textualism.

Through active reading, pondering and discussing our Constitution, maybe We the People will be able to resolve our differences. To be sure, there are ideological differences that may be unreconcilable. I hope, however, that We the People care more about holding together as a nation than divorcing.

**Christina Wadsworth  
Weybridge**

## Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

our democracy.

So here is my prescription: Resist the oppressors. Take care of yourself and enjoy this wonderful world. *Say Yes:*

When we reach out to support

friends and neighbors it builds Generosity. When we show up to tell the wider world our administration is unjust, it builds Independence for our towns and states. When we dig down and offer more outreach — teaching, cooking, providing help

— it builds Mastery. When we're invited to play with a grandchild, help a friend, try a new game, it builds Belonging.

I'd love to connect with any of you about these ideas.

## Support strong, unified districts like Slate Valley

The Slate Valley Unified Union School District is proud to be part of Vermont's efforts to fulfill the goals of Act 73: building more efficient, equitable, and sustainable school systems for our children and our taxpayers.

We have lived this work. Six towns came together to form Slate Valley, transforming an inefficient supervisory union into a unified school district that is both cost-effective and student-centered. Since unifying, we have reduced positions, consolidated services, closed a school, and maintained one of the lowest spending rates in the state, while increasing equity of opportunity and improving student outcomes.

Our experience has shown us the clear advantages of the school

district model over supervisory unions. A school district central office streamlines operations, shares staff and resources, and strengthens bargaining and purchasing power. Unlike the multi-layered supervisory union model, a school district structure delivers real taxpayer value.

We also recognize that local control matters. In Slate Valley, this concern has been addressed through governance: ensuring that all six towns, large and small, have equal representation on the school board. When every community has a voice at the table, budgets and policies reflect both equity and the preservation of each school's unique culture.

Partnerships are equally important. Slate Valley already

collaborates with neighboring districts on shared services and programs, and we are committed to strengthening these relationships. Working together allows us to increase opportunities for students, make smarter use of resources, and better serve the broader community.

We know these conversations are not always easy. But our experience demonstrates that a unified single school district model is the best path forward for students, families, and taxpayers.

**Julie Finnegan, Slate Valley School Board Chair  
Castleton**

*Editor's note: Orwell is in the Slate Valley school district.*

## Community forum

(Continued from Page 4A)

funded by state funds through MAUSD?

- How has the Board sought community input on the plans being considered and about other ways to control costs?
- The New Solutions K-12 Report (2021), commissioned by the MAUSD Administration, analyzed a variety of cost-containing measures that would not require closing schools but would lead to significant savings. What less radical options, like those in the report, will MAUSD be considering; and when will the Board be exploring options such as those?
- Aside from reducing or consolidating educational delivery models, what other cost-saving mechanisms or collaborations have been considered and thoroughly explored?

The MAUSD Articles of Agreement also stipulate that if a school is closed, the school district must offer to sell the building back to the town for one dollar. What assumptions is MAUSD making about towns' willingness to take back the ownership of closed school buildings, taking on the cost of the upkeep and possible renovation of those buildings, and how are those assumptions figured into the projected savings of each option?

Why would the MAUSD Administration and Board be considering such radical changes at the very time when the VT School Redistricting Task Force is developing school governance models that may entirely eliminate our school board and our school district in the near future? Isn't the timing of all this problematic at best?

We, the undersigned, have not seen definitive evidence that the options the Board and Administration are exploring would provide better educational outcomes for our school children. We urge the Board and Administration to answer these questions and abide by the legally binding Articles of Agreement moving forward.

**Dan Baker, Starksboro  
Erin Buckwalter, Starksboro  
Dennis Casey, Starksboro  
Nancy Cornell, Starksboro  
Jaime Deacon, Starksboro  
Louis Dupont, Starksboro  
Marguerite Gregory,  
Starksboro  
Susan Klaiber, Starksboro  
Carin H. McCarthy,  
Starksboro  
Jim Runcie, Starksboro  
Dave Thompson, Starksboro**

## Letters to the editor

The Addison Independent encourages readers to write letters to the editor. We believe a newspaper should be a community forum for people to debate issues of the day.

Because we believe that accountability makes for responsible

debate, we will print signed letters only. Be sure to include an address and telephone number, too, so we can call to clear up any questions.

If you have something to say, send it to: Letters to the Editor, Addison Independent, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to news@addisonindependent.com.

# Elderly Services Inc. ESI College

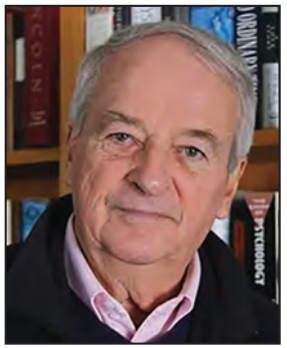


**Politics in the Age of Trump: A Coming Republican Majority?**

Friday, October 3, 10-11:30 AM  
The Congregational Church of Middlebury

Donald Trump is a symbol of extraordinary change in American politics, affecting political parties, voting coalitions, the media and institutions of higher education. We examine the sources of that change, including Trump's role, and speculate about what will happen when he leaves office, including the potential for an era of Republican dominance.

**Matthew J. Dickinson** is professor of political science at Middlebury College. His current book is titled *Clerk or Leader? The President and the White House Staff*.



**With a Song in His Heart: The Double Miracle of Richard Rodgers' Contribution to American Song**


Tuesday, October 14, 1:30 - 3:00 PM  
The Congregational Church of Middlebury

This class explores the forces that shaped the American Song Book, focusing on Richard Rodgers' two great collaborations. With lyricist Lorenz Hart, he created classics such as *Manhattan*, *My Funny Valentine*, *Blue Moon*, *Where or When* and many more. After Hart's death, Rodgers partnered with Oscar Hammerstein II for two decades, producing Broadway treasures including *Oklahoma*, *South Pacific*, *Carousel*, *The King and I* and *The Sound of Music*. Historical background will be paired with a piano tour of these works. **Richard Hawley, Ph.D.**, is a lifelong teacher, writer, and musician, and has published 30 books and dozens of articles, stories and poems. Also a lifelong piano player, he has performed in venues across the country including his regular Friday night gig at East Middlebury's Waybury Inn.

**Register Now!**

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**ADDISON COUNTY**

# Obituaries

## Joseph Austin Ferris, 96, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Joseph Austin Ferris, 96, went to join his beloved wife Betty on Sept. 25, 2025. He was a resident of Bristol, Vt., for 65 years. Joe was born May 29, 1929, to Cora and Dan Austin in Middlebury, Vt. He was adopted by his cousins, Dan and Cyrena Ferris shortly after.



**JOSEPH AUSTIN FERRIS**

Joe was raised on the family farm on Munger street in New Haven. He worked the farm as well as working for other farms in the area until 1960. Dairy farming and growing asparagus were his love. He is predeceased by his brother, Dan Austin and his sister, Marion Pickney.

He married Betty Trudeau, the love of his life, on May 28, 1960. In August of 1969 they adopted their only daughter, Amanda. He is survived by his daughter and his grandchildren: Austin Dickerson of Bristol, Adrian Dickerson (Haley) of Burlington, Danny Dickerson of Middlebury and Ryan Dickerson of Bristol. They will miss him, especially his cheeseburgers!

Joe was devoted to caring for and supporting his family. He worked as a machine shop foreman at Simmons Precision, at Johnson's lumber mill, and at many other jobs throughout the years. He was especially gifted at small engine repair and kept many mowers going in his day. He retired after 20 years as a custodian at Mt. Abraham Union High School. During retirement he worked at

most of the schools in the district as a substitute custodian.

Joe was raised as a Master Mason on Nov. 11, 1965. He joined the Order of the Eastern Star shortly after. He was devoted to his community and could be seen at many masonic functions serving his community. He was one of the founding members of the Senior meals at the Masonic Lodge and took pride in serving others. He became a member of Cairo Temple Shriners, Rutland. He joined the Mini Monster unit and spent many years in his little white Jeep entertaining kids and crowds during the yearly parades.

Joe lived a long and fulfilling life surrounded by a family that loved him and a community he served. He will be missed but his contributions will live on.

A celebration of life will be held on Oct. 4, at 11 a.m., at the Masonic Lodge in Bristol, Vt. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in his name to Libanus 47 Masonic Lodge, Bristol, Vt. ♦

## Leslie H. 'Les' Fuller, 82, of Ferrisburgh

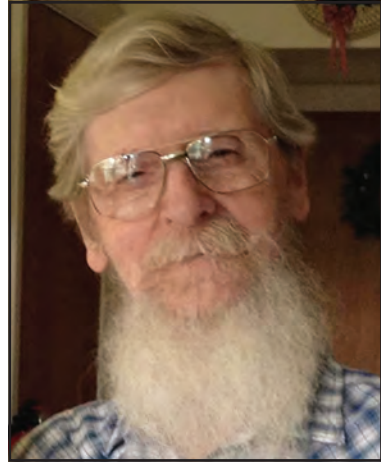
FERRISBURGH — Leslie H. "Les" Fuller passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025.

He was born on July 24, 1943, to Lyndon and Beatrice (LaRose) Fuller of Ferrisburgh, Vt.

He grew up and went to school in Vermont and Connecticut before joining the U.S. Army, where he proudly served in the Engineer Battalion. After his military service he married the love of his life, Jeanette M. Fuller and together they enjoyed each other's company for 57 years. They welcomed their son Leslie A. Fuller in 1969.

Les worked at Specialty Filaments (Polymer's Plastic) in Middlebury for 27 years before retiring.

He enjoyed hunting, collecting, and reading, but what he enjoyed



**LESLIE H. "LES" FULLER**

most of all was his family. He was happiest when surrounded by the ones he loved and tinkering on projects.

He is survived by his loving wife, Jeanette; his son, Les and partner

Lois Myers; his grandchildren, Ryan Fuller and wife Shannon McCaffery and their daughter Maeve, Chelsea Fuller and partner David King, Cheyenne Jewett and partner Erick Costa, and Autumn Erikson. He also leaves four sisters-in-law and two brothers-in-law who he loved dearly. He also leaves behind many loved nieces, nephews and cousins. He enjoyed visiting with them and reminiscing on the past with cousins Joe Desautels and Corky Fuller.

He was predeceased by his parents, three brothers-in-law, two sisters-in-law, a niece and a nephew.

Thank you to those close to him and to the nurses and doctors at Porter Hospital and UVM Medical Center.

Per his wishes there will be no calling hours or service. ♦

## Robert E. Fales Sr., 86, of Brandon

BRANDON — Robert E. Fales Sr., 86, passed away Sept. 25, 2025, at Porter Medical Center Hospital in Middlebury. He was born in Sherburne, Vt., the son of Adrian B. and Rose A. D. Fales.

Robert moved to Leicester Junction in 1949 at the age of 10 from Middletown Springs and moved to Brandon in 1952. He attended Forestdale school for two years and finished his education at Brandon High, graduating in the class of 1958. Robert worked for Bill Ryan Motors through high school and was hired by the U.S. Post Office in January 1959. He worked at the Brandon Post Office for twelve years as a clerk-carrier and assumed the duties of Postmaster of the Forestdale Post Office in April, from which he retired in September of 1992. Mr. Fales also joined the Vermont National Guard in 1956 while in high school. He retired from the guard in March of 1993 holding the rank of Chief Warrant Officer.

He was active in the Masonic



**ROBERT E. FALES SR.**

Bodies of Brandon, serving as master and secretary of St. Paul's Lodge and Farmers Chapter and Council. He also served as treasurer of Farmers Chapter and Council for many years. He served as district deputy and grand lecturer, and grand chaplain of the Grand Council of Vermont. He was a member of Mt. Calvary Commandery of Middlebury, and

a member of Cairo Shriners of Rutland since 1977.

Surviving is his former wife, Lucille S. Fales; his son, Robert Jr. and his wife Maria of Brandon; and Darlene M. Scarborough and her husband Jon of Eagle Rock, Va.; two brothers, David A. Fales and Lawrence C. Fales; one sister, Elaine J. Mumford; one grandson and one granddaughter; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his brothers Louis A. Fales and Richard N. Fales.

A memorial service in celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, at 1 p.m., at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon, with members of St. Paul's Masonic Lodge #25 F. & A.M. officiating.

Private committal services will take place in the Pleasant View Cemetery, Middletown Springs.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to St. Paul's Masonic Lodge, 1046 Park St Brandon, Vt 05733. ♦

## Lillian Marie (DeRepentigny) Quenneville, 92, of Leicester

LEICESTER — Lillian Marie (DeRepentigny) Quenneville, 92, died Tuesday, Sept. 23, peacefully at her home in Leicester, Vt.

Lillian was born in Whiting, Vt. She was the daughter of Ernest and Aurore (Aubin) DeRepentigny. She attended a one-room schoolhouse in Whiting for her early education and lived in Brandon as a nanny so she could attend and graduate from Brandon High School. After high school, she worked for Burt Baker's store in Whiting. She married the love of her life, Jean Guy Quenneville on May 15, 1954. They bought their dairy farm in Leicester in 1957, where they farmed and raised their family for the next 33 years.

Lillian worked for 25 years as a bookkeeper for the Addison County Commission Sales in East Middlebury. She was a town auditor in Leicester for many years as well. In 1984, they purchased Lil's Country Store in Whiting. She ran a successful business there for the next ten years. Upon retirement, they built their dream home in Leicester and would spend their winters in Sebastian, Fla., enjoying the sunshine. Lillian was a



**LILLIAN MARIE QUENNEVILLE**

communicant of St. Mary's Church in Middlebury and was a Catholic Daughter there as well.

Lillian will be remembered for her devotion to her family, her youthful spirit, her deep Catholic faith, and her love of her animals. She found joy in the simple things: playing cards, watching birds, sewing, crocheting, cooking on holidays, and visiting with family and friends.

She is survived by her five children; Rick Quenneville,

Cloude Quenneville (Pat), Maurice Quenneville (Deb), Diane Randall (Greg), and Robert Quenneville (Lesley); and 14 grandchildren, Lisa, Jason, Josh, Matt, Karen, Jenelle, Scott, Travis, Cory, Cooper, Cody, Lyndsy, Courtney and Ryan. She also has 17 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by her husband, her parents, and her four brothers; Romeo, Laurier, Real and Leo-Paul.

Her legacy is one of love, strength, prayer, and laughter — a life well lived, and a family well nurtured.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 10 a.m., at Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Mary's Church, Middlebury. Graveside committal services and interment will follow in St. Genevieve's Cemetery, Shoreham.

Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers may be made in her memory to: The Ashley Quenneville Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Lindsay Romano, 371 Birch Hill Road, Brandon, VT 05733.

Arrangements are by Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home, Brandon. ♦

## Frederick Raymond Humiston III, 70, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — On the evening of Sept. 23, 2025, Fred Humiston passed peacefully due to complications from multiple illnesses. He was being visited and comforted by family members in the ICU at UVM medical center.

At the time of his passing he was 70 years old and a resident of Ferrisburgh, Vt. Fred was born Sept. 11, 1955, in Middlebury, Vt. He is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Donna "Lindsay" Humiston; daughter, Victoria Lanpher; granddaughter, Grace; mother, Joan Humiston; sister, Diane Baker and husband Joe; nephew, Charles and his wife Kelly and their children Noah and Skylar; and many cousins. He was predeceased by



**FREDERICK RAYMOND HUMISTON III**

his father, Frederick Humiston II, and his brother Sidney. Fred was an outdoorsman.

He loved hunting and fishing, especially ice fishing. In his younger years he and Donna did a lot of camping and boating on Otter Creek and Lake Champlain. He liked older cars — anything pre-1970, the older the better. Fred started his career working for Barry's transmission in South Burlington. Later he ran his own transmission shop "Fred's Whereabouts" for years before he started doing all mechanical repair.

Services will be held graveside in Ferrisburgh's Gage cemetery on Sunday, Oct. 12, at noon. A celebration of life will convene immediately after at the Vergennes American Legion. Downstairs, Please bring a dish to share/potluck. ♦

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**CLEGG'S MEMORIALS**

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The Independent will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Independent offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to [obits@addisonindependent.com](mailto:obits@addisonindependent.com). Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Wednesday for publication in the Thursday paper. Email [obits@addisonindependent.com](mailto:obits@addisonindependent.com) or call 802-388-4944 for more information.



**STEPHEN C. TERRY**

## Stephen C. Terry celebration of life

MIDDLEBURY — The Vermont community is invited to honor the rich and meaningful life of Stephen C. Terry by joining family and friends Oct. 9, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, Vt.

You may choose to watch the celebration virtually at that time at [tinyurl.com/Stephen-Terry-Svc](http://tinyurl.com/Stephen-Terry-Svc). ♦



**DAPHNE PRINGLE**

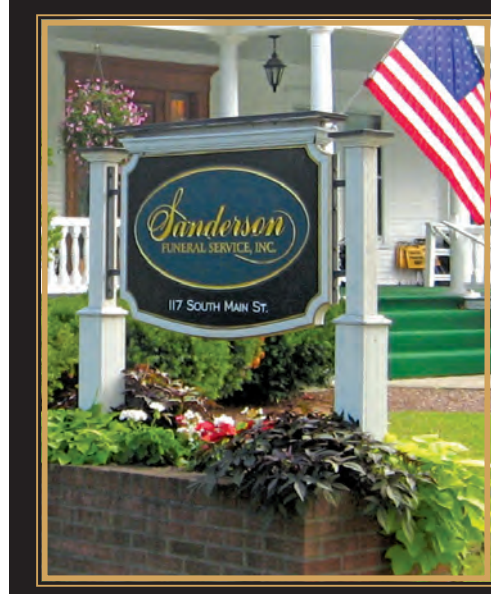
## Daphne Pringle celebration of life

LINCOLN — Friends of Daphne Pringle, Jan. 20, 1931 – August 1, 2025, would like to invite those who wish to join us for a celebration of Daphne downstairs at Burnham Hall, 52 East River Road, Lincoln Vt., on Wednesday, Oct. 8, from 2-4 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

## Louise Richards celebration of life

ADDISON — The family of Louise Richards, who died Jan. 30, 2025, invites you to join a celebration of her life, Sunday, Oct. 12, at 1 p.m., at the West

Addison Community House on Jersey Street in Addison. Please bring memories and anecdotes to share. Light refreshments will be offered.



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## Linda Adams, 75, of Hinesburg

HINESBURG — Linda Adams, 75, passed on Sept. 16, 2025, leaving this world much the same way she lived in it — quietly determined and deeply loved.

Linda loved simple joys: the woods, the hum of a good country song, a Sunday afternoon NASCAR race, and a freshly mowed lawn with her garden in bloom. She could take a worn-out bench and make it beautiful again, tile a kitchen like a pro, or build doll furniture sturdy enough to last generations — all gifts she shared with her grandchildren.

To describe Linda is to say she was classic, modest, stoic, frugal, warm and determined. She found meaning in hard work, joy in small pleasures, and love in family. Those who knew her will carry her spirit forward — in every project finished with care, every garden tended, and every moment of steadfast love shared.

Her story took an important turn when she went to work for IBM,



LINDA ADAMS

where she met the love of her life, Howard Adams. Together they built nearly 50 years of marriage, raising two sons, Eric and Scott, and later doting on their grandchildren, Ryan and Natalie. Family was always at the center of her world.

The second half of Linda's life was no less full. She worked at Greer's Dry Cleaning as a presser

and later at Revision Eyewear, where she took immense pride in ensuring the glasses she helped create would serve U.S. troops well. Whatever the task, she gave it her trademark mix of skill, pride, and quiet dedication.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents, Carroll and Marjorie (Place) Clark; her beloved husband, Howard; her sisters, Caroline Bell, Joyce Owens and Betty Rouse; and her brothers, Kiland (Sonny), Wayne, Gary, and Nelson Clark. She leaves behind her sister, Judy Irish; her brother, Al Clark; her sons; her daughters-in-law, Heather (Burritt) Adams and Amy Paquette; her treasured grandchildren; and more nieces and nephews than anyone could easily count.

A celebration of her life will be held at Buck Ridge Barn in Hinesburg on Saturday, Nov. 8, from noon-3 p.m., after a private burial. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider donating to Audubon Vermont. ☐

## Vekos to resolve her DUI case

### Addison County prosecutor will plead no contest

By MIKE DONOGHUE

**Vermont News First**  
BURLINGTON — Embattled Addison County State's Attorney Eva P. Vekos reached a tentative agreement Wednesday to end her 20-month legal battle over a driving under the influence case.

Under the proposal, Vekos will plead no contest to the DUI charge and will get a 90-day deferred sentence, Judge John Pacht explained. It means the criminal conviction will be wiped off her record if she stays out of trouble for three months.

Assistant Attorney General Rose Kennedy said she is free to argue for a stiffer sentence. Kennedy, the former longtime Rutland County prosecutor, declined comment outside the courtroom, noting the case was still pending.

Pacht ordered a pre-plea presentence investigation by the Vermont Probation Office to determine if the proposed sentence is appropriate.

No date has been set for the formal change of plea and expected sentencing.

The Wednesday hearing in Chittenden County Superior Court, criminal division, was scheduled to

hear a motion by defense lawyer David Sleight of St. Johnsbury to have the DUI charge dismissed in the interests of justice. He maintained Vekos had faced more punishment than most people charged with DUI.

Sleight said his motion remains pending in case the proposed plea deal falls through.

State Police Sgt. Eden Neary and Trooper Kelsey Dobson, who were involved in the arrest and processing of Vekos, were at the Edward J. Costello Courthouse for possible testimony for the motion.

Pacht said the proposed settlement is in line with other first-time DUI cases in Addison and Chittenden counties that can end up going to Court Diversion programs.

The judge noted Vekos had lost her driver's license for six months and had undergone alcohol counseling. He also noted that Vekos had been released on conditions at her arraignment and has followed all restrictions.

The case strained relations with law enforcement agencies in Addison County, especially Vermont State Police. Vekos was taken to the state police barracks in New Haven, where she refused

to provide a court-approved breath test. She also would not submit to having her fingerprints and mugshot taken, police said.

State police later brokered an unannounced deal with the Vermont Attorney General's Office to prosecute their felony cases.

Vermont State Police arrested Vekos after she appeared at a homicide scene in Bridport on Jan. 25, 2024.

Vekos of Middlebury initially pleaded not guilty in Vermont Superior Court in Middlebury on Feb. 12, 2024, to the DUI charge. Chief Superior Court Judge Thomas A. Zonay ordered her case moved to Chittenden County.

Vekos is in her first term as the elected state's attorney for Addison County. After her arrest Vekos lost her law license for 12 days and she had to notify people she was prosecuting about the reason for the delay in their cases.

All but one senator in the Addison County legislative delegation signed a letter asking her to step down.

Officials say there has been a large turnover in deputy prosecutors and victim advocates serving the office.

## Letters to the Editor

### Trump regime so anti-Bill of Rights that it's fascism

The reckless destruction of the MAGA regime ravages on. Now they are suppressing our free speech and our free press. Are you beginning to feel threatened? MAGA is openly attacking the Bill of Rights. The specifics of the Amendments MAGA has violated are here presented in their original wording:

**Amendment I**  
Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble...

**Amendment IV**  
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly

describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

**Amendment V**  
No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury ... nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law...

**Amendment VI**  
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for

obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

**Amendment VIII**  
Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."

The violation of these inalienable rights, and the military occupation of our cities, and the threats against our universities, and the gathering of high military officers to Washington alert us to a crisis of liberty and justice. There is no description for the MAGA regime but fascism. We must do all we can to deny them further access to power. If we fail to resist, we invite our own destruction.

Millard Cox  
Ripton

### Rep. Birong is on the wrong side of human rights

It was a sad day for me when I learned that five Vermont State Representatives recently took part in an all-expenses-paid trip hosted by the nation of Israel, during which they were shown around the country to sites and locations chosen by Israel and met with representatives of the Israeli government. Shockingly, Addison's own Matthew Birong (D - Addison-3) was a part of this trip, and his subsequent statements bring home the fact that — much as we hate to admit it — Vermont is not as insulated from the world's troubles as we would like.

This type of lobbying is disturbing on many levels.

Firstly, why are our elected officials accepting free travel and lodging from a foreign government seeking to influence legislation here at home? (Part of the trip involved efforts to convince lawmakers to criminalize criticism of Israel in the U.S., and Birong is a co-sponsor of bill H.310, which would redefine criticism of Israel as antisemitism.) This seems like an egregious conflict of interest at best, and bribery at worst. If accepting such gifts is allowed under current ethics rules, then we CLEARLY need better rules.

Secondly, Birong seems fully on board with the most outrageous falsehoods propagated by the Israeli government in relation to the ongoing genocide in Gaza. His statements on the subject parrot Israeli talking points to the letter, and fly in

the face of reputable reporting by Amnesty International, the International Criminal Court, the United Nations, and many other organizations. He has even gone so far as to suggest that the images of horrific conditions we've all seen may be the work of AI or of paid "crisis actors." This takes a page straight out of Alex Jones's smearing of Sandy Hook shooting victims, and I find it absolutely repugnant.

Birong is either malleable enough to have been deceived by the blatantly false information fed to him by the Netanyahu regime; or he knows full well what horrors Israel is committing daily in Gaza (and in the West Bank) and he is intentionally running domestic interference for the Israeli government to allow the genocide to proceed apace. I fear that the latter is the most likely, and the most heartbreaking to me personally. But either possibility makes him unfit to represent Addison County in the statehouse. I truly do not say

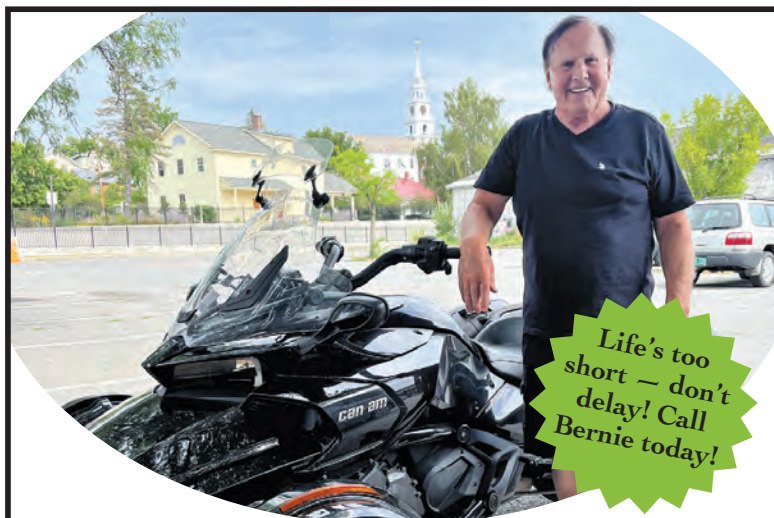
this lightly, but I urge Matthew Birong to acknowledge this egregious breach of public trust (and basic human decency), and to resign immediately.

As for the rest of us; it is long past time to climb down off the fence and take a stand. Either we believe in human rights, the Geneva Convention, and international law, or we don't. Constantly giving Israel a pass to violate them all shamelessly and repeatedly undermines the fabric of civilization itself. If the rules governing international relations cease to be enforced, they become meaningless.

This horror is made possible because WE are paying for it, WE are arming it, and WE are shielding the perpetrators from accountability. "Staying out of it" is the same as allowing it to happen.

At long last: Which side are you on?

Dan Brett  
Whiting



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# Herbal medicine

(Continued from Page 1A)

Medicine in the Revolutionary Era” exhibit runs through October and is a collaboration between the library and the Lincoln Historical Society.

The exhibit features herbs and plants found around Lincoln and how they’ve been used to treat various ailments.

“It’s like this direct link to the past, like time travel really,” said Marisa Hamilton, one of the creators behind the exhibit.

Hamilton and fellow Lincoln resident Mary Lu Harding have leant their expertise on foraging and colonial herbs to the exhibit, as well as to residents through a presentation on “Herbs in the Revolutionary Era” held at the library last month.

## HISTORIC ROOTS

Harding noted the focus has been on the colonial era in particular as the 250th anniversary of the country’s independence is coming up next year. During last month’s presentation, attendees discussed what it would have been like to settle in Lincoln during that time period and how those settlers might have responded to a medical emergency.

Perhaps they would have leaned on prior knowledge, asked their neighbors for help or experimented with the herbs and plants around them, Harding said.

“That led into the question of

safety, because that was another issue,” she said. “If you’re going to learn herbs by trial and error, some of them are good for you, some of them are not.”

Harding pointed to an herbal safety scale, which ranks herbs on a spectrum from gentle to potent. Herbs lower on the scale include those commonly used in cooking.

“Think parsley, garlic, oregano, thyme ... those are food items, we use them in cooking every day,” she said. “You would have to eat an awful lot of rosemary to get sick from rosemary. You wouldn’t do that because it’s just untenable.”

Those herbs can still be quite powerful, Harding noted.

“Garlic is this potent antibiotic; in fact it’s battlefield medicine for both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War for injuries on the battlefield when people got shrapnel or bullet wounds,” she explained. “They would mash it up into a paste and apply that to the wound, called a poultice, to keep gangrene away, and it was very effective.”

Herbs classified in the highest level of the scale can have negative effects and require extreme caution, Harding said.

“These are the ones that could hurt you,” she said. “If you get the dose wrong, they can do real damage, so don’t play around with it.”

Harding and Hamilton have

learned a lot about herbs over the years, with the help of friends and family who have passed along their knowledge. Hamilton recalled foraging lessons from her mother, who shared with Hamilton what she’d learned in her native country of Italy during wartime.

“During hard times, people do what they have to do to survive because there wasn’t money for food, there was very little food in post-war Italy and even during the war,” Hamilton said. “She taught me some interesting things about some very common things that you can find in Italy and, believe it or not, also here.”

Hamilton’s first foraging trainings centered around an annual plant known as chickweed and purslane, a succulent plant high in fatty acids. She brought those lessons with her upon moving to Vermont in the 1970s and built on that knowledge with the help of Lincoln resident Beverly Brown.

“She taught me a lot of what I began to understand as foraging,” Hamilton recalled. “I just began to talk to more people who were interested in herbs and mushrooms and then I began taking classes and reading books.”

Hamilton said learning about herbal medicine was encouraging at a time when her family didn’t have comprehensive health insurance.

“I felt empowered by learning this,” she said.

Harding echoed that sentiment. “For people who are into herbalism beyond food and cooking that get into the next level up ... They find out ‘I can stave off a cold, I can handle fevers, I can do common things that I would normally go to the doctor for, I can handle that here myself,’” she said. “It’s economically freeing but it’s also mentally empowering.”

Harding was introduced to herbalism while living in Texas after college. She discovered a nursery and herb shop, which offered tea blends and hosted dinners incorporating the herbs into the meal.

“I went out there, and I was just absolutely entranced, especially in the herb section because it smells so wonderful and looks so wonderful,” she said.

Harding began regularly visiting the nursery, as well as growing her own herbs. She’s been studying the plants for about five decades now and gradually expanding her garden over the years.

## ON DISPLAY

Residents can dive into some



A FALL EXHIBIT at the Lincoln Library highlights how local herbs and plants were used to treat various ailments during the Revolutionary War era. The exhibit runs through October and is a collaboration between the library and Lincoln Historical Society.

Photos courtesy of Lucinda Cockrell and Marisa Hamilton

of the knowledge Harding and Hamilton have gathered through the library exhibit. The display highlights some of the medical situations settlers might have gone through — such as respiratory ailments or childbirth — and corresponding herbs and plants found locally that residents might have turned to.

Visitors will also find samples of some of those plants, including live mint and wild lettuce.

“That’s another one for pain,” Harding said. “Wild lettuce (was used) for wounds and injuries because it’s strongly pain relieving.”

The exhibit also includes a display case with historical apothecary items, many of which come from Lincoln.

“These are some examples of the tonics and tinctures that would have been available as soon as there was such a thing as a store,” Harding said.

Hamilton noted that Lincoln Historical Society President

Lucinda Cockrell arranged the artifacts on display and contributed related items from the historical society’s collection, such as a photo of a former Lincoln physician growing ginseng.

While herbalism has strong ties to history, the practice is far from a thing of the past. Hamilton and

Harding noted the Lincoln community is home to several herbalists and foragers, many of whom offer classes on the practice.

Hamilton and Harding pointed to a sense of community found in the practice, particularly as herbalists and foragers will often share tips and plants with one another.

“Every single person on an herbal journey has a story,” Harding said.

Those stories live on in the plants left behind. From the red clover that was introduced to Vermont by European settlers and later became the state flower to the oregano growing in Harding’s garden, local plants carry on the

legacy of those who have tended to them.

“For me, the herbs are a connection to history,” Hamilton said. “People come and they go, but they bring their plants with them, and the plants stay sometimes, and they become naturalized.”

The timeless practice is one Harding and Hamilton don’t want to see lost.

“These things all around us can feed us; there are these free gifts for the knowledge, for just knowing what they are and why don’t we use them more?” Hamilton said.

She pointed to a weed in her garden called lambsquarters that can be used in salads and was often canned during the Depression.

“I think part of my feeling is, here we have this richness around us and we should know more about it,” she said.

Harding agreed.

“(My mother) grew all manner of things and she lived off the land as much as she could, so I inherited the desire for that from her even though I grew up in the city,” she said. “I had the interest in it, from what my mother had gone through, and I don’t want to see it lost.”



“Wild lettuce (was used) for wounds and injuries because it’s strongly pain relieving.”

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## By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)  
a bully won’t chase you into the library.” Appropriately, the show will take place at the Davis Family Library, Room 230, on the Middlebury College campus at 11 a.m. on Oct. 3. No tickets — just turn up. It’s free!



Speaking of the stage, the White River Valley Players this week announced the cast for their Nov. 7 production of “Simple Sage,” a new one-act by local playwright Kate Youngdahl-Stauss. The play, which will be staged in Rochester, features five women living in the same Granville farmhouse in two different centuries. The cast includes plenty of Addison County talent. Watch our Arts + Leisure section for details as the date of the premiere nears.

Vermont State University has announced the winners of the Castleton Alumni Association Awards, and one recipient should be very familiar to readers. Izzy Gogarty, who graduated in 2020 and got a master’s degree this year, earned the institution’s Emerging Leader Award, which is given to an alum who is “making a meaningful impact in their community or profession.” Gogarty, who became a member of the Middlebury selectboard in 2022,

was recognized for outstanding character, creative leadership, and professional achievement, along with continued dedication to Castleton.

Autumn in Vermont isn’t a time just for a quiet walk down a hidden woods road, bright fall foliage coloring the canopy overhead and the crisp, cool air of an early morning; for some it’s also the time for gamebird hunting experience. Hoping to see the dramatic flush of a grouse or woodcock is, of course, another reason hunters try to get out into Vermont woodlands in the fall.

Vermont’s hunting season for ruffed grouse or “partridge,” opened this past Saturday, Sept. 27, and runs through Dec. 31. The daily limit is four grouse with a possession limit of eight. The Vermont woodcock hunting season also started Saturday and goes through Nov. 10 — the daily limit is three woodcock.

Woodcock are often found in alders along brooks and near beaver ponds as well as in new-growth small timber where old fields are reverting to forest or recent timber harvests have occurred. Ruffed grouse also frequent the same habitat, and they are particularly fond of the apples they find under wild apple trees. All migratory game bird hunters must also be registered with the Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.); register online at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

## Sixth Annual Addison County Home Health & Hospice Drive-through Flu Vaccine Clinic

**October 16th 7:30am - 10am and 3:30pm - 5pm**

254 Ethan Allen Highway, New Haven  
Call **802-388-7259** to schedule an appointment

Influenza vaccine is available for those 5 years of age and older. No high-dose flu vaccines available.

**Open to the public!**

Vaccines are being provided at no charge to recipients. Donations are gratefully accepted but not expected or necessary.

**Get a shot without leaving your car!**



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Contact Tom at 802-388-4944



**Season's glory**

EVERY YEAR (so far) we, in the Champlain Valley, enjoy the spectacle of fall foliage, when leaves of oaks, birch, basswood, elm, poplar and oh! the maples make one last shout-out to the world before falling to the ground. Here are a few sightings in the area, including (top left) a mourning dove grabs a late afternoon nap as the golden-hour light filtered through the brilliant fall foliage that surrounds this tree in Lincoln (thanks Dale Cockrell), and (above) the foothills of the Green Mountains behind the Middlebury airport displays a rich array of colors (very nice, Louise Prescott). The *Independent's* John S. McCright captured the other images on this page.

**OCTOBER GLOW & GATHER!**



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*Get cozy for fall - A beautifully curated collection of home decor, accessories, and more.*



*Dress up your Home - Whimsical and unique Halloween decor*

*Indoor Plants & Terrariums - restocked and ready for your home or dorm room!*



*New Website with online store coming soon!*

**Stop in, get inspired, and get ready for the season — we can't wait to see you!**





**Bike to farms**

IT TURNED OUT that Saturday, Sept. 20, was a glorious day for a bike ride in the Champlain Valley, and several hundred people came to the Middlebury Rec Field to do that as part of the 17th Annual Tour De Farms. The largest fundraiser for the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN), riders enjoyed panoramic views and beautiful back roads while visiting local farms in Middlebury, Weybridge, Cornwall and Salisbury. The 37-mile loop took participants to Elmer Farm, Blue Ledge Farm, Misty Hollow Farm, Sunrise Orchards, Lemon Fair Honey, Monument Farms and Morgan Horse Farm, and each of those stops included multiple food vendors.

Photos by Emily Landenberger



**4th Annual MiddPride Parade & Festival**

**Saturday, October 11 • 1-4 pm**

\* Parade lineup at 12:30

at the Twilight end of College Park, Middlebury

\* Parade starts at 1:00 and travels down Main Street to meet the festival at Middlebury Town Green/Triangle



**Festival will include:**

- \* Live Music
- \* Food
- \* Games
- \* Lots of Rainbows!

**FUN for EVERYONE!**



Learn more about MiddPride at [middpride.org](http://middpride.org); Insta: @middpride

Brought to you by the Middlebury Teen Center [teencentervt.org](http://teencentervt.org); Insta: @teencentervt



**Lincoln Library celebrates banned book week**

LINCOLN — Celebrate Banned Book Week at the library with a group discussion and pizza on Thursday, Oct. 9, from 5:45 to 7 p.m. The library is currently displaying books from the adult, young adult, juvenile and picture book collections that are often included on the most-often-challenged book lists. Come into the library to check out one of these books or choose one from your own shelves. Participants will share some thoughts about the books they read and eat some delicious pizza. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP so they know how much pizza to order. There will be a six-week

**Lincoln**

Have a news tip? Call Dawn Mikkelsen at 453-7029

**NEWS**

interactive book group at the library starting Thursday, Oct. 16, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. This group is limited to nine participants, so please sign up before Wednesday, Oct. 10. The group will work through the Living Fully & Dying Prepared workbook created by death doula and death educator Francesca Arnoldy to help you reflect back, plan ahead, and find peace on your journey.

Supported by a grant from the Community Death Literacy Project and facilitated by three local death doulas, Kate McGowan, Rebecca Freedner and Serena Fox, you can expect deep conversation and writing about important, celebratory and sometimes vulnerable topics (with a smattering of comic relief and levity).

If you would like more information, please call the library at 802-453-2665. This is a free program but donations to support the purchase of books related to living fully, dying prepared and the grieving process will be cheerfully accepted.

**FROM THE TOWN**

The Lincoln Gap Road will officially be closed for the winter on Wednesday, Oct. 15. For your safety, please seek an alternate route, even if your GPS navigator tells you to go that way. Barriers will be installed, so you will have to park at the bottom and hike up.

**REMINDERS**

The Ladies Aid Rummage Sale will be held at Burnham Hall on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 3, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 4, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Until next time ... The Best Preparation For Tomorrow Is Doing Your Best Today.

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# Fall Family Market

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# Nonprofit

(Continued from Page 1A) including developing websites and developing social media campaigns for the businesses;

- Expanded circulation that includes digital subscriptions for all Middlebury College students;
- Increased reader revenue through the Addy Indy All-Stars and the formation this summer of a tax-exempt nonprofit, Addison Independent Trust, LTD.

The 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Lynn said, will allow area residents and larger foundations interested in supporting democracy and civic engagement through local journalism to donate larger sums that would be tax exempt. The nonprofit will work hand-in-hand with the *Addison Independent*, as well as independently, to promote excellence in local journalism and promote civic engagement and education.

*“At its core, the Addy Indy is a vehicle for community engagement, in that we provide the news and social context to help govern, educate our children, take care of each other and adapt as needed.”*

— Publisher Angelo Lynn

“I’m really excited about the potential of what we can accomplish with this expanded mission,” Lynn explained. “At its core, the Addy Indy is a vehicle for community engagement, in that we provide the news and social context to help govern, educate our children, take care of each other and adapt as needed.”

