



Saturday, Dec. 2 is the Annual Teddy Arbo Holiday Toy Drive. Santa will be there, too!  
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Courtesy Great Gulf

**NEW KILLINGTON VILLAGE CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS UNVEILED**  
Great Gulf officially unveiled Safdie Architect's new renderings of the proposed Killington Village at the World Cup this past weekend.  
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**GIFT OF LIFE MARATHON BEGINS TUESDAY**  
The 20th Gift of Life Marathon Blood Drive begins Tuesday, Dec. 5 with four opportunities to donate until Dec. 15.  
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**VT COMEDY FEST IS NOV. 30-DEC. 3**  
This year, big names in comedy, promise big laughs.  
Page 18



By Jerry LeBlond

Mikaela Shiffrin holds up her 90th World Cup trophy after winning Slalom at Killington, Sunday.

## Shiffrin dominates, secures historic 90th World Cup win

By Katy Savage

Mikaela Shiffrin won the Killington Cup Slalom again — her sixth victory in seven years. After winning her historic 89th World Cup in Levi, Finland in October, she extended her World Cup wins to 90, taking gold in the Slalom on Sunday, Nov. 26 in Killington, beating her Slovakian rival Petra Vlhova by 0.33 seconds. Swiss skier Wendy Holdener took third.

"It feels really good," Shiffrin said after her win. "It's amazing to race in front of this crowd no matter what."

"It feels really good," Shiffrin said after her win. "It's amazing to race in front of this crowd no matter what. Being in a position to win is something different, that's really spectacular."

Shiffrin also took a podium spot, finishing third in the giant slalom on Saturday — earning her third giant slalom podium in Killington. Swiss skier Lara Gut-Behrami won the race, while Alice Robinson of New Zealand took second.

This was the World Cup's seventh time coming to Killington. Crowds totaled around 34,000 over three days as 100 of the fastest female alpine ski racers from 20 different countries descended Superstar.

Shiffrin, who graduated from Burke Mountain Academy, is off to a strong start this year after a record-setting season last year, when she beat Ingemar Stenmark's 86 World Cup wins (a record that's stood since 1989) to become the winningest Alpine racer ever.

But to reach that pinnacle, she's also experienced her share of set backs. Last year, in Killington she had the fastest first run in the Slalom but ended up finishing fifth after the second run.  
Killington Cup recap → 6

## One person dead in Route 4 crash

Staff report

Police said a crash on Route 4 Tuesday, Nov. 28 left one person dead.

A Marble Valley Transit Center Bus collided with a hatchback car on the East side of Sherburne Pass around noon. Conditions were snowy.

A driver and a passenger in the bus were transported to Rutland Regional Medical Center to be treated with minor injuries, while the

male operator of the car was pronounced dead.

"It looks like someone went left of center," Killington Police Chief Whit Montgomery said.

The road remained closed for multiple hours Tuesday afternoon, opening to one lane at times.

Montgomery said the crash was still under investigation. The deceased had not yet been identified as of press time.

## Former Rutland bike shop is now affordable housing for veterans

By Tiffany Tan/VT Digger

A former bike shop was unveiled Tuesday, Nov. 21, as new residences for veterans who had experienced homelessness, a privately led project that officials said could help respond to Vermont's housing crisis.

"Base Camp" is made up of eight one-bedroom apartments on the ground floor of a three-story building along North Main Street in Rutland City. Since mid-October, seven military veterans have moved in, leaving only one unit unoccupied.

"It's so modern," said Douglas Lloyd, 61, a former service member, marveling at his bedroom's remote-controlled ceiling fan

with a light. "I can't ask for anything more."

Before moving into Base Camp in early November, Lloyd lived for two-and-a-half months at a home for unhoused veterans in Bradford. Now he has his own place in the city where he spent his childhood, and one with easy access to public transportation.

"I've had people support me all the way through," Lloyd said. His monthly rent, including utilities, is about \$1,000, half of which he said is subsidized through a program of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He pays for the rest with his disability

New vet housing → 4



By Tiffany Tan/VT Digger

"Base Camp," located on Rutland's North Main Street, is made up of eight affordable housing units for military veterans.

# 20th Anniversary Gift-of-Life Marathon Blood Drive

**ALSO:** National coalition that Adams supported around EB-5-financing bank failures and had been forced close from a viral initiative — but was saved in part by blood donors who rolled up their sleeves to help people like him.



Thank you  
Thank you  
Thank you  
Thank you

Thank you  
Thank you  
Thank you  
Thank you

"Your donations can help ensure doctors and hospitals have what they need to best provide the care," said Adams, who works at Green Mountain Power, one of the sponsors of the GOLF. "I realize today because the people I don't have donated blood, something someone in my family has long been to support our community."

## The 2023 GOLF IS BEING HELD:

- **Tuesday, Dec. 5,** from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the President's Home, 718 Almond Drive, in Coalinga.
- **Thursday, Dec. 7,** from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Dulford High School, 22 Stratton Rd., Rutland.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 13,** from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Elm Lodge (#345 at 44-46 Pleasant St. in Rutland.
- **Friday, Dec. 15,** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Elm Lodge (#345 at 44-46 Pleasant St. in Rutland.

## APPOINTMENTS ARE CRITICAL!

Use the Red Cross Blood Donor App  
Visit [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org)  
or Call 1-800-REDCROSS  
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Sponsored by Green Mountain Power and WMTB, with support from Heritage Family Care-Elm Lodge, Vermont Country Store and Rutland Regional Medical Center.



RENDERING IS ARTIST CONCEPT E. & O. E.

Courtesy Great Gulf

Great Gulf and Sadfie Architects have released a series of concept renderings for their newly proposed Killington Village.

# Great Gulf unveils vision, renderings for new Killington Village

By Polly Mikula

At the Killington Cup last weekend, Great Gulf the developer for the planned Killington Village at the base of Snowshed and Ramshead, unveiled renderings — it was the public's first look into the vision of the new developer.

Great Gulf bought the rights and permitted plans to develop a village at the base of Killington Resort in May from SP Land Co. The new village will be at the base of the mountain on 1,095 acres of development land (the village portion will be on 45 of those acres). Permits for Phase 1 include about 32,000 square feet of commercial space and 225 new units of housing with a mix of condos (193 units), townhomes, and single-family homes.

Michael Sneyd, president of the Resort Residential Division of Great Gulf called the original permitted plans “a substantial foundation,” and “a very good plan” when speaking at a community meeting, Oct. 19, adding, “but we think Killington deserves something better than very good. We believe this ski village should be better than any other ski village.”

Great Gulf's re-envisioned village design includes a pedestrian-only Main Street that leads to the base of the mountain, where a crystalline lodge will welcome visitors (replacing the current Snowshed and Ramshead lodges). The Crystal Mountain Lodge will be made of cladding and joined glass at various angles. It will be visible from both the slopes and the village, Sneyd explained. And its design will reflect the natural landscapes — picking up the colors of every season.