“But we’ve never had the capacity at the newspaper to be more active stewards of civic engagement. We’re too busy just producing the best newspaper we can,” Lynn continued. “One of the things we’ll do early on is to build a network of community ambassadors in each town that will not only help keep each other informed of town news, but also hold routine social meetings (coffee or tea gatherings, for instance) so we have a better personal connection with each town that gets reflected in the newspaper and online. Our hope

is that we can raise funds for that position within each community, allowing us to increase the salaries we currently pay for correspondents.”

The initial fundraising goal for the nonprofit is \$250,000. The silent phase of the campaign is underway with the public launch set for this November.

### APPS AND PODCASTS?

As well as helping meet the financial needs of a robust news team, funds raised by the nonprofit could also help develop an app for the newspaper, which would provide a more direct way for many digital users to get local news. Funds could also allow for Addy Indy stories in audio form and local podcasts.

“There are several key areas of journalism today the Addy Indy doesn’t do well simply because we don’t have the money and the staffing to take on audio readings of our stories, videos and podcasts, even though we know we would be able to reach more people and keep the county better informed,” Lynn said. “With additional funding that becomes possible.”

Lynn explained that while the newspaper and the nonprofit are two separate entities, the newspaper will write grants for news projects that would benefit Addison County, and the nonprofit would consider whether to fund them. Lynn is chair of the nonprofit that is run by a seven-member board of Addison County residents.

The *Addison Independent* will remain a for-profit newspaper. Lynn, 72, has been editor/publisher/owner for the past 42 years and recently announced that daughters Christy Lynn and Elsie Lynn Parini, who are co-publishers as well as advertising manager and Arts + Leisure editor/business manager, respectively,



## Climate change

THE HOME AT 83 Court St. in Middlebury was the site of extreme flooding on Aug. 3, 2023, when rapidly falling rain drove water levels to unprecedented heights, trapping the home’s two occupants. The town bought the property through the Flood Resilient Community Fund and decided to take it down so that the plot can remain open-space in perpetuity, in order to reduce future flood risk and improve water quality in the area.

Demolition of the place, across Court Street from Middlebury Union High School, took only a few hours on Monday. Summit Contracting tore down the structure and demolished impervious surfaces.

Photo by Megan James

will assume more ownership responsibilities as he moves into semi-retirement, while spending more time working with the nonprofit.

“While the nation has seen more than 3,200 newspapers close since 2005, and last year newspapers shut down at an average rate of almost 2.5 per week, the Addy Indy has survived because of solid local support and our belief that strong news coverage produces the healthiest newspaper. Our new revenue mix — adding philanthropic giving with advertising and strong reader revenue — will keep the news team and the Addy Indy strong for years to come.”

“In addition,” Lynn added, “the nonprofit has huge potential to build community in ways the newspaper couldn’t. Our vision is a community where every citizen of the greater Addison County area is informed and engaged through open dialogue and trusted journalism, and where strong newspapers help grow strong communities. Our hope with the nonprofit is the larger Addison County community will help us achieve those goals.”

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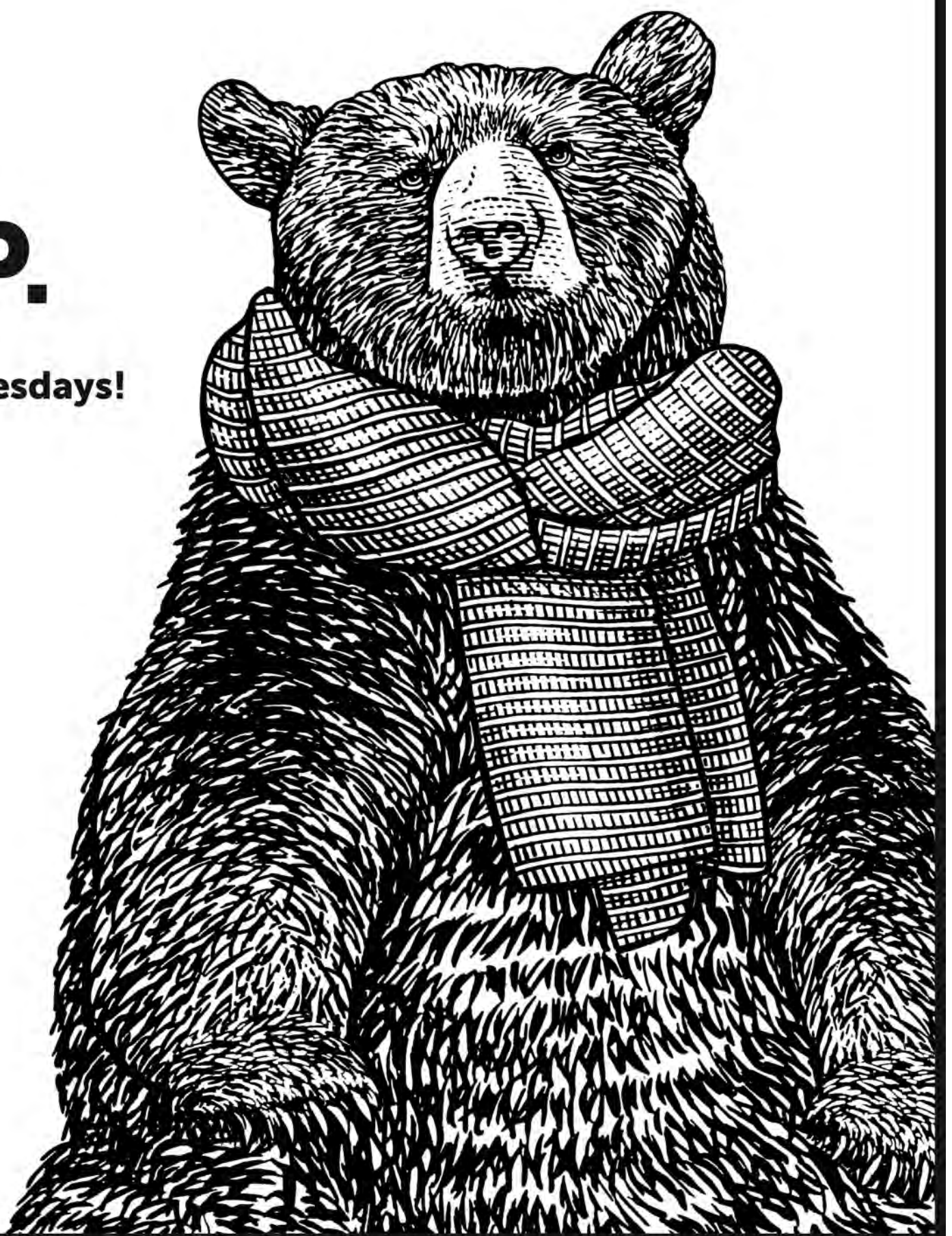
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# FLORA reaches free speech settlement

MIDDLEBURY — FLORA Cannabis and the Vermont Cannabis Action Fund (VCAF) have reached a negotiated settlement with the Vermont Cannabis Control Board (CCB) over FLORA's free speech lawsuit, filed this past December. As part of the settlement, the CCB agreed to several changes to its enforcement practices and interpretive guidance.

FLORA Co-founder Dave Silberman said CCB changes will reduce what he called heavy and unreasonable burdens placed by the state on the Constitutionally-protected right of law-abiding cannabis businesses to responsibly market to adult consumers.

The lawsuit, filed in Addison County Superior Court, identified

multiple violations of the Vermont Constitution's guarantees of freedom of speech, including a *de facto* statewide ban on outdoor advertising, and an unprecedented prior restraint regime that required cannabis businesses to submit even in-store marketing materials to the state for prior approval. Among other things, the settlement includes commitments from the CCB to allow outdoor signage, exempt in-store marketing materials from prior review, and allow cannabis products to be marketed via social media, which was previously forbidden.

Lawyer A.J. Ruben of Blackbear Legal Services PLC of Pittsfield represented FLORA and VCAF. "Vermont's licensed cannabis industry has created thousands of jobs, generated hundreds of millions of dollars in new tax revenue, and rejuvenated downtowns across the state with stores that Vermonters and tourists alike love shopping at," Silberman said in a Sept. 25 press release. "We deserve to be supported by the state, just like all other so-called 'regulated vice' industries

like Vermont's beloved craft beer and spirits producers. But because some powerful politicians want to keep Vermonters in the dark about a legal product that those politicians just don't like, the state adopted the harshest restrictions on cannabis marketing in the nation, violating our Constitutional rights and making it unnecessarily difficult for us to communicate with existing and potential customers."



*"We deserve to be supported by the state, just like all other so-called 'regulated vice' industries like Vermont's beloved craft beer and spirits producers."*

— Dave Silberman

FLORA Cannabis is an independent, locally owned and operated cannabis retailer in downtown Middlebury; it recorded the state's first legal adult-use sale of cannabis in 2022.

"While this settlement doesn't fix all of the Constitutional problems with Vermont's cannabis advertising laws, it provides immediate, meaningful relief to an industry that has earned the right to be treated with respect rather than contempt, and avoids a lengthy and expensive trial," he continued.

Silberman pledged to work with FLORA and VCAF to press for additional reforms in Montpelier during the 2026 legislative session.

# No explanation for Bristol mail delay

BRISTOL — Some Bristol residents saw delays in delivery of U.S. mail early last week, though service seemed to be back to its regular pace this week.

After the *Independent* received several complaints about the frequency of mail delivery and the newspaper made inquiries, a Bristol resident living in the Mountain Street area told the

newspaper that the postman usually responsible for the mail route serving the eastern portion of the village had to unexpectedly take time off due to an injury.

Apparently, the Postal Service did not have enough workers to cover for the unanticipated absence. A worker shortage has plagued the Postal Service for years, and federal officials aren't

inclined to tackle the problem.

The Bristol resident said that while it took a couple days, the Postal Service was eventually able to bring someone in to temporarily serve the route. As of Friday, mail deliveries in the neighborhood were back to normal.

Officials at the Bristol Post Office declined to comment.

# Bristol center seeks new director

BRISTOL — The Bristol Hub Teen Center is seeking a new director to take on the role early next year, as current director Taylor Welch-Plante has announced she'll step down from the position in January.

Located on Airport Drive within walking distance of Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School, the Hub Teen Center & Skatepark offers local youth ages 12-19 a safe, supervised space to hang out after school, in addition to other programming. The teen center is owned and operated by the Bristol Recreation Department.

Welch-Plante has served as director of the Hub since April 2019. She announced her upcoming departure from the role in a Sept. 19

message to the community.

"I have served as the director for over six years and have loved serving the community and contributing to the Hub," Welch-Plante wrote. "I have been able to connect with over 750 teens, made countless meals, lost many super smash battles, and have the privilege of continuing the long established mission of the Hub, which is to serve as a safe space for teens in the community to connect, learn and grow."

Welch-Plante noted that she'll continue to be involved at the Hub following the transition next year.

"I am so excited to continue to support the Hub for the next few months, and to switch to a role as an advocate and volunteer for the years moving forward."

— Taylor Welch-Plante

an advocate and volunteer for the years moving forward," she wrote. "I have total confidence that the person we find to serve as the new director will bring great things to the Hub and continue to support the teens in our community as they explore their identities and seek comfortable self-actualization."

The town of Bristol has begun its search for someone to step into the director position beginning in early January 2026. According to the posted job description, responsibilities of the full-time role include building relationships and connections with relevant agencies and community partners; organizing and assisting in special events and fundraising; and ensuring a clean, safe and welcoming facility.

Applicants are asked to submit a cover letter, résumé and three references to [hubbdirector@bristolvt.org](mailto:hubbdirector@bristolvt.org) and [redirector@bristolvt.org](mailto:redirector@bristolvt.org) by Nov. 3, according to the job description.



# Halloween Coloring & Decorating Contest

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Winners will be announced in the October 30th edition of the Addison Independent.

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Group: Under 5  5-6  7-8  9-11  12-15  16-Adult

# Police arrest Midd woman on a warrant

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Sarah Bolsta, 42, of Middlebury following a response to a dispute in the Munson Road area at 3:57 a.m. on Sept. 29. The police investigation found that Bolsta had an active in-state arrest warrant. She was later released after posting bail.

In other recent action, Middlebury police:

- Assisted a woman having a mental health crisis on Main Street on Sept. 22.
- Received a report of a wallet that had been stolen from the Middlebury gorge on Sept. 22.
- Assisted Vermont State Police with a reported larceny in New Haven on Sept. 22.
- Checked the welfare of a man who was reportedly passed out in his vehicle on Sept. 22. The man then fled the officer, "committing numerous offences." An investigation is ongoing.
- Investigated a trespassing issue on Academy Street on Sept. 22.
- Received a report of vandalism to a truck on Cedar Street on Sept. 22.
- Opened an Addison County Unit of Special Investigations investigation following a report of an assault around Macintyre Lane on Sept. 22.
- Responded to reports of trash falling out of a trailer on Route 7 on Sept. 22. Officers told the driver to clean the debris.
- Assisted a woman in the Gambrel Court area who was receiving harassing phone calls on Sept. 22.
- Assisted the U.S. Forest Service with an ongoing investigation on Sept. 22.
- Investigated a report of a suspicious vehicle at the A&W on Sept. 23.
- Checked the welfare of a man on a fire escape in the North Pleasant Street area on Sept. 23. He did not require any help.
- Responded to a report of a woman who was loitering at a gas station for about five hours on Sept. 23.
- Checked on the welfare of a woman in the Three Mile Bridge Road area on Sept. 23. She did not require assistance.
- Checked the welfare of a Monarch Court resident who reportedly had not been heard from in a week on Sept. 23. The man needed no assistance.
- Assisted state police with a domestic issue in Ripton on Sept. 23.
- Received a report from Frog Hollow Alley about a lost bike on (See Middlebury, Page 13A)



**LINCOLN RESIDENT MARILYN Ganahl has raised thousands of monarch butterflies over the years. More recently, she had the rare experience of watching this white monarch emerge from a chrysalis. Only a few of such monarchs are spotted around the country each year.**

Photo courtesy of Marilyn Ganahl

## Butterfly

(Continued from Page 1A)

only thing that caterpillars can feed on to develop," she explained. "Conservation of milkweed habitat and wildflowers, because they need the wildflowers for nectar when they become butterflies, that was my goal."

Around nine years ago Ganahl started to see the effects of those efforts.

"I saw for the first time monarch butterflies out there," she said of her backyard.

Ganahl has long been fascinated by the insects, marveling at the long journey monarchs east of the Rocky Mountains take to the mountains of Mexico during their fall migration.

"That (overwintering spot) was first discovered in the '70s, and I just found it so fascinating," she recalled. "To be around these creatures, they're miraculous in so many ways."

### JOURNEY TO A BUTTERFLY

Ganahl pointed to the lifecycle of a monarch butterfly, which first grows from an egg the size of a pinhead into a caterpillar that's about two inches long. Caterpillars will shed their skin multiple times before searching for a place to spin a silk pad and hang upside down.

From there, the caterpillar will shed its skin one final time, transforming into a chrysalis. Over two weeks or so the insect will undergo another transformation, developing into the butterfly that ultimately emerges from the chrysalis.

"They come out looking like a compact, folded umbrella, and their wings are crunched and little," Ganahl said. "They have to hang upside down and they start pumping their abdomen, which pumps lymphatic fluid into their wings, and it stretches out and straightens out their wings, which then need about four hours to dry, and then they can fly off."

It's a process that takes about a month from egg to adult butterfly, and one that the majority of monarchs don't make it to the

end of. The national conservation nonprofit Monarch Joint Venture states that less than 10% of monarch eggs survive to become adult butterflies, with some researchers placing that survival rate significantly under 10%.

"There's a lot of vulnerable phases in their development where wind or rain or deer or animals or humans or lawn mowers can destroy their lifecycle," Ganahl said. "They're highly vulnerable."

Ganahl noted there's been a decline in monarch habitat. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service lists habitat loss as one of multiple threats to the species, along with exposure to insecticides and climate change impacts.

"People mow, they don't like the looks of milkweed, they might not find it attractive enough...and a lot of times there's milkweed along roadsides, but those roadsides usually get mowed," she said.

For the past several years, Ganahl has collected monarch caterpillars she finds on roadsides or other spots destined for mowing. "I collect the ones and raise the ones only that are likely to get mowed over or don't have a surrounding brush habitat for them to climb on," she said.

### RAISING MONARCHS

Ganahl learned how to raise monarch butterflies around a decade ago, a process she noted includes disinfecting milkweed plants to remove bacteria and parasites that might harm the caterpillars. The monarchs are raised in mesh cubicles in Ganahl's garden shed, which has a lot of windows to let in a breeze and sunlight.

Ganahl noted she has around 20 habitats and tries not to have more than 10-15 caterpillars in each cubicle. She dedicates about two hours each day to the effort, feeding the insects and cleaning the habitats.

Ganahl was in the midst of that familiar process when she noticed the white monarch emerge from its chrysalis last week. She noted the white monarch's coloring is the result of a genetic mutation.

Amber Jones, a staff biologist at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, noted that such sightings are infrequent across the country.

"There's only a handful of sightings like this a year in the United States, outside of Hawaii," she told the *Independent*.

While uncommon, Vermont has seen one other white monarch released in recent months. The rare butterfly emerged from a chrysalis at the Waterbury Public Library in August.

Jones noted that reporting such observations through platforms like iNaturalist Vermont and The Vermont Atlas of Life helps contribute to the Vermont Center for Ecostudies's understanding of the butterfly species in the state. The Vermont Center for Ecostudies is currently working on the 2nd Vermont Butterfly Atlas, a five-year survey documenting the "abundance and distribution of butterflies across Vermont."

"When people report things like this to us, it's helpful for us to know what's out there," Jones said.

Ganahl has reported the sighting to iNaturalist, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies and related organizations. She released the white monarch and other butterflies during a fair-weather day this past Friday.

Releasing the monarchs in suitable weather is the final step in the process Ganahl has repeated for the past several years. She's released around 340 butterflies this year, though she noted some years have seen upwards of 900.

Ganahl welcomes local students and other community members to her home to learn more about the process and monarch butterflies in general. She said her goal is to educate residents and encourage the creation and conservation of pollinator habitat.

"The main thing is I'm trying to just do my part to conserve habitat, and pollinators especially are my interest," she said. "I look at my land as a sanctuary for all species, including humans."

## Middlebury

(Continued from Page 12A)

Sept. 23. Officers found the bike and notified the owner.

- Collected a Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) kit from Porter Hospital on Sept. 23.

- Responded to a report of a man who had climbed on top of a construction trailer on Court Street on Sept. 24.

- Conducted a welfare check on Creek Road on Sept. 24.

- Received a complaint about a car driving around a school bus at Mary Hogan Elementary School on Sept. 24.

- Assisted state police with a domestic issue in Salisbury on Sept. 24.

- Contacted the owner of a vehicle that was left running on Court Street on Sept. 24.

- Responded to a report of people yelling on South Pleasant Street on Sept. 25. Officers found the report was unfounded.

- Received a report of a vehicle driving erratically on Court Street on Sept. 25.

- Assisted a motorist who drove off of Main Street following a medical event on Sept. 25.

- Received a complaint about vehicles driving around a school bus on Jackson Lane on Sept. 25.

- Issued a no-trespass notice to

a Middlebury resident for stealing from Hannaford on Sept. 25.

- Responded to a 911 hang-up call at a home in the Munson Road area on Sept. 25.

- Assisted with traffic control for a disabled vehicle on Quarry Road on Sept. 25.

- Received a report of a suspicious person on Washington Street on Sept. 25.

- Responded to a suspicious report of a possible break-in on Benedict Lane on Sept. 26.

- Investigated a report of a vehicle stolen from Stone Chrysler Dodge Jeep and Ram on Sept. 26. The stolen vehicle was ultimately recovered in Rutland.

- Responded to a report of a minor in possession of tobacco on Charles Avenue on Sept. 26.

- Assisted a North Pleasant Street business after possible drugs were found on the floor on Sept. 26.

- Removed debris from the roadways of Route 7 and Route 125 on Sept. 26.

- Opened a criminal investigation after a vehicle fled during a traffic stop on Foote Street on Sept. 26.

- Investigated a report of a suspicious vehicle parked on Porter Drive on Sept. 26.

- Received a report of a loud party on Frog Hollow Alley on

Sept. 26.

- Received a report of missing zoning signs in the area of Forest Ridge Drive and Fred Johnson Circle on Sept. 27.

- Continued with an ongoing investigation into a reported domestic assault on Valley View Drive on Sept. 27.

- Responded to an alarm that went off at a closed East Middlebury business on Sept. 27.

- Interviewed a man who was reportedly causing concern among downtown residents on Sept. 27.

- Investigated a report of a dispute in the Maple Street area on Sept. 28.

- Investigated a two-car crash on East Main and Case streets on Sept. 23. The crash resulted in minor injuries.

- Responded to an alarm that went off on East Main Street on Sept. 28.

- Assisted a North Pleasant Street business with issuing a trespass notice to an unwelcome guest on Sept. 28.

- Investigated a report of a man who was drinking and driving on Sept. 28.

- Spoke with two individuals regarding an incident that had taken place in the South Village Green area on Sept. 28.

## ACSD

(Continued from Page 1A)

months, the ACSD board will review suggested upgrades for each of the nine buildings as part of a five-year capital plan. The board will then decide whether to present district voters with a bond proposal to take care of the most pressing of the identified renovations. Making this exercise trickier is Vermont's new public education reform law, Act 73, which will in the coming years redraw school district boundaries in a way that's likely to force school consolidations and district mergers.

With that in mind, school district officials are understandably cautious about the risk of investing in a school that could soon be closed or marginalized through Act 73.

Superintendent Wendy Baker acknowledged that concern at the Sept. 22 ACSD board meeting.

"We will (prepare our capital plans) in a manner that tries to take into account all of the ambiguity that we're experiencing," she said. "What might Mary Hogan be able to absorb in enrollment, and what would that look like? That's an example of looking at things now and thinking about what we might need to contend with as we move ahead."

Baker noted the district's scrutiny of its building needs isn't just an internal exercise; it's now mandated every five years by the Vermont Agency of Education.

"They need us to say, based on our buildings, what might we plan to tackle over the next five years, and how might we arrange that?" Baker said. "As we gear up and think about our school facilities across the state, the investment numbers are important for us to look at."

The numbers are looming large. Very large. TruexCullins in 2022 completed an initial inspection of ACSD's nine school buildings and tentatively placed the cost of updating those structures (to current code standards) at \$110 million.

District officials realize that's more than district taxpayers could absorb, and it's been 18 years since Vermont last offered school construction aid.

ACSD Business Manager Matt Corrente said this latest study of district buildings combines data from past physical inspections and input from school officials on program needs.

"How does the facility act with the programmatic vision of the school's leadership? What matters to the people who really use the buildings every day to do the good work of educating kids?" Corrente said when describing the latest capital improvement planning effort.

The central office has sent questionnaires to the leadership teams of each school, asking them about building deficiencies and possible upgrades.

### MARY HOGAN SCHOOL

In the case of Mary Hogan School, most of the building condition concerns relate to the indoor air quality and general condition of the "C-wing." The school's A-wing is in the best condition, having undergone \$1.2 million in renovations last year.

Mary Hogan officials have recommended that the school be reorganized around clusters of grades K-1, 2-3 and 4-5, including related student services. These configurations should be large enough to allow four class sections per grade, according to Mary Hogan

officials.

The new "clusters" configuration would allow the school to accommodate 50 additional students beyond the current enrollment of 350, according to ACSD leaders.

Mary Hogan educators have declared "a strong programmatic preference" for 50 square feet per student (rather than the current 35) in classrooms hosting students in grades K-3, according to the ACSD Facilities Committee.

Suggested improvements to meet Mary Hogan's current facilities shortcomings and educators' wish lists are estimated at \$20.8 million, including \$4.4 million for 4,600 square feet of new space, \$10.1 million for renovations to 13,200 square feet of existing space, \$5.8 million in deferred maintenance to 59,400 square feet of space, and \$500,000 for site work.

Board member Jason Chance, chair of the ACSD Facilities Committee, urged ACSD stakeholders to look beyond the lofty project price tags.

"I know (\$20.8 million) is a fairly large number to look at, but we spend probably 10% of our budget each year maintaining our facilities," he said. "That number is really high because of all the deferred maintenance. So you could certainly make the argument that it would be cheaper to spend less money each year and make strategic investments that would lower our annual maintenance."

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



*"What might Mary Hogan be able to absorb in enrollment, and what would that look like? That's an example of looking at things now and thinking about what we might need to contend with as we move ahead."*

— Superintendent Wendy Baker



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# 6th-graders

(Continued from Page 1A)  
to go to Vergennes Union Middle School (VUMS) that fall.

But Superintendent Sheila Soule read the tea leaves and decided families' and communities concerns about mixing younger students in with older teens still lingered.

John Stroup, then the ANWSD Board Chair, explained to the *Independent* that the board was set to move forward with the change until Soule made a proposal to wait and let the then new VUMS Principal Colden Golann lead another year of outreach to make more community members, families and students themselves comfortable with the move.

"She knew we weren't quite ready to get the actual move done the year of Colden's arrival. I wanted to go for it, but she knew we weren't ready," Stroup wrote. "Her genius move was taking the heat of a year delay, advocating for resources (upfront monetary investment) to plan and put an energized, thoughtful, smart leader (Colden) in place to build the transition plan and enact it."

### PAVING THE WAY

What, then, was the plan that was developed to prepare for the fall of 2024?

Outreach and more outreach to students and their families, with events both at the elementary schools and at VUMS. Teachers, counselors, students, administrators and an outside consulting firm, Up For Learning, all helped plan and then carry out the move.

In November of 2023 Golann hosted an informational session, the first of several that he said were well attended after the years of discussion and then the postponement.

"I would say that every event we had that year we had higher community turnout than I've ever

seen at a school community event," Golann said.

That first meeting was followed by half-day student retreats at FCS and VUES with middle school teachers and counselors. Golann noted one survey showed that understandably about 70% of the then 5th-graders were at least somewhat anxious about going to middle school the following year.

Up For Learning, a Vermont nonprofit that specializes in helping schools engaging their students in making changes, also helped plan events, including community nights at each elementary school.

"It was a little like middle school is coming to you, your place where you're comfortable right now, to start this conversation, to build comfortability, and then we're going to bring it to us," Golann said, adding the elementary principals, Matt DeBlois at VUES and at that point Rae Donovan in Ferrisburgh, helped coordinate the meetings.

Then came evening panels at both schools with Q-and-A sessions led by 7th- and 8th-graders as well as teachers.

VUMS teachers Laura Husk and Judy Elson attended those meetings and described them.

"You're sitting in circles talking about the changes that are coming, and the parents and the (incoming) 6th-graders are there, and you're having such a dynamic conversation, everything from getting up on time, staying organized, tricks on phones," Elson said. "It's just having that dialogue and feeling comfortable sending kids off to a brand new building."

Husk added, "It's a chance for 7th- and 8th-graders to mentor the younger kids."

Those meetings happened in March and April. In May, the 5th-graders came to VUMS. There were

afternoon activities that in 2024 included a scavenger hunt and a group art project. Students also met their morning meeting teachers, whose rooms they would head to when they arrive at school for the next three years.

There was more.

"That night, they came back with their families," Golann said. "That's our welcome to middle school night, where we served dinner. And then we have an informational session, and then we a smaller session-based discussion opportunity for families ... And then we go through, and we did smaller-group work. And we had students come in for tours over the summer, students who were maybe identified as needing more support in transition."

Husk and Elson gave Golann credit for planning and leading the effort, backing up Stroup's point of view that his leadership was vital.

"I think that's ultimately what pushed this whole thing forward, because he took the bull by the horns," Husk said. "He set a date, mapped out a timeline, an action plan, so we had more of a concrete plan to follow."

Golann agreed with Stroup that Soule's decision to postpone the 6th-grade move for a year was well received locally as proof educators were listening to the community and was an important step in a successful transition.

"When that decision was made to wait a year, I think that built a ton of trust," he said. "As I understand it, the community wasn't saying, like, we're anti this completely. It was, like, we're not ready for this. We need more time to think about it and see what it's going to look like for kids."

"It was a long process, and there were tons of people who were really instrumental," he added.

No. 1 on that list? A 6th-grade team that's strong, he said.

"We have such good teachers and staff here," Golann said. "Ultimately, we can do all that planning, and all those outreach events are important, don't get me wrong, but when the kids get here and come home from school on days 1, 2, 3, etc., and report, 'I love it here. My teachers care about me. They know who I am. I feel safe there,' that's the main event."

### WELCOME TO VUMS

The final step for the new middle schoolers in the fall of 2024 was a week of getting to know their way around the school and in many cases each other. Golann described first week at VUMS as dedicated to making middle school students feel comfortable, whether it's their first year at the school or they are returning.

"It's really like an orientation week. We go to our class groups, but we're not doing content, and we're really open about it," Golann said. "The goal at the beginning of the year is connection and comfortability, all leading toward belonging."

The new students found the first four classrooms past the welcome sign were theirs, as were the lockers nearest to those rooms. The combined 7th- and 8th-grade classrooms filled out the rest of the wing. No major physical changes to the building were required — there was room for the new cohort.

New 6th-graders this year experienced, and in the future will experience, the same process of community meetings and middle school outreach, Golann said.

"We did really repeat the same transition opportunities this year as we did the year before. And that surprised some people, who said, oh, I thought you just did it big last year. But no, it worked well, right?" Golann said. "And something that's important to remember is, yes, that was the first time the district put 6th-graders in middle school, but every single year is the first year these 6th-graders have been in middle school."

Students who were part of that first cohort and spoke with the *Independent*, now 7th-graders, said they appreciated all the efforts of the school administrators and teachers to make the transition a comfortable one.



**VUMS SPECIAL EDUCATOR** Laura Husk, seen here working with a student, is one of many who supported moving ANWSD 6th-graders into the district's middle school in 2024, and who believes the transition has gone well.

Photo Courtesy of VUHS/VUMS

Katie Johnstone said she found it useful.

"I was really excited to go to all those transition things to learn more about middle school," Johnstone said.

Colvin Killon remembered hearing from middle school students during meetings at the elementary school was particularly helpful.

"It seemed really confusing at first because we had to move around the school a ton. It felt like it would be more work. And then I feel like we got more comfortable when we had students tell us what was going on," he said.

Nova Provencher was grateful that the 5th-grade teachers at VUES helped prepare their students by moving classes around and upping homework assignments gradually.

"We would switch certain classes to prepare us for moving classes," Provencher said. "And they were prepping us for homework and everything. And it helped us a lot. And once we got here they (VUMS teachers) also helped us a lot. They gave us packets to help us learn what homework really is ... They helped us with our routine so we wouldn't struggle a lot."

The orientation week also smoothed the transition, they said.

"They (teachers) all made me feel welcome," Provencher said. "It was nice to meet them before school really started, so it wasn't as nerve-racking and everything."

Johnstone said some high schoolers mildly teased the newcomers at first, but it ended quickly.

"I felt pretty welcome," she said. "They did things to make us feel welcome."

Killon remembers playing Capture the Flag and other team-building games.

"We'd get to, like, ease into (meeting) other people and having to work together with them," he said.

Golann summed up. Many people, he said — Stroup and other board members, Soule, principals, counselors, teachers, community members, Curriculum Coordinator Gabe Hamilton and more — worked together to make a successful and beneficial VUMS expansion happen.

"It was so the right move. And I would credit a lot of people who were patient in creating this opportunity," he said. "There were a lot of people who came together to make this happen, and that's the secret sauce."

# Flowers

(Continued from Page 1A)

turnover rate among deputies in Vekos's office; a relationship with a county victims' advocate that had become so frayed that Vekos at one point barred her from entering the SA's office and from using the needed software to access case files; and immense dissatisfaction from assault victims, some of whom said they felt betrayed by plea deals executed by Vekos as she cleared a substantial case backlog.

Read the award-winning stories online at [tinyurl.com/Award4FlowersPart1](http://tinyurl.com/Award4FlowersPart1) and [tinyurl.com/Award4FlowersPart2](http://tinyurl.com/Award4FlowersPart2).

This was the inaugural year for the A-Mark Prizes, "designed to recognize and honor outstanding investigative journalism that reveals hidden truths, holds power to account, and drives public

awareness or reform."

The contest was open to journalists based in New England whose primary medium is the written word, including reporters, columnists and investigative journalists working in newspapers and online news sites.

Judges for the A-Mark Prizes sought to reward "ambitious, well-researched reporting that may expose wrongdoing, hold powerful individuals accountable, or explore complex problems, issues or subjects."

The prizes, which include a monetary award, are funded by The A-Mark Foundation, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and encouraging journalism and investigative reporting through grants to organizations like NENPA that recognize enterprise reporting.

In addition to the professional recognition, A-Mark Prize winners will see their work prominently featured on NENPA's website.

Other Vermont recipients of this year's 2025 A-Mark Prizes included Carly Berlin of VT Digger and Derek Brower of Seven Days.

Independent Editor/Publisher Angelo Lynn said the prize was well-deserved.

"John Flowers has long demonstrated a high level of professionalism that our readers appreciate and now we see that journalists more broadly in New England are recognizing that. Nice job, John!"

John Flowers has worked as a community journalist for 40 years. A graduate of the Northeastern University School of Journalism, he began his career with The Tab newspaper group in 1985, covering Wellesley and then Newton, Mass. He's worked for the *Addison Independent* in Middlebury since 1990, covering a variety of beats that include Middlebury municipal government and schools, human services, legislative issues, the local judiciary, features and health care. He is past president of the Vermont Press Association and has served on the VPA executive board for more than 15 years. He has testified repeatedly before the Vermont Legislature on behalf of the VPA in defense of the Open Meeting Law and government transparency.

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# Button Up weatherization rebates available

WINOOSKI—As temperatures drop across the northeast, partners in the statewide Button Up Vermont campaign are urging homeowners and renters to prepare their homes for colder temperatures using Vermont weatherization and heat pump rebates—and use soon-to-expire federal tax credits for projects completed this year.

Weatherization rebates from Efficiency Vermont, Vermont Gas Systems (VGS), and other partners aren't going anywhere. But federal home energy tax credits—for things like energy-efficient windows and doors, insulation and air sealing, and heating systems—all expire at the end of the year.

That's why this year's "Button Up Vermont" campaign—kicking off Oct. 1 with a month of webinars, events, and other promotions—will focus on helping Vermonters understand how to make their homes more comfortable using all the state and federal incentives available.

"Buttoning up a home can make it more comfortable while also lowering your heating bills," said Peter Walke, Efficiency Vermont's managing director. "Whether it's starting with a simple 'DIY' project or investing in comprehensive weatherization by a skilled professional, Efficiency Vermont's rebates can help get your home ready for winter—and make it more affordable for years to come."

Both Efficiency Vermont

*"Buttoning up a home can make it more comfortable while also lowering your heating bills. Whether it's starting with a simple 'DIY' project or investing in comprehensive weatherization by a skilled professional, Efficiency Vermont's rebates can help get your home ready for winter—and make it more affordable for years to come."*

— Peter Walke, Efficiency Vermont's managing director

NETO is one of five WAPs across Vermont offering no-cost weatherization and related services to income-qualified households. "The 'Button Up' campaign is a great opportunity for people to learn more about the steps they can take to have a more comfortable home."

Vermonters who complete home energy projects by Dec. 31, 2025, may also be able to use federal

rebates and VGS incentives offer customers up to \$9,500 for comprehensive weatherization projects. Incentives vary based on household size and income. Income-eligible households may qualify for the free weatherization through the state's Weatherization Assistance Programs (WAPs).

"With federal rebates set to expire at the end of the year, now is the time to leverage rebates and reduce the cost of these energy-saving home improvements," said Neale Lunderville, President and CEO of VGS. "Our teams work directly with customers to assess how they can get the most bang for their buck and improve comfort. We're ready to do our part to help Vermonters button up ahead of winter."

"Everyone deserves a safe, comfortable, and affordable home. Free weatherization services from Vermont's Weatherization Assistance Programs are one of the best ways we can help eligible households achieve those goals," said Wendy McGillivray, Executive Director and Director of Weatherization for NETO. Serving the Northeast Kingdom,

NETO is one of five WAPs across Vermont offering no-cost weatherization and related services to income-qualified households. "The 'Button Up' campaign is a great opportunity for people to learn more about the steps they can take to have a more comfortable home."

Vermonters who complete home energy projects by Dec. 31, 2025, may also be able to use federal

home energy tax credits. Those tax credits are the focus of one of several "Button Up" webinars this October as part of the weekly "Weatherization Wednesdays" series. The schedule includes:

Oct. 1, noon-1 pm: Weatherization Wednesday: How to Use Home Energy Tax Credits Before They Expire

Oct. 8, noon-1 pm: Weatherization Wednesday: Is it Time to (Re)Insulate Your Attic and Basement?

Oct. 15, noon-1 pm: Weatherization Wednesday: Why Heating Your Home isn't as Simple as You May Think

Oct. 22, noon-1 pm: Weatherization Wednesday: How to Button Up Your Home

Oct. 29, noon-1 pm: Weatherization Wednesday: Demystifying Heat Pumps

View all webinars and events at [www.buttonupvermont.org/events](http://www.buttonupvermont.org/events).

Telltale signs a home is losing heat and needs "buttoning up" include:

- Drafts, even when the heat is on. This could be a sign that cold air is leaking in and that heat is leaking out, wasting energy.
- Snow melting unevenly on a roof, indicating an attic in need of air sealing and insulation.
- Icicles or ice dams forming on a rooftop, a sign that heat is escaping through the roof.
- Mold. A lack of insulation or proper ventilation can cause moisture to rise and get trapped, creating unhealthy indoor air and potentially other issues for a home if left untreated.

Insulating and air-sealing a home as part of a comprehensive weatherization project can address these issues, as well as important health and safety considerations of a home, like moisture management, ventilation, and indoor air quality. Learn more about rebates and financing to help Button Up a home.

**ABOUT BUTTON UP VERMONT**

Button Up Vermont is

supported by a partnership of service providers and clean energy champions. The annual campaign runs each fall to raise awareness around the importance of weatherization. From tips on air sealing and insulation, to weighing the benefits of upgrades like energy efficient heat pumps, Button Up Vermont provides Vermont residents with the tools and resources needed to weatherize their homes and save. Button Up Vermont is sponsored by Efficiency Vermont. Learn more at <https://www.buttonupvermont.org/>

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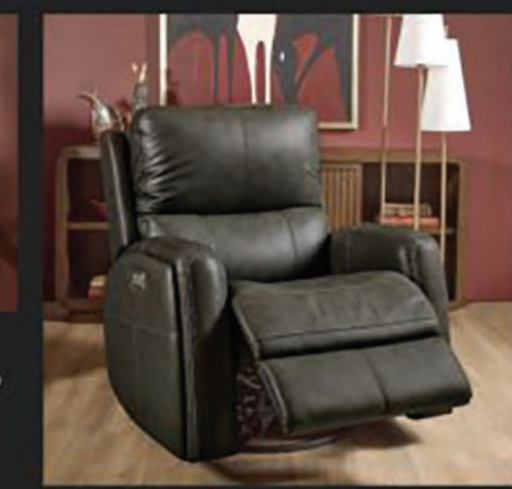
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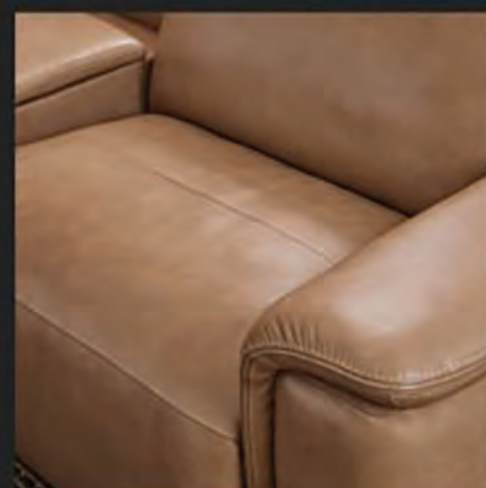
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# Animal Welfare

(Continued from Page 1A)

new division. Milot is creating a comprehensive plan for enforcing animal welfare laws.

"We're very excited," Monkton resident Bev Soychak said of the division's creation. "Our state's needed this forever. We've never had anybody in this (director of animal welfare) position, and it's just key to having conversations and getting everybody together and unifying everybody."