Plans also show Snowshed Pond ringed by a waterfront promenade.

There are “two significant gathering areas,” Sneyd explained. “The Main Town Square in the middle of the village and the Snowbeach Square that celebrates the biggest ski beach in the East.”

The ski beach connects the Snowshed lift and the Ramshead lift. “And it's flat the whole way,” Sneyd explained. Killington Road will be depressed underneath it and the skiers will go over it on a wide flat bridge. Killington Road will then continue up to K-1 via Vale Road.

“The village will be a hub of activity,” said Killington Resort President and CEO Mike Solimano. “Whether it's something like ice skating or concerts, this will give people in the area a great place to come together and hang out,

not to mention improving the availability of real estate and infrastructure in the Killington region.”

Great Gulf (a company that has built more than 90,000 homes in 20 cities across the U.S.) has hired Saffdie Architects to lead the redesign of the village in collaboration with PWP Landscape Architecture.

“We knew early on, only a world-class design team could realize our vision for the four-season mountain resort we believe is the future of Killington,” stated Elly Reisman, chairman of Great Gulf on LiveKillington.com.

Architect and founding partner Moshe Saffdie said his “goal is to capture the spirit and character of a Vermont village in a contemporary rendition of vital public spaces for all Killington Village → 8



RENDERING IS ARTIST CONCEPT E. & O. E.

Courtesy Great Gulf

A Crystal Mountain Lodge is planned to replace Snowshed and Ramshead lodges.

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## MOUNTAIN TIMES

is a community newspaper covering Central Vermont that aims to engage and inform as well as empower community members to have a voice.

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# Okemo Valley TV explores a multi-media approach

## Seeks community's interest in local public radio

Okemo Valley TV, the community access TV station and media center, has been expanding beyond cable for many years. Like its 23 "sister stations" across the Green Mountain State, Okemo Valley TV was originally formed as a Public, Educational, & Government (PEG) Access cable TV station. "PEG Access" TV channels were established through the federal Communications Act of 1984.

The provision for these channels was in response to the build-out of cable television. Cable companies were being given licenses to build out their infrastructure along public roadways and other rights-of-way, in order to bring this new technology to the masses. PEG channels became part of the compensation given back to local communities in exchange for these licenses and using public

rights-of-way. In Vermont, the growth of PEG (otherwise known as "community TV") ramped up during the 1990s. Okemo Valley TV was formed in 2001 (it was then known as LPCTV, which stood for "Ludlow-Plymouth-Cavendish Television").

Over the years, Okemo Valley TV has experienced a slow but steady expansion of its services. Today, as with its colleagues, it is

embracing all sorts of media platforms and uses. For starters, the station's two TV channels are not just on cable; they are streamed live on its website at okemovalley.tv, and on its free, downloadable app on "over-the-top" (OTT) streaming platforms: Apple TV, Roku, Fire TV, Google Play, and iOS. So now its video on demand of local programming can be found on the station's website, its

You Tube channel, as well as the streaming app.

While all of its work has been in visual media, Okemo Valley TV is beginning to explore other, non-visual forms of media as well. Executive Director Patrick Cody stresses the use of the word media in the station's mission and goals, which states: "to provide the community with access to me-

Radio? → 12

### ← New vet housing: from page 1

insurance.

Lloyd found his new home with the assistance of the Veterans Affairs' White River Junction Healthcare System, which has placed other former service members in rentals run by Base Camp's owner and developer, Stephen Box.

Box said his partnership with the federal agency planted the idea that he could do his part to fill the existing housing gap if he converted Rutland's former Col Cycling store into apartments for veterans.

"A lot of the veterans have had a turbulent housing history here in Rutland," Box said ahead of Base Camp's ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday morning. "It's our hope that this is permanent."

The Vermont Housing Improvement Program supported the project with grants of \$30,000 to \$50,000 per apartment. In exchange, for at least five years the units must house people coming out of homelessness and be classified as affordable housing.

Box said he intends to make this a permanent housing arrangement for veterans. "They've already bounced around. I don't want them ever to bounce around," he said.

From planning to occupancy, Base Camp was completed in less than two years, according to its architect, Adam Pelkey of the McKernon Group. He said Box came to him with the idea of converting the one-time bike shop into multi-unit housing early in 2022. (Prior to Col Cycling, the building housed Mr. C's Seafood restaurant.)

The entire housing project cost under \$500,000, Box said. That included the grant funding, the owner's required 20% funding match and incentives from the energy efficiency organization 3E Thermal.

With publicly supported affordable housing projects costing an average of \$450,000 per unit, according to state officials, the construction of Base Camp is notable not just for its speed, but for its price tag.

"Oftentimes, a development is more expensive than what

"I don't think there's a housing crisis," Box said.

"I think there's a crisis of efficiency, a crisis of effectiveness, a crisis of collaboration, a crisis of creativity, a crisis of innovation, a crisis of urgency, a crisis of oversight, a crisis of commitment."

this project has been," said Aaron Jones, home and rental repair coordinator at NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, which manages the Vermont Housing Improvement Program in the Rutland area.

A handful of factors helped to minimize the development cost of Base Camp, Jones said. They include the fact



By Tiffany Tan/VTDigger

*Around 35 people attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at "Base Camp," new affordable housing for veterans in Rutland on Tuesday, Nov. 21.*

that the property had an existing electrical system and water service, he said, and the space was ready for retrofitting, as opposed to needing demolition work.

Cheryl Hooker, a member of Rutland's Board of Aldermen and a former state senator, said the housing project can serve as a model for responding to the state's lack of affordable housing.

"It can be done, and it doesn't have to cost millions and millions. We don't have to price ourselves out of existence," said Hooker, who was among about 35 people — including Rutland-area state legislators, the Rutland mayor and other aldermen — who attended Tuesday's ribbon-cutting ceremony.

According to recent state data, 753 households in Vermont were placed in a motel through the state's emergency housing program. More than a quarter of the total beneficiaries, or 210 households, were in Rutland County.

Since Box's family moved to Rutland from Los Angeles in 2021, Box said, he has acquired six rental properties

with a combined 42 housing units. His current tenants, he said, include 15 adults and 19 children who were formerly housed through the state's motel voucher program.

He believes red tape on every level of government stands in the way of responding quickly to the need for affordable homes in Vermont.

"It feels like there was a meeting where everyone got together and said, 'How can we make this inefficient ... How can we create obstacles to slow it down?'" Box said in an interview. "At the end of the day, based on results, are we housing people that need housing?"

Citing a 2023 report by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Box has repeatedly said that the county has 2,400 vacant homes, including ones that can be returned to the marketplace with minimal to no renovation work. Communities don't have to create homes from scratch, he said.

"I don't think there's a housing crisis," he said. "I think there's a crisis of efficiency, a crisis of effectiveness, a crisis of collaboration, a crisis of creativity, a crisis of innovation, a crisis of urgency, a crisis of oversight, a crisis of commitment."

# Payne: racing is a passion

By Karen D. Lorentz

If ever a skier's life has come full circle, it would be Simeon Payne's.

Born in England, at age 6 his family moved to Belgium for his father's work. Thanks to his oldest sister taking him on a four-day ski trip to France, the young Payne learned to ski and loved it — despite skiing in the rain. At age 8, his father transferred to Switzerland so Simeon got into racing and raced through high school there.

With his parents moving to the states, at age 18 he went to college at the University of Connecticut where he raced on the ski team and garnered enough FIS points to be invited to try out for the British National Team.

"My father encouraged me to take that year off to train and have an experience of a lifetime," Payne said of family support.

"I went to France at 19 and showed up with 8 pairs of skis to train with the British team (they trained with the French team). It was an experience in learning to take care of myself. I was on my own and learned to adapt," Payne observed. Whether it was having enough money to eat or surviving a storm on a glacier, "I learned how to deal with life and to honor my commitment," he explained.

"I also woke up to how good international team racers are and although they would have taken me—based on the trials—I decided I wasn't going to make a career out of it and went back to college."

Payne graduated in 1987 as an economics major and got a job working for a New York derivatives trading firm for 33 years. Living in Darien, Connecticut, the family took ski trips and on one to Okemo, he was delighted when his 7-year-old daughter ask if she could do racing.

Both his daughter and son went on to go through Okemo's race programs but

"didn't want me to coach so people wouldn't think they had an advantage," Payne said.

It wasn't until 2018 when they were in college that Payne turned to coaching racers on the weekends. That led to becoming Okemo's Competition Services Assistant Manager for the 2021-22 season.

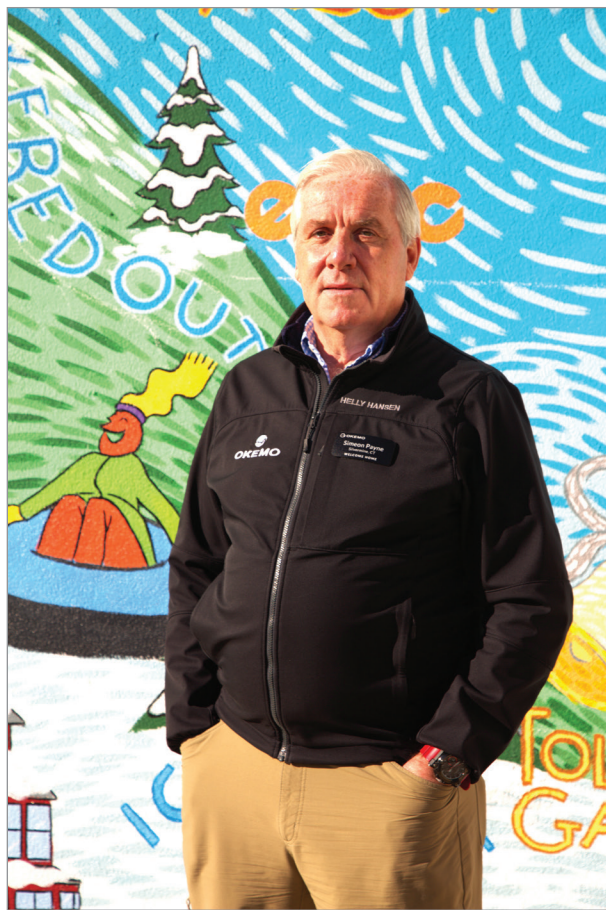
While he brought his corporate and racing experience to the position, Payne noted that he still had

good one.

"Wayne and Robin have been amazing in helping me to learn this job of managing. The three of us were new here together, but we improved the programs and I'm doing something I really love," Payne said.

### Programs and benefits

Okemo's competitions department has some 350 kids in its Alpine, freeski, and snowboard programs. The Alpine racing



Submitted

Simeon Payne

to learn about managing, a job that entails "taking care of 75 coaches and 20 race crew. I tell people it's like being a wedding planner"

Part of those coordinating duties include consulting with the coaches about how kids are doing and when they should be moving up. Another is filling in as a coach for any of the Alpine groups, a job he enjoys immensely.

Working with Competitions Services Director Wayne Conn and Administrative Assistant and Race Administrator Robin Tracy made his job transition a

programs include: Hopedefuls (81 kids) for 7 to 10 year-olds; Devos (40 participants) for ages 12-18 who want to train but not compete or travel; and U-10, U-12, U-14, U-16, and U-18 groups with 167 kids. Okemo Mountain School and Okemo Competition Center work together so on weekends OMS kids train with Okemo's weekend programs with a sharing of coaches.

"The Freeski program (26 kids) starts at age 10 due to kids needing to ski really well technically before go-

Racing passion → 12



## TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

### TOWN OF KILLINGTON, VERMONT NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO THE TRAFFIC ORDINANCE

On November 13, 2023, the Selectboard of the Town of Killington, Vermont, adopted amendments to the existing Traffic Ordinance pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59. This notice is published pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1973 to inform the public of these amendments and of the citizens' right to petition for a vote to disapprove these amendments.

#### SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS/ADDENDUM TO ORDINANCE

**Purpose:** To regulate the speed of vehicular traffic and permit the installation of driveways.

#### Principal Provisions:

- **Addendum to Section II. MIXIMUM SPEED ON DESIGNATED STREETS AND ROADS is as follows:**  
**NAME OF STREET:** The entire length of East Mountain Road (TH #15)

**PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMIT:** 30 miles per hour

- **Amendment to the Application for Access (Driveway) to a Town Highway/911 Address**

Changes to the former driveway application includes a post construction inspection, an inspection from the Fire Chief in addition to the Public Works Foreman/Director, the assignment of an E-911 address, and an application fee increase to \$125.00.

#### FULL TEXT

The full text of the ordinance is available at the Town Clerk's Office, 2706 River Road, Killington, Vermont and may be examined during regular office hours.

#### CITIZENS' RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE

Title 24 V.S.A. §1973 grants the citizens the right to petition for a vote at a special or annual Town Meeting to disapprove ordinance amendments adopted by the Selectboard. To exercise this right, citizens must present to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk a petition for a vote on the question of disapproving the amendments signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the Town's qualified voters. The petition must be presented within forty-four (44) days following the date of the adoption of the amendments. Unless a petition requesting a vote is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1973, the amended Traffic Ordinance shall become effective sixty (60) days from the date of said adoption.