Soychak has for many years been involved in local animal welfare efforts. She and other advocates in Addison County pushed for state action to address the shortcomings of Vermont's animal welfare system.

Prior to the creation of the new division, community members pointed to what they called a fragmented system for dealing with animal cruelty cases and sought more support in handling

such incidents.

## CHALLENGES FACED

Chelsey Berlic is the medical programs manager at Homeward Bound, Addison County's humane society. She noted that staffing and space for animals are among the challenges faced in responding to animal abuse issues.

"I would say that a lot of the issues that we're seeing is not necessarily an animal issue but a human issue," Berlic added. "Housing insecurity and job insecurity is really what's driving a lot of (pet) surrenders right now. Also, access to affordable veterinary care, access to affordable spay and neuter; those are the things that are driving a lot of our surrenders."

Berlic said the humane society

has seen a large uptick in stray animals.

"We receive strays multiple times a week, every week," she said. "We've definitely seen more strays."

*"Once cruelty has occurred, it's happened, and so the ideal is to prevent it whenever you can."*

— Lisa Milot

She noted Homeward Bound's rate of reuniting animals with their owners has also dropped.

"Our reuniting rate, which I think in the past has been quite successful... we find that nobody is coming to claim these animals," Berlic said. "(People) don't want them anymore. They are really, truly strays versus lost animals."

Berlic pointed to some of the reasons pet owners might release their animals, such as a stigma associated with seeking help or not knowing about available resources.

"Maybe their dog has a horrendous dental condition that they haven't been able to address, and if they bring it to the animal shelter, they're afraid (the shelter is) going to look at that dog's mouth and go, 'This is neglect,'" Berlic said. "Instead, what we'll say is we're welcoming them. We can talk about, 'Can we get you dental care, can we help you (get) your dog dental at a reduced rate, if not free?' These are all things that we hope to do in the future."

"We just don't want people to be afraid to seek help before it becomes too dire," she added.

Expanding the reach of such resources is one way Berlic feels the new animal welfare division can help support local efforts.

"I think it's going to spread our mission as Homeward Bound and hopefully help us to expand our programs to be able to service our community," she said. "I think it's going to pull more partnerships in in terms of partnering with local vets and then other rescues and animal welfare advocates."

Berlic pointed to how connecting more of the community with resources for pet owners could help prevent animal welfare problems.

"If we can bolster these programs across the board and promote them and make people aware of these programs then I think we'll have more success in preventing surrender or strays," she said. "It really comes to just unifying our voice and then amplifying it."

Soychak noted some of the other ways the new division could help address challenges faced in responding to cruelty cases.

"One of the priorities is going to be getting the cases to move quickly, getting the animals freed up quicker, so they're not languishing in the shelters for a long period of time, and trying to get things settled quicker through the court system," she said.

Soychak emphasized that local advocates want to prevent such cases from happening to begin with.

"We want to keep people's pets with them in their homes; we don't want to take people's pets away from them," she said. "If we can



LISA MILOT this year became the first director of the state's new Division of Animal Welfare. Local animal welfare advocates are excited about the new division and how it could help address and prevent cases of animal cruelty in Addison County and other parts of the state.

comprehensive plan for a response to animal cruelty, as well as for companion animal industry oversight for industries like shelters and groomers.

"For me, that means thinking through a lot of prevention, because a lot of cases become cruelty because there was a lack of knowledge or a lack of resources," she said. "Once cruelty has occurred, it's happened, and so the ideal is to prevent it whenever you can."

Milot pointed to one of the inconsistencies that's been identified in the system. Game wardens oversee many of Vermont's animal cruelty cases, though several municipalities have their own police departments or other officials that investigate such incidents.

"So, how can we set this up so that there aren't those inefficiencies in the system? Because I believe that the resources that need to be spent on all of this are already being spent, they're just not being spent in the most efficient way," she said. "By resources I mean time, money, court resources, things like that. I'm trying to come up with what we can do to better spend the resources that are already allocated for this purpose."

Milot has been supported in that effort by Lara Herrmann, a law student at Vermont Law and Graduate School. Herrmann is gathering information related to animal welfare from Vermont municipalities.

Milot noted she and Herrmann have also been exploring how reoccurring issues related to animal welfare in Vermont have been addressed in other states. Milot's plan is due to the Legislature on Jan. 18, after which lawmakers will review the plan and decide whether to adopt it.

In the meantime, animal welfare advocates in Addison County plan to host another meeting with Milot in the coming months. Soychak said the goal is to continue building a network.

"My hope is that Addison County is going to set the example for all other counties out there," she said. "That's the hope."

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## Volleyball: Tigers win, Eagles lose

ADDISON COUNTY — The Middlebury Union High School volleyball team kept up its winning ways with a pair of three-set victories, while the first-year Mount Abraham program came up short in its only outing.

### TIGERS

On Sept. 25 the Tigers swept visiting Colchester, 3-0, with the set scores 25-12, 25-20 and 25-16.

Coach Bethany Morrissey called it a true team victory.

“All 18 varsity players contributed in meaningful ways towards the win,” she wrote in an email.

Logan Edmonds Beattie had a nine-point serving run, Laila Sunderland recorded five kills and a block; Marilyn Perez had nine digs; Grace Ritter had three aces, three kills and a block, Willow Heywood had two aces, four kills and two blocks; and Addie Young and Julia Morrissey combined for 16 assists.

Payton Vilmont led the Lakers with 11 assists, four digs, two aces, a kill and a block.

And it was the team’s annual fundraiser for breast cancer research, and Coach Morrissey said the event was a success, with a packed gym that included the Middlebury College volleyball team and a fundraising total of \$2,893.30 that easily surpassing the sum of the 2024 donations.

(See Volleyball, Page 2B)



THE WINDSOR OFFENSE had a tough time against the MAV defense on Saturday in Bristol, as this gang tackle shows. Independent photo/John S. McCright

## Eagle football rolls over Windsor, 56-0

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham-Vergennes football team’s explosive offense and hard-hitting defense proved to be more than visiting Division III rival Windsor High School could handle on Saturday, as the Eagles romped to a 56-0 victory.

MAV moved to 4-0 and remains in second place in the D-III quality points standings behind also undefeated Bellows Falls, which has earned more points by playing a tougher schedule up to the regular season’s midpoint. Windsor, often a D-III contender but having a down year so far, dropped to 1-3 and into seventh place in the 10-team division.

On the Eagles’ home field on Saturday, junior back Cole Gagnon broke loose behind another strong performance from the Eagle offensive line for 178 yards and three rushing touchdowns on 11 carries, including a 60-yard burst on

MAV’s first play from scrimmage.

Gagnon also returned the second-half kickoff 80 yards for another touchdown and picked up a Windsor fumble and rambled 39 yards for a fifth score, and he had a solid game at linebacker. No, he was not spotted flipping burgers for the concessions stand.

Senior back Logan Stearns added five carries for 70 yards and a touchdown, senior quarterback Rhett Lathrop scored on a keeper, and junior Mason Atkins ran for the final Eagle score. Lathrop was an efficient four for five for 49 yards passing.

On the other side of the ball the Eagles gave up a few yards through the air, but almost completely shut down the Yellowjackets’ running game, which totaled just 74 yards on 26 carries, 19 of which came on one run late in the fourth quarter. Their longest rush in the first half was 4 yards. The Eagles also recovered two fumbles, one by lineman

Tyson Hallock plus Gagnon’s plan was to shut down the run, scoring recovery, and two Eagles and mission accomplished.

picked off passes: sophomore Chase Wright and junior Levi Smith.

Windsor receivers ran open for a while, and Windsor quarterback Turtle Petschke finished seven of 23 for 100 yards, missing his final seven throws. Eagle junior Juan De La Cruz also sacked him twice for 17 yards of losses, meaning Windsor only netted 83 yards through the air for 157 yards of total offense.

Coach Jeff Stein is pleased with the Eagles’ progress on that side of the ball. The MAV game

*“I’ve said before this is a special group. I think what I’m more proud about is just how all these wins have been a whole group effort. We’re getting it done on special teams. We’re getting it done on offense. We’re doing it on defense ... Hats off to those guys. They’re playing hard-nosed football.”*

— Jeff Stein  
MAV coach

“We took a very similar tactic to what we did against Fairfax. We kind of loaded up the middle,” Stein said. “Their strength is running the ball, so we tried to force them to throw it. And they did, and they had some success there. But we made some adjustments, and then they didn’t do so well in the passing game.”

The Eagles made an impact on both sides of the ball quickly. Windsor received the opening kickoff and managed a first down on a Petschke completion, but six

(See MAV rolls Page 3B)

## Boys’ soccer teams split

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — The Mount Abraham, Vergennes and Middlebury union high school boys’ soccer teams each split two outings in recent action.

On a scheduling note, the Tigers had been set to visit Mount Abe on this coming Saturday, but that game has been moved to 4 p.m. on this Friday, Oct. 3, due to conflicts with SAT testing on Oct. 4.

### EAGLES

This past Saturday, visiting Rice edged the Eagles, 2-1. Jaran Griffen, with an assist from James Grazadei, gave the Eagles the first-half lead, but the Green Knights scored twice in the second half, the second on a Chase Cassel penalty kick, to deal Mount Abe its first loss. Rice goalie Ricky Carrol made five saves.

On Tuesday the Eagles won at St. Albans, 4-1, to improve their record to 8-1-1. Their one tie had come at home vs. the Bobwhites earlier this season, when Mount Abe surrendered a late lead.

This time the Eagles took care of business, as Abe Camara scored twice, Graziadei and Waydon Cherington each scored once, and Maverick Livingston set up a goal. Goalie Evan Audy made three saves.

Grant Montgomery scored for St. Albans, and Bobwhite goalie Quinn Blackburn made seven saves.

After the Eagles host the Tigers on Friday, next up on their schedule is a visit to Missisquoi on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 4 p.m.

### COMMODORES

On Saturday the Commodores blanked host Oxbow, 2-0, as Tiegen Buskey scored a pair of first-half goals, one early and one just before intermission. Aiden Fuller set up the first one, and Ryker Mosehauer assisted the second one. Colton Reed made

(See Boys’ soccer, Page 2B)

## OV, Malcolm advance to D2 golf final

By ANDY KIRKALDY

SWANTON — In the Division II qualifying tournament held on Tuesday at the Champlain Country Club, the Middlebury and Mount Abraham high school boys’ golf teams fell short of advancing to the D-II championship tournament.

Otter Valley qualified to advance, and Tiger golfer Rowdy Malcolm’s 84 was good enough for him to make it as an individual to the state tournament, which will be held this coming Tuesday at the Dorset Field Club.

Harwood (325) was the top team qualifier among six that advanced, followed by Lyndon (327) and the Otters (332). Stowe (343) and Hartford (354) also qualified.

Playing for OV on Tuesday were Jackson Howe 78, Max Eugair 83, Connor Denis 84, Jacob Warrell 87, and Zac Dragon 99.

MUHS missed the cut by one stroke at 355, and Mount Abraham (376) was also among the 13 teams that failed to qualify. Vergennes did not compete.

Playing for MUHS on Tuesday were Malcolm 84, Reaney McKinley 86, Max Ayer 91, Ryan Brouillard 94, and Peter Fuller 100.

Playing for Mount Abe on Tuesday were Stefan Johnson 92, Joe Sullivan 94, Jackson LaMarche 95, Spencer Sears 95, and Andy Konczal 110.

### NVAC TOURNEY

On Sept. 26 Basin Harbor hosted the NVAC Metro Tournament with Champlain Valley prevailing with a score of 313 and Essex’s Bryce Terborgh earning medalist honors with a 72. Essex (313) was just behind CVU, with Mount Mansfield (329) in third.

MUHS (362) and Mount Abe (363) finished neck-and-neck in

(See Golf, Page 3B)

## Score BOARD

### SCOREBOARD

#### Football

9/26 MUHS vs CVU .....42-0  
9/27 MAV vs Windsor .....56-0

#### Field Hockey

9/25 MUHS at Harwood ..... Ppd to 10/13  
9/25 U-32 vs Mt Abe .....2-0  
9/26 MUHS vs Lyndon .....3-0  
9/29 Mt Abe vs Stowe .....1-0  
9/30 St. Johnsbury vs MUHS .....4-1

#### Girls’ Soccer

9/26 Rice vs MUHS .....7-0  
9/26 VUHS vs Enosburg .....5-0  
9/27 Mt Abe vs Rutland .....2-2  
9/29 Mt Abe vs Milton .....1-0  
9/29 VUHS vs Caledonia United .....6-0  
9/29 St Albans vs MUHS .....1-0

#### Boys’ Soccer

9/25 Rice at MUHS ..... Ppd to 10/6  
9/27 Rice vs Mt Abe .....2-1  
9/27 VUHS vs Oxbow .....2-0  
9/27 Rutland vs MUHS .....1-0  
9/30 Mt Abe vs St. Albans .....4-1  
9/30 MUHS vs Missisquoi .....4-0  
9/30 Caledonia United vs VUHS .....1-0

#### Volleyball

9/25 MUHS vs Colchester .....3-0  
9/26 Hartford vs Mt Abe .....3-0  
9/29 MUHS at VT Commons .....3-0

### COLLEGE SPORTS

#### Men’s Soccer

9/27 Conn Coll vs Midd .....1-0  
9/28 Wesleyan vs Midd .....1-0

#### Field Hockey

9/27 Midd vs Conn Coll .....2-1  
9/28 Endicott vs Midd .....2-1 (OT)

#### Women’s Soccer

9/27 Midd vs Conn Coll .....1-0  
9/28 Midd vs Wesleyan .....2-1

#### Football

9/27 Midd vs Colby .....27-17

## Schedule

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

#### Football

10/3 Hartford at MUHS ..... 7 PM  
10/4 Rice at MAV ..... 1 PM  
10/10 MUHS at Mt Anthony ..... 7 PM  
10/10 MAV at Milton ..... 7 PM

#### Field Hockey

10/3 Missisquoi at MUHS ..... 4 PM  
10/4 Harwood at Mt Abe ..... 10 AM  
10/6 Mt Abe at Milton ..... 6 PM  
10/7 U-32 at MUHS ..... 4:30 PM  
10/9 MUHS at Spaulding ..... 4 PM  
10/9 Lyndon at Mt Abe ..... 4 PM

#### Girls’ Soccer

(See Schedule, Page 4B)



EAGLE SENIOR FORWARD Addison Wright attacks the U-32 goal during the Mount Abe field hockey team’s rainy Sept. 25 home game. Independent photo/John S. McCright

## County high school field hockey teams split games

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — The Mount Abraham and Middlebury union high school field hockey teams each split two games, with the Eagles remaining above .500 with the results.

### EAGLES

On a rainy Sept. 25, visiting U-32 bested Mount Abe, 2-0. Coach Jen Myers said the Eagles generated 11 corners to three for the Raiders, but couldn’t find the finishing touch.

“We had plenty of opportunities, and that’s the stuff that we’re

working on as a group, how to finish and capitalize in front of the net,” she said. “I felt like we really dominated the majority of the play in the third quarter in particular and for a definite good chunk of the fourth quarter.”

Addison Coleman and Addie Gould scored for the 6-2 Raiders, a Division II contender.

Sophomore Eleanor Hurlburt and senior Addison Wright were among the Eagles who created scoring chances.

On Monday the Eagles defeated host Stowe, 1-0, as June Yates-

Rusch scored in the second period with an assist from Hurlburt. Eagle freshman goalie Jillian Cousino stopped all three shots that she faced, while the Eagles pelted the Raider goalie with 16 shots, including the game-winner that found the back of the cage.

The win was the Eagles’ fourth in five outings and moved them to 5-4.

“It’s exciting for them,” Myers said the morning after the game. “I’m excited for them.”

Overall Myers is pleased with her team, which has already

won more than twice as many games as the program did a year ago — despite for the first time in decades not having a junior varsity program and thus incorporating younger players at the varsity level. She credits leadership from her veterans.

“My senior class is just a group of kids who wanted to change the tide,” she said. “They’re really just creating this enjoyable, positive atmosphere that the group is absolutely thriving on.”

Her young back line and

(See Field hockey, Page 4B)



**VUHS SOPHOMORE LAUREN Hill** digs deep as she nears the finish of the U-32 Invitational cross country race in East Montpelier this past Saturday. Claiming 55th place out of 121 runners, Hill was the top finisher for the non-scoring Commodore girls' team.

Photo by Joe McVeigh

## Local cross country teams finish mid-pack

**EAST MONTPELIER** — The Middlebury Union High School girls' cross-country team finished seventh among 15 scoring teams at this past Saturday's U-32 Invitational, while the Tiger boys were 10th out of 17 scoring teams.

Hanover, N.H., breezed to victory in the girls' race, and St. Johnsbury won the boys' race.

The Tigers' Mary Harrington posted the best finish of any local runner, taking 12th in the girls' race in 21:03. VUHS sophomore

Lauren Hill took 55th to lead the non-scoring Commodore girls' team. The first finisher for the non-scoring Mount Abraham girls' runners was junior Merissa Gordon in 110th in the big field.

The top local male runner overall was Mount Abe freshman Del Guilmette, who finished 36th in 18:29 for the non-scoring Eagles. Senior Kaden Hammond led the Tigers by taking 42nd in 18:54, and senior Carter McGuire led the non-scoring Commodore contingent by finishing 46th in

19:12.

The local teams are all scheduled to compete next on this Saturday in the annual Woods Trail Run at Thetford Academy on the same challenging course that will host the state championship races on Oct. 25.

Before then the county schools are scheduled to send runners to the Northern Vermont Athletic Conference championship meet, which Missisquoi will host on Oct. 9.

## VUHS, Eagle girls' soccer net wins

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

**ADDISON COUNTY** — In recent high school girls' soccer action, Vergennes picked up two more victories to remain unbeaten, Mount Abraham earned a tie and Middlebury dropped two contests.

In a scheduling note, the Tigers had been set to visit Mount Abe on this coming Saturday, but that game has been moved to 2 p.m. on this Friday, Oct. 3, due to conflicts with SAT testing on Oct. 4.

### COMMODORES

On Sept. 26 the Commodores defeated host Enosburg, 5-0. VUHS Coach Morgan Kathan was pleased with the Commodores' effort. "Our passing and moving was some of the best it has been this season," she said in an email.

**Ava Francis** scored twice to lead the attack, once on a penalty kick and once assisted by **Ayla Kittredge**. Kittredge added an unassisted goal, **Isabelle Van Voorst** scored with an assist from **Faith McAllister**, and **Sophia James** scored assisted by **Ella Romond**. VUHS goalie **Addie Smith** made two saves in the shutout, and the Hornet goalie made eight saves.

On Monday the Commodores rolled to another shutout win, this time by 6-0 over visiting Caledonia

United. They broke the game open with three quick goals shortly after halftime after scoring twice in the first half.

The Commodores improved to 8-0 with the victory and remained in first place in the Division III points standings, per the Vermont Principals' Association website.

Six Commodores scored a goal apiece: Kittredge (two assists) James (one assist), Francis, McAllister, **Lauren Husk** and **Ashtin Stearns**. Smith made two saves for VUHS. Eliska Siebenbrunner made six saves for Caledonia United.

The Commodores will hit the road for two games in the coming week. They are set to play at Winooski at 11 a.m. on Saturday and at Fairfax at 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

### EAGLES

On Saturday, the Eagles used a late **Sophie Underwood** goal on a direct kick to rally for a 2-2 tie with host D-I foe Rutland. **Payton Shepard** scored earlier for Mount Abe, and RHS got scores from Phoenix Woodard and Maisha Hendrickson, with Hendrickson's goal putting the home team ahead midway through the second half.

Both goalies, the Eagles' **Brooklyn Ryersbach** and Rutland's Jordan Bixby, made 14

saves.

On Monday the Eagles edged Milton, 1-0, in a closely contested battle. **Skylar McDonald** scored the game's only goal as Mount Abe evened its record at 4-4-1. Shots on goal were almost even, as Ryersbach made nine saves, and Milton goalie Lily Daunais made 10.

After hosting MUHS on Friday afternoon, next up for the Eagles is a visit to Rice on Tuesday at 4 p.m. **TIGERS**

On Sept. 26 visiting Rice blanked the Tigers, 7-0. Ruby Levinson (three goals) and Reese Billings (two goals) led the Rice attack, and Green Knight goalie Peyton Borick stopped both of the Tiger shots on target. **Ellie Orten** (three) saves and **Marley Lambert** (two saves) split time in goal for the Tigers.

On Monday Host St. Albans edged the Tigers, 1-0. Comet Izzy Montague knocked in the game's only goal in the second half, and St. Albans goalie Amelia Pinkham made saves.

Orten and Lambert combined for eight saves for the Tigers, who dropped to 1-7.

After Friday afternoon's showdown with the host Eagles, next up on the Tigers' schedule is a 4 p.m. home game on Tuesday vs. Milton.

## Tiger eleven grounds Redhawks

**MIDDLEBURY** — The Middlebury Union High School football team made short work of visiting Division I rival Champlain Valley on Friday night, bolting to a 35-0 halftime lead on the way to a 42-0 victory.

The first-place Tigers improved to 4-0 and are the only undefeated team in D-I at the season's midway point. Rutland, Burr & Burton and St. Johnsbury are in second, third and fourth places in the quality

points standings, all with 3-1 records. CVU dropped to 2-2 and into fifth place.

MUHS will host also undefeated Hartford this Friday. The Hurricanes are 4-0, but moved to D-II and are in first place in that division.

The Tigers' big point total vs. the Redhawks was just half the story — the Tigers held CVU to 30 yards of total offense.

Sparking the MUHS offense

was once again the running game behind the offensive line. That group paved the way for running back Logan McNulty to rush 14 times for 162 yards and touchdown runs of 19, 23 and 29 yards.

Running back Ben Debisschop ran for one score and also tossed a 56-yard halfback-option touchdown pass to quarterback Brady Lloyd. Lloyd also threw a touchdown pass to Marshall Eddy.

## Boys' soccer

(Continued from Page 1B) three saves for the shutout, and Landon Welch stopped nine shots for the Olympians.

On Tuesday host Caledonia United blanked the Commodores, 1-0. The home team's Sam McLane scored the only goal with nine minutes remaining. Both goalies, the Commodores' Reed and Caledonia's Josh Peterson, made six saves.

The Commodores are 5-3 after the mixed results. They are set to host Blue Mountain at 4 p.m. on Friday, and next up is a 4 p.m. home date vs. Enosburg on Monday.

### TIGERS

On Saturday host Rutland edged the Tigers, 1-0. A Ciaran Wiazalis penalty kick proved to be the difference. RHS goalie Colin Rider made six saves, five in the first half, when the Tigers had more chances. MUHS goalie **Lyle Carey** blocked 14 shots in another strong outing.

On Tuesday the Tigers blanked host Missisquoi, 4-0, as Carey (two saves) and **Jonathan Kafumbe** (one save) shared the shutout. Two T-Bird goalies

combined for seven stops.

Offensively, the Tigers goals came from **Noah Gillespie**, assisted by **Porter McDonnell**, Kafumbe, from **Gabe Velez**; and two from **Henry McDonnell** one assisted by **Ben Longman** and one set up by **Oscar Drake**.

Also, due to incorrect information supplied by an away coach, the *Independent* last week published an incorrect account of the timing and scorers of the goals during the Tigers' recent 3-2 overtime victory at Milton.

**Tim Laframboise** scored the game-winner in overtime. Kafumbe scored the first goal for the Tigers, with an assist from Drake, and **Landon Hunt** tied the game with an assist from Velez.

The Tigers will carry a 3-5 record into their game at Mount Abe this Friday. Next up is a home Oct. 6 makeup game with Rice and then an Oct. 8 home game with Winooski, both at 4 p.m.

## Volleyball

(Continued from Page 1B)

On Monday the Tigers improved to 8-1 with a three-set sweep of host Vermont Commons, 25-8, 25-9 and 25-16.

Coach Morrissey noted that her team served well in the match, and that at this point of the season every member of the varsity team now has recorded a service ace.

On this coming Saturday fellow Division II contender Hartford is scheduled to visit the Tigers at 11:30 a.m.

The Tigers are set to head up to Bristol to face the Eagles on Monday at 6 p.m.

### EAGLES

On Sept. 26 the Eagles lost in three sets to Division II title contender Hartford. Mount Abe nearly pulled out the first set before falling, 26-24, and then the Hurricanes rolled in the next two sets 25-9 and 25-11, behind strong serving and 25 kills overall.

**Paige Guilbeault** led the Eagles with five kills, and **Gemma Lyles** led with five aces.

Harwood is scheduled to visit the 2-6 Eagles on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. before the Tigers come to Bristol on Monday.

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(Continued from Page 1B)

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# MAV rolls

(Continued from Page 1B)  
other Yellowjackets plays on the possession gained a total of four yards until a 10-yard De La Cruz sack forced a punt to the Eagle 40.

From there, Gagnon ran to the left, got a couple key blocks, cut back to the right, and left a trail of would-be tacklers on the way to the end zone. It was a 7-0 MAV lead with 7:45 on the clock after Lincoln Painter kicked the first of his eight straight extra points.

The teams exchanged fumbles over the next two possessions, and then after Windsor went three-and-out the Eagles got the ball on their 43. Five plays later Gagnon ran wide left into the end zone from 17 yards out, and it was 14-0 at 3:06 of the first.

Wright's interception ended what briefly had looked like a promising Windsor drive and set up MAV on the Yellowjacket 34 early in the second period. Three plays later, including a Stearns 23-yard run, Stearns waltzed into the end zone, and it was 21-0 at 7:42.

Windsor went three-and out-again and punted to the Eagle 36. Six plays later it was 28-0 at 2:31. Lathrop completed passes to Levi Smith for 27 yards and Mason Atkins for 14 to help move the ball to the 17, and Gagnon bolted for the TD from there.

Windsor came its closest to scoring in its ensuing possession. Petschke hit Aiden Doxter for 18

yards and Jack Burke for 22 to put the Yellowjackets within striking distance. The final play of the half came on fourth down and 10 from the Eagle 15. It looked like Petschke had a receiver open in the back of the end zone, but Stearns knocked the ball away at the last second.

As the second half began MAV and Gagnon quickly dashed any hopes of a miracle comeback. Gagnon returned the opening kickoff 80 yards behind a wall of blockers, dusting the last tackler with a chance to stop him near midfield with a shoulder shimmy, and it was 35-0 with 14 seconds gone.

On the following Windsor possession, the ball popped loose on the exchange between Petschke and his center, and Gagnon escaped the scrum that followed with the ball and raced untouched to the end zone; 42-0.

After the following Windsor possession ended with four straight incompletions, the Eagles started at midfield. Three Gagnon runs moved the ball to the 20. On the next play Lathrop faked a handoff to Gagnon and raced around the left side for the touchdown: 49-0.

Shortly afterward the running-time mercy rule took effect, but the Eagles still managed to score one more time after Smith's interception set them up on the Windsor 35. Two Stearns runs moved them to the 4-yard line,

and Atkins did the honors from there to create the final score.

Stein is happy with the team's work in all aspects of the game.

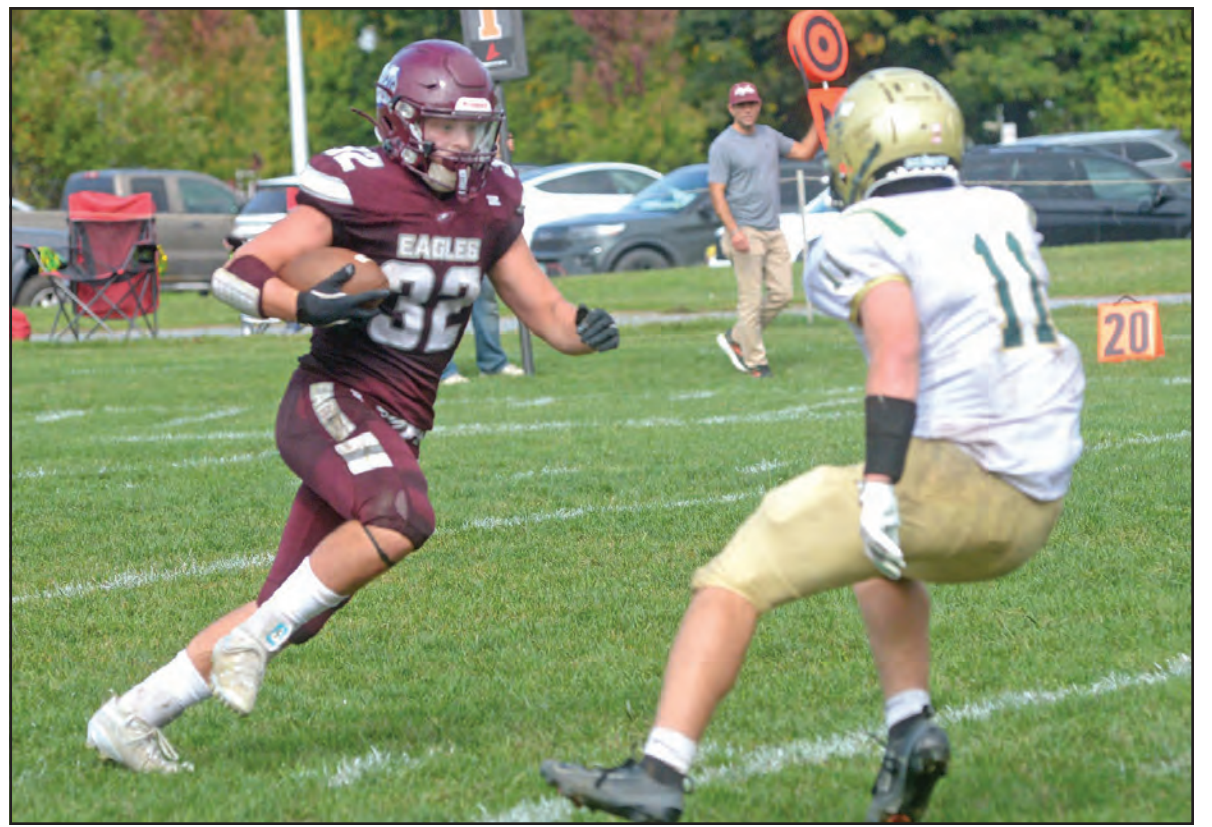
"I thought our guys came out with good effort," he said. "I've said before this is a special group. I think what I'm more proud about is just how all these wins have been a whole group effort. We're getting it done on special teams. We're getting it done on offense. We're doing it on defense. I mean, three shutouts in four games is pretty solid on defense in my opinion. Hats off to those guys. They're playing hard-nosed football. Midseason, we're making adjustments. We're getting better and better."

The group appears to have solid chemistry. Shout-outs for good blocking and tackling along the sidelines were common on Saturday, for example.

"It's just a team that takes pride in their brothers beside them being successful," Stein said.

The Eagles also appear to be D-III contender, but Stein doesn't want them to look that far ahead. Division II Rice (2-2) this Saturday at home is enough to think about, in his opinion.

"We're just looking forward to each week, just trying to stay 1-0," Stein said. "It will be tough next week with Rice coming in. I think they're a pretty decent team. We scrimmaged them, and we'll see how we match up."



MAV RUNNING BACK Cole Gagnon makes a move on a Windsor player, sweeps past him and into the end zone to score on the Eagles' first play of the second half on Saturday. Independent photo/John S. McCright



MAV SENIOR LINEMAN Tyson Hallock (72) clears away Windsor defenders to make way for a Cole Gagnon run during Saturday's Division III football game at Mount Abe. Independent photo/John S. McCright



MAV SENIOR QUARTERBACK Rhett Lathrop swings left on a keeper Saturday and carries it into the end zone for a score. Independent photo/John S. McCright

# Golf

(Continued from Page 1B)  
seventh and eighth, respectively, in a 12-team scoring field loaded with D-I competitors.

The Tiger golfers' scores were Max Ayer 87, Reaney McKinley 89, Rowdy Malcolm 93, Peter Fuller 93, and Ryan Brouillard 98.

The Eagle golfers' scores were Jackson LaMarche 86, Stefan Johnson 87, Spencer Sears 92, Joe Sullivan 98, and Andy Konczal 101.

Two Commodore golfers competed as individuals: Ben

Hale shot a local best of 85, and Asa Root-Pratt came in at 90.

### SEPT. 24 ACTION

Golfers from local schools were also in action on Sept. 24. At Basin Harbor, Commodore Quinn LeBeau shot a 37 to earn medalist honors in a three-team match in which the VUHS team finished second behind Missisquoi.

Missisquoi won with a score of 170, followed by VUHS 180 and Colchester 192.

The other Commodore scores were, Ben Hale 40, Asa Root-Pratt

47, and Ryan Johnson 56.

Also that day, at Orleans Country Club, Mount Abraham was fourth among four teams. St. Johnsbury won with a score of 173 and also fielded the medalist, Mario Alvarez, who shot a 40.

The other team scores were Burlington 179, Essex 180 and Mount Abraham 187.

The Eagles' scores were Stefan Johnson 43, Spencer Sears 46, Jackson LaMarche 49, Joe Sullivan 49, and Andy Konczal 51.

38th Annual

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# Schedule Field Hockey

(Continued from Page 1B)

10/3 MUHS at Mt Abe	2 PM
10/4 VUHS at Winooski	1 PM
10/7 Mt Abe at Rice	4 PM
10/7 Fairfax at VUHS	4 PM
10/7 Milton at MUHS	4 PM

**Boys' Soccer**

10/3 Blue Mt at VUHS	4 PM
10/3 MUHS at Mt Abe	4 PM
10/4 Enosburg at VUHS	4 PM
10/6 Rice at MUHS	4 PM
10/8 Mt Abe at Missisquoi	4 PM
10/8 Winooski at MUHS	4 PM
10/9 VUHS at GMVS	4 PM
10/11 MUHS at St Albans	10 AM
10/11 Paine Mt at VUHS	2 PM
10/4 Hartford at MUHS	11:30 AM
10/4 Harwood at Mt Abe	11:30 AM
10/6 MUHS at Mt Abe	6 PM
10/8 Harwood at MUHS	6 PM
10/8 Mt Abe at Lyndon	6 PM
10/10 Randolph at Mt Abe	6 PM
10/11 MUHS at Montpelier	12:30 PM

**Cross Country**

10/4	Local Teams at Thetford Invite
10/9	NVAC Meet at Missisquoi

**Golf**

10/7	State Tour. at Dorset Field Club
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**Bass Fishing**

10/4	VT Championship off Grand Isle
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**COLLEGE SPORTS**

**Men's Soccer**

10/4	Bowdoin at Midd	Noon
10/5	Thomas at Midd	2 PM
10/11	Midd at Colby	2 PM

**Field Hockey**

10/4	Bowdoin at Midd	Noon
10/11	Midd at Colby	11 AM
10/12	Wesleyan at Midd	Noon

**Women's Soccer**

10/4	Bowdoin at Midd	11 AM
10/11	Midd at Colby	11 AM
10/12	Midd at S. Maine	12:30 PM

**Football**

10/4	Amherst at Midd	2 PM
10/11	Midd at Williams	2 PM

High school games are subject to last-minute schedule changes, and reporting of changes is not always timely for our deadline. Fans are advised to consult school websites for event dates and times.

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(Continued from Page 1B)

in goal are also growing into their roles, Myers said, communicating better and playing with more confidence.

"We're starting to settle in defensively," she said. "We're slowly gaining that experience, game after game, which is letting us sort even more things out."

Myers said the Eagles have been willing to focus on improving, which bodes well for better play from a young team in the second half of the season.

"Our group has been really receptive to the things we need to work on and really making the effort to try to get better at those things," she said. "So it's a total team effort."

The Eagles are scheduled to host Harwood at 10 a.m. on Saturday and visit Milton at 6 p.m. on Monday, per the school website.

**TIGERS**

On Sept. 26 the Tigers defeated

host Lyndon, 3-1, with goals from **Quinn Doria**, **Lena Giuliani** and **Elle MacIntyre**; **Thea Boglioli** assisted MacIntyre's strike. Tiger goalie **Heaven Ross** continued her strong season by backstopping the victory with nine saves.

On Tuesday, another trip to the same neighborhood did not end as well for the Tigers, as host D-1 St. Johnsbury defeated the Tigers, 4-1. **Emmy Morgan**, **Aven Thomas**, **Claire Trojano** and **Sylvia Laplant** scored a goal apiece for the Hilltoppers, who improved to 2-6.

**Doria** scored for MUHS, and **Jocelyn Foster** recorded a defensive save.

The Tigers will carry a 2-5 record into a home game this Thursday at Missisquoi at 4 p.m. Next up is a Tuesday home game at 4:30 p.m. vs. U-32.

The Tigers' Sept. 25 game at Harwood was postponed until Oct. 13 at 4 p.m.



EAGLE SOPHOMORE FORWARD Willa Kaeck slips the ball between two defenders during the Mount Abe field hockey team's rainy Sept. 25 home game.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

## Ridge Run set for Oct. 12

RIPTON — The 38th Annual Ripton Ridge Run is coming up on Sunday, Oct. 12.

In the heart of Vermont's Green Mountains, where fall colors peak and community ties run deep, the Ridge Run has long been more than a race. It's a tradition, a celebration of Ripton's spirit, and a fundraiser for its youth. And this year, with the closure of the Ripton Elementary School — the site of the race's start and finish — it takes on even greater importance.

With homemade chili simmering, leaves crunching underfoot, and friends and neighbors cheering runners on, the Ridge Run captures everything that makes small-town Vermont magical. From the coveted handmade glass medallions to the hearty lunch, it's a day filled with movement, connection and community pride. And whether you're a seasoned runner, a casual walker, or just there for the raffle and food, there's something for

everyone.

On the 12th, runners and walkers will gather at the school for a 12:30 p.m. start. There will be competitions in a 5K run, 10K run (counter-clockwise this year) and a 5K Fun Walk. Plus there will be a virtual option also available.

In addition to the getting the chance to move around in the fresh air with neighbors, participants will get a long-sleeve cotton t-shirt, homemade bagged lunch and entry into a raffle with a variety of great local items. Finishers will receive handmade glass medallions and top finisher will get Middle Money to spend at Middlebury participating stores.

For the younger set, look for a Kids' Race on a fun half-mile course through the woods, with ribbons for participants and a short-sleeved cotton t-shirt.

Pre-register now at [www.riptonridgerun.org](http://www.riptonridgerun.org). In-person registration opens at 11 a.m. on race day.



DURING A RAINY home game on Sept. 25, Eagle ninth-grader Natalie Layn blocks a U-32 advance and the ball pops up in the air.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

# MIDDLEBURY TIGERS FOOTBALL

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by the Addison County Independent

## THE ADDY INDY DIGITAL TEAM IS GROWING!

You already know the Addison Independent as your trusted print partner, now we're expanding our digital offerings, too.

### MEET RYAN!

Meet Ryan Gabbert, the newest member of our Independent Digital Marketing team! Ryan was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana, before attending college at the University of Dayton, where he majored in History. He relocated to Vermont in July with his wife, Kim, and 5-year-old Lab, Ozzy. As the new Digital Sales & Marketing Executive at the Addison Independent, he will be working alongside Digital Manager/Sales Co-Director, Jenna Hunsinger, to meet the evolving needs of our community.

To learn more about Independent Digital Marketing, visit our new website or reach out to us directly. We'd love to chat!

**WE'RE EXCITED TO KEEP HELPING  
ADDISON COUNTY BUSINESSES THRIVE**

IN PRINT AND ONLINE.

**Ryan Gabbert**  
[ryang@addisonindependent.com](mailto:ryang@addisonindependent.com)

**Jenna Hunsinger**  
[jennah@addisonindependent.com](mailto:jennah@addisonindependent.com)

[independentdigitalmarketing.com](http://independentdigitalmarketing.com)

# Salisbury man arrested for domestic assault

**ADDISON COUNTY** — Vermont State Police received a 911 call on Sept. 24 at a quarter after 5 p.m. about a reported domestic assault in Salisbury. The victim reported that a household member had assaulted them causing pain.

Troopers investigated the incident and took Larry Bougor, 47, of Salisbury into custody without incident. Police cited him for second degree aggravated domestic assault.

A second notable incident came up in a state police report on Monday, Sept. 29, when troopers reported that back in April they had received a report of an assault that occurred on April 26 in Ferrisburgh. Detectives investigated and said they determined that Laurent Lussier, 56, of Middlebury had non-consensual sexual contact with an adult female.

On Sept. 29 they took Lussier into custody, took him to the New Haven Barracks and cited him for sexual assault.