#### PERSON TO CONTACT

Additional information pertaining to this Ordinance may be obtained by contacting the Town Clerk or the Town Manager at:  
The Town Office

2706 River Road, Killington, Vermont, 05751  
or by calling 802-422-3241 during regular office hours.

**DATE POSTED:** November 22, 2023.



By Jerry LeBlond

Left: The Giant Slalom podium on Saturday, Nov. 25, held Switzerland's Lara Gut-Behrami in first, New Zealand's Alice Robinson in second, and USA's Mikaela Shiffrin in third. Right: The Slalom podium on Sunday, Nov. 26, held USA's Mikaela Shiffrin in first, Slovakia's Petra Vlhova in second, and Switzerland's Wendy Holdener in third.

← Killington Cup recap: .....  
from page 1

"These kinds of moments, you can call it a disappointment... Those are the things that stick with me more than winning actually does," Shiffrin told reporters, recalling the race last year. "So, I always feel more doubt in myself than confidence, because of races like here last year. That's something that really fuels me."

Sunday's race marked Shiffrin's 55th Slalom win — another record. No other skier, male or female, has ever won more than 46 races in a single discipline.

The U.S. Ski Team had a strong showing over the weekend. In Sunday's Slalom, Paula Moltzan, from Andover, Massachusetts, finished eighth, about two seconds off the lead, after a mistake at the top of her run.

"I pulled out some resilient skiing after that mistake but the crowd is what pulled me through. I could hear them from the top," said Moltzan. "Although eighth isn't really what I wanted, it's a great result to end the weekend."

"Mikaela is an icon in our sport and Alpine skiing in general, she's bringing women's skiing to the next level," Moltzan continued. "Being her teammate, we see it more so with all the coverage of women's racing. We are lucky to be able to experience it all with Mikaela leading the charge."

For the second year, the Stifel Killington Cup also highlighted the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Team's "HERoic" initiative, a women's empowerment initiative created to foster awareness and opportunities for women in the ski industry.

U.S. Ski Team athlete Allie Resnick had a strong first run where she ended up in 49th position; she did not qualify for a second run. Zoe Zimmermann and AJ Hurt did not finish the first run on Sunday.

Over 300 volunteers took part in the Stifel Killington Cup and nearly 1,000 children from New England ski clubs participated in the opening day parade on Saturday.

Earlier this month, the Stifel U.S. Ski Team announced a 30% boost in prize money for all World Cups. The Killington Cup was the first to implement the prize money increases.

"I have to say, thank you so much to Stifel for setting a new precedent in the sport about the worth of the athletes and the work we do," Shiffrin said in a press release. "It takes all our time and energy, and my big hope is that other nations and partners will follow suit. To see how much this brings to the sport and to see that the athletes are truly valued. To feel valued for what you do is really incredible."

The women go to Tremblant, Canada this coming weekend for a pair of Giant Slalom races Dec. 2-3.



Courtesy Killington Resort

Shiffrin yells with joy after her 90th win.



By Jerry LeBlond

Shiffrin carves around a Giant Slalom gate Saturday at the Killington Cup.



By Paul Holmes

Shiffrin hugs Petra Vlhova after the race.



By Jerry LeBlond

View of the Giant Slalom finish and crowd totaling 18,000 in the grandstands and in front of the VIP tent at Killington Resort Saturday.



By Jerry LeBlond

Announcer Doug Lewis interviews Shiffrin after her 90th World Cup win.



By Paul Holmes

Team USA fans spoke with announcer Glenn Plake in the grandstands.



Courtesy U.S. Ski Team

# 'Truly amazing'

## 34,000 people from around the world attend Killington World Cup

By Victoria Gaither

The Stifel Killington Cup, a stop on the Audi FIS Ski World Cup tour, didn't disappoint the 20,000 fans who came from near and far to watch world-class alpine women's skiing Nov. 25-26.

"My family came from Pennsylvania to see Mikaela Shiffrin's race. How many chances do you get to watch a hero in action," said Bethany Smith.

Shiffrin brought her "A" game on day two of the race when she placed first in the slalom, in front of the home crowd. Shiffrin also earned a spot on the podium in the giant slalom, taking third place.

For Henri Rivers, a Stratton Mountain School ski race team member, being at the World Cup "gives me a good opportunity to see people at the elite level race and interact with fans."

Andrea Emery, who came to Killington with the Quechee Ski Team, said of the World Cup, "This is the most amazing event to be able to see these fast woman racers from all over the world and have all of these great local teams to come together and show the spirit of Vermont Ski racing."

She added, "This is the only time in the U.S. where our ski students can witness something like this, and on our home ground."

Kate Ferguson, a mom and parent coordinator with the Proctor Jr. Ski Race team from Andover, New Hampshire, waited in the parade line with her ski kids.

Ferguson is taking in the day's events and is happy about the opportunity for Proctor's ski race team.

"They are so excited to watch the women to see how fast they go and see how intense ski racing can be," she said.

Proctor only started its ski race team two years ago.

"The kids are going fantastic. We have a bigger crew this year and are ready to ski," Ferguson said,

World Cup first timer Justin Bibb, who snowboards, said of his experience, "The sport is great, but there is a beauty aspect of the mountain when you are out here."

Bibb's father taught him how to snowboard and says it was a struggle, but he kept at it every winter and now enjoys the sport.

"I am at a point now where I am loving it, and it's one of the

Amazing → 27



By Jerry LeBlond



Courtesy Killington Resort



By Victoria Gaither



By Sarah Calvin

By Jerry LeBlond  
Young racers and fans meet the racers and get their Programs signed by the inspiring World Cup athletes after the races.



Courtesy Killington Resort



RENDERING IS ARTIST CONCEPT E. & O. E.

Courtesy Great Gulf

Great Gulf and Safdie Architects envision a promenade around Snowshed Pond with luxury condos built in future phases.

### ← Killington Village: from page 3

seasons.” Safdie Architects has collaborated with PWP Landscape Architecture on a number of projects internationally, including the Jewel Changi Airport in Singapore.

#### Timing

Because Great Gulf is planning for a major change to the permitted village plan, the new plans will now have to be approved by Act 250 — Vermont’s land use/development law.

Sneyd expects to submit the new plans for review in January 2024. Timing from there is “hard to say... I mean, we would love it to take six to nine months.”

If the permitting process goes quickly, construction could start as

early as spring 2025, Sneyd said. Once it gets started it will take two years to build out Phase 1. “Then, as soon as we get Phase 1 on its way, we’ll be working on the next phase,” he explained “We’re excited to begin; to build something absolutely iconic.”

Safdie and PWP got together and created a new village design “that is elegant in its simplicity,” said Sneyd, “We’re participating with the community, town, resort and state to make Killington the best ski village of the future,” he explained. “Right now Killington is the biggest ski mountain in the East, it’s got the best snowmaking, it’s got the best lifts, grooming equipment, etc ... but it doesn’t have the best village — and that’s where

we’re coming in to be part of the future of Killington.”

At the World Cup, Great Gulf representatives had a chance to chat with many in the VIP tent that their company sponsored.

“Our goal was to talk with people who may be interested and learn more about what it is they particularly are looking for. Is it two bedrooms? One bedroom? Studio? Townhome? Single-family home? We’re able to offer them all right now.”

“We got a lot of feedback and most of it was really really positive,” Sneyd concluded. “What an amazing event!”

For additional renderings visit: MountainTimes.info. For more information visit: LiveKillington.com.

## Suspect arrested in shooting of 3 Palestinian American students

By Alan J. Keays/VTDigger

Burlington Police say they have arrested a suspect in the shooting Saturday night that wounded three young Palestinian American men.

The three men, all 20 years old, were in Burlington visiting relatives of one of the men over the Thanksgiving holiday when the shooting took place around 6:30 p.m. Saturday on North Prospect Street.

Jason Eaton, 48, was “encountered and detained” by fed- Arrested → 12

### OBITUARY

## Stella Elizabeth Sarandrea, 72

Stella Elizabeth Sarandrea, age 72, of Chittenden, Vermont, passed away peacefully on Nov. 27, 2023, at Rutland Regional Medical Center. Born in Utica, Stella spent the majority of her life in the Oneida area of New York, where she graduated from Oneida High School with the Class of 1970. She furthered her education at the American Banking Institute and embarked on a fulfilling career as an accountant and banker. She successfully ran the mainframe at Oneida Valley National Bank and later worked for AMSA armored car service. She retired from The Roman Catholic Diocese in Albany, New York.



Submitted

Stella Elizabeth Sarandrea

On April 18, 1970, Stella married the love of her life, James T. Sarandrea, at St. Patrick’s Church in Oneida. Their union lasted an incredible 53 years, a testament to the enduring strength of their love. Stella’s devotion to her family was unwavering, as she embraced her roles as a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

Stella’s life was characterized by strength, kindness, and a genuine positive attitude. Her caring nature extended beyond

Stella → 21

# Recycle Better™ for a Sustainable Holiday



Looking to waste less and Recycle Better this holiday season? It begins with your holiday shopping!

As your online shopping starts showing up at your door remember these helpful tips.



Bubble wrap and packing peanuts are not recyclable - save these items for reuse or discard them in your trash.



Cardboard boxes are recyclable. Ensure cardboard is flattened and broken down before placing in your bin.



ESTABLISHED 1979

For more holiday recycling & waste tips, visit [casella.com/RecycleBetter](https://casella.com/RecycleBetter) >  
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LOVE,  
*Tito's*

# 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL Teddy Arbo's Holiday Toy Drive

**BENEFITING LOCAL CHARITIES**

**SATURDAY DEC 2, 2023  
4PM AT THE FOUNDRY**

**FAMILY FRIENDLY with a visit from SANTA!**



**MAKE A  
DONATION**



**Please Bring a Toy as a Donation**  
Each New Unwrapped Toy Includes Admission and a Raffle Ticket!

## GUEST EDITORIAL

## There is a lot of talk about our housing crisis — It's time to walk the walk

By Secretary Lindsay Kurrle and Secretary Jenney Samuelson

*Editor's note: Lindsay Kurrle is the secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, which includes the Department of Housing and Community Development. Jenney Samuelson is the secretary of the Agency of Human Services.*

Vermont faces a housing crisis. So, like we did during the pandemic and the flood, the Scott Administration has worked to tackle this issue with a collaborative, cross-agency approach bringing together the agencies of Commerce and Community Development, Human Services, Natural Resources and Digital Services, and the departments of Housing, Children & Families and Public Safety. This collaboration gives us a comprehensive view to this complicated problem.

And we've been successful in transitioning an unprecedented number of Vermonters out of homelessness and creating more new homes than Vermont has seen in decades. But the fact remains, it has not been enough.

Over the summer, we spent time analyzing homelessness data, including hearing directly from impacted households; current and previous housing studies; past and current housing trends; census data; unit creation projections; and more.

This work has led us to three important conclusions:

First, we have an acute deficit in the number of homes we need across the state and for families of all sizes, income levels and service needs. This is not a new conclusion, but we are gaining new insights into the scope, and working to understand the data on a county-by-county basis.

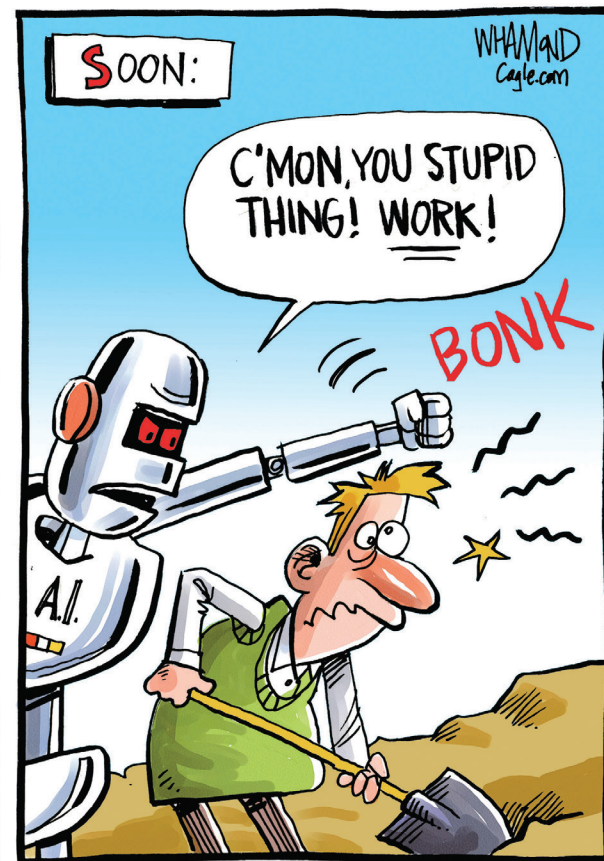
The analysis shows a current statewide deficit of roughly 6,800 housing units — meaning this is the number of additional homes needed to meet demand today. It doesn't account for population growth or the 2,500-3,000 units we lose annually which fall into disrepair. And despite building faster in recent years than in decades, the data also shows we need to do more than three times as much to fill this gap.

Second, we cannot buy our way out of this housing deficit. From March 2020 to October 2023, the State invested nearly \$400 million in historic federal funds to support new construction, fix up vacant units and expand shelter capacity. Yet we still face a significant shortage in every county. Notably, the type of affordable housing construction this money supports costs \$450,000 per unit on average. At that rate, it would cost Vermonters an astounding \$1 billion of public funding to create just over 2,000 units. Even if private investment was to match public sources to invest a total of \$2 billion, it would only produce just over 4,000 units — which does not come close to filling the 6,800 unit gap.