In other recent activity, troopers:
 

- On Sept. 20 at 8:31 a.m. were notified of a burglary at 9th State Dispensary in Ferrisburgh. Through

investigation they determined that two unknown individuals drove up to the Route 7 business in a white mid 2010s Chrysler 200, forced entry into the building and stole an ATM.

Anyone with information about the operation of this vehicle is asked to call Trooper Calderon-Guthe at 802-388-4919, or leave an anonymous tip online at [vsp.vermont.gov/prevention/tipssubmit](http://vsp.vermont.gov/prevention/tipssubmit).

- On Sept. 23 shortly before 7 p.m. logged a report of a one-car crash on Route 17 near Lafayette Road in Starksboro. Troopers identified the operator of V#1 as Danielle Conant (41) of New Haven, Vermont. Police ended up citing Danielle M. Conant, 41, of New Haven for driving under the influence, second offense, and negligent driving. The car she was driving, a 2024 Mazda CX-50, sustained front-end damage, but Conant did not report any injuries to herself.

- Responded to a second crash on Sept. 26 at around 4:30 p.m. The two-vehicle crash occurred on Route 7 at Greenbush Road

## Vt. State Police Log

in Ferrisburgh. Troopers report that Katharine Adams, 45 of Ferrisburgh was driving a 2016 VW Golf Sport Wagon and stopped on Route 7 waiting to make a turn onto Greenbush Road when a 2014 Nissan Rouge driven by Brenda Novak, 66 of Saint-Laurent, Quebec, rear-ended the VW. Both drivers reported minor injuries.

Ferrisburgh Fire Department, Charlotte EMS and Addison County Sheriff's Department assisted with the crash.

- On Sept. 26 at around 5:30 p.m. observed motor vehicle violation on Washington Street near Route 7 in Middlebury and stopped the car. They ended up citing George Sheldrick, 41, of Pittsford for driving with a criminally suspended license and without a required ignition interlock device installed in his vehicle.



### Run for the money

**THE FIRST EVER** Silver Heist Run/Walk in Orwell this past Saturday proved to be a lot of fun. Commemorating an 1862 robbery in town, the pre-race entertainment featured Cliff Hunter as the bandit dressed in black-and-white stripes being arrested by a real Addison County sheriff's deputy. Then came the 5K race with 66 participants raising more than \$2,300 for the Orwell Village School Booster Club and the Orwell Historical Society Museum.

Photo by Joe Andriano

# Alcohol a factor in disorderly conduct

**VERGENNES** — Vergennes police cited two people, a Vergennes resident and Burlington resident, for disorderly conduct after responding to a Sept. 25 late-afternoon report from the Booth Woods neighborhood that a man in a home there was yelling at residents outside.

Police cited George Pappas, 40, of Burlington and Kaitlin Curtis, 36, of Vergennes into in court on Dec. 22. According to the department's weekly press release, while responding to the complaint officers, "determined alcohol was a contributing factor to the behavior of both Pappas and Curtis." Police then took both to a detox facility "due to their level of intoxication."

Also between Sept. 22 and 28, Vergennes police conducted 17 traffic stops, 10 cruiser and three foot patrols, and a VIN inspection; processed three fingerprint requests; and:

- On Sept. 25:
  - Received a late report of a family fight at a city home; police said an investigation is ongoing.
  - Helped Middlebury police, a task that involved visiting a Thomas Circle residence.
  - After receiving a report of possible sexual exploitation of minors began an investigation

police described as ongoing.

- Documented a series of phone calls from a Hillside Acres resident with known mental health issues.

- Issued a no-trespass order to a homeless individual who had entered the Evergreen Preschool. When escorted out by an employee, the individual had allegedly started yelling that staff members were corrupting the children. Police found the individual on Main Street to issue the order

- Were told a Main Street resident was possibly missing, but learned the individual was deceased.

- Were informed by Northlands Job Corps security that two students had been in a fight in which one sustained a bloody nose, but neither person wanted to speak with the police. Police asked Northlands security to give the students police contact information in case they wanted to file a report.

- Checked the welfare of a Walker Ave. woman reported to be screaming, and found her to be OK.

- On Sept. 26 responded to an accident on South Maple Street in which a delivery van went off the road into a ditch. Police said the driver reported minor injuries.

- On Sept. 27:
  - Responded to the report of a

## Vergennes Police Log

man who had fallen and was lying in the roadway on Pantown Road. He was injured, and citizens helped him until police and EMTs arrived. Police said he was transported to a hospital to be treated.

- Went to a Main Street address to calm a dispute about personal property. Police issued a no-trespass notice to one party for a Main Street property.

- Checked on suspicious activity in the parking lot next to the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad headquarters. They discovered people were parking a camper there because it would not fit in their driveway.

- Provided an escort for a benefit motorcycle ride for domestic violence awareness. Donations received went to the Atria Collective and the Finding Ashley Goodrich Fund.

- On Sept. 28 responded to a reported family argument at a Green Street residence, and after speaking to the people there determined there were no issues at that time.

## Sheriff negotiates coverage for rural towns

### Sheriff's Log

**ADDISON COUNTY** — Late last month, Sheriff Michael Elmore met with selectboards in three Addison County towns to discuss contracted law enforcement from his department. He met with officials in Goshen and Ripton on Sept. 22 and with Monkton officials on Sept. 23.

Between Sept. 21 and 27, deputies completed patrols in multiple towns, stopped 45 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations and fingerprinted 11 people for background check. Sheriff Elmore's deputies also escorted oversized loads from Middlebury to New Hampshire; specifically one load on Sept. 22, two loads on Sept. 23 and two loads on Sept. 25.

In other recent activity, Elmore and his deputies also:

- On Sept. 21 collected bail for a person who was arrested on a warrant by Middlebury police.
- On Sept. 22 conducted a background investigation in Middlebury.
- On Sept. 22 discovered a lost package in the middle of the road on Route 7 in Waltham and delivered it to the address.
- On Sept. 22 verified Vehicle Identification Numbers for residents in New Haven, Goshen and Leicester.
- On Sept. 23 assigned extra deputies to courthouse duties during a jury trial.
- On Sept. 24 Sheriff Elmore virtually attended a meeting with other sheriffs from around Vermont.
- On Sept. 24 assisted a driver with a flat tire on Route 125 in Bridport.
- On Sept. 25 helped out Middlebury police at a Route 7 crash.
- On Sept. 25 assisted a Casella truck that had gone off the road on Mount Independence Road in Orwell.
- On Sept. 25 transported a person

to Grace House in Rutland for the Vergennes police.

- On Sept. 26 Sheriff Elmore hosted State Director of Animal Welfare Lisa Milot at the Sheriff's Office to discuss animal welfare with various community partners. See story on Page 1A.

- On Sept. 26 checked the welfare of a Bristol resident and found they were living out of town and were alive and well.

- On Sept. 26 gave a hand to state police at a crash site on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh.

- On Sept. 27 provided traffic control for the Silver Heist 5K road race in Orwell.

- On Sept. 27 escorted a memory ride for Ashley Goodrich in Vergennes.

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## Relax at Lake Dunmore

STAY AT ONE OF THESE TWO BEAUTIFUL YEAR-ROUND COTTAGES!

**DOCKSIDE:** Is a newly-renovated (2025) four-bedroom, three-bath home looking over the lake with a private dock, lakeside patio with firepit, sunny deck and a half acre of lawns and gardens. It also has new hardwood floors, a fieldstone fireplace and custom tiled bathrooms.

See more at: [AIRBNB.COM/H/DOCKSIDE-COTTAGE](https://airbnb.com/h/dockside-cottage)  
For pricing and availability contact: [lisagskis@yahoo.com](mailto:lisagskis@yahoo.com)

SCAN TO BOOK YOUR STAY!

**THE COTTAGE:** Minutes from Middlebury and the Snow Bowl. An easy drive to Pico or Killington. This beautifully renovated 4-season cottage is perfect for family gatherings or couples' getaways, college visits or graduation. Sleeps 6. Bright, spacious, clean and private with a large cook's kitchen, 2 custom bathrooms, lake access and kayaks.

See more at: [AIRBNB.COM/H/LAKE-DUNMORE-COTTAGE](https://airbnb.com/h/lake-dunmore-cottage)  
For pricing and availability contact: [lisagskis@yahoo.com](mailto:lisagskis@yahoo.com)

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From left to right: Ben Fuller, Gretchen Kellogg, Wendy Hunt, Susan Hayes, Kelley Knight, Tammy Leno, Brooke Zeno, Missy Clifford, Heather Barnard, Catherine Bresette

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# Ferrisburgh

Have a news tip?  
Email Sally Kerschner at  
smwkersch@comcast.net

## NEWS

FERRISBURGH — Rokeby Museum is presenting an immersive theater experience inspired by the Spiritualist history at the museum. Ticket holders will gather for a drink and a short talk on Victorian Spiritualism before entering the historic Robinson home, where actors will guide them through participatory dramatization, recreating séances based on Rokeby records and other historical accounts. Split Spirits will be at the séances, offering specialty cocktails and also hot cider. The dates are Oct. 17 and 18, and Oct. 24 and 25 from 5 – 9:30 p.m. For tickets and more information visit: [www.rokeby.com](http://www.rokeby.com).

Bixby Library readers can sign up for an epic fall and winter journey where every minute spent reading helps to collect and play with amazing dragon cards! The “Enter the Dragon’s Lair” adventure officially begins Tuesday, Oct. 7. Readers can log in their reading minutes to hatch their egg, raise their baby dragon, and watch it evolve from teen to adult. New dragon sets will be released every month. The reading tracker can be picked up at the Bixby circulation desk. Created by a library in Dover, Ohio, this magical program is perfect for readers of all ages. Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/Bixby-dragons>.

October’s Bixby Book Club discussion will be held on Tuesday,

Oct. 14, at 6 p.m. This month’s book, “The Maid,” by Nita Prose, is about a charmingly eccentric hotel maid who discovers a guest murdered in his bed, thus turning her once orderly world upside down and inspiring a motley crew of unexpected allies to band together to solve the mystery. The Bixby Book Club meets at the library every second Tuesday of the month. Please check the library calendar for details about upcoming book discussions and contact Martha at [martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org](mailto:martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org) for more information about joining the book club.

The Ferrisburgh Historical Society will host Kevin Graffagnino on Sunday, Oct. 26, at 2 p.m. at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center. The topic will be “Why Vermont History Matters.” Graffagnino will address the ways that history enhances a sense of identity in individuals, how knowledge of local history builds community ties between natives and newcomers, and the role that history can play in creating a better future for the next generation of Vermonters. Dr. Graffagnino has a long and respected career as a historian and is known for his deep knowledge of Vermont history. In 2024, the Vermont Historical Society published his book, “Ira Allen: A Biography.”

(See Ferrisburgh, Page 7B)



# calendar

## THURSDAY

**2 ASL Club in Brandon.** Thursday, Oct. 2 and weekly on Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Collaborative American Sign Language learning using video tutorials. Free.

## SATURDAY

**4 Dead Creek Wildlife Day in Addison.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Dead Creek WMA, 966 Route 17 West. Bird banding begins at 7 a.m.; main events 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Activities include birding, fishing, hunting, working dogs, reptiles and conservation programs. Free. More info at [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com) or 802-878-1564.

**Fall Festival in Bridport.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Town Green, 82 Crown Point Rd. Celebrate fall with the town of Bridport’s festival featuring crafters, vendors, food and live music. Free.

**Fall Family market in Middlebury.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., College Park. Welcome to Middlebury College Families during Fall Family Weekend. Learn more at [ExperienceMiddlebury.com/mid-markets](http://ExperienceMiddlebury.com/mid-markets).

**Fall Family Day at Maple Landmark in Middlebury.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 1297 Exchange St. Bring the kids to Maple Landmark for a day of play and discovery with a wooden toy play area and a 9-hole mini golf course. Factory open house. Pratt’s Catering and maple slushies available. Free.

**Meet the Maker: Toppla in Middlebury.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 12 noon, Vermont’s Own, 64 Main St. Learn and play Toppla, a two-player quick strategy game with surprising complexity. Inventor Mark Gonyea will be on hand to teach and play. Drop in for a quick 10-minute game. Free. More info at [vtsown.com](http://vtsown.com), 802-388-7711.

**Goshen Historical Society membership drive in Goshen.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 1 p.m., Ruth Stone House, 788 Hathaway Rd. A potluck and barbecue with burgers and hot dogs on the grill. Free to attend, with raffles of local items and opportunities to support the society’s mission of researching and documenting the rich history of Goshen and its people. Donations welcome.

**Blessing of the animals in honor of St. Francis Day in Ripton.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 2-3 p.m., Ripton Community Church, 1283 Route 125. Stop by with your animals (including stuffed animals) for a special blessing celebrating our friendships with all creatures.

**Bingo at St. Peter’s Church in Vergennes.** Saturday, Oct. 4, doors open 5 p.m., games 6 p.m., St. Peter’s Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Family-friendly bingo with cash prizes, 50/50 raffle and refreshments. Sponsored by the St. Peter’s Cemetery Committee to benefit cemetery improvements.

**Roast Pork Supper in Monkton.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 5-6:30 p.m., Monkton Friends Methodist Church, 78 Monkton Ridge. Adults \$15, children 6-12 \$12, children 5 and under free.

**All-ages contra dance in Middlebury.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 7-9 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. All are welcome, with or without a partner or experience. Richard Hopkins will call and teach each dance. Live band. Free. Please park at MUHS.

## SUNDAY

**5 VFW Breakfast in Middlebury.** Sunday, Oct. 5, 8-10 a.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Hearty breakfast menu including pancakes, omelets, bacon, sausage, hash browns and biscuits with sausage gravy. Proceeds benefit veterans programs. \$13 adults, \$7 children. More info at 802-388-9468.

## TUESDAY

**7 Pins and Needles Craft Club in Brandon.** Tuesday, Oct. 7 and weekly on Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Bring your own supplies and stitch or craft with the group. Free.

**Serious Reads Book Talk in Brandon.** Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Monthly discussion of thought-provoking titles. Stop in or call 802-247-8230 to reserve the book. Free.

## WEDNESDAY

**8 Grief Group with La Dimora in Brandon.** Wednesday, Oct. 8, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Support group gathering with end-of-life doula Becki Lund of La Dimora for people navigating any kind of grief. Free.

## THURSDAY

**9 Book donation day in Vergennes.** Thursday, Oct. 9, 3-6 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St., back parking lot. Donate books for the Friends of the Bixby Library’s used book sale. Fiction should be published after 2014 or be by a popular author; nonfiction should be current and saleable. More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

## FRIDAY

**10 RNESU Coffee Talk with Superintendent Sanchez in Brandon.** Friday, Oct. 10, 7:45-9:45 a.m., Morningside Bakery, 37 Center St. Families and community members are invited to meet with Superintendent Rene Sanchez



## Peak leaf peepin’

THIS WEEK PRESENTS lots of opportunities to celebrate autumn. Get up early on Saturday to see a bird banding demonstration at Dead Creek Wildlife Day in Addison, then head to the Bridport town green for a lively fall festival with crafts, food and music.

to ask questions, learn what’s going on and share ideas about Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union schools. Free. More info at [mesu.org/events](http://mesu.org/events).

## SATURDAY

**11 Used Book Sale in Vergennes.** Saturday, Oct. 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, Otter Creek Room, 258 Main St. Enter from the back parking lot. Browse a wide variety of fiction, nonfiction and children’s books, including recent donations. Sponsored by the Friends of the Bixby Library. More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

**Brandon Farmers Market Harvest Fair in Brandon.** Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m., Central Park, Franklin St. & Union St. More than 20 vendors will offer fall vegetables, maple syrup, honey, goat milk products, handcrafts, canned goods and more. Food and live music, too.

**Middlebury Pride market in Middlebury.** Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Triangle Park, corner of Main and Merchants Row. Celebrate PRIDE during the Pride Parade down Main Street and peruse the pop-up market. Learn more at [ExperienceMiddlebury.com/mid-markets](http://ExperienceMiddlebury.com/mid-markets).

**Fiber Arts Circle in Vergennes.** Saturday, Oct. 11, 12-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Bixby’s Fiber Arts Circle every other Saturday. Bring a work-in-progress or use yarn and knit/crochet kits from the Library of Things. All experience levels and ages welcome. More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

**Cuss and Cut Block Printing in Brandon.** Saturday, Oct. 11, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Learn linoleum block printing and let the profanities fly as you create. Ages 18 and up, no experience necessary. Spots are limited, please email [info@brandonpubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@brandonpubliclibrary.org) to register.

**Dance to Joe & Jackie in Middlebury.** Saturday, Oct. 11, 4-7 p.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Come dance to a mix of rock ‘n’ roll, country and oldies. Enjoy line dancing too! Kitchen open 4-6 p.m. Free and open to the public.

**Takeout turkey supper in Vergennes.** Saturday, Oct. 11, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, 129 Main St. Roast turkey with mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, roll, and dessert. Takeout preorder only; orders due by 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9. Adults \$12. Call 802-877-3150 to order.

**Barn Dance in Weybridge.** Saturday, Oct. 11, 5:30-8 p.m., Weybridge Elementary School, 210 Quaker Village Rd. Family-friendly barn dance with live music. Pasta, chili, beverages and desserts for sale. Admission by donation. Proceeds will benefit John Graham Shelter.

**Bingo at St. Peter’s Church in Vergennes.** Saturday, Oct. 11, doors open 5 p.m., games 6 p.m., St. Peter’s Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Family-friendly bingo with cash prizes, 50/50 raffle and refreshments. Sponsored by the St. Peter’s Historic Preservation Committee to benefit restoration of the church bell tower.

**Contra dance in Cornwall.** Saturday, Oct. 11, 7-9:30 p.m., Cornwall Town Hall, 2629 Route 30. Special guest fiddler Cedar Stanistreet performs with Red Dog Riley. Don Stratton will call. All dances taught; no experience necessary. \$5-\$10 or pay what you can.

**Freedom & Unity Town Hall in Bristol.** Saturday, Oct. 11, 7:30-11 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Moderated town hall discussion on local and national issues, followed by music/stand-up/open mic. Open to all. To participate in the panel discussion call or text Tom at 802-349-2289. To sign up for open mic, arrive by 7 p.m.

## SUNDAY

**12 Middlebury Car Show and Fall Festival in Middlebury.** Sunday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m., Triangle Park/Main St. Main Street will be closed to vehicle traffic so we can welcome 75 classic cars and trucks. Food trucks, 30+ vendors, music, kids’ activities and more. Free for spectators. Don’t

miss this fun, family-friendly event brought to you by the Addison County Chamber of Commerce and the Better Middlebury Partnership.

**Middlebury Market in Middlebury.** Sunday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Triangle Park. In conjunction with the Middlebury Car Show and Fall Festival, check out some great cars and stroll through the market to see what they have on offer. Learn more at [ExperienceMiddlebury.com/mid-markets](http://ExperienceMiddlebury.com/mid-markets).

## TUESDAY

**14 Bixby Book Club in Vergennes.** Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6-7 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. October’s selection is “The Maid” by Nita Prose. All readers are welcome, whether you’ve finished the book or just started. Copies available at the circulation desk or by emailing [martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org](mailto:martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org). Free.

**Cider & Doughnuts Concert in Bristol.** Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6 p.m., Mt. Abe Performing Arts Center, 220 Airport Drive. Join the Mt. Abe music department for a lively evening of cider, doughnuts and performances by the school’s vocal and instrumental ensembles.

## WEDNESDAY

**15 Brush Hour in Brandon.** Wednesday, Oct. 15, 6-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Relax with paint-by-numbers; materials provided. Free.

## THURSDAY

**16 Cookbook Club in Brandon.** Thursday, Oct. 16, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Share dishes and discuss the month’s cookbook. Free.

## FRIDAY

**17 Addison County Early Childhood Summit in Middlebury.** Friday, Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. A countywide, one-day summit bringing families, educators, child care providers and community leaders together to support early childhood development. Sponsored by the Addison County BBF Early Childhood Council, Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children and the Addison County Early Childhood Education Network. For more information, please contact [dsenecal@buildingbrightfutures.org](mailto:dsenecal@buildingbrightfutures.org) or [abessette@acsdvt.org](mailto:abessette@acsdvt.org).

**VFW Fish Fry in Middlebury.** Friday, Oct. 17, 5-7 p.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. On the menu: haddock, butterfly shrimp, baked potato, french fries and coleslaw. Eat in or takeout; takeout starts at 5 p.m. Proceeds benefit veterans’ programs. Open to the public. \$16 per person. More info at 802-388-9468.

**Rhythms of Resilience in Middlebury.** Friday, Oct. 17, 6-9 p.m., Notte, 86 Main St. A fundraiser supporting Atria’s free, confidential services for survivors of domestic violence in Addison County. Enjoy live music by Bad Fits, pizza and community. \$10 entry, cash bar. Event and raffle tickets available at [eventbrite.com/e/rhythms-of-resilience-tickets-1669113185469?aff=oddttdtcreator](http://eventbrite.com/e/rhythms-of-resilience-tickets-1669113185469?aff=oddttdtcreator).

## SATURDAY

**18 Mountains to Mouth: An Exploration of the Watershed in Monkton.** Saturday, Oct. 18, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Monkton Town Hall, 92 Monkton Ridge. A day-long celebration of the natural history of Monkton and the Lewis Creek watershed. More info at [lewis creek.org](http://lewis creek.org) or [kate@lewis creek.org](mailto:kate@lewis creek.org).

CALENDAR ONLINE  
[addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

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388-3171

- Community Playgroups
- Parent Education Classes
- Home Visits
- Pregnancy Prevention Programs
- Parent Training & Child Center

*Helping Young Families  
Get The Right Start*

## Reader Comments

Here’s what one reader has to say about us!

A subscriber from Bristol writes:

“Thank you for your excellent local news coverage.”

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

ADDISON COUNTY  
**INDEPENDENT**

## Vergennes Lions Club Third Annual

— ONLINE —  
**AUCTION**

Over 100 items donated from local merchants. All proceeds go back into the community through Lions programs.

The auction runs from  
**October 4<sup>th</sup> – October 10<sup>th</sup>**

You can get more info and BID at:

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VergennesLionsAuction2025](http://www.32auctions.com/VergennesLionsAuction2025)

Questions? Email [vergenneslionsclub8@gmail.com](mailto:vergenneslionsclub8@gmail.com)

**Vergennes Lions — We Serve.**

**7 Pins and Needles Craft Club in Brandon.** Tuesday, Oct. 7 and weekly on Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Bring your own supplies and stitch or craft with the group. Free.

**8 Grief Group with La Dimora in Brandon.** Wednesday, Oct. 8, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Support group gathering with end-of-life doula Becki Lund of La Dimora for people navigating any kind of grief. Free.

**9 Book donation day in Vergennes.** Thursday, Oct. 9, 3-6 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St., back parking lot. Donate books for the Friends of the Bixby Library’s used book sale. Fiction should be published after 2014 or be by a popular author; nonfiction should be current and saleable. More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

**10 RNESU Coffee Talk with Superintendent Sanchez in Brandon.** Friday, Oct. 10, 7:45-9:45 a.m., Morningside Bakery, 37 Center St. Families and community members are invited to meet with Superintendent Rene Sanchez

## RNESU invites all to chat with leader

BRANDON — Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU) is pleased to announce a returning series of informal gatherings designed to connect families and community members with Superintendent Rene Sanchez. These “Coffee Talks” and “Library Chats” provide open opportunities for conversation, questions, and sharing ideas about our schools. Superintendent Sanchez hopes to hear directly from the

community in a relaxed setting. The sessions are free and open to all. Coffee Talks will be held at local stores and cafés, while Library Chats will take place in two of our community libraries. Both formats are meant to be casual and welcoming, whether you have a specific concern, an idea to share, or just want to learn more about what’s happening across the district.

Upcoming Dates:  
Wednesday, Oct. 1 — Brandon

Free Public Library, 3 - 4:30 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 3 — Keith’s Country Store, Pittsford, 7:45-9:45 a.m.  
Friday, Oct. 10 — Morningside Bakery, Brandon, 7:45-9:45 a.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 23 — Maclure Library, Pittsford, 3-4:30 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 24 — Whiting General Store, 7:45 - 9:45 a.m.  
Wednesday, Nov. 12 — Sugar & Spice, Mendon, 7:45 - 9:45 a.m.  
For any updates, please visit [www.mesu.org/events](http://www.mesu.org/events).



## Get a warm meal and support the Shoreham church

SHOREHAM — The Shoreham Congregational Church will host a Fund-Raising Luncheon on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come and share hot soup and friendship as you support the

Church Restoration Fund.

Diners can choose from four different kinds of soup, and makings for sandwiches, along with beverages and homemade desserts.

The cost is \$10 a person or \$30 a family.

All proceeds will go toward the Church Restoration Fund to aid in its effort to maintain this beautiful and historic church building.

## Ferrisburgh

(Continued from Page 6A)

Halloween is on the way and so it is time for The Monster Mash event being held on Friday, Oct. 24, 6-7:30 p.m., at the Ferrisburgh Central School. This is a cherished FCS tradition filled with costumes, music, and Halloween fun! This year, we’re excited to invite VUES families to join us, either by hosting a table or simply enjoying the event. It’s a combined effort between the two schools’ parent groups to help families connect before our kids come together in middle school.

Questions? Please reach out to [FCSPPTO@gmail.com](mailto:FCSPPTO@gmail.com)

The FSC PTO will be hosting a Young Entrepreneurs Fair on Sunday, Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. This event is a chance for students to showcase their creativity, talents, and entrepreneurial spirit by selling products they’ve made or services they’ve designed. Students are asked to begin planning their projects soon, as registration is by Monday, Nov. 10. This event is open to K-12 students from any town or school. There is a fee of \$10 per table and one product donation for the raffle giveaway. For more information, email to [FCSPPTO@gmail.com](mailto:FCSPPTO@gmail.com).

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum invites all amateur sailors to participate in their first ever Split Rock Dinghy Regatta. Join others on Saturday, Oct. 18, for this relaxed sailing event with just a little bit of competition on Lake Champlain. There will be several race-style events, food and fun for all. The Museum’s Split Rock Dinghies can fit a maximum of two adults, or one adult and one child (under 13) each. Participants should have previous on-water experience in a sailboat or other small watercraft and be able to swim. The Split Rock Dinghy Regatta is subject to inclement weather and will be cancelled in the event of strong winds, thunderstorms, or heavy rain. For more information and registration, visit [www.lcmm.org](http://www.lcmm.org).

The Program Committee of the Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall will meet next meet on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 7-8 p.m. This group creates and plans the upcoming events for the FUMH. All are welcome and you do not have to be a Ferrisburgh resident to participate. Meeting dates and Zoom links can be found at [www.unionmeetinghall.org/programming-and-events](http://www.unionmeetinghall.org/programming-and-events).

My Dentist’s Son as supported by the Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall will hold its next storytelling session on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 3 p.m. at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center. The group will explore the joyous moments that appear in our lives with supportive reflections by those who attend. For more information, visit [www.mydentistsson.com](http://www.mydentistsson.com).

Students K-12 are invited to join Handiwork Studio for 90-minute art sessions filled with instruction and practice, where art will be explored through time, famous artists, the elements of art, diverse media, and inspiring art books. These homeschool art classes will take place at Ferrisburgh Town Hall on the third Tuesday of each month from 12:30-2 p.m.; the next session being Oct. 21. The fee is \$20 per student with a \$60 family cap. For more information, email Julie at [Handiworkstudiovt@gmail.com](mailto:Handiworkstudiovt@gmail.com) or visit [www.unionmeetinghall.org/programming-and-events](http://www.unionmeetinghall.org/programming-and-events).

Note: If you have news that would be of interest, contact Sally Kerschner at [smwkersch@comcast.net](mailto:smwkersch@comcast.net). You are also able to access at [www.ferrisburghvt.org](http://www.ferrisburghvt.org).



## In the groove

SHOPPERS AND NEIGHBORS mingled on the Vergennes City Green and browsed at vendors’ tents on Friday, Sept. 12, during the 3rd Annual Groovin’ on the Green family-friendly block party. The fun-filled fall evening featured live music by Unruly Allies, food vendors, cash bar, activities for kids, and games for all ages.

Photo courtesy of Christine Garrow/Vergennes Partnership

## Boneyard wins Rozendaal award

MONTPELIER — At its annual celebration late last month, the Vermont Land Trust recognized a Fletcher farm with an award given in honor of a late Starksboro farmer.

Hannah Doyle of Boneyard Farm was given the Eric Rozendaal Memorial Award for 2025. The award is given annually to a farmer in recognition of outstanding service to community, land stewardship, and innovation. It honors the legacy of Eric Rozendaal, an innovative farmer who ran a vegetable farm in Starksboro with his wife, Keenan.

This year’s \$5,000 award went to Doyle, the owner and operator of Boneyard Farm. Now in its fifth growing season, Boneyard produces organic vegetables and grass-based meats.

“It means a lot to win this award and to be recognized for our work in Vermont agriculture,” Doyle said. “We intend to be here for the long haul, and are working on our small business and raising our kids to be engaged in our community. We are very grateful to the Vermont Land Trust for both helping us conserve the land and actively farm it, and for this recognition.”

Doyle lives and works on the farm with her husband, John, and two children. The award will allow them to build a heated propagation greenhouse this fall, paired with the family’s savings and a loan from the Vermont Farm Business Builder program. The greenhouse will allow Boneyard Farm to produce hearty seedlings in early spring to sell and use on the farm starting in 2026.

2026 Rozendaal Award applications will open in November of 2025. Applications are due by Feb. 26, 2026.

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Mount Abraham Union High School

### Louisa Guilmette

Mt. Abraham is proud to recognize Louisa Guilmette as student of the week. Lou lives in Monkton with her Mom, Dad, younger brother and dog, Phoebe.

Lou has earned highest honors every semester throughout her high school career. She enjoys challenging herself and getting out of her comfort zone. Her favorite classes at Mt. Abe have been AP Biology, AP English Literature and American Studies. She also loves science, especially Chemistry. Lou states that science interests her as it helps explain “why things are the way they are and how they work.” Lou shared her appreciation for her teacher Mrs. Grzyb, stating “she is one of the kindest, empathetic, selfless and understanding people I know. She works very, very hard to make sure her students understand the material. She always grades on time and will spend countless hours with you after school to help you. She challenges you and pushes you to succeed. I am beyond grateful that I had her as a teacher.”

In addition to her outstanding academic career, Lou is very involved in the Mt. Abe community. She likes being with her friends and connecting with them throughout the school day. She is captain of the field hockey team, senior class treasurer, a member of the Eagle Leadership Society, the Neuroscience Club and a participant in Mt. Abe musicals.

In her spare time, Lou can be found working at Lulu’s ice cream shop in Vergennes, where she washes dishes and prepares ingredients for the ice cream. She also enjoys baking, camping, hanging out with friends and spending time with her family.

Reflecting on her time at Mt. Abe, Lou speaks to the importance of finding people who support and value her. Lou’s advice to other students is “to be friends with the people who make you laugh and make you feel appreciated.”

Lou plans to attend college to pursue a degree in the sciences. She hopes to study abroad while in school and travel after she graduates from college. Congratulations, Lou, on your accomplishments, leadership, and commitment to the Mt. Abraham community! We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.



Louisa Guilmette  
MAUHS

## Otter Valley Union High School

### Jaydon Connors

Jaydon Connors is this week’s Otter Valley Student of the Week. He lives in Pittsford with his mom, sister and pets. Jaydon manages to balance academics, athletics and a part-time job at Keith’s Country Store.

When he’s not working or in class, Jaydon spends his time improving his football skills, lifting weights, and hanging out with friends and family. At Otter Valley, he appreciates the chance to expand on what he already knows, and he especially enjoys AP World History. His favorite teacher is Mr. Rose, who Jaydon describes as a smart, caring individual and also his football coach and mentor.

Jaydon is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as captain of both the football and lacrosse teams.

He believes one of the most important lessons he’s learned is that “people are always going to try to bring you down. You can’t spend your time thinking of what others say — you gotta have some sort of an ego and stay optimistic to win.” It’s a piece of advice he hopes underclassmen will carry with them through their own high school experience.

After graduation, Jaydon plans to attend college and pursue a career as an athletic trainer. Everyone at Otter Valley Union High School wishes Jaydon the very best in his future endeavors!



Jaydon Connors  
OVUHS

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**Congratulations, Louisa and Jaydon!**

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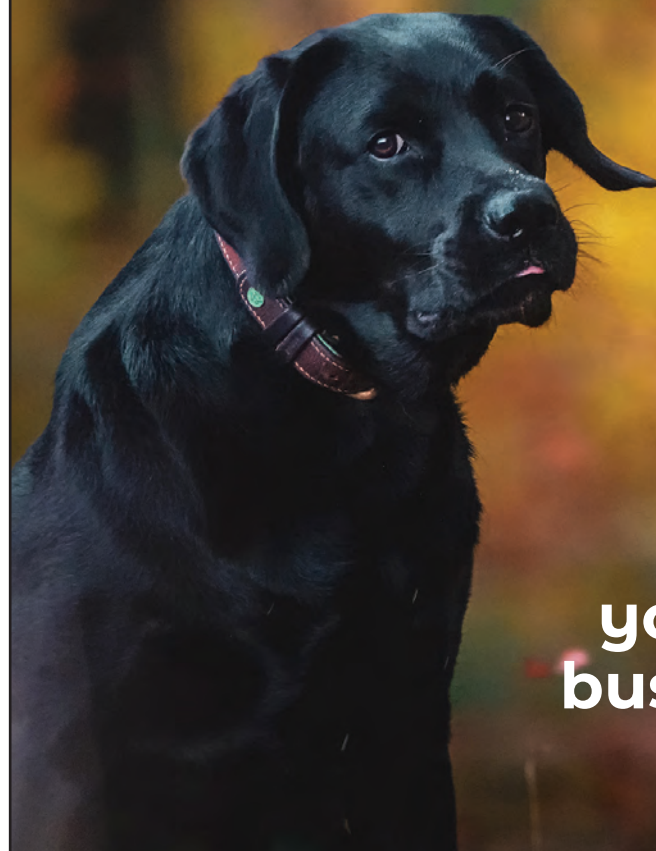


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**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aaavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS** is a 12 step program offering recovery from compulsive eating and food behaviors. For meeting times and general information please visit [www.oavermont.org](http://www.oavermont.org) or call (802)863.2655.

**Public Meetings**

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**Public Meetings**

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**CHILDCARE WORKER/PARENT EDUCATOR**

**Childcare Staff Position:** We are seeking a childcare worker who will work with children and parents in our therapeutic program. This is a full-time position with generous benefits. We are a therapeutic childcare program that supports children birth through 5 and their families.

**Strong candidates** must have knowledge of **child development, family systems,** excellent communication skills, and want to work with young families. Flexibility and collaboration are a must. Experience with children and families wanted: a minimum of a Bachelor's degree preferred.

**Salary range \$50,200 to \$59,500 depending on degree.**  
 Please send a resume and cover letter, along with 3 references to [Donna Bailey at dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org](mailto:Donna.Bailey@addisoncountypcc.org)

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

## Volunteer Drivers Needed



RSVP of Addison County is searching for volunteer drivers to help Tri-Valley Transit. Flexible schedule to fit a busy life. There are both local and long-distance trips.



If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver give us a call today at 802-468-7056



**AmeriCorps Seniors**

## Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

**DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.**

**RATES**

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- 50¢ internet listing per issue • minimum 2 insertions

• Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notices         | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks  | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personals       | <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Services        | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Trucks             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free**          | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent          | <input type="checkbox"/> SUVs               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent      | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat         | <input type="checkbox"/> Boats              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden   | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities   | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals           | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption        |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals   |

\*\* no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$1

**Services**

**CONSTRUCTION: ADDITIONS, RENOVATIONS** new construction, drywall, carpentry, painting, flooring, roofing, pressure washing, driveway sealing. All aspects of construction, also property maintenance. Steven Fifield 802-989-0009.

**FALL GUTTER CLEANING** Affordable and reliable gutter cleaning. Free quotes. Call/text Ian 802-349-7871

**MELISSA'S QUALITY CLEANING** Services. Residential and commercial. Fully insured. Great rates. Reliable and thorough cleaning. 802-345-6257.

**SPRING PROPERTY CLEAN UPS**, some landscaping, brush cutting, lawn work, weed flower beds, grocery pick up. Call us today, we do other jobs too. low rates. 802-999-2194, John.

**Free**

**DIGITAL ACCESS** View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com). Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

**Opportunities**

**MOOSE MOUNTAIN HUNTING CLUB** Crown Point, NY. Seeking recreational and hunting club members. 700 acres bordering 45,000 acres of NY state land. Fully equipped camp. 518-546-7025

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**BARTENDERS FULL/PART TIME** Must be TIPS certified. Preferred previous bartending experience, neat and personable. Strong communication and customer service skills. Openings are nights and weekends. Private Club. To apply: please call 802-349-3109 or stop by the Addison County Eagles, 67 New Haven Rd., Vergennes, VT 05491 to fill out an application form. \$11-13 an hour plus tips, depending on experience.

**For Sale**

**2011 38' CAMPER** needs little work. \$6500, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

**Help Wanted**

**ENCORE WOOD STOVE** porcelain green with glass door. \$1200 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

**Help Wanted**

**For Sale**

**FIREWOOD STOVE** in excellent shape. \$1800 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918

**Vacation Rentals**

**ADDISON: LAKE CHAMPLAIN** waterfront camp. Beautiful views, gorgeous sunsets, private beach, dock, rowboat and canoe included. \$999 weekly, or call for weekends. 802-349-4212, no texts.

**Help Wanted**



**Marion's Place**  
A Unique Resale Store Supporting HOPE's Poverty Relief Programs

**Immediate full time opening for a store associate at Marion's Place.**

**Tuesday-Saturday Excellent benefits**

**HOPE is an equal opportunity employer and offers a supportive, positive work environment.**

To apply, send a resume and letter of interest to [receptionist@hope-vt.org](mailto:receptionist@hope-vt.org), or mail to 282 Boardman Street, Suite 1A, Middlebury, VT 05753.



**Addison County Solid Waste Management District**


**Transfer Station Operator II Full-Time Position**

Transfer Station Operator wanted for immediate hire. Work as part of a team operating the District Transfer Station in Middlebury, VT, including the management of household hazardous waste and small business hazardous waste. Qualified applicants must meet all Federal Motor Carrier Safety Requirements, possess a clean driving record, and have a CDL endorsement, or ability to obtain one w/in first 6 months. Also, ability to: lift 50 lbs; be medically cleared and fit-tested for respirator use; operate heavy equipment (backhoe, wheel loader, forklift); and drive a box truck and tractor-trailers (in yard only). Must be a reliable team player, able to communicate effectively with coworkers, customers and the general public. A high school diploma or equivalent, with reading skills, communication skills, math aptitude and familiarity with computers are required.

**Work an avg. 38-hr work week: Mon-Fri, 6:30 am - 3:15 pm and Sat, 7:45 am - 1:15pm (Sun. and one weekday off), with occasional overtime.**

**Starting wage** is \$25.38 to \$28.01/hr, with a possible rate increase after 6-month probation. **We offer excellent benefits**, including: paid leave; health, vision and dental insurance; retirement savings plan; and training. We provide uniforms, laundry service, and all PPE required for the job.

Call (802) 388-2333 for a job description and application or download it from [www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org).  
 Mail application to: ACSWMD, Attn: District Manager, 1223 Route 7 South, Middlebury, VT 05753, or email it to [don@acswmd.org](mailto:don@acswmd.org).  
**Open until filled. The ACSWMD is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from all ages, genders, sexual orientations, races and religious affiliations. EO/EF/VPE/ADA**



**MAPLEFIELDS**

**Manager in Training Full Time**

**Maplefields Addison County Position Based in Middlebury**

**Position Description**

The primary role of the Assistant Manager/Manager in Training is to develop and demonstrate the skills necessary to successfully oversee operation of a Maplefields Store in the absence of a manager. This individual is also to assist the Store Manager in the day-to-day activities associated with the store and the development and training of store sales associates, while ensuring that company standards are met at all times. The goal of this position is to be ready to step into a Store Manager role or another leadership role.

**For additional benefits and further job description apply to: [Maplefields.com/employment](http://Maplefields.com/employment)**

**On-Call RN**

We are seeking a compassionate and skilled On-Call RN to provide expert clinical support to our patients during after-hours, weekends and vacations. You will serve as a critical point of contact, ensuring continuity of care through telephone triage, on-site visits, and effective communication with our care team.

**Duties**

- Respond promptly to after-hours and weekend patient calls
- Perform telephone triage, assessing patient symptoms, and determining the appropriate level of care required.
- Conduct in-person visits when necessary for urgent needs.