Third, healthy local housing markets are essential to revitalizing communities. To have healthy, safe, vibrant communities across the state, retain and attract more workers, and reverse declining school enrollment numbers we need more housing. Without more housing, we can't fully address homelessness because the root of the problem lies

The time for nibbling around the edges has passed. We must confront this challenge head on.

Housing → 12



A.I. Enslavement by Dave Whamond, Canada, PoliticalCartoons

## LETTERS

### Government should equalize Social Security hikes

Dear Editor,

The better off get better off and the less fortunate get less fortunate. Every year the Social Security Administration (SSA) gives us elder people on Social Security a cost-of-living increase, or COLA. It is always in the form of a percentage increase.

I've been on Social Security for over 10 years and this is the way it is always done. Also, SSA deducts the fee for being on Medicare. Sometimes it goes up and like last year it dropped a little. But here is the problem. According to the SSA, the average Social Security recipient receives a little over \$1,800 per month and they state that the 3.2% we are going to get this year amounts to around \$59.

Well, if we are supposed to be helping those who are less fortunate, we aren't. A person getting, let's say, \$1,200 per month will only receive about \$38 more while someone who receives \$2,400 per

SS hikes → 11

### Why can't we celebrate who we are as a people?

Dear Editor,

It is sad to see the ongoing media coverage about who is a "real" Indian and who makes the determination. All of these commentaries just continue to show that civility, acceptance of others' lived experiences, and the uplifting of communities are so desperately needed in today's society.

Just when we thought that Vermont had gotten past the ethnocide politics of the past, they resurface under the guise of "academic freedom" — freedom of speech, and freedom of the press. Cross-border generational Abenaki tribal disputes are now used as a catalyst to promote destruction of entire communities of individuals living within the borders of the United States.

Why can't we celebrate who we are as a people, just like every other ethnic minority population in this country is allowed to do? Are we still that undesirable a people that ethnocide is

the only solution for 6,000 state-recognized Abenaki Indians?

As in the past, propaganda is distributed through European public institutions, public media, and handpicked organizations

We put our lives on the line to safeguard our freedoms and not let foreign entities living in foreign countries interfere or infringe upon our rights as American or tribal citizens.

to justify the actions of why we are somehow inferior or less worthy of existence in mainstream society. This was unacceptable then and is still unacceptable today. This is why the state of Vermont and UVM apologized for such practices.

These media campaigns conveniently leave out that I do have proven native ancestry, which the Vermont recognition process considered and accepted. My

Who we are → 12

### State needs new voting option

Dear Editor,

Last year, the Vermont Senate advanced a bill to bring Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) to presidential primaries, beginning in 2028. This bill had support from the three parties and the Vermont Secretary of State. But the Vermont House needs to act.

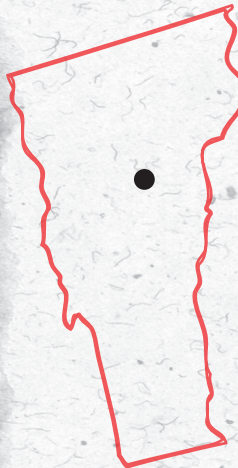
Our current "choose one" voting system leaves many voters with no meaningful options and advances candidates who lack broad support. RCV is a better way forward. It's currently used by more than 13 million Americans in cities from NYC to Burlington, Vt., and Maine and Alaska, where it is used in federal and presidential elections.

RCV cuts down on wasted votes for candidates who drop out. In Vermont, a high percentage of voters vote absentee weeks ahead of the election. This is also true for overseas and military voters.

RCV offers more choices, allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference. This eliminates

Voting option → 11

## CAPITAL QUOTES



Three Palestinian-American students were shot Saturday in Burlington, leading to calls from civil rights organizations and the victims' families for authorities to look into possible bias by the attacker.

**“We condemn hate and Islamophobia—this is not reflective of our Vermont values and our belief in community. The past seven weeks of conflict in the Middle East have brought an alarming spike in Islamophobic incidents across the United States, and underscores the necessity of supporting our Muslim community. This cycle of fear, intimidation, and violence must end. It is unacceptable,”**

Sen. **Peter Welch** said.

**“Hate has no place here, or anywhere. I look forward to a full investigation,”**

Sen. **Bernie Sanders** said.

**“The hate crimes against Palestinians must stop. Palestinians everywhere need protection,”**

**Husam Zomlot**, the Palestinian ambassador to the United Kingdom, posted on X.

**“Although we do not yet have evidence to support a hate crime enhancement, I do want to be clear that there is no question that this was a hateful act,”**

Chittenden County State's Attorney **Sarah Fair George** said during a briefing on Monday, Nov. 27.

## COMMENTARY

# Moving energy is the key to Vermont's 100% renewable energy future

By Peter Sterling

*Editor's note: Peter Sterling is the executive director of Renewable Energy Vermont.*

There's good news ahead in the fight against climate change. Utilities, business owners and energy experts now acknowledge there's an affordable path to achieving what was once just a dream for environmentalists — a 100% renewable energy future for Vermont. This future includes more energy storage and conservation, weatherizing of our homes and a switch off of fossil fuels and onto hydro, solar and wind power for all of our electricity.

This renewable energy future starts with the political leadership to change our laws at home — updating our 2015 Renewable Energy Standard to require utilities to get to 100% renewables by 2030. Once a leader in New England in the energy transition off of fossil fuels, Vermont is now the only state in the region to not have updated its renewables requirement in the last eight years as the reality of the economic, environmental and social costs of the climate crisis have sunk in.

For decades, passing such a law would have been impossible because no one could answer the fundamental question of how to provide affordable, reliable energy for millions of people when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining.

But the answer has now been given to us by a recent decision by the Biden Administration to support the Twin States Clean Energy Link. Twin States is a proposed renewable energy transmission project in Vermont and New Hampshire that will provide bi-directional capacity with Quebec to deliver an abundant source of existing,

affordable and dependable clean energy to New England.

Historically people have thought of power lines as moving energy one way from point A to B whenever it is needed. Makes sense in a world of gas and coal plants and not a lot of intermittent renewables. However, as more and more wind and solar has come on line, we now need to think of using or storing as much renewable energy as we can when the wind is blowing and the sun is shining and drawing down other clean power when we need it.

This is where the bi-directional capacity of Twin States comes in. We in New England are

We in New England are good at generating solar and wind power.

good at generating solar and wind power while Quebec possesses enormous hydro-power reserves. If we send our excess wind and solar north to Canada for their use, it preserves their hydro reserves which we in New England can then tap into

when we need renewables most — at night when the sun isn't shining or on calm summer days when the wind isn't blowing hard.

The added benefit of two way “energy sharing” with Quebec is that it will greatly incentivize the deployment of new wind and solar which will not only bring the price of power down but help eliminate one of the great environmental injustices of our time — the 81 natural gas plants currently operating primarily in lower income areas of New England (none of which are in Vermont for those of you keeping score at home).

While we have a long way to go to curb all the impacts of climate change, a two way energy connection to Canada puts a 100% renewable energy future for Vermont and all of New England well within our sights.

← **Voting option:** from page 10

spoilers who can split the majority vote between two similar candidates.

Please consider contacting your Vermont House Representative and urge them to support RCV in the 2028 presidential primary.

For more information on how Ranked Choice Voting works, go to [betterballotvermont.org](http://betterballotvermont.org) (a local option) and [fairvote.org](http://fairvote.org) (a nationwide resource).

**Carol Clauss, Bristol**

← **SS hikes:** from page 10

month will receive about \$77 more per month. Now who do you suppose could use more money, the upper earner or someone struggling to pay the light bill? This has been going on every year since I've been receiving Social Security and the gap between those less fortunate and those better off has done nothing but widen.

What should be done is to establish what the average increase would be for

the average Social Security receiver, this year about \$59, and give the same increase to every recipient equally. For instance, this year lower and higher amount recipients would each get around \$59. Wouldn't this be fair? It wouldn't cost the country any more money to do this and after many years there might be a more equitable result.

**Jon Fillion, Salisbury**

← **Who we are:**  
from page 10

family was publicly recorded in the eugenics survey as Indian and I am recognized as an Abenaki Indian by both the federal government and by the state of Vermont.

Regardless of what people try to portray, Nulhegan is codified in law as Abenaki Indian. This is no different from the Canadian Abenaki tribes. We live in two separate countries under two separate lived experiences and recognized under two separate legal systems, neither affecting the other, and we are both separate sovereign tribes who determine their own citizenship. Just like federal tribes are afforded.

My father, myself, and my son proudly served our country as U.S. Army veterans. My father, mother, and son's headstone bear the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribal symbol because they were proud of our Native heritage. We took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution and our people against all foreign and domestic threats. We put our lives on the line to

safeguard our freedoms and not let foreign entities living in foreign countries interfere or infringe upon our rights as American or tribal citizens.

Yet Vermont institutions are allowing Odanak and their propaganda machine to affect how legally recognized Vermont tribes and their citizens are treated within the United States border.

November is the time of year to honor those veterans who served this country proudly. It is also a time to be thankful for the harvest, kinship with family, and to celebrate Native American heritage in all forms.

We are not second-class citizens. We deserve to be free from hate and to celebrate who we are as a people without interference. I ask that you celebrate all veterans and to uplift Native American communities whoever they are, regardless of the propaganda.

I hope you have a happy harvest celebration and Native American Month.

**Don Stevens, chief of the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe**

← **Arrested:**  
from page 8

eral Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents who were conducting a canvass around 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the location of the shooting, according to a press release issued by the Burlington Police Department early Monday morning.

Detectives worked with local and federal prosecutors to obtain a warrant and to search Eaton's residence around 10 p.m. Sunday in an apartment building in front of where the shooting occurred, police said in the press release.

Evidence collected during the search gave investigators and prosecutors "probable cause to believe that Mr. Eaton perpetrated the shooting," according to the release.

Eaton was arrested and was set to be arraigned Monday, Nov. 27, the release stated.

Police said Sunday afternoon that two of the men who were shot were in stable condition and one sustained serious injuries. Police said that two of the men were wearing keffiyehs, a traditional scarf that has become a symbol of Palestinian identity, at the time of the shootings.

Authorities said Sunday that they were investigating whether the shootings were a hate crime, but the release issued early Monday morning did not provide information about the specific charges Eaton will face or provide a motive for the shooting.

Authorities said Sunday that they were investigating whether the shootings were a hate crime.



Submitted

*Simeon Payne has had a life-long passion for ski racing.*

← **Racing passion:**  
from page 5

ing into freestyle events like halfpipe and jumps. They tend to train together but at events they go by age," Payne explains.

There are 25 training in the snowboard program which starts at age 7, and ranges from an intro level to competitive snowboarding.

Asked about the significance of these programs, Payne said, "The ability to experience competition is a life lesson for any kid. Competition of any kind for any kid often takes them out of their comfort zone and they learn to adapt," he added. "My daughter said the best life lesson is one of adaptability—learning to adjust to different situations or courses and that translates to her job now.

"Plus there is a commitment—getting up early, training, travel for hours to a race, being out in an ice storm—so much is involved. Participants learn many things: preparation for a competition is a big responsibility and then there is the gratification not just from winning but overcoming whatever adversities are thrown at them on any given day. Different courses present challenges and some can be afraid of something new like a steeper course,"

he said.

"The best part is when young kids are encouraged that they can do it and you get to see the joy on their faces when it all comes together. It's exciting when you see them get it, when they're full of confidence and gratitude for what they've learned," he added.

**Passion not work**

Being back in the race world has been gratifying for Payne, who likes dealing with kids and parents. Parents often tell me, "I wish I could quit my job and do that," Payne says of leaving behind a suburban lifestyle in 2022.

"It's a different world from the 5:30 a.m. train commute into the city from Darien. My wife was supportive and said 'This is what you want to do,' so we sold our home and moved to Vermont.

"In Switzerland, the Alps were at my back door so I fell in love with mountains and being out in nature so it has always been a dream to live here. There's more to life than money.

"I should have done it 10 years ago. But people are at different stages of their lives so it might be difficult financially, but if thinking about it, take the path that makes you happy," he said.

← **Housing:**  
from page 10

in the shortage of units. We can no longer rely on temporary and costly motel rooms that provide no services for these Vermonters — they need permanent housing.

So, what do we do?

As we told legislators, the time for nibbling around the edges has passed. We must confront this challenge head on. The Governor will soon propose rapid action in three areas: modernize land use regulations; adjust tax policy that makes it unaffordable to invest in housing revitalization; and create more incentives for small and mid-size investors and builders to quickly create more housing opportunities in communities, and for families, who need them most.

We know big change can create frustration and fear, but we also know the status quo will not get Vermonters the housing they need.

While there is a lot of agreement on historic housing investments, these policy changes are often met with hesitation. We know big change can create frustration and fear, but we also know the status quo will not get Vermonters the housing they need.

We can't keep kicking the can down the road. If we want to truly address homelessness and our workforce shortage, it will take state and local officials, the legislature, residents, environmental groups, and advocacy groups — all coming together to remove obstacles to homebuilding, including entrenched NIMBYism and a system whose design — despite good intentions — has limited housing for decades. We owe it to Vermonters to act now to ensure our state's future is bright.

← **Radio?:**  
from page 4

dia technology" and to serve as a primary media resource.

"That was by design, as we look ahead. We want to be able to provide whatever media services that the community wants," Cody added.