**Skills**

- Current and valid State of Vermont License
- Proven clinical experience, preferably in home health, hospice, or acute care.
- Exceptional critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Strong verbal and written communication abilities.
- Reliable transportation for patient visits.

If you are a dedicated Nurse looking for a rewarding and flexible role, please call Shard Villa at 802.352.4369 or email your resume to [admin.assist@shardvilla.org](mailto:admin.assist@shardvilla.org).  
 Job Types: Part-time, Per diem



**SHARD VILLA**  
 Providing exceptional, high quality care since 1921  
 1177 Shard Villa Rd, Salisbury, VT  
 (802)352-4369

**ADDISON INDEPENDENT**  
 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753  
 802-388-4944  
[addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com) • email: [classifieds@addisonindependent.com](mailto:classifieds@addisonindependent.com)

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...**

\_\_\_\_\_

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Number of words: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 # of runs: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spotlight Charge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Internet Listing: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

# Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

## For Rent



**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

**COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE** - 2000 sq ft to 7000 sq ft – Tall ceilings, loading docks, plenty of parking. Middlebury – 802-558-6092

**HISTORIC 2 BEDROOM HOUSE** Newly renovated 1860's farmhouse in Shoreham. Furnished and available mid-October. \$2200/month plus some utilities. Non-smoking and no pets please. Call for info. and photos. 802-897-2448.

## For Rent

**FERRISBURGH:** Spacious rural home to share with vibrant woman in her 70s who enjoys yoga, book groups, and hiking. Seeking housemate who might enjoy walks or occasional meals together! \$650/month plus utilities. Private bath. 6 miles to Vergennes. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

**MIDDLEBURY BRIARWOOD APARTMENTS** is currently taking wait-list applications for 2- br apartments. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

**MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING** available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

**ORWELL:** Outdoorsy retiree who enjoys landscaping, hiking, swimming. Seeking companionable dog-friendly housemate to share her rural home. \$350/month, all included. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

## For Rent

**VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS** is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

## Want to Rent

**HOUSING NEEDED,** spare room or studio urgently needed for a clean, quiet, non-smoking hippie mom. I am a CCV graduate, currently on \$1,000. per month budget. Email Abby: bray-abby3@gmail.com, 802-598-6176.

## Wood Heat

**DRY OR GREEN** firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

## Att. Farmers

**1ST CUT, SMALL** square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

## Help Wanted



MARKET REPORT				
ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES				
RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT				
Sales for 9/25/25 & 9/29/25				
		COST		
<b>BEEF</b>	<b>LBS.</b>	<b>/LB</b>	<b>\$</b>	
P. Livingston	1920	1.65	\$3168.00	
V. Mainati	1170	1.55	\$1813.50	
Blue Spruce	1830	1.50	\$2745.00	
Nop Bros.	1910	1.45	\$2769.50	
A. Brisson	1875	1.45	\$2718.75	
Deer Valley	1720	1.45	\$2494.00	
Goslga	1645	1.40	\$2303.00	
		COST		
<b>CALVES</b>	<b>LBS.</b>	<b>/LB</b>	<b>\$</b>	
A. Brisson	88	17.00	\$1496.00	
Elysian Fields	87	16.00	\$1392.00	
Wilcon	81	16.00	\$1296.00	
Correia	80	16.00	\$1280.00	
Goodrich	74	16.00	\$1184.00	
Vorsteveld	86	15.80	\$1358.80	
<b>Total Beef - 124</b>		<b>Total Calves - 204</b>		
We value our faithful customers.				
<b>Sales at 3 pm - Mon. &amp; Thurs.</b>				
call 1-802-388-2661				

## ATTENTION FARMERS!!!

**ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES**  
**\*ANNUAL FALL DAIRY/FEEDER AUCTION\***  
 WHEN: 11 AM SHARP WED. OCTOBER 8TH  
 WHERE: AT ACCS - BARN - RT 125, EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

### ACCEPTING QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS NOW!!

\*DAIRY TO BE SOLD FIRST - FEEDERS TO FOLLOW\*  
 ALSO CONSIGNING BEEF FEEDERS  
 ANGUS-HEREFORD & BF CROSSES  
 ALL BF BREEDS WELCOME!!

**\*\*Something for everybody! Don't miss this opportunity\*\***

DON'T MISS THIS ANNUAL FALL SALE  
 ALL QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS WELCOME  
**\*\*CASH IN ON YOUR OVERSTOCK\*\***  
**A MUST SALE TO ATTEND!!!**

FOR MORE INFO CALL 802-388-2661 (ACCS)  
 Sale Manager- T.G. Wisnowski • Auctioneer- John Nop

**ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES**  
**CHECK US OUT ON FB FOR INFO!**

**Email your Public Notices**  
 to [legals@addisonindependent.com](mailto:legals@addisonindependent.com)  
 and Jenna makes sure it gets in the paper

### ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SOLID WASTE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District (ACSWMD) will hold a public hearing on its draft 2025 Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) at the Executive Board meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 4:45 PM via Zoom and in-person. Contact Shelly Edson, Administrative Assistant, at [admin@acswwd.org](mailto:admin@acswwd.org) or (802) 388-2333 for instructions on how to register for the meeting. The purpose of the hearing will be to present and receive public comments on the 2025 SWIP drafted by July 1, 2025, and preapproved by the VT Agency of Natural Resources. The 2025 SWIP addresses all aspects of sustainable materials management within the 21 member towns of the ACSWMD. The purpose of the SWIP is to: (1) demonstrate that the solid waste management system is in conformance with the mandates of the new State Solid Waste Plan; (2) incorporate the District's mission statement into its policies and plans; (3) analyze activities and costs, incorporate programs and procedures currently in effect, and identify solid waste facilities that are approved in the SWIP; and (4) outline goals for the future.

The draft 2025 SWIP is available upon request by contacting the ACSWMD at (802) 388-2333 or by email at [acswwd@acswwd.org](mailto:acswwd@acswwd.org). The draft 2025 SWIP is also available on the ACSWMD website at [www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org).

### CITY OF VERGENNES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on October 20, 2025, at 7 pm as the second order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Site Plan Review, Conditional Use Review, and Variance Review for Application #2025-32 by the City of Vergennes to construct a Pavilion over the existing Ice Rink on the Property located at 47 East St. Reviews will consider Article III Section 311, Article VI Section 605, Article VII, Article VIII, and Article XVI Section 1611.

Please note that the hearing will be held as a "hybrid meeting", with participation either in person, by Zoom, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held in the One Credit Union Conference Room located at 48 Green Street Vergennes, Vermont.

**Meetings are accessible via Zoom;**  
**Meeting ID: 828 0065 2431**  
**Meeting password: 5CKEsb**

**Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; For participants joining by phone:**  
**To raise your hand during the meeting, press \*9.**  
**To mute/unmute during the meeting, press \*6**

**If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.**

Persons seeking eligibility to Appeal must establish status as an Interested Person as defined in Article VI Section 603 of the City of Vergennes Zoning and Subdivision Regulations AND participate in the Public Hearing either in person or in writing in order to take any subsequent Appeal. The City of Vergennes is an "on the record" Appeal municipality with regard to Appeals to the Environmental Court from Development Review Board Decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider Testimony and Evidence provided during Public Hearings on the Application. Interested Persons should therefore ensure that their participation in the Public Hearing is complete and represents the totality of their Testimony and Evidence.

A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at [zoning@vergenes.org](mailto:zoning@vergenes.org).

September 29, 2025  
 David Austin  
 Zoning Administrator

### CITY OF VERGENNES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on October 20, 2025, at 7 pm as the first order of new business, for the following purpose:

To Reconsider the Development Review Board Decision issued July 29, 2025, Denying Application #2025-08 by 345 East LLC to create an additional Dwelling Unit within the Principal Structure on the Property located at 3 East St. Review will consider Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Review under Article VII, Article VIII, Article XII, and Article XVI Section 1603.

Please note that the hearing will be held as a "hybrid meeting", with participation either in person, by Zoom, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held in the One Credit Union Conference Room located at 63 School Street Vergennes Vermont.

**Meetings are accessible via Zoom;**  
**Meeting ID: 828 0065 2431**  
**Meeting password: 5CKEsb**

**Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; For participants joining by phone:**  
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A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at [zoning@vergenes.org](mailto:zoning@vergenes.org).

September 29, 2025  
 David Austin  
 Zoning Administrator

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO EXERCISE WAREHOUSEMAN'S LIEN BY AUCTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT Chipman Point Marina, LLC, of 68 Chipman Point Road, in Orwell, Vermont, will be conducting a public auction at **Noon on Saturday, October 25, 2025**, at the office of the Marina, of property of Danny, Ruth and Adam Revell, Saratoga Springs, New York, namely a 2002 Bayliner Cierra serial ID# USD4IOSUF102 to collect the unpaid balance of \$1,560.00 as of August 27, 2025, for storage and related fees.

Chipman Point Marina, LLC also asserts a lien against the above-described property in the amount owed, as per 9A V.S.A. §7-209, and if **payment arrangements are not made within 10 days of this Notice, will seek to enforce their lien and sell the property to satisfy the debt, as per 9A V.S.A. §7-210.**

David C. Venman, Esq.  
 Behrens Venman & Sussman, PLLC  
 PO Box 183  
 Vergennes, Vermont 05491  
 (802) 877-2973

### TOWN OF ADDISON NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of real property in the Town of Addison in Addison County are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described lands in such Town, to wit:

**Property Owners: John Hinkell, Sr.**  
**Property Address: Sportsman Campground #62**  
**Parcel ID # VR0062-T**  
 A travel trailer located at Sportsman Campground, Lot 62.  
**Tax Years: 2021-2024**  
**Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$3,584.84**

**Property Owners: James Koerber**  
**Property Address: 144 Cedar Drive**  
**Parcel ID # CD0144**  
 Land and premises described in a Quitclaim Deed from Louise Koerber to James Koerber dated June 1, 2018, and recorded at Volume 115, Page 280, of the Town of Addison Land Records.  
**Tax Years: 2022-2024**  
**Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$4,843.18**

**Property Owners: John E. Oliva**  
**Property Address: 9 Oven Bay**  
**Parcel ID # OB0009**  
 Land and premises described in a Quitclaim Deed from Donald Freda to John E. Oliva dated January 23, 2020, and recorded at Volume 111, Page 823, of the Town of Addison Land Records.  
**Tax Years: 2022-2024**  
**Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$21,592.64**

**Property Owners: John E. Oliva**  
**Property Address: 392 Triton Road**  
**Parcel ID # TR0392**  
 Land and premises described in a Quitclaim Deed from Donald Freda to John E. Oliva dated January 23, 2020, and recorded at Volume 111, Page 821, of the Town of Addison Land Records.  
**Tax Years: 2022-2024**  
**Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$21,720.03**

**Property Owners: Shayne Thompson**  
**Property Address: 3313 VT Route 17W**  
**Parcel ID # VW3313**  
 Land and premises described in a Warranty Deed from Daniel Devries to Shayne Thompson dated February 21, 2017, and recorded at Volume 107, Page 240, of the Town of Addison Land Records.  
**Tax Years: 2022-2024**  
**Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$4,007.28**

Reference may be had to said instruments for a more particular description of said lands and premises, as the same appear in the Town Clerk's Office of the Town of Addison.

So much of such real property will be sold at public auction at the Addison Town Clerk's Office, 65 VT Route 17 West, Addison, VT 05491, on October 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with interest, costs and penalties, unless previously paid. Property owners or mortgagees may pay such taxes, interest, costs and penalties in full by cash or certified check made payable to the Town of Addison. At tax sale, successful bidders must pay in full by cash or certified check. No other payments accepted. Any questions or inquiries regarding the above-referenced sale should be directed to the following address:

Kristen E. Shamis, Esq.  
 Monaghan Safar PLLC  
 27 Main Street  
 Burlington, VT 05401  
 kshamis@mvtlaw.com

Monaghan Safar PLLC, and the Town of Addison give no opinion or certification as to the marketability of title to the above-referenced properties as held by the current owner/taxpayer.

Dated at Addison, Vermont, this 23rd day of September, 2025.

Alden Harwood  
 Collector of Delinquent Taxes  
 Town of Addison

## Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Pages 11B and 12B.**

- Addison (2)
- Addison County Solid Waste Management District (1)
- Ferrisburgh (1)
- Middlebury (1)
- New Haven (1)
- Slate Valley UUSD (1)
- Starksboro (1)
- Vergennes (2)

### TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Ferrisburgh Selectboard will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at the Town Offices at 6:30 pm to listen to public comment on proposed amendments to the Town Plan pursuant to 24 VSA 4385

**Statement of Purpose:**  
 The purpose of a Town Plan is to provide sufficient up to date data and information, policies and recommendations, to guide orderly development within the Town. Town Plans should be updated every 8 years. The present Town Plan was last amended in August 2017.

**Summary of Amendments:**  
 The Plan includes updated maps and new maps with data from the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and from Addison County Regional Planning (ACRP). Maps include: Water Resources/Watershed; Wetlands and River Corridors; Significant Habitat and Forest Blocks; Primary and Statewide Soils; Conserved and Public Lands; Population Density; Transportation; Community Facilities; Transportation Safety Concerns; Present and Future Trails; Septic Suitability, Wells and Private Water Lines; Flood Hazard Areas.

The Planning Areas Map has been updated to create an area called Mixed Use, and to broaden the Lake Champlain Shoreland area.

A new section has been added on Flood Resilience. The updated Plan includes the most current demographic and housing data.

Policies and Recommended Actions have been updated in all sections of the Plan.

A copy of the Draft 2025-2033 Ferrisburgh Town Plan is available at the Town Offices during regular business hours and available on the Town Website. For more information contact the Town Clerk's office at 802-877-3429.

Town of Ferrisburgh is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89584034941?pwd=DHU29ZVfVga5BTMUUaTRIClNZF5XPME.1>  
 Meeting ID: 895 8403 4941  
 Passcode: 333050

### TOWN OF STARKSBORO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Ronald W. Castonguay & Babette Castonguay submitted a subdivision application (25-DRB-08SD) for Final Plat Review of a Two-Lot Subdivision located on a 109.1 +-acre parcel (10146) at 290 Russell Young Road, Starksboro. The proposed subdivision is in the LDRC/FC. The hearing on the application will be held per Sec. 426 of the Starksboro Land Use and Development Regulations (SLUDR).

The Starksboro Development Review Board will conduct the hearing on **October 23, 2025**, starting at 6:30p.m. at the Starksboro Town Office with remote access (info below). The full application is available to review by request of the Starksboro zoning office, and on the website at <https://www.starksborovt.org/agendas-and-minutes>

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Town of Starksboro is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89617415124>  
 Meeting ID: 896 1741 5124  
 Or by Phone: +13052241968

Date : October 2, 2025

**TOWN OF NEW HAVEN  
INVITATION TO BID**

**BIDS FOR: A RAMP ACCESS INTO THE NEW HAVEN RIVER**

The Town of New Haven is accepting bids for the construction of a ramp access into the New Haven River located off Halpin Road, adjacent to Nash Bridge. The Town has acquired all necessary state permits. Full scope of work available upon request at the New Haven Town Offices, 78 North St., New Haven, VT 05472. All bids will be due on October 14, 2025, by 3:00 pm. Via email in a pdf format to the New Haven Treasurer newhaventreasurer@gmavt.net. Late bids will not be accepted. There will not be a public bid opening. The town reserves the right to award the project in the best interest of the town and based on best value.

**SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
POLICY WARNING**

The Slate Valley Unified Union School District Board will conduct a public hearing at their meeting on October 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. and take action on the following policies:

To Adopt:  
D6 Class Size  
D8 Selection of Library Materials  
(formerly D22 Selection of Library Materials)

Copies of the policy are available on the district website at slatevalleyunified.org.  
Brooke Olsen-Farrell  
Superintendent of Schools

**Public Notices** can be found in this  
**ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 11B and 12B.

**Email your Public Notices**  
to [legals@addisonindependent.com](mailto:legals@addisonindependent.com)  
and Jenna makes sure it gets in the paper

**STATE OF VERMONT  
SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION  
ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO: 242-10-15 Ancv**

M&T BANK  
PLAINTIFF  
VS.  
KERRY KURT; NEW ENGLAND FEDERAL CREDIT UNION; DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY - INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; VERMONT LAND TRUST, INC.; VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS; VERMONT HOUSING AND CONSERVATION BOARD AND OCCUPANTS RESIDING AT 4118 ROUTE 116, STARKSBORO, VT 05487  
DEFENDANT(S)

**NOTICE OF SALE**

In accordance with the Second Amended Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale entered on June 20, 2025, in the above captioned action brought to foreclose that certain mortgage given by Salvatore J. Provetto and Kerry Kurt to Chittenden Trust Co. dba Chittenden Mortgage Svcs. (now M & T Bank s/b/m to People's United Bank, N.A. s/b/m to Chittenden Trust Co. dba Chittenden Mortgage Svcs.) dated October 15, 2008, and recorded in Book 93, at Page 110, of the Town of Starksboro Land Records as affected by Modification of Mortgage recorded September 17, 2017 in Book 115, at Page 342 of the Town of Starksboro Land Records, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **October 29, 2025 at 03:00 PM at 4118 VT Route 116, Starksboro, VT 05487** all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To Wit:  
Being all and the same land and premises conveyed to Kerry Kurt and Salvatore J. Provetto by Warranty Deed of Monty Adams dated October 7, 2005 and recorded at Book 83, Pages 279-280 of the Town of Starksboro Land Records.  
Being all and the same land and premises conveyed to Monty Adams by Quitclaim Deed of Donna Adams, dated September 7, 2004 and recorded in Book 79, Pages 296-297 of the Town of Starksboro Land Records, and being further described as all the same land and premises conveyed to Donna Adams and Monty Adams by Warranty Deed of Vermont Land Trust, Inc., dated September 30, 1999 and recorded in Book 61, Pages 404-407 of the Town of Starksboro Land Records.

The mortgaged premises are subject to and/or benefited by easements, rights of way, agreements and permits of record.

Reference is hereby made to said deeds and their records and to all prior deeds and their records for a further and more complete description of the lands and premises herein conveyed.

Also being all the lands and premises conveyed to Kerry Kurt by Warranty Deed of the Town of Starksboro, dated September 8, 2017, and to be recorded in the Town of Starksboro Land Records, and more particularly described therein as follows:

"A parcel of land containing 13.24 acres, more or less, as shown on a survey plat entitled 'Boundary Line Adjustment Plat Between Lands of Town of Starksboro & Kerry Kurt, VT Route 116, Town of Starksboro, Addison County, Vermont,' prepared by Donald A. Johnson, dated January 20, 2016, and recorded at Map Slide 81F in the Town of Starksboro Land Records. The portion to be conveyed is identified in said survey as: 13.24 Acres portion of Town of Starksboro land to be merged with land of Kerry Kurt. Subject to all matters shown on said survey.

"Being a portion only of the lands and premises conveyed to the Town of Starksboro by Limited Warranty Deed of Vermont National Bank dated December 14, 1998, and recorded at Book 59 Page 396 of the land records of the Town of Starksboro.

"Reference is made to a quitclaim deed from Vermont Land Trust, Inc. to the Town of Starksboro, dated September 8, 2017, and to be recorded prior to this deed.

"This is a boundary line adjustment only, and the herein conveyed lands and premises shall merge with and be a part of the other lands of Grantee, being those lands described in a warranty deed from Monty Adams to Kerry Kurt and Salvatore J. Provetto recorded at Book 83 Page 279 of the Starksboro Land Records. No new lot is created by this adjustment.

"The property is conveyed AS IS, and without warranty as to physical condition. Grantee agrees by acceptance of this deed that Grantor has complied with all of its obligations under the Purchase and Sale Contract between the parties. Grantee accepts as sufficient all reclamation work done by Grantor and agrees that Grantor has fulfilled any reclamation requirements under LUP 9A0082-1R-9.

'Subject to easements, rights of way and restrictions of record.

'Subject to the terms and conditions of the following:

1. Subdivision permit #98-107SD, dated November 11, 1998, recorded at Book 59 Page 391 of the Town of Starksboro Land Records;
2. Zoning Permit #2017-15-BLA, July 6, 2017. In accordance with that permit, this is a boundary line adjustment, and the property being adjusted to Grantee shall merge with parcel #C21167E, and the property shall not be considered a separate parcel or subdivision of land;
3. ACT 250 permit 9A0082 and all amendments;
4. Stormwater Discharge Permit No. 7451-9015;
5. WW-9-2165, dated August 19, 2015, and recorded at Book 111, Page 70 of the Starksboro Land Records, any amendments, and the case-specific exemption determination by the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division dated June 28, 2017, and recorded in the Town of Starksboro Land Records at Book 115 Page 192. In accordance with that case-specific exemption determination, Grantees property must remain one single, undivided lot, unless and until future State subdivision approval is obtained prior to any separate conveyance of any portions thereof.

'Reference is hereby made to said deed and its records and to all prior deeds and their records for a further and more complete description of the land and premises herein conveyed.'

"The above described lands and premises are subject to a certain Grant of Development Rights, Conservation Restrictions and Right of First Refusal from Vermont Land Trust, Inc., dated September 30, 1999, and recorded in Book 61, Page 393 of the Starksboro Land Records, as amended by an Amendment to Grant of Development Rights, Conservation Restrictions and Right of First Refusal by and between Kerry Kurt, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and Vermont Land Trust, Inc., dated September 8, 2017, and to be recorded in the Starksboro Land Records." [The amendment was subsequently recorded on September 13, 2017, at Book 115, Page 341 of the Starksboro Land Records (as amended, the "Grant").]

"Said Right of First Refusal is subject to a Right of First Refusal Subordination Agreement by and between People's United Bank, National Association and Vermont Land Trust, Inc. dated September 8, 2017, and to be recorded in the Starksboro Land Records."

Pursuant to Paragraph 7 of the Second Amended Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale: "The Right of First Refusal held by VLT [Vermont Land Trust, Inc.] and VHCB [Vermont Housing and Conservation Board] shall not apply to the public sale in this action. However, the Grant and the Right of First Refusal shall survive confirmation of the sale and shall continue to apply to all conveyances of the Mortgaged Property subsequent to the conveyance by confirmation order in this action."

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The public sale may be adjourned one or more times for a total time not exceeding 30 days, without further court order, and without publication or service of a new notice of sale, by announcement of the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice of the adjournment in a conspicuous place at the location of the sale.

Terms of Sale: \$10,000.00 to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time of sale, with the balance due at closing. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

The Mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

M&T Bank  
Bozena Wysocki, Esq.  
BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
VT\_Noticesofhearing@brockandscott.com

**TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD  
Public Hearing on the Adoption of Amendment  
to the Ordinance for the Regulation of Parking**

The Middlebury Selectboard will hold a Public Hearing at 7:10PM on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 in the Large Conference Room of the Town Offices, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, VT and via Zoom videoconferencing (instructions below) to take public testimony on the proposed amendment to the Ordinance for the Regulation of Parking.

Copies of the full text of the proposed ordinance amendment may be obtained at the Town Offices, 77 Main Street or the Ilsley Library, 30 Main Street, during regular business hours, and on the Town's website, [www.townofmiddlebury.org](http://www.townofmiddlebury.org).

If you need special accommodations to attend this meeting, please contact the Town Manager's Office at 802-388-8100 or [townmanager@townofmiddlebury.org](mailto:townmanager@townofmiddlebury.org) as early as possible.

**To view and participate in the Public Hearing**

- **When:** Oct. 14, 2025, 7PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
- **Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86172478457>
- **Phone one-tap:** +13052241968, 86172478457# US
- **Webinar ID:** 861 7247 8457

**For those wishing to watch but not participate,** Selectboard Meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV Vermont> and also broadcast live on **Comcast Channel 1071**.

**STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT  
DOCKET NO: 25-PR-04784  
IN RE ESTATE OF: STEPHEN KIELY**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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

Dated: 09/24/25

Executor/Administrator: Sandra M. Cunningham,  
Executor, c/o Judson E. Hescocock, Esq.,  
1 Cross Street, Middlebury, VT 05753,  
(802) 388-7966, [judson@pmlawvt.com](mailto:judson@pmlawvt.com)

Publication: Addison Independent  
Publication Date: 10/02/25  
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division  
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

**TOWN OF ADDISON  
DRB PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Town of Addison Development Review Board will convene a public hearing on Monday, October 27, 2025 at 6:00PM at the former Addison Central School located at VT Rte 22A and VT Rte 17 West, Addison, VT.

1. A Site Visit is planned for Friday, October 17, 2025 at 5:00PM at the Owen & Tara Banks property located on Lakeside Lane, Addison, VT.
2. Application (#25-36) Owen and Tara Banks requests to convert 3-bedroom camp into a 3-bedroom year-round dwelling located on Lakeside Lane, Addison, VT.
3. Application (#25-41) Rene & Suzanne Many requesting a Conditional-Use permit to change the use from office to an apartment located on Mountain Road, Addison, VT.

The applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office during normal office hours. Interested parties who wish to appeal or to be heard must attend the hearing or may be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications relating to the application may be filed in writing with the Board either before or during the hearings.

N.B.: Participation in a hearing is necessary to establish status as an "interested party" and the right to appeal a decision rendered in that hearing, according to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 117 S.S.4464 (a) (1) (C), 4465(b) and 4471 (a). Participation consists of offering through oral or written testimony, evidence or a statement of concern directly related to the subject of the hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alden Harwood, Chair  
Starr Phillips, Board Secretary  
Daniel Rossignol, Zoning Administrator



ADDISON COUNTY

# INDEPENDENT

## 2025 Addy Indy Garden Game



**CATEGORIES & FRONT-RUNNERS:**

- Asparagus (length x circumference) - Pat Martin, 36" x 2.25"
- Beet (circumference) - Shirley Pomainville, 16"
- Broccoli (diameter) - Barbara Pelton, 12"
- Cabbage (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 39"
- Cantaloupe (circumference)
- Carrot (length x circumference) - Gary Miller, 19" x 5.75"
- Cauliflower (diameter) - Barbara Pelton, 12"
- Corn (length x circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 16" x 8"
- Cucumber (length x circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 22" x 10"
- Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only) - Gary Miller, 16.25" x 8"
- Eggplant (circumference x circumference) - Barbara Brosnan, 21.5" x 25.5"
- Fennel (length x circumference) - Susan Hanson, 6.5" x 13"
- Green Bean (length) - Gary Miller, 40.25"
- Kohlrabi (circumference)
- Leek (length x circumference) - Jane Spencer, 17" x 9"
- Melon (circumference)
- Onion (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 15.25"
- Parsnip (circumference)
- Pepper (circumference x circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 12.5" x 11.5"
- Potato (length x circumference) - Mike Shannon, 21" x 15"
- Pumpkin (circumference x circumference)
- Radish (circumference) - Joan Derry, 8.25"
- Rhubarb (length) - Martha Baldwin, 42"
- Rutabaga (circumference)
- Summer Squash (length x circumference) - Elsie Lynn Parini, 7.75" x 20.25"
- Sunflower (diameter) - Ellen Cronan, 8.25"
- Tomato (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk & Peter Demong (tie), 16"
- Turnip (circumference) - Wayne Zeno, 29.5"
- Winter Squash (length x circumference) - Wayne Zeno, 14" x 17.5
- Zucchini (length x circumference) - Julie Lonergan, 24" x 19"

**We welcomed two new entries in this week's Garden Game. Carol Krawczyk brought in a particularly plump pepper measuring an impressive 12.5" C x 11.5" C, earning her the top spot on the leaderboard. Shirley Pomainville also wowed us with a beautiful beet boasting a 16" circumference that takes the star position.**

**There's a nip in the air, but the Garden Game is still on until the first hard frost arrives. Think your harvest can compete?**

**Bring it in and show us what you've got!**





**Play the Garden Game!**

Do you have veggies to share in our pages? We welcome entries from any of the listed categories. Bring your entry into our office between 9am and 4pm Monday-Friday and we'll measure it and snap a photo. Each week, we'll publish new entries and update our frontrunners for each category in the contest. At the end of the season, each category winner\* will be eligible to receive a gift certificate from our Garden Game sponsor, Middlebury Agway.

SPONSORED BY MIDDLEBURY AGWAY



\*PLEASE NOTE: EACH INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO WIN ONE GIFT CERTIFICATE, EVEN IF THEY WIN MULTIPLE CATEGORIES.

# ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

October 2, 2025

A COLLECTION OF POEMS  
BY MOLLY JOHNSEN BRINGS

## EVERYTHING ALIVE



Addison teacher, author and mom Molly Johnsen will publish her first collection of poetry, "Everything Alive," on Oct. 14. See her speak at the New England Review Ulysses Reading Series on Oct. 23, 7-8:30 p.m.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

**W**hen will foliage peak?  
Ahhh, the all-too-common question tourists ask that makes locals roll their eyes and stifle a judgy chortle. Foliage, of course, peaks at different times in different pockets around our Green Mountain State. And yes — though the question can be

BY **ELSIE  
LYNN PARINI**

tedious — even us locals head out to see the truly magnificent displays of color.

But this beauty is marked with a certain understanding of death. Death? Yep, the coloring of the leaves is gorgeous, but it shows the process of the leaves decaying and eventually floating down to a delightfully crunchy death.

Living alongside death is something we do every day, but not something we manage to frame into words very often. But Molly Johnsen does. This Addison resident is preparing to release her first book of poems on Oct. 14, that sprung from the aftermath of a near-death experience.

**"I WANTED TO SEIZE THIS  
TRAUMA AND REIGN IT IN. THE  
WAY I FOUND TO DO THAT WAS  
TO CREATE WORDS."**

— Molly Johnsen

It was June 4, 2015. "Wow, this is the decade mark," said Johnsen in an interview last month. "I've told this story a lot, and it always feels like I'm watching myself when I tell it again."

Johnsen reached back in her mind and recalled the time her cousin Emma and she were driving from their home in Brooklyn, N.Y., to a bachelorette party in Rhode Island. They had a flat tire, called AAA and were back on the road cresting the Q Bridge in New Haven, Conn.

"I could hear someone honking at us," Johnsen said. "I remember turning around seeing orange flames. Then thinking, OK, the car is on fire."

The two managed to pull over, but there was no breakdown lane — but the car was on fire, so they had to get out of it.

"The guy who flashed and honked at us ran out of his truck with a fire extinguisher and put the fire out, then we called 911," Johnsen explained, not pausing for any wave of relief. "While we were waiting for the emergency vehicles to come get us... an [oncoming car] smashed into us. The man was OK; Emma and I were crushed."

Johnsen lost half her blood. Sustained a 5 out of 5 liver laceration, a crushed pelvis and severe damage to her reproductive system. The list goes on. Thanks to incredible medical teams from the Yale New Haven Hospital, Johnsen managed to recover well enough to live on her own by the fall.

"I did all my processing through writing," said Johnsen, who holds a master's degree from the Breadloaf School of English (2014) and an MFA from Syracuse University (2021). "I could take the chaos and control it. I wanted to seize this trauma and reign it in. The way I found to do

SEE POETRY ON PAGE 3

# Heartwarming musical comes to Middlebury's stage

**T**he Middlebury Community Players proudly presents "The Spitfire Grill," the acclaimed musical by James Valcq (music and book) and Fred Alley (book and lyrics), running Oct. 16-26 at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

This powerful and uplifting musical tells the story of Percy Talbott, a young woman seeking a fresh start after being released from prison. When she arrives in the small town of Gilead, Wisconsin, to work at Hannah Ferguson's Spitfire Grill, her presence sparks change that transforms the entire community. With its soaring folk-inspired score and deeply moving story of redemption, forgiveness, and the power of human kindness, "The Spitfire Grill" has captivated audiences across the country since its premiere.

"This beautiful story reminds us all of the transformative power of second chances and the importance of community," said director Kristen Ginsburg. "Our talented cast brings extraordinary depth and emotion to these complex characters, and audiences will leave the theater both moved and inspired."

The production features an exceptional local cast including Alina Donaldson as Percy Talbott, Suzanna Miller as Hannah Ferguson, Eileen Sears as Shelby Thorpe, Jessica Allen as Effy Krayneck, Finn Yarbrough as Caleb Thorpe, Ethan DeWitt as Joe Sutter, and Tom McElhaney as The Visitor/Eli.

The creative team includes Kristen Ginsburg (Director), David Harcourt (Music Director), Samantha Ryan (Choreographer), Skylar Franklin (Stage Manager), Emily Thurber



Finn Yarbrough, left, and Ethan DeWitt, right, rehearse a scene from the upcoming production of "The Spitfire Grill," presented by The Middlebury Community Players Oct. 16-26 at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

COURTESY PHOTO

(Assistant Stage Manager), and Jon Fenner (Producer).

Based on the 1996 film by Lee David Zlotoff, "The Spitfire Grill" won the Richard Rodgers Production Award and received Best Musical nominations from the Outer Critics Circle and Drama League. The intimate musical features gorgeous melodies ranging from folk-inspired ballads to rousing ensemble numbers that celebrate the resilience of the human spirit.

## PERFORMANCE DETAILS

**WHEN:** Oct. 16-19 & 24-26, Thursday through Saturday performances at 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinées at 2 p.m.

**WHERE:** Town Hall Theater, 68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury

**TICKETS:** Opening Night Special (Oct. 16): \$17/\$30/\$40 (tiered pricing). All other performances: \$25/\$30/\$40 (tiered pricing)

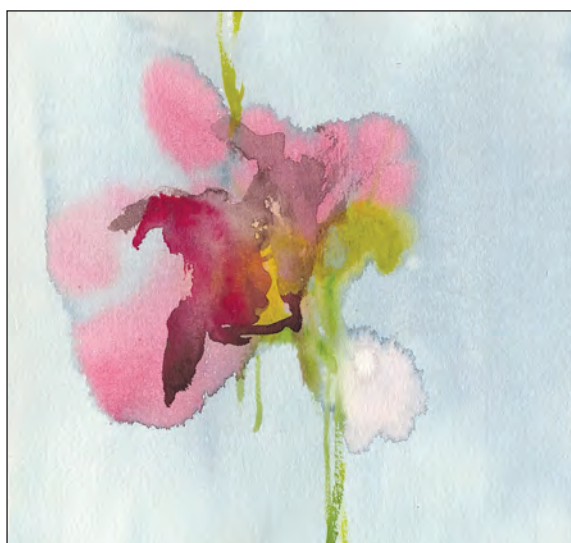
All shows are volunteer-run, so ticket sales keep us going. The tiers let you pick what works for you, while helping community theater thrive.

Tickets are available through the Town Hall Theater Box Office. Visit the box office in person, call 802-382-9222, or purchase online at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

# Artists open their doors for Fall Open Studio Weekend

**A**s autumn colors sweep across Addison County, art lovers are invited to experience the creative spirit of the season during the Vermont Crafts Council's Open Studio Weekend. On Oct. 4 and 5, 12 local Addison County artists (Loop 4 on the map) will welcome visitors into their studios, offering a behind-the-scenes look at how inspiration — and a little Vermont magic — becomes art.

Wander scenic back roads lined with fall foliage, discover unique workspaces, and meet the makers behind each masterpiece. "Open Studio Weekend is a celebration of creativity and community," said Judy Albright, Middlebury



"Celosia No. 1" by Mira Cabrera.

pastel painter and teacher. "It's a chance to connect, learn, and be inspired by the artistic journeys happening right here in Vermont."

Maps are available at Sparrow Art Supply in Middlebury, local shops and restaurants, or online at [vermontcrafts.com/visit-open-studio](http://vermontcrafts.com/visit-open-studio).

In addition to studio visits, small galleries like Art on Main in Bristol will feature special autumn exhibits and handmade local art. Whether you're a seasoned collector or simply curious, this is the perfect way to enjoy Vermont's art scene at its most colorful. For details on participating artists and venues, visit [vermontcrafts.com/open-studio-weekend](http://vermontcrafts.com/open-studio-weekend).

SEE STUDIOS ON PAGE 11

## POETRY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that was to create words and sounds — I held trauma up to sourdough starter and juxtaposed

them and said they are the same.”

“‘Everything Alive’ confronts trauma and disability like long-lost relatives,” reads the collection’s promo. “Johnsen relies on the power and shortcomings of language to highlight the ways ‘we are manhandled by mortality.’ From a therapist’s office to a cave in Italy, to the raspberry patch in her childhood backyard, the borders of the material world switch from roadblocks to entryways and back... The reader is literally invited in as Johnsen shifts from begging her brain and body for mercy to forcefully reclaiming her selfhood.”

It is intense, yes. A collection you want to take slow perhaps. And one that clings to you in unexpected ways.

“There are all these strands in the book,” explained Johnsen, who believes she wrote “every single poem during or before grad school in 2021.” This makes sense considering her first son came along shortly thereafter. “Some of them changed to be almost unrecognizable. Some I wrote fresh off the accident.”

The book is organized into five sections:

“The first section I make sure the reader knows the major players; and I tell them to get ready for the ride,” Johnsen recapped. “The second section is a lyric essay — a letter to my epilepsy.”

Epilepsy is something Johnsen developed after the accident and lives with today.

“The third section is a reckoning: OK this happened. How am I going to get through this? I open the door to hope,” Johnsen continued. “Next comes a short section of me settling into a new selfhood and my needs. And the final fifth section brings a true culmination. For me everything is in the final poem, ‘Everything Alive.’”

As Johnsen was writing these poems, she said she wasn’t envisioning a book. But when she was accepted into *The Kenyon Review* for her poetry in 2016, something started to shift.

“I ended up in Natalie Shapero’s class

one summer in Ohio at Kenyon College,” Johnsen said, starry eyed. “I generated all new work, and it was all accident related. I thought, ‘Wow!’ Then Natalie took me aside and said, ‘You have a book in you.’”

When Natalie Shapero tells you to write — you write! That’s when Johnsen quit her job, applied for MFAs and enrolled at Syracuse in 2018.

“Writer has been my identity since I was born,” said Johnsen, who has also taught middle school and college level courses since graduating college. “Having a seizure, you lose your words and all verbal control. Losing that is the worst thing. Words are my way of saying, ‘No, I have this and can use this’.. Words are my whole life.”

These days, Johnsen uses her words as a middle-school teacher at the Vermont Day School in Shelburne. She continues to write from her home in Addison, where she lives with her husband, Lee, and their two sons (ages 1 and 3). And will soon go on a book tour with “Everything Alive.”

“No matter who you are, the journeys of the book might speak to you or help you find what you relate to; they might help you see a little light in the darkness of mortality — I grapple with that at every level throughout the book,” Johnsen concluded. “I’ve heard from people that this book reads as a triumph or a resilience. That’s been such a gift... We’re all in it together.”

We sure are. Look up at a tree. Crunch a pile of leaves under your foot. Death is there — resilience is there — all around us, all together.

Need help processing that nugget? Come meet Johnsen at the official launch of “Everything Alive” at the Pierson Library in Shelburne on Oct. 14, at 7 p.m., where Johnsen will be in conversation with her birth doula Sarah Howe. Or see Johnsen in Middlebury on Oct. 23 during the *New England Review* Ulysses Reading Series, also featuring Grady Chambers, Daisy Kulina and Tim Weed. The Vermont Book Shop will have copies of “Everything Alive” available for purchase at the NER event, which will be held at 115 Franklin St. in Middlebury from 7-8:30 p.m., and is free and open to all with registration. The Bixby Library in Vergennes will also host Johnsen on Nov. 6 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

For more details visit Johnsen’s webpage [mollyjohnsen.com](http://mollyjohnsen.com).



Addison resident Molly Johnsen is the author of “Everything Alive” a collection of poems that will be released Oct. 14.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

**MAHANEY  
ARTS CENTER**



**COCOON: LIVE STORYTELLING  
FRIDAY, 10/3 ■ 8:00 PM**



**DIANA FANNING, PIANO  
SATURDAY, 10/4 ■ 7:30 PM**

\$15/10/8/5  
802-443-MIDD (6433)

See the full schedule of events:  
[go.middlebury.edu/events](http://go.middlebury.edu/events)



# ART ON EXHIBIT

## Brandon Artist Guild features Jeannie Podolak

October "Artist of the Month" at Brandon Artists Guild is North Chittenden printmaker Jeannie Podolak. The gallery will host an opening reception Friday, Oct. 3, to learn more about Podolak's background as a public-school art teacher and her current studio journey making beautiful prints. Podolak will have on hand some of the mediums she uses to create her work including lithography and etching.

"Artist of the Month" is a five-part series of talks by exhibiting members beginning in early summer and continuing through fall. This is the final artist talk in this year's series.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for complimentary refreshments and time to mingle with our artists and your art-loving friends and neighbors. Podolak will begin her talk promptly at 7 p.m. and will allow plenty of time for Q & A. Free and open to all.

The Brandon Artists Guild is a nonprofit artist-run gallery of more than 30 exhibiting members. See Podolak's work featured through October. For more info call 802-247-4956 or visit [brandonartistsguild.org](http://brandonartistsguild.org).



Jeannie Podolak is the featured "Artist of the Month" at the Brandon Artists Guild. See her work featured through October.

IMAGE / JEANNIE PODOLAK

## MORE ART

### 'Finding Hope Within,' at the Johnson gallery

"Finding Hope Within" features art that has emerged through the carceral system in Vermont. If this seems familiar, that's because it is. This same exhibit was on view throughout the summer at The Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury. If you missed the exhibit at the museum, come see it in a new venue on the hill.

The work featured in this exhibition includes drawings, mixed media, poetry and narrative writing by incarcerated artists at Vermont correctional facilities. A recent addition to the exhibit is a series of broadsides created in collaboration between "inside" and "outside" artists, including one on paper made by hand from their discarded clothing and bedding and letterpress printed by the inmates at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield, Vt.

See this work in the Johnson Exhibition Gallery on the Middlebury College campus. Johnson Memorial Building 2nd floor, 74 Chateau Rd. Free and open to the public. An opening reception will be held Thursday, Oct. 2, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Regular open hours are daily from 1-7 p.m. On view through Nov. 14.

## Ilsley Library's Classic Film Club Fall/Winter 2025 Session At the Marquis Theater!

Join fellow community film lovers to watch this session's films at the Marquis Theater, followed by a short discussion of the film. What a great opportunity to treat yourself to a delicious southwestern lunch before or even during the film. As always, the popcorn is on us!

This session, our theme is *Strong Female Characters*. Showings will continue through December.

All films begin at 1:00 pm



October 9  
Mildred Pierce  
1945



October 23  
All About Eve  
1950



November 13  
Rose Tattoo  
1955



December 11  
Thomas Crown  
Affair 1968

FREE ADMISSION courtesy of Ilsley Public Library. Marquis is open for lunch beginning at 11:30am.



Hey Rob, what's for  
Sunday Supper?

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# ART ON EXHIBIT

## ART ON MAIN

25 Main Street, Bristol

Call 802-453-4032, email [aom@gmavt.net](mailto:aom@gmavt.net) or visit [artonmainvt.com](http://artonmainvt.com) for more info.

**"Portals: Here and There"** features the work of Anne Majusiak and Kendra Schpok. Step beyond the threshold and discover what lies just out of reach. On view through Oct. 15.

## BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center St, Brandon. For more info visit

[brandonartistsguild.org](http://brandonartistsguild.org) or call 802-247-4956.

**"Artist of the Month: Jeannie Podolak."** North Chittenden printmaker Jeannie Podolak is this month's featured artist at Brandon Artists Guild. Meet the artist and see her work at an opening reception on Oct. 3. On view through October.

## EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

For more info visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-458-0098 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com).

**"Earthen Gestures"** is a duo exhibition featuring the abstract paintings of Sara Katz and the ceramic vessels of Nicholas Bernard. On view Sept. 12-Nov. 1.

## EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-989-7419 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com).

**"Reclaimed"** brings together photographer Jim Westphalen and mixed-media artist Duncan Johnson in a duo exhibition exploring the resonance of renewal. On view through Nov. 15.

## JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury

Visit [townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery](http://townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery) or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

**"Conjunctions,"** is an exhibit highlighting the textile art by Westport, N.Y., artist Cynthia Schira. Her aim is to produce abstract and "referential" designs that are integrated into the woven fabric in a dialog between art and structure. On view Sept. 19-Nov. 1.

## JOHNSON EXHIBITION GALLERY

78 Chateau Road, Middlebury

For hours and info visit [middlebury.edu/events](http://middlebury.edu/events)

**"Finding Hope Within"** features art that has emerged through the carceral system in Vermont. A recent addition to the exhibit is a series of broadsides created in collaboration between "inside" and "outside" artists, including one on paper made by hand from their discarded clothing and bedding and letterpress printed by the inmates at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield, Vt. An opening reception will be held Thursday, Oct. 2, from 5:30-7:30

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15

# Cosmic Forecast

**ARIES:** March 21/April 20. This week is all about fresh starts, Aries. The stars are aligning to give you the green light on a new project or personal goal. Don't hesitate to jump on the first step.

**TAURUS:** April 21/May 21. Focus on building a solid foundation this week, Taurus. Whether it's in your career or personal life, your hard work and persistence will pay off in a big way.

**GEMINI:** May 22/June 21. Your social calendar is buzzing, Gemini. This week you could be a magnet for interesting conversations and new ideas. Don't be afraid to network and share your thoughts.

**CANCER:** June 22/July 22. Expect a breakthrough in your personal life, Cancer. You'll gain a new sense of clarity and emotional understanding, allowing you to move forward with confidence.

**LEO:** July 23/Aug. 23. Your leadership skills are on full display, Leo. This week you'll be called upon to inspire and guide others. Don't be shy about stepping into the spotlight at work or in a group setting.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24/Sept. 22. This is a week for practical improvements, Virgo. Take a look at your daily routines and find small ways that you can be more efficient. Organize your space or adopt a new health habit.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Harmony in your relationships is a prominent theme this week, Libra. Your diplomatic nature will help you resolve any lingering conflicts and form deeper connections.

**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24/Nov. 22. A powerful transformation might be underway, Scorpio. You might feel an urge to dig deeper and uncover hidden truths, both in yourself and in your life. Embrace the process of growth.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Expand your horizons this week, Sagittarius. You'll feel a strong pull to learn something new, whether it is a skill or a different language. Your optimistic outlook is contagious.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Your hard work is about to pay off, Capricorn. This week you may see progress on a long-term professional goal. Some well-deserved recognition may be on the horizon.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21/Feb. 18. This week you could find joy and inspiration by connecting with like-minded people, Aquarius. A collaborative project or a group event

will be particularly successful.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, dedicate some time this week to new pursuits. You may be itching to try something new and this is the time to sign up for a class or get out and meet new people.



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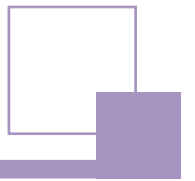
## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCT. 4 — Buster Keaton, silent filmmaker (d)  
OCT. 5 — Bob Geldof, musician & activist (74)  
OCT. 6 — Fannie Lou Hamer, activist (d)

OCT. 7 — Yo-Yo Ma, cellist (70)  
OCT. 8 — Faith Ringold, artist (95)  
OCT. 9 — John Lennon, musician (d)  
OCT. 10 — Thelonious Monk, Jazz musician (d)

# CALENDAR

OCT. 2-9  
2025



## THURSDAY, OCT. 2

**DARK STAR PROJECT IN MONKTON.** Thursday, Oct. 2, 4-7 p.m., Stine Orchard, 1823 Monkton Rd. As the fall colors begin to shine, enjoy an evening filled with great music, hearty flavors, refreshing drinks and community spirit in a picturesque orchard setting. **"I PROBABLY SHOULD'VE BROUGHT A TENT" AUTHOR TALK IN VERGENNES.**

Thursday, Oct. 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Local author and Champlain College Associate professor Erik Shonstrom shares humorous misadventures and heartfelt moments from his outdoor education work, drawn from his book "I Probably Should've Brought a Tent." More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

**LAURA DICKERMAN IN CONVERSATION WITH CAROLYN KUEBLER IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Oct. 2, 6-7 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Dickerman, a graduate of Bread Loaf School of English, will discuss her fiction debut, "Hot Desk," with Carolyn Kuebler, editor of New England Review. Free with registration. Presented by the Vermont Book Shop. More info at [addisonarts.org/event/laura-dickerman-with-carolyn-kuebler](http://addisonarts.org/event/laura-dickerman-with-carolyn-kuebler).

**OPERA COMPANY OF**

**MIDDLEBURY'S "CANDIDE" FILM SCREENING & TALK IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. A screening of OCM's acclaimed film of their 2021 production of "Candide." OCM Artistic Director Doug Anderson will give a pre-show talk. Tickets \$20-\$40, patrons under 26 free. Register here: [addisonarts.org/event/candide](http://addisonarts.org/event/candide).

**30TH ANNUAL FIRST SHOW: "THE TRUTH REMIXED" AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE.** Thursday, Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. Hepburn Zoo, 121 Hepburn Rd. Bold, funny, heartfelt performances explore the many sides of "truth." Thursday & Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 2 & 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$5. Info: [middlebury.edu/college/academics/theatre](http://middlebury.edu/college/academics/theatre).

## FRIDAY, OCT. 3

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: ADIRONDACK ADVENTURE IN KEENE, N.Y.** Friday, Oct. 3. Five-mile roundtrip Adirondack bushwhack to Elizabethtown #4. Spectacular view of the Boquet Valley under the east face of Dix. For more information, contact Barry Francis at [barryfrancis@gmavt.net](mailto:barryfrancis@gmavt.net). More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**TEEN CENTER COMIC WORKSHOP IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Oct. 3, 1-2 p.m., Henry

Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Celebrate Midd Pride with award-winning cartoonist Tillie Walden, who will lead a hands-on comics workshop for middle and high school students. Supplies provided. Free, registration required. Register/info: [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).

**VERMONT FEMALE FARMERS OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Oct. 3, 4-6 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum. Photographer JuanCarlos González will give a gallery talk at the opening of his portrait series celebrating Vermont's women farmers. Exhibition on view Oct. 1-Jan. 3, 2026. Free.

**PHOTOGRAPHY OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Oct. 3, 4-7 p.m., PhotoPlace Gallery, 3 Park St. PhotoPlace Gallery presents "Trees and Seasons," a juried photography exhibition celebrating the enduring presence of trees as they mark time through seasonal change. At the opening reception celebrate the selected artists along with refreshments and mead tastings provided by Golden Rule Mead of Middlebury.

**PIZZA BY THE POND WITH BRISSON BOSS & PELLETIER IN GOSHEN.** Friday, Oct. 3, 5-7 p.m., Blueberry Hill Inn, Goshen-Ripton Rd. Enjoy wood-fired pizza by the pond and live acoustic music from Brisson Boss & Pelletier, a trio

of veteran Addison County performers known for their original songs and covers by artists including Nanci Griffith, Melissa Etheridge, Adele, U2, Madeleine Peyroux and Kasey Chambers. The group features members of the Horse Traders and Deb Brisson and the Hay Burners. More info and reservations at [blueberryhillinn.com/pizza](http://blueberryhillinn.com/pizza).

**THE BERNSTEIN SONGBOOK & "TROUBLE IN TAHITI" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Oct. 3, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. An exploration of Bernstein's Broadway musicals. Prosecco reception to follow. Tickets \$61-\$88, under 26 free with registration. Register here: [addisonarts.org/event/bernstein-songbook-featuring-trouble-in-tahiti](http://addisonarts.org/event/bernstein-songbook-featuring-trouble-in-tahiti).

**OPENING ARTIST OF THE MONTH: JEANNIE PODOLAK RECEPTION AND TALK IN BRANDON.** Friday, Oct. 3, 7-8:30 p.m., Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. Podolak, a Chittenden-based printmaker and art educator, will discuss her work in traditional and non-toxic printmaking techniques. Free.

**30TH ANNUAL FIRST SHOW: "THE TRUTH REMIXED" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. See Oct. 2 listing. **COCOON IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Oct. 3, 8 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Robison Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. Live storytelling on the theme

"Before I Die," with Middlebury College students, faculty, community members and Moth GrandSLAM champion Christine Gentry. Reception follows. Tickets \$15/10/8/5. Info: [middlebury.edu/events/event/cocoon-6](http://middlebury.edu/events/event/cocoon-6).

## SATURDAY, OCT. 4

**VERMONT OPEN STUDIO WEEKEND.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., various spots around Addison County and Brandon. Artists open their work spaces to share their tools, equipment and inspirations. See locations online at [vermontcrafts.com](http://vermontcrafts.com). Continues Sunday.

**GROWING IN PROCESS OPEN STUDIO IN NEW HAVEN.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. As part of the Vermont Crafts Council's statewide Open Studio Weekend, artist Mira Cabrera will bring her studio outdoors with new paintings, works in progress, and natural pigment demonstrations. Saturday features a 2 p.m. cider release toast with labels designed by the artist. Visitors may also explore vineyard paths with artworks among Free. More info at [vermontcrafts.com](http://vermontcrafts.com).

**DAVID GIBSON & ELLIE HOFFMAN IN CORNWALL.** Saturday, Oct. 4, noon-2 p.m., Sunrise Orchards, 1287 N. Bingham St. Enjoy old time fiddle and guitar music in the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, <a href="http://www.middleburycommunitytv.org">www.middleburycommunitytv.org</a> , for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 802-388-3062.	
<b>Channel 1071</b> Through the Night and in-between: Public Affairs & Bulletin Board <b>Friday, October 3</b> 5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service  10 a.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service  5:30 p.m. The Talk 10 p.m. Democracy Now <b>Saturday, October 4</b> 4:30 a.m. Democracy Now 5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 7 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Sharpe Takes 8:15 p.m. The Talk	<b>Sunday, October 5</b> 5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 3 p.m. Sharpe Takes 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. The Talk 11 p.m. Democracy Now <b>Monday, October 6</b> 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Sharpe Takes 10 a.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 4:15 p.m. Public Affairs 9 p.m. Sharpe Takes 10 p.m. Democracy Now 11 p.m. All Things LGBTQ <b>Tuesday, October 7</b> 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Democracy Now 9:30 a.m. Eckankar	10 a.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Sharpe Takes 7 p.m. Selectboard <b>Wednesday, October 8</b> 5 a.m. The Talk 6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 7 p.m. Selectboard 10 p.m. Democracy Now <b>Thursday, October 9</b> 5 a.m. Democracy Now 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 4 p.m. Press Conferences 9:30 p.m. Eckankar  <b>Channel 1091</b>	<b>Friday, October 3</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 9 a.m. School Board Meetings 4 p.m. At the Ilsley 6 p.m. Local Sports <b>Saturday, October 4</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga & Yoga for Kids 7 a.m. Science & Art Programs 9:00 a.m. State Board of Education 1 p.m. Local Sports 9:30 p.m. At the Ilsley <b>Sunday, October 5</b> 4:30 a.m. Tai Chi 5 a.m. Chair Yoga & Yoga for Kids 6:30 a.m. Science & Art Programs 4 p.m. Local Sports 8 p.m. State Board of Education <b>Monday, October 6</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 11 a.m. Chair Yoga	12 p.m. Artists, Poets and Authors 2 p.m. State Board of Education 6 p.m. At the Ilsley 8 p.m. La Boheme at THT <b>Tuesday, October 7</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. ACSD Board Meeting 4 p.m. Yoga for Kids & Yoga for Everyone 4:30 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting 10 p.m. Artists, Poets and Authors <b>Wednesday, October 8</b> 5 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. School Boards 4 p.m. Yestermorrow 8 p.m. Carmen from OCM <b>Thursday, October 9</b> 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Yoga 7:30 a.m. School Boards 12 p.m. Yestermorrow 3 p.m. Artists, Poets and Authors	

orchard.

**THE BERNSTEIN SONGBOOK & "TROUBLE IN TAHITI" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 1 p.m. See Oct. 3 listing.

**30TH ANNUAL FIRST SHOW: "THE TRUTH REMIXED" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. See Oct. 2 listing.

**ZACH NUGENT IN BRANDON.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 4-6 p.m., Red Clover Ale, 43 Center St. Music ranging from the Grateful Dead and classic Americana to original music rooted in heart and history.

**WILL PATTON QUARTET IN VERGENNES.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 6-8 p.m., Rucker's Pizzeria, 191 Main St. This quartet performs a wide ranging repertoire on mandolin, string bass, violin and guitar. It's part of the Vergennes Opera House's Off Stage Series, which features events around the Little City while the opera house is under construction. Free.

**ROB FLAX'S BOOM CHICK TRIO IN LINCOLN.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, E. River Rd. The trio will perform swing, instrumentals, harmonies and stagecraft in two sets. Part of the Burnham Presents concert series. Doors open at 7 p.m. Sliding scale \$20/\$25/\$30; \$10 children under 12; free for lap infants. Homemade desserts available. Tickets and details at 802-349-3364, burnhampresents.org.

**DIANA FANNING, PIANO: 50TH**

**ANNIVERSARY CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Robison Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. Diana Fanning celebrates 50 years of teaching at Middlebury with a program of Chopin, Janáček, Beethoven, and Debussy. Tickets \$15/10/8/5. Info: middlebury.edu/events/event/diana-fanning-piano-50th-anniversary-concert.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 5**

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**GROWING IN PROCESS OPEN STUDIO IN NEW HAVEN.** Sunday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. See Oct. 4 listing.

**THE BERNSTEIN SONGBOOK & "TROUBLE IN TAHITI" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Oct. 5, 1 p.m. See Oct. 3 listing.

**HIKE INTO HISTORY IN ORWELL.** Sunday, Oct. 5, 1-4 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 472 Mt. Independence Rd. Enjoy a guided autumn walk on the trails and learn about the American and British activities at Mount Independence back in the autumn of 1776 and 1777. Wear walking shoes or boots

and dress for the weather.

**SOULSHINE REVIVAL IN HINESBURG.** Sunday, Oct. 5, 1-4 p.m., Yates Family Orchard, 1074 Davis Rd. Enjoy live music, pick apples and relax in the orchard.

**STAGED READING OF "BLOOD OF THE LAMB" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Oct. 5, 4 p.m., Anderson Studio, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Watch a staged reading of the off-Broadway play by Arlene Hutton. Part of Middlebury Acting Company's Cutting Edge play reading series. Tickets \$15.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 7**

**"HIKING OVER 60" BOOK TALK IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6-7 p.m., Ilsley Library, Mini Meeting Room, 30 Main St. Author Philip Werner presents his new book on hiking gear and techniques for active adults. Free.

**"WALKING WITH MY ANCESTORS: CAPE COAST CASTLE" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m., McCullough Student Center, 14 Old Chapel Rd. One-woman performance uses drumming, singing, dance, and acting to evoke the lives of Africans held in Cape Coast Castle. Free. Info: middlebury.edu/events/event/walking-my-ancestors-cape-coast-castle-2019.

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8**  
**AUTUMN PLANT ID WALK IN**

**MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, Oct. 8, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Wright Park. Group-led plant identification walk — no experts, just plant enthusiasts learning together. Bring water, sturdy shoes and a favorite field guide. Meet at the Seymour St. Extension parking lot. To register, email pollinatorpathway, addisoncty@gmail.com.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: MIDDLEBURY GAP TO SUCKER BROOK IN HANCOCK.** Wednesday, Oct. 8, Moderate hike of less than 6 miles with some elevation gain. Enjoy the fall woods with forest views. For more information, contact Ellen Cronan at 908-595-2926. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

**LIVE MUSIC AT THE TILLERMAN BARN IN BRISTOL.** Wednesday, Oct. 8, 6-8 p.m., The Tillerman, 1868 N 116 Rd, Bristol. Free live music with tacos by Las Hermosas and sweets and drinks from The Tillerman. Food served 5-8 p.m. Rain or shine. Free. More info at thetillermanvt.com/livemusic.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 9**

**"MILDRED PIERCE" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Oct. 9, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater, 65 Main St. Middlebury Classic Film Club's latest offering features this 1945 film in which Joan Crawford is a spurned housewife struggling to

care for her two daughters: a lovable tomboy and a scheming, social-climbing teen who almost drives her to ruin. The film, an adaptation of James M. Cain's novel, was nominated for Best Picture.

**TRUE CRIME PODCAST CLUB IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Oct. 9, 6 p.m., Mini Ilsley Library, 30 Main St. Paper Ghosts: The Ozarks Season 4. It is summer 1989. In the heart of the Ozarks, a young woman goes missing before a body is found, not far from the Missouri border. Soon, a second body is discovered nearby. The hunt for a possible serial killer heats up as investigator M. William Phelps arrives on the scene to reinvestigate a once-cold case. Listen to the podcast on your own before the discussion. For 18+. Listen to the podcast wherever you get your podcasts or ask Renee for assistance.

**MILTON BUSTER & THE GRIM WORK IN MONKTON.** Thursday, Oct. 9, 4-7 p.m., Stine Orchard, 1823 Monkton Rd. As the orchard glows with autumn colors, enjoy an evening of music, food, drinks and community connection.

**SEE MORE CALENDAR LISTINGS ONLINE!**  
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**Art Chat with Patty Hudak**

Join Patty Hudak & Jill Madden as they chat about Mokuhanga - a Japanese water-based woodblock printmaking technique

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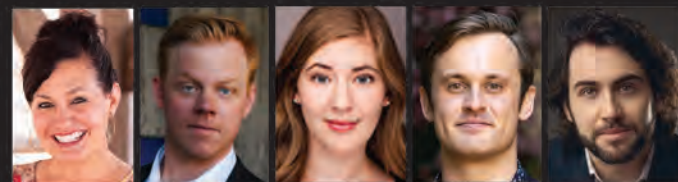
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Saturday, October 4  
5-6 pm

**Opera Company of Middlebury**  
*A Bernstein Festival*  
September 24 - October 5, 2025



**Leonard Bernstein:**  
**The Gift of Music** 1993 documentary  
**WEST SIDE STORY** 1961 film  
**Candide** OCM's 2021 film



**The Bernstein Songbook +**  
**Trouble in Tahiti**

Info: ocmvermont.org  
Tickets: townhalltheater.org



## Mozart like you've never heard it before

AERIALIST, ACROBAT AND TENOR PERFORMS 'MAGIC FLUTE' IN MIDDLEBURY

On Saturday, Oct. 11, the Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO) will present an innovative collaboration of Mozart's *Magic Flute* with Arc Bender Circus Opera from Brattleboro, Vt., helmed by Elizabeth Wohl, a trained soprano and circus performer, and lawyer by day. The opera will feature an aerialist (Wohl) who will sing while suspended in air, an acrobat, and a tenor. This will be paired with Stravinsky's *Suite for Small Orchestra No. 2*, and a work composed by CPO's own percussionist, Jerome Shedd.

CPO is a resident company of Town Hall Theater, featuring Music Director and Conductor Matt LaRocca. LaRocca is a cross-genre composer, performer, and educator who likes making beautiful sounds — you're just as likely to see him playing with a rock band as conducting an orchestra. He is the Artistic Advisor and Special Project Conductor for the Vermont Symphony Orchestra where he works with all things non-traditional, and a professor of composition/theory at the University of Vermont.

LaRocca performs on the electric viola (through an array of guitar pedals) with Michael Chorney's psych-rock improvisation ensemble Freeway Clyde and is a frequent

SEE MOZART ON PAGE 11

## UPCOMING MUSIC

### Bluegrass duo Flynn Cohen and Laura Orshaw play with Grammy-nominated Matt Flinger

Before they play Boston's Club Passim, Flynn Cohen and Laura Orshaw will appear at Town Hall Theater on Friday, Oct. 10, performing a range of traditional and contemporary bluegrass music with harmony singing, guitar, fiddle and mandolin. Their tour marks the 20th anniversary of Flynn's 2005 solo record "Mellow Yell," which will be reissued in hard copy and released to streaming services. The original recording featured performances from a large group of Flynn's musical collaborators at the time — Aoife O'Donovan, Rushad Eggleston, Greg Liszt, John McGann, Jake Armerding, Nate Leath, Chris Pandolfi, Eric Merrill, and Mark Schatz — and was called "a masterpiece of contemporary bluegrass" by *Bluegrass Unlimited Magazine*.

A respected powerhouse on the Bluegrass

scene, Orshaw was the first female to win SPBGMA Fiddle Player of the Year and prides herself on keeping the sounds of traditional Bluegrass alive in the genre. With her sophomore solo project set to be released in early 2026, Orshaw is already a seasoned performer, having toured throughout the world opening and sharing the stage with artists such as Del McCoury, Ricky Skaggs, John Scofield, Jim Lauderdale, Old Crow Medicine Show, Sarah Jarosz, Becky Buller, and Darol Anger among others. Orshaw has celebrated a successful career as a member of the Grammy-nominated Po' Ramblin' Boys and a two IBMA award winner (2020 Gospel Recorded Performance of the Year, 2020 Collaborative Recording of the Year).

Grammy-nominated Matt Flinger has been



Bluegrass Duo Flynn Cohen and Laura Orshaw will play with Grammy-nominated Matt Flinger on Oct. 10 at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

COURTESY PHOTO

playing banjo and mandolin from the start and dedicated himself to Bluegrass from a young age. Living in Ripton, Flinger has spent the last several decades of his life touring with the Matt Flinger Trio and the Modern Mandolin quartet. He also writes musical compositions, some of which have been performed by the Ying Quartet and the Nashville Chamber Orchestra.

Advance tickets \$22 and door sales \$25; students \$15. Tickets: [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) or call 802-382-9222. THT's bar will be open, with beverages available for purchase.

# PUZZLES

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## ACROSS

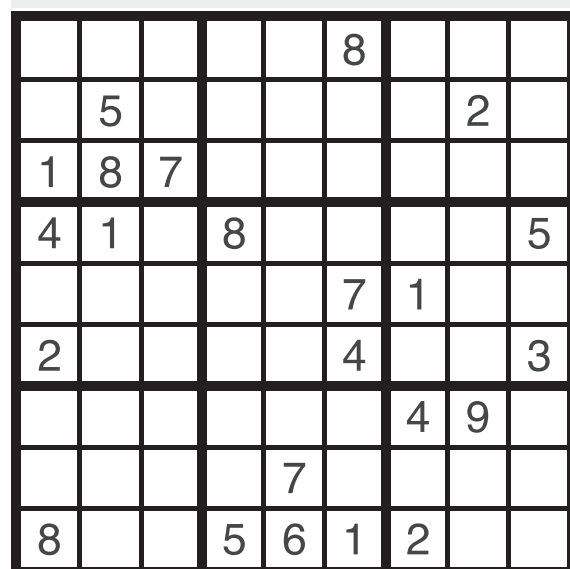
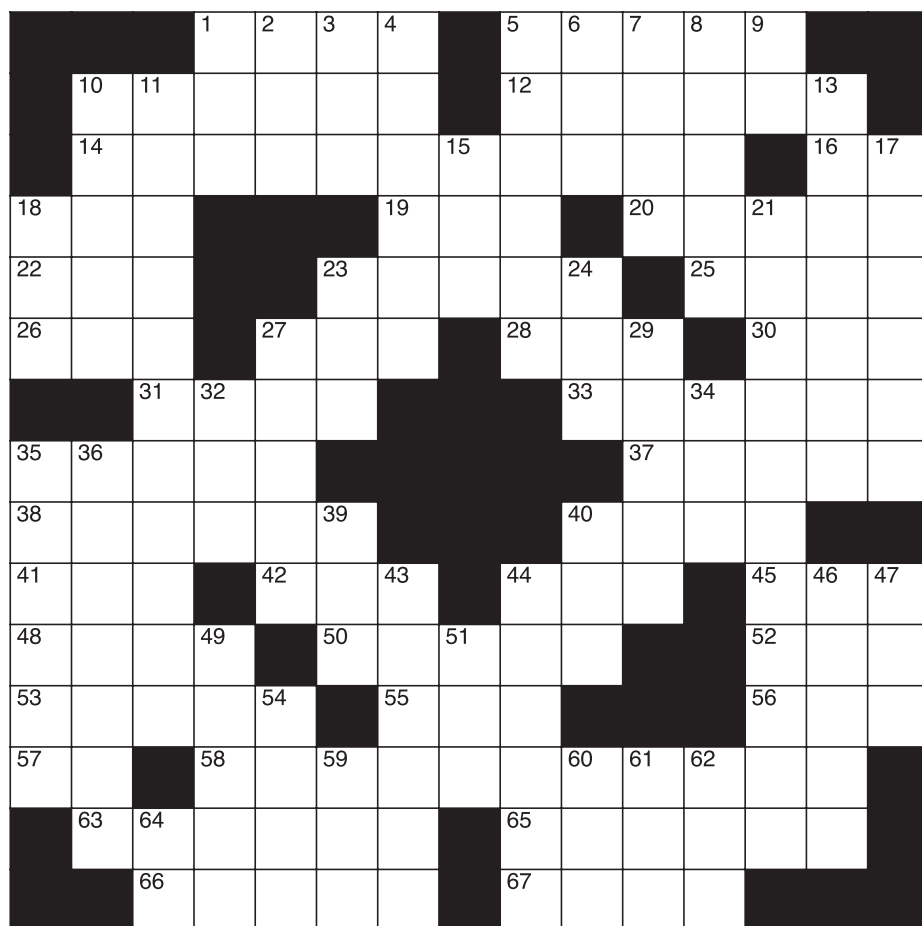
- 1. Native American people of CA
- 5. Long periods of time (Brit.)
- 10. Classroom tool
- 12. Rods
- 14. One who renews
- 16. They start the alphabet
- 18. Periodical (slang)
- 19. Smooth singer Cole
- 20. Dorsal sclerites in insects
- 22. One from Utah
- 23. The world of the dead
- 25. Singer Redding
- 26. Mafia head

- 27. Wrongly
- 28. Unhappy
- 30. Anger
- 31. Dark olive black
- 33. Places to sit and eat
- 35. Made a mistake
- 37. Damp
- 38. Banned fuel type
- 40. Actor Damon
- 41. What thespians do
- 42. A polite address for a woman
- 44. Disallow
- 45. Swiss river
- 48. A banana has one
- 50. Afrikaans
- 52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 53. Agave

- 55. Journalist Tarbell
- 56. One-time tech leader
- 57. Incidentally (abbr.)
- 58. Intestinal bacterium
- 63. Loose sheats around the spinal cord
- 65. Accompanies nook
- 66. Vogue
- 67. Highly excited

## DOWN

- 1. Witch
- 2. Utilize
- 3. Writing utensil
- 4. Where rockers work
- 5. Becomes less intense



## Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

**Level: Medium**

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 15.

- 6. Consume
- 7. Type of catfish
- 8. "Horsetown, U.S.A."
- 9. Atomic #50
- 10. The Muse of lyric poetry
- 11. Brings back to life
- 13. Humorous critiques
- 15. Cool!
- 17. Worst
- 18. Wet dirt
- 21. Useful
- 23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- 24. High schoolers' test
- 27. Internet device
- 29. City in India
- 32. A place to rest
- 34. Chat responder
- 35. A way to move on
- 36. What consumers are given
- 39. Digital audiotape
- 40. More (Spanish)
- 43. Disfigured
- 44. White (Spanish)
- 46. Church building
- 47. Georgia rockers
- 49. Surgeon's tool
- 51. "Much \_\_ about nothing"
- 54. Make by braiding
- 59. Local area network
- 60. Unit of work
- 61. Indigenous person of Thailand
- 62. Liquefied natural gas
- 64. Distance to top



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# ASK A MASTER GARDENER

## WHEN TO HARVEST PUMPKINS & SQUASH

**T**he recent cold snap — with widespread frost and even a freeze in some spots in Vermont — likely marked the end of the season for pumpkins and winter squash. Unless your area escaped the frost or you covered these crops, their tender foliage succumbed to the autumn temperatures.

BY **DEBRA**

**HELEBA** In general, the timing of pumpkin and squash harvest can be tricky, as picking them too early, — before they are mature — results in poor flavor and color, but harvesting too late leads to cold injury and quicker breakdown. Hopefully, your crops have made it to maturity with pumpkins having a uniform orange color. Winter squashes — acorn, hubbard, buttercup, butternut and others — should have solid color and hardened, thumbnail-resistant skins.

If you have yet to harvest, use a sharp knife or pruners to cut pumpkins and squash from their vines, keeping a few inches of stem attached. Handle them as little as possible. It is always advised to hold pumpkins like a ball and not by their stems. Wearing gloves during harvest will protect both you and the squashes.

Remove any soil from the surface of your pumpkins and squash. You can wash them too, but make sure they are thoroughly dried before storage.

Most pumpkins and squash (except acorn) benefit from a curing stage that may heal any surface wounds and harden their rinds. Curing can also increase their sugar content, leading to better tasting fruit. To cure your pumpkins and squash, leave them in a well-ventilated spot for five to 10 days after harvest. Keep



*Debra Heleba coordinates UVM Extension's community horticulture programs including the Extension Master Gardener and Vermont Master Composter programs. She lives and gardens in Addison County.*

them out of the sun but aim for temperatures above 60 F, ideally 80 to 85 F during the curing phase.

Store your pumpkins and squash off the ground in a well-ventilated location away from sunlight. Ideal storage temperatures should be a consistent 50 to 55 F, making sure to avoid temperature fluctuations. Ideal humidity should be between 50% and 70%. A cool basement can provide these conditions. Keep pumpkins away from apples and ripening tomatoes to avoid the ethylene produced by those fruits that accelerates ripening.

Under these conditions, pumpkins and acorn squash can last up to 2 to 3 months, while butternut squash can store well up to 3 to 4 months. Hubbard and buttercup squash can last up to 4 to 6 months under the right conditions.

With some planning and an ideal spot, you will be able to enjoy the fruits of your garden through the end of the year.

As always, for home gardening questions, contact the University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener Helpline online at [go.uvm.edu/gardenhelpline](http://go.uvm.edu/gardenhelpline) or by phone at 802-656-5421, Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. from April to October.



*Wait to harvest pumpkins and squash until solid color develops.*

PHOTO / DEBRA HELEBA



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## STUDIOS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

### ADDISON COUNTY ARTISTS LOOP #4:

**Robert Compton Pottery.** Hand thrown functional and decorative pottery. 2662 N 116 Rd, Bristol VT 05443.

**Christine Homer.** Handwoven Scarves and Shawls. 2662 N 116 Rd, Bristol VT 05443.

**Art on Main.** Artist cooperative gallery, works in many media. 25 Main St, Bristol VT 05443.

**CQ Glassworks – Caroline Quick.** Kiln formed fused glass. 840 Stoney Hill Rd, Bristol VT 05443.

**Timothy Clark, Cabinetmaker/ Chairwright.** Windsor chairs, Shaker inspired furniture. 2111 Green St, Waltham VT 05491.

**Three Pines Treasures – Liz McGurk.** Gallery showing local artists. 7718 VT Rte 22A, Addison VT 05491.

**Growing In Process – Mira Cabrera.** Land-based abstract paintings, Fine Art in an outdoor setting. 142 River Rd, New Haven, VT 05472.



"Field Day" by Judy Albright.

**Snake Mountain Turnery – Warren McDermott.** Wood turning, sculpture. 1664 Forrest Rd, Bridport VT 05734.

**Judy Albright Fine Art.** Pastel painter, originals & prints. 1 Chipman Heights, Middlebury VT 05753. (802) 989-7644.

**Trillium Art & Beyond – Yinglei Zhang.** Chinese painting and calligraphy, ceramic, stone and woodwork. 56 High St, Middlebury VT 05753. (802) 388-8229.

**Middlebury Studio School.** Art classes for all ages. 94 Court St, Middlebury 05753.

**George Marcus.** Colored pencil drawings, landscapes, still lifes, portraits. 420 East Main St, East Middlebury VT 05753.

## MOZART

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

collaborator with rock, folk and electronic musicians. He has written string

and orchestral arrangements for and performed with artists such as Guster (his music can be heard on their OMAGAH! album), Grace Potter, Kat Wright, Bill Ellis, Francesca Blanchard, Myra Flynn, Moira Smiley and others. With a love of improvisation and crossing disciplines, LaRocca is a

regular in the dance world and his collaborators include Jessie Owens and Paul Besaw.

The musicians of the Champlain Philharmonic come from diverse backgrounds, but all share a passionate love of music making. Learn more about the musicians at [champlainphilharmonic.org/the-orchestra](http://champlainphilharmonic.org/the-orchestra).

Tickets range from \$5-\$15 and may be purchased via [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org), at the THT box office from Monday-Friday from 12-5 p.m., or by phone at 802-382-9222.



## Pet of the week

Send us your pet!

[news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com)

# Pets In Need

## HOMeward BOUND

### Addison County's Humane Society

#### Daisy



**Daisy** is a 4-year-old beagle weighing 23 pounds. She happily wiggles her body when she wants to say hello and seeks affection from people. We don't have much history of her, but she loves to play with toys and to explore the yard with her hound nose. Daisy has lived with dogs but we're unsure of cats and children. She's crate trained and walks well on a leash.

#### Bubbles



**Bubbles** is a very friendly cat who will find a nice sunny spot to curl up next to you and fall asleep. She likes attention at her own pace and may be a bit cautious of newcomers but accepting. She currently finds comfort in snuggling with one of her litter mates. Bubbles is very curious and fascinated by all things. Once getting comfortable she really comes out of her shell and starts to play with feather wands and toys. Bubbles is great with other cats but we are unsure about dogs.

#### Green



My name says **Green** but I'm not! I'm a cute little black kitty who is trying to find my way in life. The shelter environment makes me nervous and I may shy away from you at first but once you start petting me, I'll enjoy your touch. My golden eyes make me look quite handsome and the ladies love me! Give me a shot at a new life, I won't disappoint.

#### Linetti



**Linetti** is a goofy little lady who is outnumbered by her 4 brothers! She is full of fun and love. If you are looking for a playful gal, Linetti is for you!

#### Triceratops



Meet **Triceratops**, this lovely boy is just as affectionate as he is handsome! He did not have the best start to life, but despite that he is just the friendliest guy. He arrived to us with a few other cats he had been living with. He would love to have a chance to go home with one of them, but he would also do well as a solo cat in a home.



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204 WEST RIVER ROAD, LINCOLN  
\$495,000

# THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

## Renovated 1855 farmhouse just for you

This classic 1855 farmhouse has just undergone a complete renovation including a thoughtful reworking the home's layout for a seamless flow between living spaces, new kitchen and baths, and limestone veneer plaster walls, all while balancing an appreciation of the home's original character and adding beautiful, modern design elements. Upon entering from the back deck, you'll find yourself in a spacious mudroom, from here the home flows into the living room, which enjoys nice light, with southwestern exposure and access to the formal front entry. On the opposite side of the home, you'll find a nicely laid out eat-in kitchen with custom cabinetry and a large working island, which creates a natural space to gather. A well-appointed half bath with laundry rounds out the first level. Upstairs, you'll find the home's three bedrooms and full bath, featuring a heated floor. This property is located a stone's throw from the beloved Lincoln Library, Lincoln General Store, Burnham Hall, the Lincoln Sports field and numerous swimming holes and hiking trails. Just a 30 minutes' drive to Rikert Outdoor Center, the Middlebury College Snow

Bowl, and 25 to the Mad River Valley and Sugarbush. Seller will be completing installation of clapboards on east side as well as some punch list items. See a 3-D Virtual Tour of the house online.

*This week's property is managed by The Real Estate Company of Vermont. More info at [therealestatecompanyvt.com](http://therealestatecompanyvt.com).*

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53 Stonecrop Road  
Middlebury

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You've heard about the newest Middlebury development. You've wondered if it might be right for you. **Now is the perfect time to take a closer look. Experience what Stonecrop has to offer!** Two and three bedroom units available in multiple configurations.



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Saturday, OCT. 4  
2 - 4 PM

**OPEN HOUSE! 1515 CIDER MILL ROAD CORNWALL**

MLS #5038992 | \$5,495,000  
5 BD | 7 BA | 10,943 SF | 69.52 ACRES

It's true! The breathtaking Moxie Hill Farm will be open to view this Saturday from 2 - 4 pm. **If ever you've wondered what 'Vermont luxury' is about, now is your chance!**



**FERRISBURGH NEW LISTINGS! 46 & 58 RIVERVIEW STREET**

MLS #5063309 | \$435,000  
MLS #5063310 | \$425,000  
1 BD | 2 BA | 948 & 900 SF | 0.50 AC

Watch the seasons from the front porch overlooking owned frontage on the Otter Creek. You can motor by boat to Lake Champlain in just a few minutes from these twin homes!



**MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING! 5 EVERGREEN LANE**

MLS #5062759 | \$349,000  
CONDO: 2 BD | 2 BA | 1190 SF

Open first floor living space with granite countertops, built-in cabinetry in the dining nook, a wood stove in the living area, and back patio. Hardwood floors throughout, laundry, and a one-car garage!



**MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING! 42 LOWER PLAINS ROAD**

MLS #5063418 | \$499,000  
4 BD | 3 BA | 1875 SF | 38.31 ACRES

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**204 West River Road, Lincoln**

Tastefully restored, this 3 bedroom, 2 Bath Lincoln village cape has just undergone a full renovation, enhancing the homes historic character through the seamless integration of modern design elements including new kitchen, baths and limestone veneer plaster walls! Come see it in person.

MLS No. 5055620 | \$ 495,000



**220 West River Road, Lincoln**

Opportunity awaits - bring your vision to life with this one of a kind mixed-use studio/residential space in the heart of Lincoln. With a large studio/workshop space, two office spaces and 1/2 bath on the ground level and prep work completed for a comfortable 2-bedroom apartment on the 2nd floor, this property has lots of potential.

MLS No. 5059162 | \$ 295,000



**548 Watch Point Rd, Shoreham**

This beautifully maintained Queen Anne Victorian seamlessly blends distinctive period architecture, modern systems, mature landscaping, and pastoral views. With five bedrooms, two baths, multiple porches and a finished attic bonus space this lovingly cared for home offers warmth and character and plenty of space all situated on a park like 2.7 acre lot with pond.

MLS No. 5047185 | \$ 685,000

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT DOOR

## A glamorous ghost story takes the stage

The Valley Players will present "Blithe Spirit," by Noël Coward, Fridays-Sundays, Oct. 10-26, at the Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main Street (Route 100) in Waitsfield. Friday and Saturday night shows are at 7 p.m., and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m.

This fall, experience "Blithe Spirit" like never before, reimagined in dazzling black and white. With styling inspired by 1940s cinema, every element of this production — from costumes to makeup — embraces the elegant world of old Hollywood. It's a supernatural comedy full of charm, chaos and vintage style. A ghost story never looked so glamorous!

When a séance by Madame Arcati (Sarah Storjohann, Barre) goes sideways, Charles Condomine (Lee Chasen) finds himself haunted by his first wife, Elvira (Sorsha Anderson, Middletown), who has some strong opinions about Charles' second wife,

Ruth (Shannon McDermott, Burlington). Also participating in the séance are Charles' skeptical friends, Dr. Bradman (Ray Merrill, Montpelier) and his wife, Violet (Sarah McDougal, Warren). Providing them with enthusiastic household service is their maid, Edith (Cassandra Demarais, Websterville).

The production is directed by Shannon Sanborn (Barre) with lighting design by Irene Halabozak (Williston). Sanborn is also the set designer.

"Directing 'Blithe Spirit' in black and white has been such a fun ride," Sanborn said. "Every choice from the bold makeup to the clothes and sets has to pop without color. It's all about mood, texture and timeless style. I look forward to audiences experiencing the magic!"

For tickets and more information, visit [valleyplayers.com](http://valleyplayers.com) or email [boxoffice@valleyplayers.com](mailto:boxoffice@valleyplayers.com).



Ruth (Shannon McDermott) shares a toast with her husband, Charles (Lee Chasen) in the Valley Players production of *Blithe Spirit*, playing Oct. 10-26 in Waitsfield.

**EXHIBITS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

p.m. Regular open hours are daily from 1-7 p.m. On view through Nov. 14.

**PHOTOPLACE GALLERY**

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit [photoplacegallery.com](http://photoplacegallery.com).

**"Trees and Seasons,"** a juried photography exhibition celebrating the enduring presence of trees as they mark time through seasonal change. Juror Lee Anne White has selected images that reflect the poetry and rhythm of the natural world. On view Oct. 1-31.

**SPARROW ART SUPPLY**

44 Main St., Middlebury

For more info visit [sparrowartsupply.com](http://sparrowartsupply.com)

**"Spotlight @ Sparrow: Beth Murphy."**

October's exhibit will feature pressed botanicals by Beth Murphy. On view through October.

**SEE MORE EXHIBIT LISTINGS ONLINE!**

[ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM/ART-EXHIBITS](http://ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM/ART-EXHIBITS)

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9	5	4	3	1	6	7	2	8
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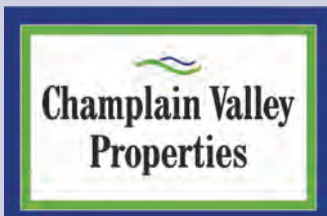
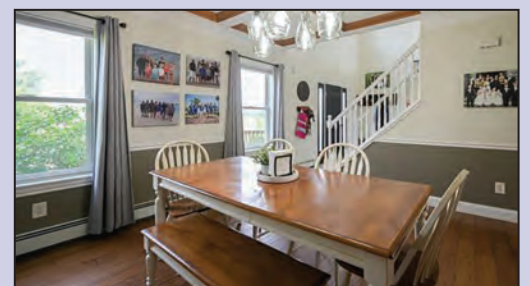
**62 WINDY KNOLL LANE, LEICESTER  
MLS #5056740 - \$375,000**

This charming updated three bedroom cape is situated on a two acre lot. This home features a cozy layout featuring hardwood floors throughout the kitchen, dining area and the living room. There is also a spacious first floor bedroom and full bathroom. The upstairs second bedroom includes a 3/4 bath. The entry/mudroom has the washer and dryer and connects you to a large primary bedroom above the garage. There is a deck on the front of the house to watch the spectacular sunsets and another large one on the side of the house which is the perfect place for outdoor relaxation surrounded by beautiful serene nature.



**163 STICKNEY RD., WHITING  
MLS # 5049132 - \$499,900**

This beautifully appointed 4-bedroom, 3-bath home offers exceptional space, comfort, and versatility for today's modern living. Two inviting living areas and a generously sized kitchen are perfect for entertaining or everyday family life. There is also a large deck with beautiful views. The home features hardwood floors throughout, with porcelain tile in key areas. The spacious primary bedroom boasts an updated en suite bath and ample closet space. Upstairs, you'll find a large sitting area, 3 bedrooms, a full bathroom and a unique bonus room. The finished attic offers two additional rooms, and the partially finished basement includes a kitchen and half bathroom, making it perfect for a home business, in-law suite, or rental potential with town approval. Central vacuum throughout. This home is full of possibilities!



70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT  
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# Fall Will Be Fabulous at THT

## Bluegrass Duo Flynn Cohen & Laura Orshaw

With Grammy-Nominated Matt Flinner

Friday October 10th 7:30-9pm

Tickets: \$15-\$25

An evening of world-class traditional and contemporary bluegrass music with harmony singing, guitar, fiddle, and mandolin. Grammy-nominated banjo and mandolin player Matt Flinner will play a set and join Cohen and Orshaw on several songs.



## An Evening with Pianist Mathis Picard

Presented By THT & Jazz Middlebury

Saturday October 18th 5:30-7pm

Tickets: \$15-\$50

Based in New York City and from France and Madagascar, internationally acclaimed pianist, composer, and producer Mathis honors his multi-cultural background by merging musical influences and elevating sonic synchronicity. Post-show meet-and-greet and casual conversation with Mathis in the Jean's Place bar after the show!

## Jenna Nicholls with Jon LaDeau

Presented by THT & Valley Stage Productions

Sunday, October 19th 4-6pm

Tickets: \$15-\$25

Nicholls new album, The Commuter, is a cinematic trip that takes the listener to 1930's Parisian cafes, New Orleans juke joints, Tennessee hills, and the wide-open vistas of Texas and Oklahoma. Nicholls albums show a love of vintage music - anything from classic music like "Singin' in the Rain" to Bessie Smith.



## The Rocky Horror Picture Show

50th Anniversary Interactive Screening!

Thursday, October 30th 8pm

Tickets: \$15-\$20 (includes prop kit)

Celebrate 50 years of The Rocky Horror Picture Show's cult classic greatness, featuring a screening of the original, unedited film! Dress up as your favorite character (optional), yell out callbacks, do the "Time Warp", and use the props from your "prop kit" (included in the ticket price), to be part of this timeless hit.

## What's Coming Up

Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra

**The Magic Flute & Arc Bender Opera Circus**

Oct 11 7:30pm  
\$5-\$15

Great Art Wednesday Film Series

**The Impressionists & the Man Who Made Them**

Oct 15 11am  
Tickets: \$15

Middlebury Community Players Presents

**The Spitfire Grill**

Oct 16 - Oct 18 7:30pm, Oct 19 2pm  
Oct 24 & Oct 25 7:30pm, Oct 26 2pm  
Tickets: \$17-\$40

Album Premier

**The Almendros**

Oct 24 5:30-7pm  
Tickets: \$10-\$15

Halloween Costume Ball & Concert

**Featuring Soulshine Revival**

Oct 31 7:30-9pm  
FREE with registration

Maiden Vermont Chorus Presents

**Words Matter**

Nov 1 7pm & Nov 2 2pm  
Tickets: \$10-\$20

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Tickets: [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) ▪ 802-382-9222 ▪ 72-76 Merchants Row, Middlebury, VT 05753

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THT would like to thank The Vermont Arts Council and those who have donated to Membership. We couldn't do this without you!



*Fall 2025*

# HOME & GARDEN

*A publication of the Addison Independent • Thursday, October 2, 2025*

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# Fall is time to ‘edit’ your garden, not make big changes

By IAN CURRY

GOSHEN — For Judith Irven, less is more when it comes to fall gardening. The lifelong gardener, garden-writer and landscape designer says that with winter approaching, its often better to leave things be and let nature take its course.

Irven has a simple motto: “Easy on the gardener and gentle on the Earth.”

Despite living on the wooded slopes of the Green Mountains, Irven doesn’t spend too much time clearing the leaves that fall around her extensive garden, nor does she clear out all the plant stems that fill her garden bed. Instead, she lets the ecosystem take care of it for her.

“If you interfere too much to make things tidy ... there are

drawbacks,” she said.

Gardeners and homeowners sometimes ecosystem of smaller creatures, like birds, bees and other insects that rely on brush piles, stems and fallen logs for winter shelter, Irven said. She pointed to the black-eyed Susans that grow abundantly in her garden beds. She said that even in winter, when their vibrant yellow petals are gone, their seed heads remain and provide birds with a valuable food source. Their stems are also important for native pollinators

“Bees make their nests in the hollow stems of perennials,” Irven said.

Fall is still a busy season in Irven’s garden. She said that while she doesn’t rake her leaves into bags and clear out garden beds,

she takes stock of her garden and looks for things that need doing or could change. She says this helps her keep the garden healthy and prepare it for winter and the subsequent spring.

“Not exactly putting the garden to bed, but it’s what I do to get ready for winter,” she said.

As Irven moves throughout her garden, she also takes pictures and notes of the different trees and plants that will need more serious pruning in the winter. While she’s already pruned a few of her native rhododendrons to clear the space around one of her stone paths, Irven said that its far easier to prune the right branches when the leaves have all fallen and the plants’ skeletons are visible.

These thoughtful considerations

are all part of what Irven calls a “judicious cleanup.”

## TIME TO MOVE PLANTS

Irven also told the *Independent* that fall is an especially good time of year to move plants as they aren’t using their energy to create flowers, though their roots remain active. Irven herself is moving many of her black-eyed Susans from her back garden to her road-facing front garden where they’ll brighten the view for passersby.

“I love this time of year for projects,” she said.

“You can move stuff with near complete success.”

She’s also begun moving many of her shade-loving flowers like bloodroot, wild geraniums and Virginia bluebells to a newly prepared wooded area. She says she’d like to remind herself of



JUDITH IRVEN SMILES beside a bed of black eyed Susans she’s cultivated in her Goshen garden this fall.

“Compost helps with the clay-ey soil you see in Addison County ... particularly in the valley where the soil is particularly heavy.”

— Judith Irven

her childhood in England by cultivating flowers native to Vermont.

“It’s what I would call editing,” Irven said.

This year has also presented a few challenges for Irven. She said that the current drought has withered a few of her plants, including the three crabapple trees she keeps in her garden, as well as made her vegetable garden less productive. It’s also meant a few hungry deer from the valley below have come into her garden looking for a bite to eat.

“I’m trying to adapt to the dryness we’ve been having.”

Irven said that for the most part, she doesn’t water her flower or vegetable gardens but instead relies on homemade compost, which she prepares over the course of several years, to improve soil quality and help it retain more moisture.

She said she always cautions people to find out what kind of soil they have in their gardens, as it can vary widely between the valley and the mountains.

“Compost helps with the clayey soil you see in Addison County ... particularly in the valley where the soil is particularly heavy,”

Irven said.

This is especially helpful in her fruit and vegetable garden. A healthy dose of compost combined with a crop rotation regimen helps keep her soil healthy and nutrient rich for the array of crops she cultivates, including beans, leeks, kale, squash, potatoes and tomatoes. Once fall draws to a close, Irven says she’ll compost what remains of her fruit and vegetable stems and cover the beds with tarps to keep weeds out and the soil warm for next spring.

Already, Irven is looking ahead to what the winter and spring have in store for her garden, but she’s still delighted by the late blooming flowers that fill her garden beds and brighten her view of Mt. Moosalamoo. The pink Japanese anemone planted near her window feed native bees while black-eyed Susans feed the birds and fill the garden beds she had carefully planned out when she and her husband, Dick Conrad, moved to Goshen 25 years ago. Still, Irven knows just how valuable it is to let nature have the final say.

“(It’s) all purposeful,” she said.



JUDITH IRVEN SAID that rather than spend the season clearing out her garden, she’ll let her flowers be and get a head start on other garden projects instead. These black eyed Susans provide birds with food and insects with shelter during the long Goshen winters.

“(I’m) trying to adapt to the dryness we’ve been having.”

— Judith Irven

Independent photos/Ian Curry

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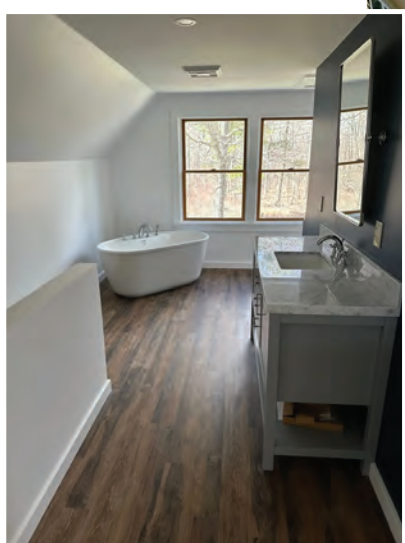
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Independent photos/Steve James



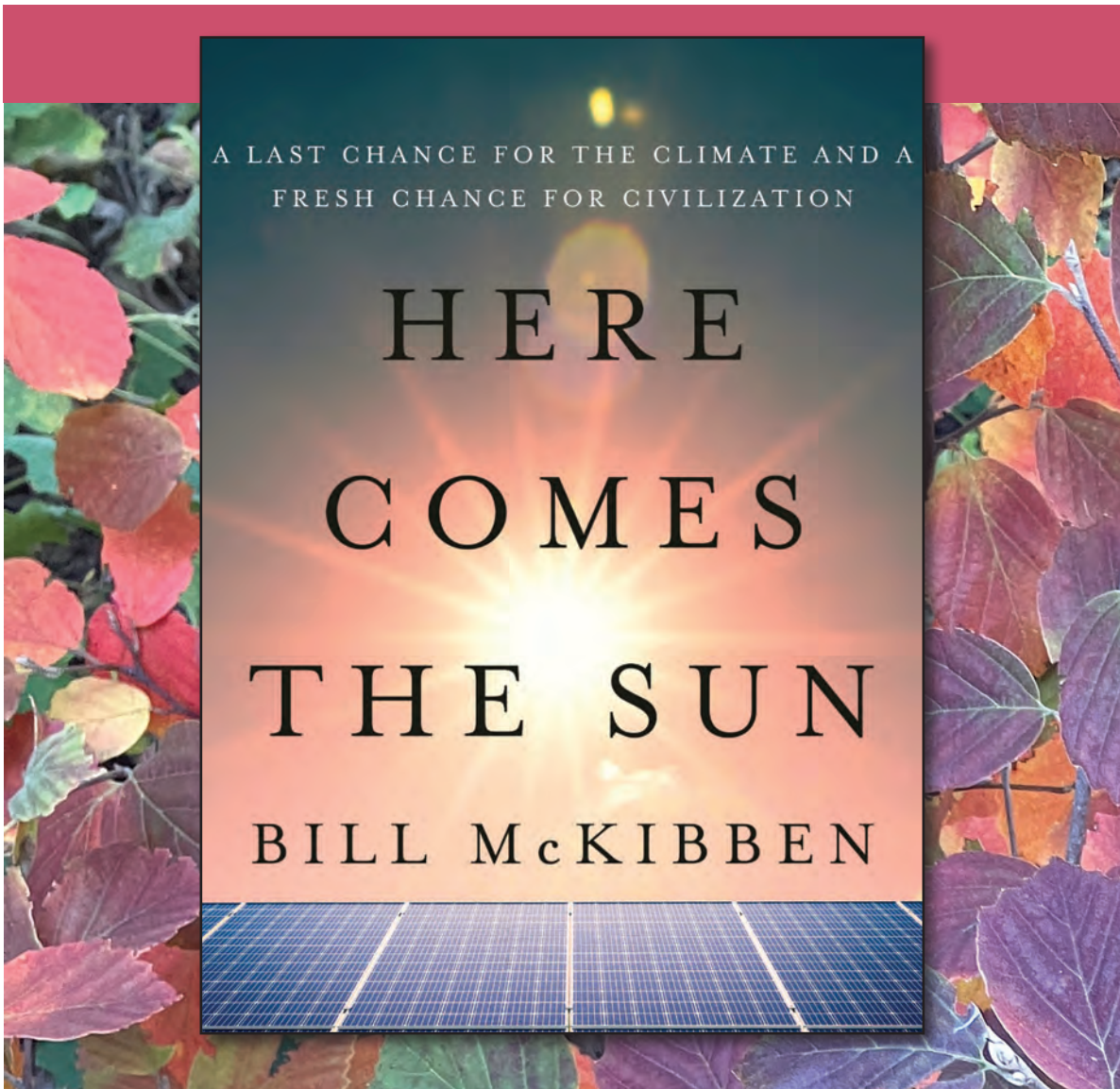
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## McKibben's new book offers ray of hope

By DAVID GOODMAN, VTDigger.org

Bill McKibben is one of the world's leading writers and organizers on the issue of climate change. The Ripton resident and Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College admits that his message about the perils of a warming planet can leave some people in despair. Now, with the U.S. at an authoritarian tipping point, McKibben has chosen an improbable time to offer hope.

McKibben has a new book, "Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization." He takes readers on a far-flung journey to show how solar and wind energy have suddenly become the cheapest power in the world. People are installing solar panels equivalent to a coal-fired power plant every 18 hours. This is the fastest energy transition in history — and it may just help save democracy.

"There is one big good thing happening on planet Earth and it's so big and so good that it actually has the capacity to help not only with the overwhelming climate crisis, but also with the crisis of inequality and of democracy that we're facing now," McKibben told The Vermont Conversation. "That one big thing is this sudden surge of clean energy, especially from the sun, that over the last 36 months, has begun to really rewrite what power means on planet Earth."

McKibben explained that what used to be called "alternative energy" is now mainstream. "Four years ago or so we passed some invisible line where it became cheaper to produce power from the sun and the wind than from burning things. And that's a completely epochal moment. Most days, California is generating more than 100% of its power for long stretches from renewable

energy." "Here's a statistic just to stick in your mind that will give you hope, too," he offered. "A single boatload of solar panels coming from someplace like China will, over the course of its lifetime, produce 500 times as much energy as that same ship filled with coal. We're not talking about a slightly better version of what we have now. We're talking about a very different world."

McKibben is currently spearheading Sun Day, which will take place on Sept. 21, 2025. It will be a global day of action celebrating solar and wind power and the movement to leave fossil fuels behind.

"Think about what the foreign policy, the geopolitics of planet Earth would have looked like in the last 70 years if oil was not a valuable commodity," he said. "Human beings are extremely good at figuring out how to start wars, but figuring out how to start one over sunshine is going to be a trick."

Vermont is already feeling the impact of this energy shift. "The biggest single power plant in Vermont is now the collection of batteries that Green Mountain Power has helped people put in their basements and garages and

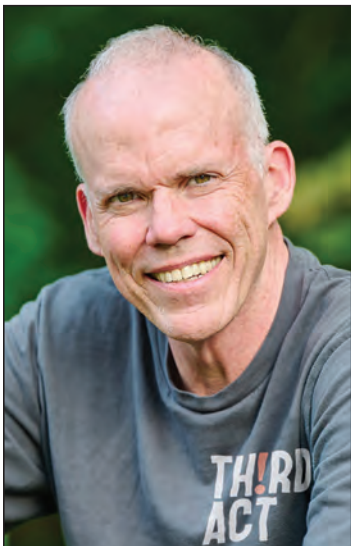
that they can call on in time of need to provide power," he said.

Bill McKibben is the author of over 20 books and a regular contributor to The New Yorker, the New York Times, and his Substack, The Crucial Years. He is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College. He has won the Gandhi Peace Prize and the Right Livelihood Award, known as the alternative Nobel Prize.

Alongside his writing, the Ripton resident has founded the global grassroots climate action group 350.org, and Third Act, a political movement of people over 60 to use their "unparalleled generational power to safeguard our climate and democracy." The organization now boasts some 70,000 members.


As the country and world teeter on a precipice, what gives McKibben hope? "Just that

we're still here and fighting and that we have this new tool. It's like a Hollywood movie: the bad stuff is happening all around us and here's this new force riding to the rescue over the hills carrying not carbines and repeater rifles but carrying solar panels and lithium ion batteries."



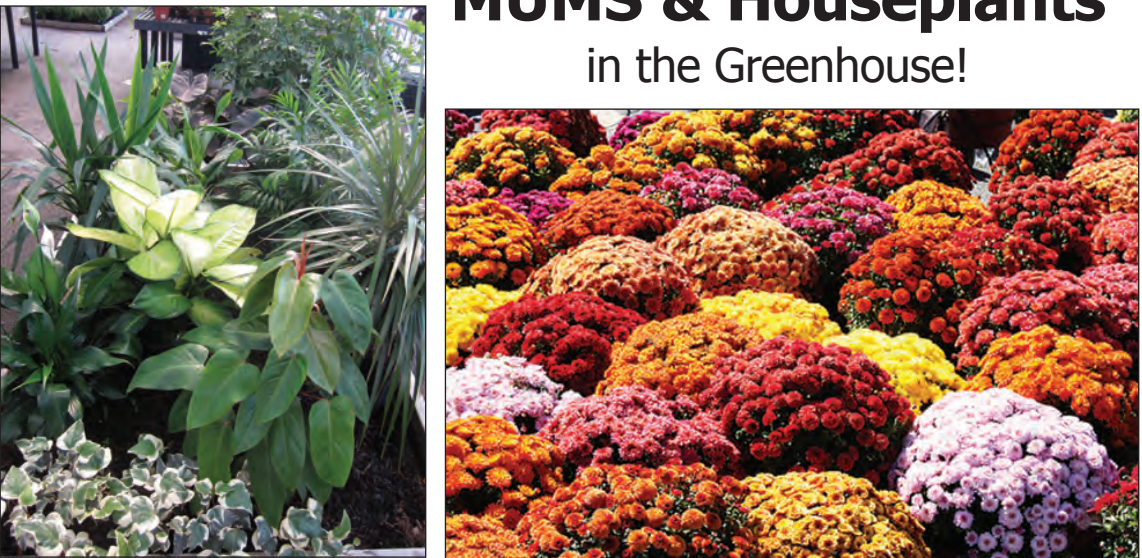
*"Four years ago or so we passed some invisible line where it became cheaper to produce power from the sun and the wind than from burning things. And that's a completely epochal moment."*


— Bill McKibben



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## Changes in federal subsidies be damned, weatherize your home

By IAN CURRY

ADDISON COUNTY — Those looking to improve their home's weatherization before the cold weather sets in will be pleased to know that thousands of dollars' worth of incentives and rebates remain available to Addison County residents. While the home energy tax credits offered by the federal government through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 are set to expire on Dec. 31, Efficiency Vermont, along with state government, continue to aid Vermonters looking to improve their home's insulation and heating.

Efficiency Vermont offers a range of incentives that allow qualifying households to receive up to \$9,500 cash back for comprehensive weatherization projects on residential properties. Homeowners can also receive up to \$2,200 cash back on heat pumps and a \$600 rebate on heat pump water heaters. Wood users can get up to \$6,000 cash back on central wood pellet boilers or

a \$400 discount on wood stoves. Efficiency Vermont also offers a \$100 DIY weatherization that can help homeowners and renters air seal their homes, install window dressers or insulate hot water pipes.

"DIY weatherization is something where (residents) can add a little bit of comfort and energy savings ... for homeowners who are able to make the investment, a comprehensive project will give you by far the biggest bang for your buck," said Matthew Smith, Efficiency Vermont's public relations manager.

Efficiency Vermont provides a list of contractors located throughout the state who have the knowledge, tools and certifications required to properly weatherize homes.

"The truth is, yes you can do some things in your home...but comprehensive weatherization is really a job best done by a professional," Smith said.

However, what programs are

available and how much money you can receive varies based on income and what county you live in. For example, Efficiency Vermont defines a low-income, four-person household in Addison County as making \$92,400 a year or less.

"If you're a low-income household you can get up to \$9,500 back... or 90% of your project costs," Smith said. "If you're a moderate-income household you get up to \$9,500 back or 75% of your costs."

Those who fall outside the low-income and moderate-income thresholds can receive 75% of project costs, or up to \$4,000 back.

Smith also noted it's possible to bundle Efficiency Vermont rebates together, as well as with the separate federal home energy

tax credits that are still available until the end of the year. While project costs can be a limiting factor, Efficiency Vermont offers 0% interest financing of up to \$25,000 for low- and moderate-income Vermonters as part of their Home Energy Loan program.

In addition, Vermont has five Weatherization Assistance Programs that offer free weatherization services for low-income households. In Addison County, this is administered by the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity

(CVOEO).

"The best weatherization is the best weatherization you can actually do," Smith said.

Efficiency Vermont calculated that in 2024, weatherization rebate recipients with fueling with fossil fuels were able to save an average of \$320 on heating costs a year.

"The savings really build over time," he said.

### HOME ENERGY VISIT

While home improvement projects can be daunting, Smith said the easiest way to get started is to schedule a Virtual Home Energy Visit with Efficiency Vermont's team of energy consultants.

"It's a free service we offer to all Vermonters," he said.

The Virtual Home Energy Visit, which can be scheduled on Efficiency Vermont's website, involves a 90-minute video chat with an Efficiency Vermont consultant who will walk residents through their home. Smith said energy consultants help residents

look for the areas of their homes that are most in need of weatherization improvement and provide them with a customized list of next steps.

Smith noted that energy consultants can provide advice on Efficiency Vermont rebates and assistance programs, but those looking to take advantage of the more complicated federal home energy tax credits will want to speak with a tax professional, too.

While federal tax credits will soon be going away, it's important to note Efficiency Vermont is already offering alternatives to most of those federal tax credits. However, Efficiency Vermont doesn't offer incentives for solar panels or electric vehicles. The federal tax credit for electric vehicles expires on September 30.

"Our (programs) are still going to be here for years to come. No question there," Smith said.

"We're constantly changing and updating what we're offering."

*"The truth is, yes you can do some things in your home...but comprehensive weatherization is really a job best done by a professional."*

— Matthew Smith, Efficiency Vermont

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The HazWaste Center at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury is open to residents from any of the District's member towns.

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| Algaecides            | Flea & tick killer     | Mothballs                | Rug/upholstery cleaner |
| Aerosols              | Fluorescent bulbs*     | Motor oil                | Solvent-based          |
| Antifreeze            | Fly killer             | Mouse/rat poison         | Glues                  |
| Ant killer            | Formaldehyde           | Nail polish              | Stains                 |
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| Auto body filler      | Fungicides             | Naphtha                  | Tars or resins         |
| Automotive fluids     | Furniture polish       | Oil-based paint          | Transmission fluid     |
| Chlorine bleach       | Gasoline               | Oily waste               | Tub & tile cleaner     |
| Brake fluid           | Hair dyes              | Oven cleaner             | Varnish                |
| Bug spray             | Kerosene               | Paint thinner/turpentine | Weed killer/fertilizer |
| Button cell batteries | Latex paint            | Parts cleaner            | Wood preservative      |
| Contact cement        | Lead paint chips       | Pesticides/herbicides    |                        |
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## Even with more VT homes on the market, prices are still rising

By CARLY BERLIN, VTDigger.org

Vermont's COVID-era home-buying frenzy — marked by an extremely tight supply of available homes and sight-unseen offers — has now eased somewhat.

"I think that the balancing of the marketplace is kind of starting to occur," said Peter Tucker last month. He's a lobbyist for the Vermont Association of Realtors.

An uptick in real estate listings and home sales show that the market has loosened. Fierce bidding wars are less common than they were just a few years ago, realtors say, and for-sale signs are a more common sight in many neighborhoods. Yet home prices continue to rise.

In 2024, the statewide median sale price for a primary home was about \$353,000 — a 9% jump from the prior year. That's according to state property transfer tax records collected by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, which weeds out seasonal or occasional-use homes.

Preliminary data for the first half of 2025 shows that prices have continued to escalate this year. The median sale price had risen to about \$370,000 as of June, according to Maura Collins, VHFA's executive director.

That metric varies widely

across the state. In 2024, the median sale price for a primary home in the state's poorest and most rural county — Essex — was \$200,000. In Chittenden County, Vermont's population and job center, the median sale price reached \$500,000 last year.

### ADDITION COUNTY NUMBERS

The median sale price for a home in Addison County was approximately \$477,500 for single-family homes as of July 2025, with the overall median sale price slightly lower at around \$430,300 as of July, according to Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman and Zillow.

Other sources show slightly different numbers, with Redfin reporting a median sale price of \$425,000 last month and ATTOM showing a median home value of \$431,621 as of August.

During the hot market of the pandemic years, home prices shot up while the number of homes sold plummeted. The rate of home sales now appears to have reversed course. In 2024, 9% more homes were sold than during the year prior, according to the state tax data.

The volume of sales appears to be stabilizing thus far in 2025, though different data sources paint slightly different pictures of the market. The state tax data shows

a modest drop in the number of primary home sales during the first half of 2025 versus the first half of 2024. Slightly more current data on all single family home and condo sales collected by the Realtors' association shows a 2.2% rise in homes sold as of August compared to the same period last year. The number of home listings has also jumped over 8% as of August, according to the Realtors' association.

It's still a seller's market, and inventory remains well below pre-pandemic levels. But now, buyers have more options, said Brian Boardman, a real estate agent and co-owner of Burlington-based Coldwell Banker Hickok and Boardman.

During the tight COVID years between 2021 and 2023, an agent could show a potential buyer maybe one or two homes within their given price range in Chittenden County, Boardman said. "Now, those buyers have, you know, maybe six or seven choices, or more — and so they can get more of their wish list."

A number of factors could be driving more people to sell their homes. Some homeowners may have been waiting for the pandemic to ease before retiring or moving closer to family, said Tucker, from the Realtors' association. Some may have been waiting for interest rates to lower. The entrance of newly-constructed homes into the market has helped somewhat, said Boardman.

There's also a domino effect once inventory starts to open up, Boardman said.

"The people that are in the family homes for 30 or 40 years are going to go to a retirement home, which opens up their house, which gets the young family out of a rental or maybe a two-bedroom condo," which they can then put on the market, he said.

So why are home prices continuing to rise steeply even as more homes are selling? Collins, from the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, sees that as an indication that Vermont needs to continue building more homes to fill its deep deficit. The state is far

from reaching a glut that would drag home values down, she said.

"Our goal is not to depress home values, but to slow the ever-increasing sales prices," said Collins, who serves on the board of the pro-housing lobbying group Let's Build Homes. "Even with more homes being listed for sale this summer than last summer, we don't see that home prices are yet lowering," she said.

Homes are also still selling quickly during the peak summer season, according to real estate data. That's one sign that demand remains high.

Data on rentals in Vermont tends to be geographically patchy and outdated. But a recent survey of apartments in the state's largest rental market — Chittenden County — shows that the razor-thin rental vacancy rate of the COVID-era years has begun to ease, according to Brad Minor, a partner at Allen, Brooks & Minor, a real estate appraisal and analytics firm in South Burlington.

As of June, the area's rental vacancy rate had risen to 3% — up from under 1%, where it had hovered for over a year beginning in December 2021, Minor said.

Sources have pointed to a rental vacancy rate as low as 1% in Addison County in the past year.

That easing is likely tied to the elimination of COVID-era eviction restrictions and rental assistance, but it is also likely the result of new apartments going online, Minor said. In 2024, his firm identified 824 new apartments built in Chittenden County — more than twice the annual rate of building in any given year for the past two decades.

The firm has yet to tabulate how much average rents have changed in the area in 2025, though Minor said that now some landlords of higher-priced rentals with more vacancies are considering making price cuts to attract tenants.

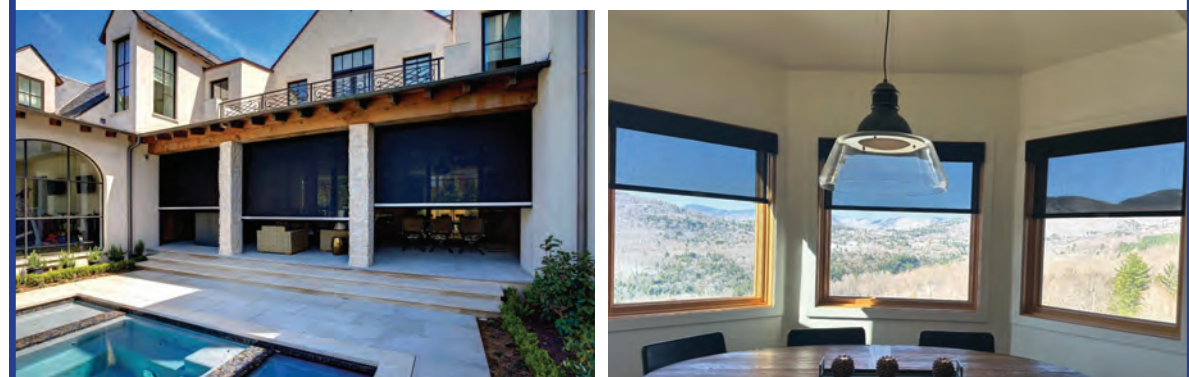
"It's possible that we may see maybe less dramatic rent increases, because we're appearing to move towards a state of balance," he said.



### DIY

SOME HOME IMPROVEMENT jobs definitely demand a hired professional, others can be done by homeowners. Daniel Houghton demonstrates one of those tasks that falls in the grey area between as he prepares to install an outdoor light fixture. You can tell by his easy-going demeanor that this is not his first rodeo when it comes to home repair.

Independent photo/Steve James





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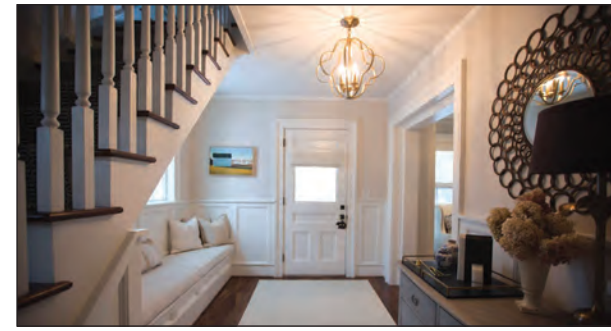
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## Q&A: Answers to your solar questions

Catamount Solar of Randolph is an employee-owned solar company that sells an array of renewable energy products to homeowners and businesses. It produced the following answers to Frequently Asked Questions on solar energy. This is not an endorsement for the company, but published solely for educational purposes.

### How does a solar panel work?

A solar panel works by capturing energy from sunlight and converting it to direct current (DC) electricity. A solar inverter then converts the DC power into Alternating Current (AC), which is what your home uses. Solar energy created this way can be used to power your home, stored in batteries for later use, or sent out to the grid. You get credit for all the electricity your system sends to the grid. You can use this credit to offset your electric bill.

### What are the financial and personal benefits of solar power?

A solar system at your site effectively locks in your power cost for the next 30+ years. Solar brings certainty. It ends the budget drain of continually rising utility rates and reduces the impact of unpredictable price spikes. Solar also provides the peace of mind that comes with being able to produce energy even during outages to grid power.

### What is a battery backup system?

Battery backup systems such as the well-known Tesla Powerwall store energy produced by solar power systems so it can be drawn on during power outages. Green Mountain Power has programs that subsidize the cost of these systems if you allow the utility to draw the battery power on peak load days.

Such batteries are especially helpful when installed into off-grid systems, so they can provide power during times of low electricity production.

### What is a grid-tied solar system?

Grid-tied power systems are connected to the main power grid. When your photovoltaic system produces electricity, the power is first used to satisfy your electricity needs at that time. Excess electricity produced by your system is sent to the grid and you get utility credits on your bill.

### What is an off-grid solar system?

In an off-grid system, you are not connected to the electrical grid. Therefore, you can only use the amount of electricity you produce and store. Most off-grid systems include batteries, ensuring access to power on days when solar production is low, such as cloudy or short winter days. Off-grid systems require more of a hands-on approach; you need to be aware of your electrical production and use to ensure that you don't run out.

(See Solar, Page 12C)

## Strengthen your homeowner IQ at Home Owner University

Champlain Housing Trust is offering a series of workshops this fall that it is calling Homeowner University.

"We want you to enjoy living *in* your home and not *for* your home," organizers of the series said. HomeOwner University (HOU) offers a wide array of online classes to help homeowners achieve financial and housing stability to be a happy homeowner. CHT staff and local area experts instruct classes on topics such as managing finances, building equity, home maintenance and protecting your asset — the home.

The classes, which began in September, cost \$10 per class.

Courses still on the syllabus for October include:

### • Savvy Saving & Investing

Thursday, Oct. 2, 6-7:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Instructors: Barbara Geris (CHT) with Joe Bol (TD Bank)

Saving and investing are very important parts of being a successful homeowner. This class will review some strategies that work, including using CDs, retirement and education specific accounts, as well as savings for housing needs. This class will help you identify the reasons to have a healthy savings plan. It will define and explain different types of saving and investing accounts as well as how you develop a plan that works for you.

### • Not My Circus, Still My Neighborhood

Thursday, Oct. 16, 6-7:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Instructor: Allison Roark (CHT)

Does it feel impossible to navigate interactions with your neighbors? Have you ever wondered if the people next door have lost their minds? This class will take a look at different communication styles, boundaries, and boundary disputes! With relevant information for single family homeowners as well as those living in associations, we will explore how to create successful communities while still respecting and celebrating our differences.

### • Wills & Trusts

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 6-7:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Instructor: Brian Stark (Stark Law)

This class will examine reasons for having a will and what happens if you don't. This class will help you understand the steps to setting up a legal will and how you could use a trust to help ensure your wishes are met. It is also a way to save your family or friends money, time and paperwork. The class will define what is estate planning is and why you need a plan.

### • Enhanced Life Estate Deed, Advanced Directives & Power of Attorney (POA)

Wednesday, Oct. 29, 6-7:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Instructors: Grace Pazdan & Leah Burdick (Vermont Legal Aid)

Planning for end-of-life decisions can be complex, let CHT and Attorneys from Vermont Legal Aid to make it easier. In this class you will learn about how to use an Enhanced Life Estate Deed to provide for real estate to be passed to heirs without going through Probate Court. The class will cover how to create an Advanced Directives to outline your wishes for medical treatment at such a time as you are unable to make those decisions and how to use a Power of Attorney to give someone authority to take care of your legal or financial affairs.

To register at \$10 per class, head online to [getahome.org/hou](http://getahome.org/hou). Email questions to [education@getahome.org](mailto:education@getahome.org).

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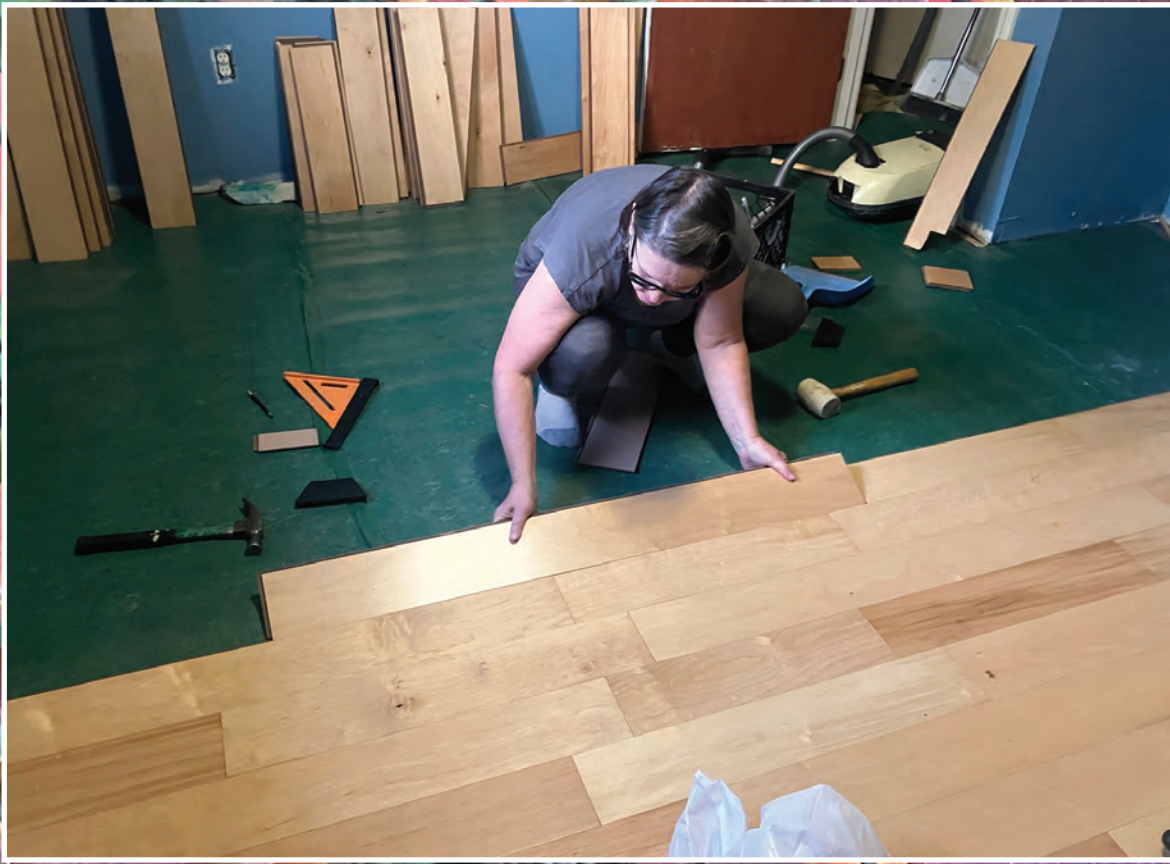
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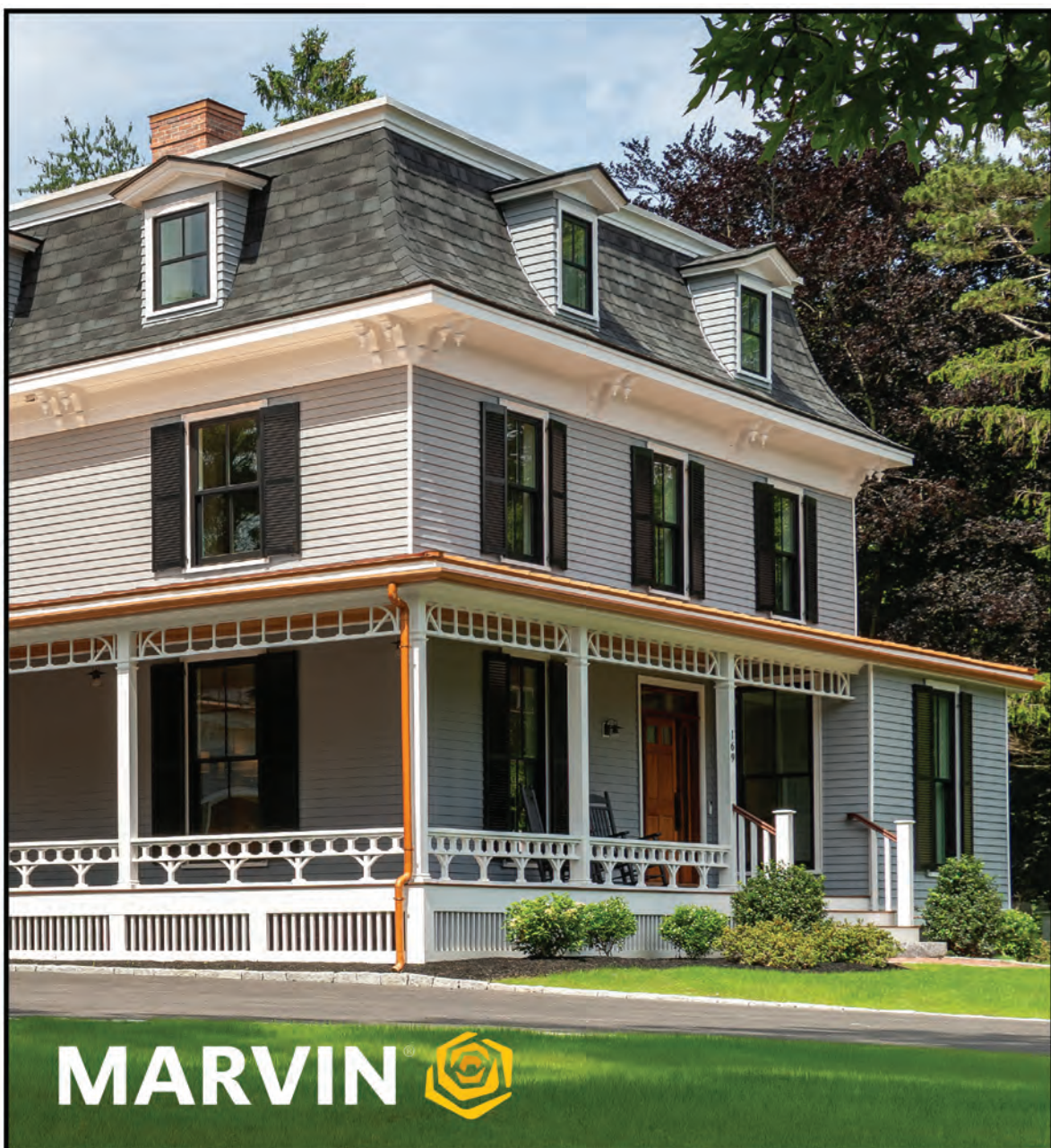
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 ENGINEERED HARDWOOD FLOORING is easy to install — right? This little job in Middlebury proved to be within the homeowners' skill set. The flooring features a real hardwood veneer attached to composite plywood core, which adds stability but is cheaper than solid hardwood. The segments are cut so that they "click" together when set into place. Installation was reasonable and the result warm and inviting.  
 Independent photos/John S. McCright



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# Solar

(Continued from Page 9)

## What if I produce more electrical energy than I use?

If your solar system produces more energy than you use, you get a net metering credit that can be used toward future electric bills. The way these credits can be used vary depending on your utility company.

## How much does a residential solar system cost?

The price of a residential solar system will vary depending on location, availability of mounting space and more importantly your annual electricity usage.

## How soon can I get a return on my investment?

The return on investment will vary

depending on the size and type of system installed.

With solar, you pay more to install a system up front, and enjoy a steady, predictable power cost for decades. With conventional grid electricity, you are subject to the whims of the marketplace, and often to increasing energy costs over time. In addition to saving you money on your power bills, your solar power system is an improvement that will add value to your property.

## How long will my PV system last?

Catamount uses solar components that are built for the long haul. They can withstand the worst that New England weather can dish out, and keep producing energy for 25-35 years.

## What is net metering?

Net metering is the way in which power companies keep track of the energy your solar panels produce and gives you credit for that energy. With net metering,

you only pay for electricity if you use more than your solar system can produce.

## What happens when the sun isn't so shiny?

Solar energy systems produce more power on cloudless days, and less when it is cloudy. They produce no power at night. Despite this, they will produce enough power year round to provide you with significant cost savings over time.

## How will snow affect my solar production?

Snowy days are cloudy days, so your system will produce less electricity. Solar panels are tilted so that in most cases, snow slides right off. Occasionally, snow can build up over panels, and they will produce no power. But it's important to remember that even with these occasional solar blockages, your system will still provide significant amounts of power and save you money over time.



As more homeowners invest in solar and battery storage, many are wondering what it really takes to keep their systems performing at their best year round. Solar care looks different in January, when dealing with snow loads and ice, vs. spring's heavy pollen. The company Catamount Solar is distributing this checklist of things that owners of residential solar power systems should think about during each of the four seasons.

## The Four-Season Solar Checklist for Homeowners

### 1. Winter: Snow, Ice, Short Days

- Keep panels clear of heavy snow using a soft brush or roof rake (avoid sharp tools that can scratch).
- Trim back overhanging branches that could drop ice or snow onto panels.
- Check battery storage capacity before storms. Make sure your system is fully charged ahead of outages.
- Monitor production through your system's app to confirm panels are performing even in low light.

### 2. Spring: Clean and Inspect

- Wash off pollen, dirt and debris that can reduce panel efficiency.
- Inspect wiring, inverters and mounting after winter storms.
- Have a professional check seals, roof penetrations and connections for any weather damage.
- Consider system upgrades if energy needs have changed (like adding an electric vehicle

charging or heat pump).

### 3. Summer: Peak Production Season

- Track your production closely. This is when you'll generate the most energy.
- Optimize battery settings to capture and store midday solar for evening use.
- Keep an eye on shading from fast-growing trees and trim if needed.
- Check ventilation around inverters and batteries, which can overheat in high temps.

### 4. Fall: Prepare for Shorter Days & Storms

- Clear fallen leaves and debris from panels and gutters.
- Test backup power settings on your battery storage system before winter outages.
- Schedule professional maintenance before the busy winter service season.
- Evaluate your energy use heading into colder months. Adjust storage and consumption patterns as needed.



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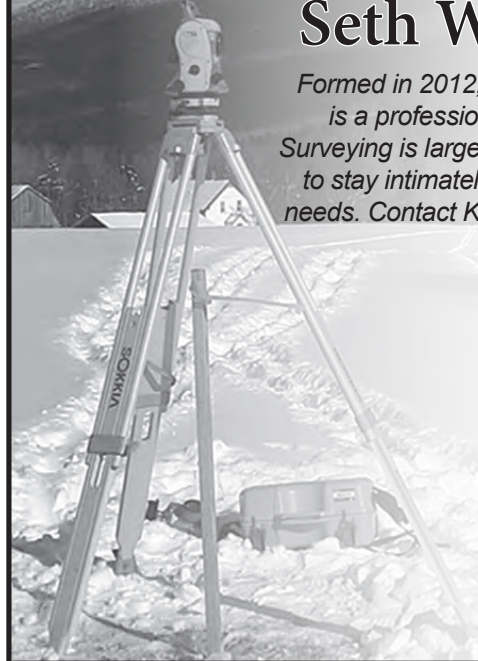
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# Middlebury Garden Club announces its 2025 Roadside garden winners



Sharon Liljestrand's Cornwall garden



Sharon Liljestrand's Cornwall garden

By ELIZABETH KARNES KEEFE and BARBARA GREENWOOD for the Middlebury Garden Club

ADDISON COUNTY — Ever year the Middlebury Garden Club looks for the best gardens in the county. Its annual Roadside Attractions Awards recognize gardens cultivated by people around the region who are not members of the club.

In 2025, the awards went to the Monkton Town Hall, Sharon Liljestrand in Cornwall and Alya Baker in Middlebury.

**MONKTON WINNER**

Monkton Town Hall, on the Monkton Ridge just north of the town green, has a stunning and flourishing pollinator garden. The planning for the pollinator garden started with a landscape design committee, a subset of the Monkton Town Hall building committee. Changes were proposed to an initial landscape plan, including adding pollinator areas.

The town selectboard, with a forward-thinking attitude, was all in for creating pollinator habitat and gave the green light. There was a very limited budget for the entire landscape, so many trees and shrubs were donated and all of the plantings were done and are maintained by volunteer efforts.

Once the Town Hall building and site work were completed in spring 2021, the garden area was sheet mulched for the growing season. With economy in mind, the pollinator garden area was seeded in the late fall instead of using plants.

Debra Sprague, the Monkton Pollinator Pathways coordinator, as well as a tireless volunteer, tells us that both the front garden and the back larger area were planted with a seed a mix of perennials and annuals from Ernst Conservation Seed Co. Since this is a very visible entryway, colorful reseeding annuals and biennials were added to the mix of native Northeast perennials. It took a couple years for the perennials to grow to mature blooming size.

The list of the annual seeds for the front garden are on the Monkton Pollinator Pathway website [tinyurl.com/MonktonPollinatorGarden](http://tinyurl.com/MonktonPollinatorGarden).

Over the few years the garden has been in existence, the plant mix has evolved as some plants have flourished more than others and a few potted perennials have been added. Annuals include perennial dianthus ("Sweet William"). Over time some other mature plants have been added. This past season, some anise hyssop and some white Chelone were added.

The trees and shrubs planted around the Town Hall include: Serviceberry, Chokeberry, Red twig Dogwood, Native Honeysuckle, Witch hazel, Hydrangea, Winterberry, Bird's Nest Spruce, Cape Breton Spruce, Dark American Arborvitae, Viburnum, Korean Spicebush, Viburnum, and

Red Maple. The Monkton Town librarian now volunteers in the garden tells us that volunteers collect and dry some of the flowers, which are then made into bookmarks and wreaths in workshops in the off season.

The Monkton Central School, just to the south of the Town Hall, shows off a pollinator boulevard strip in the parking lot. The school vegetable garden lies below the parking lot. The entrance to the garden is through an arch in a fantastic stone wall encircling the garden, intended to be a reading nook for the library. The arch and the wall were designed and built by Jamie Masefield, a talented Monkton stone mason and musician. Julie Parker-Dickinson, a teacher at the Monkton School, collected information about the gardens for a Master Gardener project proposal, and organized the gardens there.

**ALYA BAKER IN MIDDLEBURY**

Alya Baker has lived in her vernacular brick gable-front cottage on South Street in Middlebury since the 1960s. Over the years she has surrounded it with gorgeous landscaping.

She has a collection of artfully cultivated plants and flowers, including both perennials and annuals. The list includes Shasta daisies, yarrow, Echinacea, coreopsis, and bee balm, planted in extensive islands of flowers all around the house. Susan Longe of Perennial Passion GardenScaping in Vergennes has helped Alya with design and garden maintenance for many years.

Susan has a wealth of knowledge about plants and offers practical advice to give gardeners the courage to experiment: "Plants can't read — give your own ideas a try!" H

er passion and love of color and texture is reflected in Alya's gardens, which evolve into something new every year.

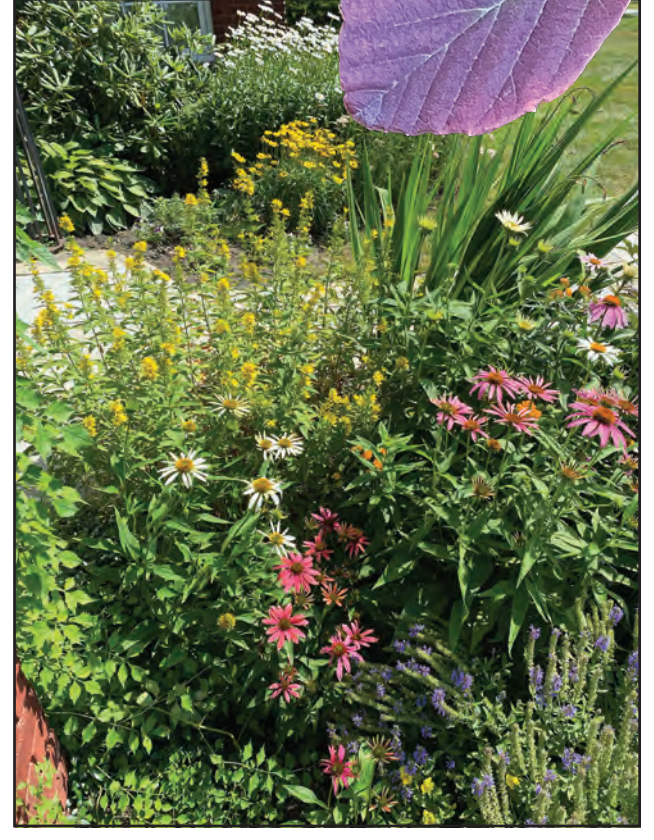
**LOVELY LILJESTRAND GARDEN**

Just a few years ago, Sharon Liljestrand and her husband, Erik, built a new house on Sperry Road in Cornwall, at the edge of a hayfield. Sharon rose to the challenge of having to design and create her gardens from scratch.

Having studied botany in college, Sharon says she was more interested in the process of gardening than the beautiful outcomes she has planned and created.

After just a few years, there are now peonies, hydrangeas, a variety of roses, marigolds, Shasta Daisies, hostas, Montauk Daisies, and Cranesbill, all arranged in a very natural way along multiple paths. She and Erik have also built raised beds for growing vegetables, and encouraged the growth of tall hedgerow along the road. Sharon planted a striking Chinese Maple tree near the driveway, which has now grown to several feet in height. A windmill turns in the neighbor's field in the northern distance.

Sharon says she "loves the work" of maintaining and developing her own gardens. She has also assisted in tending to other gardens in Addison County.



Alya Baker's Middlebury garden



Monkton Town Hall's pollinator garden



Stone mason Jamie Masefield created this entrance arch at the Monkton Central School vegetable garden



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# Painter prolongs pantry progress

*Editor's note: Our longtime humor columnist brought us many chuckles around the subject of home improvement. We couldn't help but reprint one of our favorites from 2021.*

By **JESSIE RAYMOND**

In the past few weeks, I've called all my friends and relatives to tell them the great news: "Mark is gonna redo our kitchen!"

They all react the same way: with a long pause and a stifled giggle, followed by "OK, sure. Congratulations."

I'm pretty sure I can hear their eyes rolling. That's fair. They know that four years ago, Mark began building me my dream walk-in pantry from scratch. In that time, he's worked on it intermittently but never with any enthusiasm.

I've used the situation to my advantage. If Mark gets annoyed because I left the Christmas ornaments in the upstairs hall for six weeks, I say, "Well, at least it hasn't been four years." If he trips over a bag of returnable bottles in the kitchen, I say, "I would have put them in the pantry. If we had one."

Zingers like that are priceless in a marriage, and the pantry has given me a lot to work with.

But believe it or not, Mark is actually about to remodel the kitchen. (I'll thank you to roll your eyes more quietly.) While it will take him longer than most kitchen jobs — given his bias toward working for paying customers rather than a deadbeat spouse — it's unlikely to be another four-year project; we've already ordered the cabinets, counters, lights, appliances and windows, and they have to go somewhere.

Work, however, can't begin until we have a completed pantry in which to store the current kitchen's contents. So Mark has, finally, risen to the occasion.

In two weekends, he's installed the pocket door, finished up the last few drawers and milled out and put up the trim. Just like that, save for the painting of the cupboards, the pantry is done.

But the painting, I'm afraid, is my job.

I had it all planned. On a Saturday, I'd lay out the shelves, drawer fronts and doors on a drop cloth on the kitchen table and paint them all in one go.

But I overlooked two issues. The obvious is that it's not a one-and-done procedure. First you have to prime one side of each piece and

then, once that's dry, prime the other. Then you have to paint each side — twice. And the paint needs to dry between coats.

Less obvious is that this particular pantry, designed to my specs to these many years ago, has somewhere between 200 and 300 doors and shelves (I haven't actually counted, but it's a lot). And our kitchen table only holds four or five at a time.

In the long run, I'll be grateful that the pantry, five by 10 feet before Mark built the cabinets, defies the laws of nature by being larger on the inside than it is on the outside. Seeing the linear footage of storage that magically appears as he installs each painted shelf makes my heart flutter; it's all I've ever wanted.

But I have to ask myself why I went with cabinets instead of simple shelves that could have been painted in place. (I know why: I had a pantry like that when we were first married, and the open shelves combined with my wherever-it-lands organizational style gave me fits. Having to look at the mess every day didn't inspire me to be tidy, but it

did teach me to appreciate doors.) I made the right choice. As the doors gradually go on, the pantry is beginning to look downright classy. While I envisioned it as a functional place to stash peanut butter and plastic storage containers, now I picture myself saying to dinner guests, "Please excuse me while I run to the pantry and retrieve the glass dome for the roast pheasant."

At the moment, however, I fear the painting will never end. Every time I finish a set of doors and shelves, Mark brings me more. I'm starting to think he's just giving me random boards from his workshop to pay me back for the four years of snark I've subjected him to.

These days, before work and after, and all weekend, I paint. I haven't changed out of my painting clothes in weeks. Now and then, Mark wanders through the kitchen, making a point of reaching across me to measure a doorway or wall and subjecting me to a bit of his own snark.

"I can't wait to get started on the kitchen," he says, looking around and sighing. "But it's taking you forever to finish the pantry."



**Classic  
Jessie  
Raymond**

# Bristol contractor trained as energy pro

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF), in collaboration with Efficiency Vermont and Vermont Gas Systems, recently graduated its inaugural cohort of Tools of the Trade—Business Fundamentals for Energy Pros, a business coaching program designed to support weatherization and clean energy contractors across the state.

The program offered participants practical training in business fundamentals tailored to weatherization contractors, energy audit businesses, electrician firms, and builders who specialize in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Monthly in-person sessions, one-on-one coaching, and peer learning helped contractors strengthen skills in workforce recruitment and retention, financial management, operations, customer engagement, and leadership. The program was made possible through funding from the State of Vermont, Efficiency Vermont, and Vermont Gas Systems.

A graduate of the inaugural Tools of the Trade program was Thomas

Halpin of Vermont Exergy LLC of Bristol.

"Watching these business owners grow over the course of the program has been incredibly inspiring," said Kurt Erickson, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund's Tools of the Trade Program Manager. "They showed up with curiosity, a willingness to learn, and a deep commitment to their craft and communities. Their progress is a testament to what's possible when we invest in workforce and business development as much as investing in technology and infrastructure."

Graduates are now better equipped to grow their businesses, serve more Vermonters, and contribute to the state's clean energy goals by helping residents save money, improve home comfort, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF) provides tailored business management coaching, entrepreneurial support, and training to position Vermont entrepreneurs for growth and long-term success.

VSFJ is accepting applications to its next cohort of "Tools of the

Trade — Business Coaching for Energy Pros" program. This is a business training program for energy contractors.

Master a proven framework for building and sustaining your energy services business. With Tools of the Trade, you'll gain new insights into recruiting and retaining your workforce, improving the financial viability of your business, understanding the needs of your customers and capitalizing on Vermont's growing interest in clean energy and energy-efficiency oriented solutions.

Expand your capacity to assist everyday Vermonters save money, improve the comfort of their home and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Tools of the Trade is an in-person, nine-month business training program designed to support the needs of weatherization contractors to improve your executive business skills, enhance core operations, expand your workforce and improve your work-life balance.

More information is online at [tinyurl.com/EnergyProCoaching](http://tinyurl.com/EnergyProCoaching).



## Let there be light

DANIEL HOUGHTON MAKES it look easy to wire a box and mount some outdoor lighting on his Middlebury home last week. Houghton runs Middlebury College's Maker Space, which is available to give advice to local residents with building/decorating of other construction projects.

Independent photo/Steve James



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ALTHOUGH OUTDOOR FURNITURE and other items tend to be durable, the impact snow, wind and ice can have on them may lead to damage over time.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

## Winterize you outdoor spaces

When the summer entertaining season draws to a close, homeowners need to ensure their outdoor living areas can handle weather that's right around the corner. Although outdoor furniture and other items tend to be durable, the impact snow, wind and ice can have on them may lead to damage over time.

If you live in Vermont, we're sure we don't have to tell you that.

But there are many steps homeowners can take to winterize their outdoor spaces and protect their belongings. Here's a look at how to prepare for the winter to come.

- **Furniture:** Cover or store furniture to protect it from the elements. Covering it with weather-proof covers can be adequate if storing items indoors is not possible.

- **Deep clean:** Items that will be covered or stored should be thoroughly cleaned prior to being removed from spaces for the season. Lingering dirt and moisture

can cause damage.

- **Insulate and drain:** Don't risk damage to pipes, which can freeze and crack in the cold. Shut off the water supply to exterior faucets and drain water lines to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting. Use foam pipe insulation to prevent freezing and cover any exposed pipes.

- **Apply mulch:** After cleaning up garden debris, think about applying mulch to garden beds and cover tender plants to protect them from the weather.

- **Check gutters:** Be sure that gutters and downspouts are clear of leaves and any additional debris. If gutters and downspouts are not cleaned, ice dams may form on the roof and cause water damage.

- **Inspect and repair:** Inspect walkways and driveways for any damage and make repairs now so water will not seep in and cause further issues with freeze-thaw cycles. Consider applying a sealant to protect surfaces from snow and ice.

- **Pools and spas:** It's essential to follow the industry or manufacturer recommendations for closing down swimming pools and spas for the season. While covers may not be essential in all climates, covering can help prevent leaves and other debris from getting in the water. Water should be expelled from pipes and tubing to prevent freezing and bursting. If space allows, consider moving the pool pump indoors to prolong its longevity. Turn off the electricity to the outlet where the filter is plugged in.

There may be additional, region-specific steps to winterize a property, but these pointers are a good starting point to protect outdoor spaces.

— Metro Creative



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# Making bathrooms safer for seniors

Maintaining a sense of independence throughout retirement can inspire seniors to live their golden years to the fullest. For many seniors, nothing is more emblematic of their ability to stay independent than remaining in their homes. A number of variables can affect how long seniors stay in their homes, including the layout of the property and any potential safety threats that may arise as men and women age. Some small, safety-centric tweaks to a property can help men and women remain in their homes for as long as possible.

• **Increase lighting** in bathrooms throughout the home. Lighting is easily overlooked as a safety measure, but a well-lit space is easier to navigate. Increasing lighting in the bathroom and upgrading existing features to LED lighting can make it easier for seniors to navigate bathrooms at night. That's a notable benefit, as seniors may need to make routine

bathroom trips overnight.

• **Install grab bars.** Grab bars are often found in public restrooms, but they're equally useful in the bathrooms or private homes, particularly in seniors' residences. Grab bars can be installed on both sides of all toilets and in the bathtub/shower stall so seniors can get up and down easily and reinforce their stability on wet surfaces.

• **Invest in bathroom storage systems.** A cluttered bathroom is a potential safety hazard. Items in cluttered bathrooms can easily end up on the floor, and that goes for bathing items like shampoo and soap as well. A bathroom storage system for a vanity and an organizer for bathing items inside a shower or tub can decrease the chance that items end up on the floor, where they can pose an injury risk for seniors who might struggle to bend over to pick them up or slip on fallen items when bathing.

• **Renovate your existing shower.** Seniors whose current

bathrooms house a traditional shower setup that requires them to step over a tub can renovate the space and replace that feature with a walk-in shower. A walk-in shower does not require seniors step over a bathtub, greatly reducing the risk of falls while bathing. Some additional shower renovations include installing a bench so seniors can sit down while bathing, ideally while using a hand-held shower head.

• **Purchase non-slip materials** for the bathroom. Non-slip floor mats in a bathroom are essential for anyone, and especially beneficial for seniors. A non-slip vanity storage bin and toothbrush holder also can ensure daily accessories remain accessible.

• **Elevate toilet heights.** Elevating toilet heights in bathrooms throughout the home can make it easier for seniors to sit down and get up when going to the bathroom. Toilets compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are roughly 18 inches taller than



standard toilets, which can make a big difference for seniors.

These are just a handful of ways seniors can make their bathrooms safer as they aspire

to stay in their homes longer.

— Metro Creative



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## Siding replacement has many components

The longer a person resides in a particular home, the greater the likelihood that various components of that residence will need to be replaced. Driveways, roofs, HVAC systems, and even appliances all have expiration dates.

Although siding on a home can be quite durable, there may be specific reasons why homeowners choose to or need to replace it at some point. Understanding what's to come of the job can help homeowners prepare. No two siding jobs are exactly the same, and each project will be dictated by a host of variables, including which type of siding homeowners choose. However, these general steps are commonplace during siding replacement projects.

- **Choose siding:** Homeowners are urged to consult with various siding installation companies about which products are available and ask each for an estimate. Budget, climate and other factors will narrow down siding materials. Popular siding types include vinyl, wood, fiber cement, metal and stone. Siding can have almost any color or texture as well.

- **Remove and relocate:** Outdoor items close to the perimeter of the home will have to be moved out

of the way so workers can access the siding. The job will require a dumpster to be dropped in front of the home or in the driveway to collect debris, so homeowners should be prepared to leave space for it.

- **Siding delivery:** The new siding should be delivered prior to the installation start day. These materials will take up a lot of room and space should be made available so the installation team can access them without difficulty.

- **Interior decor:** Siding installation will include hammering, which can disrupt items on interior walls. It is best to have all wall hangings taken down to prevent damage.

- **Old siding removal:** On the first day of installation, removal of the old siding will happen first, according to Smart Exteriors. Siding, insulation and trim will be removed. In the event that older, asbestos-based siding is on a home, contractors may safely remove and discard it, or go over that type of siding. Homeowners should inquire about this step during the company vetting process.

- **Home inspection:** Once all old material is gone, the exterior sheathing will be inspected

to ensure it is in good shape. Signs of rot or loose boards will be considered and repaired, if necessary.

- **New siding install:** First workers will put on house wrap or some sort of insulation/water barrier product. Afterwards, siding boards are layered on in the design chosen. Nails or screws are used to attach the siding and seams will be caulked to prevent moisture penetration. If the homeowner has chosen to have gutters and downspouts installed during the siding job, those will be fitted and installed as well.

- **Clean up:** The installation team will begin the process of thoroughly cleaning up the property. All tools will be removed and the property will be swept or blown to clean away debris. Crews typically use powerful magnets to grab stray nails and screws that have fallen into the lawn and elsewhere. The dumpster will be taken away shortly after the work is completed.

Siding replacement is a big job but one that can offer immediate curb appeal once completed. It typically is not a do-it-yourself project since it requires specific skills to ensure durability.

— Metro Creative

## Home office still seen as a perk to some homebuyers

Professionals might be returning to work in offices after years of pandemic-related remote work, but that doesn't mean home buyers aren't still prioritizing home office space when shopping for a new place to call their own.

According to a recent survey of home buyers conducted by the National Association of Home Builders, 66 percent would prefer to buy a home with exactly one home office space and 13 percent want at least two offices. Just one in five buyers indicated they do not want any home office space.

The majority of buyers who want home office space prefer a medium-sized space, which the NAHB defined as between 100 and 150 square feet. Just 22 percent of buyers prefer a home office space larger than 150 square feet, while only 19 percent want a small space (less than 100 square feet). The NAHB survey indicates the

enduring popularity of home office spaces, recognition of which can be particularly useful for current homeowners preparing to put their homes on the market as well as those looking to add office space.

— Metro Creative



### Exterior work

CEMENT BOARD, ALSO known as fiber cement siding, which is being added to this Middlebury home, is a durable, long-lasting exterior building material made from a mixture of Portland cement, sand, water and cellulose fibers. It's durable, as well as resistant to weather, fire and pests. Homeowner Daniel Houghton can tell you first-hand how heavy it is.

Independent photos/Steve James



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## Try these remedies for a creaky floor

Hardwood floors are coveted features in many homes. The National Wood Flooring Association says wood floors are the most environmentally friendly flooring options available. In the United States, the hardwood forests that provide flooring products are growing twice as fast as they are being harvested. Wood floors can last for many generations and require fewer raw materials to produce than other flooring options. That means less waste may end up in landfills.

While hardwood floors can endure for decades in a home, over time they may need some tender loving care to keep them looking good and working as they should. Squeaky floors are often caused by movement and friction between floorboards. Treating the problem involves identifying the underlying issue.

### Loose hardware

When nails or screws no longer

are secured tightly, floorboards can rub together. The noise heard is the sound produced by rubbing. Tightening or replacing the hardware can help reduce the squeaking.

### Counter-snap kit method

Some home repair experts say this kit method is a good enough way to fix squeaks without damaging the floor. Once the source of the squeak is located, drill a 3/32-inch pilot hole through the hardwood flooring. Then insert a screw through the kit's depth-control fixture and into the pilot hole, and drive it until it automatically snaps off below the wood surface. Follow this up by filling the hole with wood putty that matches the floor color. Once the putty is dry, lightly sand the area to blend.

### Use a shim or shims

Sometimes the floor may squeak because of a gap between the joists and the subfloor. Filling the gap with a small piece of

wood called a shim can help alleviate the gap or gaps.

### Drive up screws

If a squeak is just in one spot, you may be able to drive short screws from below into the subfloor.

### Small gaps

For small gaps between boards, sprinkle talcum powder or powdered graphite between squeaky boards to reduce friction. Wood filler applied with a putty knife also may work. For larger gaps, use a liquid filler designed for wood floors.

Homeowners also can visit their local home improvement center for other hardware solutions designed for underfloor repairs to remedy squeaks. Many work from underneath the floor and involve mounting plates or brackets to sure up the floor.

Squeaky floors can be problematic, but noises can be banished with some repair work.

—Metro Creative



## Maximize your closet storage with these tips

Who couldn't use a little more closet space at home? As individuals accumulate more belongings, they need places to store all of these items. While modern homes may be built with extra storage in mind, older homes often place a premium on closet space. Homes built earlier than the 1980s may have small closets in bedrooms and only one or two additional closets around the home for linens and other items.

The most obvious solution to a lack of closet space is to build more closets. But too often home floor plans cannot accommodate new closets. Therefore, homeowners may have to get creative to maximize their space.

### Sort and discard

Individuals can take some time to empty closets and assess what is in them. Sometimes more space can come from simply thinning out belongings that are no longer used. Take off the plastic coverings on dry cleaning and discard bulky shoe boxes.

### Invest in thinner hangers

Clothes hangers come in all types, but the thinnest and most durable ones tend to be the no-slip velvet variety. Such hangers keep garments from slipping off and feature an ultra-thin design, says *Real Simple* magazine.

### Use storage containers

Grouping items together and condensing them can free up space. Tuck belts, handbags and other items into storage bins that can be labeled and stacked. Loose items can look more cluttered and even take up more space when spread out.

### Pair shelves with rods

For those with enough space, hanging a few shelves in unused areas in the closet can provide more storage space. If there is sufficient space above the rod, install a shelf and place seldom-used items up high.

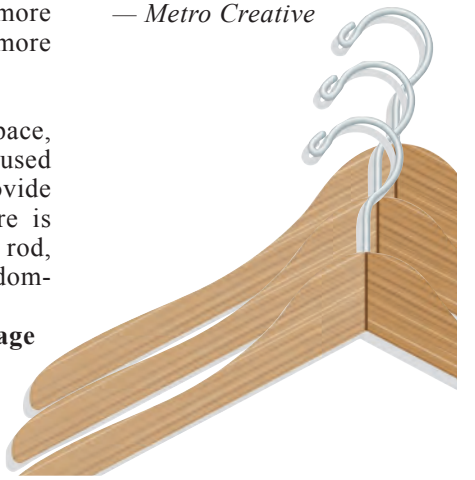
### Choose other storage solutions

In addition to closets, people can identify other spaces to store items. This

can include bins under beds, storage benches or ottomans, the back sides of doors, or in furniture with built-in drawers. Individuals also can purchase free-standing closets or armoires that can fill in when rooms do not have enough closet space or no closet at all.

Maximizing closet space comes down to some creativity, de-cluttering and utilizing additional furniture to meet needs.

—Metro Creative



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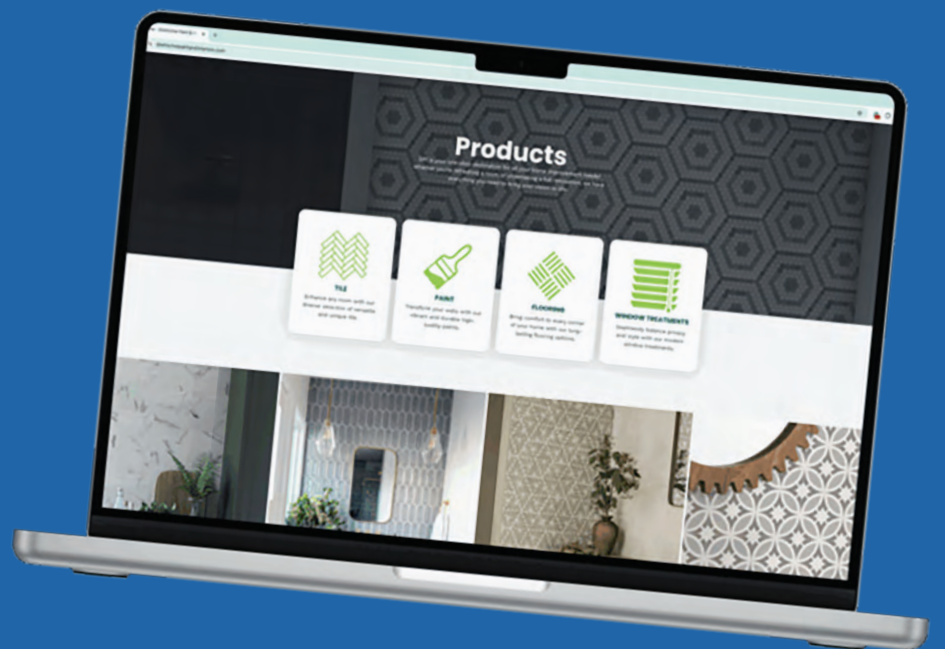
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# Multigenerational households can create one answer to housing crisis

The modern real estate market has led millions of aspiring home buyers to reconsider their approach to buying a home. Low inventory has led to high home prices. When paired with mortgage interest rates that have remained north of 6 percent for years, the high sticker price of homes has made many buyers wonder if homeownership is simply beyond their means.

It's impossible to know if or when home prices will come down, but some buyers have chosen to seek homes that can accommodate multiple generations. According to the Pew Research Center, the share of multigenerational homes rose from 7 percent in 1971 to 18 percent in 2021. A multitude of factors have contributed to that increase, and housing affordability is one such variable. In 2024, researchers studying multigenerational households at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania noted that housing affordability declined considerably in recent years but also had been on the decline for decades. As homes become less affordable, the number of multigenerational households tends to increase, and that's something modern buyers can keep in mind as they look for a home.

In-law suites that accommodate multigenerational households can provide a pathway to homeownership for buyers who otherwise may be priced out of the market. Buyers considering homes with an in-law suite or those who want to add one to their existing homes can familiarize themselves with these convenient and potentially cost-saving features.

Note the significance of a separate entrance. Whether you're looking for a home with an in-law suite or hoping to add one on to your existing home, a separate entrance for suite residents can allow them to come and go as they please. That sense of independence is significant. In addition, a separate entrance can make a home seem less like a multigenerational residence, which at times can feel crowded, and more like a single-generation home. That can afford all residents a little more peace and quiet in a

typical day.

- Expect an increase in taxes if you're adding on. As with any addition to a home, adding an in-law suite to an existing home is likely to result in an increase in homeowners' property taxes. The amount of that increase is contingent upon variables unique to each residence, like location and the size of the addition. When shopping for homes with existing in-law suites, buyers can request existing tax information so they are not surprised by the number like they might be if they add on to an existing home. Despite that, it might still be in prospective buyers' best interest to add on to an existing property and pay the additional taxes than it would to buy a new home.

- Try to include features residents have come to expect when living independently. An in-law suite should include its own private

bathroom, a washroom for a washer and dryer and a kitchen or kitchenette. If everyone in a multigenerational household is forced to use the same bathrooms, washers and dryers, and kitchens, then the home might begin to feel cramped rather quickly.

- Try to secure off-street parking. Though it might not affect the ambiance within the in-law suite itself, an off-street parking spot is a convenience residents will appreciate. Such a space will allow residents to come and go as they please and save them the headache of moving their vehicles for snow plows and street cleaners.

In-law suites could be an in-demand feature as more homeowners and aspiring buyers seek to reduce housing costs by embracing multigenerational living arrangements.

— Metro Creative



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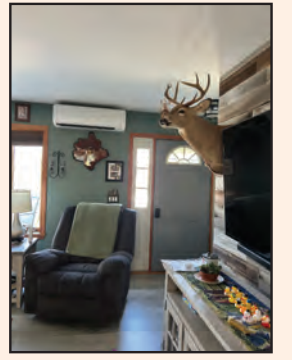
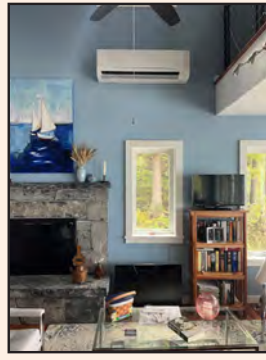
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