For the third time in nearly a quarter Century, the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) is accepting applications for new Low Power FM (LPFM) community radio licenses. This is for non-commercial, community-based radio programming, and must be operated by a nonprofit organization. There are several LPFM stations operating in Vermont already, but not in the immediate area around Okemo Valley TV. There is WOOL FM in Bellows Falls, which started as LPFM but is now Full Power community radio.

Cody points to the similarities between the missions of community radio and community TV and sees a lot of opportunity to bring them together under one roof. Okemo Valley TV is now looking to survey community members to gauge the enthusiasm for community radio in the Black River Valley and Okemo region.

"At the most fundamental level, we are in the public media industry," said Cody, noting that he counts among Okemo Valley TV's colleagues and media partners organizations such as Vermont Public, VTDigger, and community radio stations like WOOL-FM in Bellows Falls. "As an established nonprofit media organization in the community, we are likely in the best position to file an application, assuming there's enough interest. That's what we're trying to find out."

The LPFM application filing window is from Dec. 6-13. Submitting an application is non-binding, meaning there is no obligation to start a station by merely applying.

For more information and to take the survey, go to Okemo Valley TV's website: okemovalley.tv.

# WORDPLAY

## TECHNOLOGY WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

K L T Q P Y H V E E H G Q O M P P E K F  
 U Y N I T R Q U O G P V A Q E I F R B E  
 F W C R E O M L A R S L S T C O L S K L  
 F I U E C M E N E E O P H W E T M F P I  
 I F B U H E H M B M L Q D B C A E E O F  
 V I O E N M A W B I O M R V R R C A F Y  
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 S Y Q Q L W S T Y P S D P D M U B U S C  
 B W L E O S E L B A C H P M O R Q R Q A  
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 A M P D Y O I W R N L N C L R M V S P C  
 P K O W L S U E E E I G I Q E U Y D B A  
 S C T C T A B O C C H A D V T O P M T I  
 L G P G Y W U P A I N Y P L U B V I A T  
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APP  
 BACKUP  
 CABLES  
 COMMUNICATIONS  
 DATA

DEVICE  
 EMAIL  
 FEATURES  
 FILE  
 LAPTOP

MEMORY  
 MERGE  
 MODEM  
 QUEUE  
 REBOOT

RELIANT  
 ROUTER  
 SMARTPHONE  
 SPAM  
 SPLITTER

TABLET  
 TECHNOLOGY  
 VIRTUAL  
 WIFI

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →21

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Become less intense
- 6. Variety of pear
- 10. Religion native to China
- 14. Type of tooth
- 15. Fitted out
- 17. Make every effort
- 19. Autonomic nervous system
- 20. Complete
- 21. Alternate name
- 22. River in France and Belgium
- 23. Miami's mascot is one
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Most cognizant of reality
- 29. Broad volcanic crater
- 31. Canadian surname
- 32. Satisfaction
- 34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- 35. Collide
- 37. Immune response
- 38. Feline
- 39. High opinion of one's own appearance
- 40. Thin strip to align parts
- 41. Containers
- 43. Convicted American spy
- 45. Breathe noisily
- 46. Taxi

- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
  - 49. Swiss river
  - 50. I.M. \_\_, architect
  - 53. Have surgery
  - 57. Formal withdrawal
  - 58. Dutch and German surname
  - 59. Square measures
  - 60. 2,000 lbs.
  - 61. Degrade someone
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Siberian river
  - 2. Blessing
  - 3. Substitutes (abbr.)
  - 4. Principle underlying the universe
  - 5. Work unit
  - 6. Yellow edible fruits
  - 7. Gemstone
  - 8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
  - 9. Evergreen tropical tree
  - 10. Reality TV star Richards
  - 11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
  - 12. Stakes
  - 13. Antidiuretic hormone
  - 16. Make warm again
  - 18. Light beams
  - 22. Lethal dose
  - 23. Terrorist group
  - 24. Kids love him

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18								
19					20				21				
				22				23					
			24	25				26			27	28	
29	30						31				32	33	
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38				39						40			
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			45					46					
	47	48					49				50	51	52
53						54				55	56		
57										58			
59					60					61			

- 25. Naturally occurring solid
- 27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
- 28. Popular cuisine
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Type of horse
- 31. \_\_ Diego
- 33. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 35. Most shrewd
- 36. It may be for shopping
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. A stock of foods
- 42. The bindings of books
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Megabyte
- 46. Sammy \_\_, songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth \_\_, American writer
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Popular type of bread
- 51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
- 52. Association of engineering professionals
- 53. Young women's asso.
- 54. City
- 55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

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## SUDOKU Solutions →21

### How to Play

Each block is divided by its own matrix of nine cells. The rule for solving Sudoku puzzles are very simple. Each row, column and block, must contain one of the numbers from "1" to "9". No number may appear more than once in any row, column, or block. When you've filled the entire grid the puzzle is solved.

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

Level: Advanced

## Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Scotland on November 28, 1987. Prior to acting I worked as a model in the UK. I rose to fame on the show "Dr. Who." I'm also known as a villain of sorts in some of the Marvel universe movies, as well as a role in the 2017 "Jumanji" sequel.

*Answer: Karen Gillan*

**WEDNESDAY**

11/29

**Meditation, 'Wellness Wednesday'**

8:30-9: a.m. Zoom. Free. Special Holiday 4-Week Series. Led by Petra O'Neill of Petra's Wellness Studio. Enjoy different weekly themes of mindfulness for the holiday season with guided meditation. petraswellnessstudio.com

**Early Literacy Playgroup**

10 a.m.-Noon. Weekly. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. For 2-to-5-year-olds. Rutland County Parent-Child Center's Miss Allie, a certified teacher, leads a literacy-based playgroup. Light snacks will be provided, along with crafts, songs, games, and more. To register, email allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org. Rutlandfree.org or 802-773-1860.

**Baby and Toddlers Rock**

10-10:30 a.m. Weekly. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. Rutland. Free. A music and pre-literacy program for children 0-24 months. Children and caregivers love this program, join us and see why. rutlandfree.org or 802-773-1860.

**Cribbage for Adults**

3-5 p.m. (Wednesdays) Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Join a group gathering of adult cribbage players at the library's meeting room. hartlandlibraryvt.org

**Dinosaur Trivia!**

5:30-6:30 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Gather your team for a fun-filled evening of family-friendly dinosaur trivia. Snacks and prizes provided. rutlandfree.org

**Birds of Costa Rica**

6:30 p.m. - Grace Congregational Church conference room, Rutland. Free. Join Mike Blust for an informative talk and captivating images of birds in Costa Rica. rutlandcountyaudubon.org

**THURSDAY**

11/30

**Storytime!**

10-11 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Promoting early literacy and socialization skills for ages 2-5. No registration required.

**Toddler Story Time: Thursdays**

10:30-11:30 a.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Join us to read a few books on a theme of the week. Enjoy stories, socializing, and often a project tied into the theme. For young children ages 20 months - 3 1/2 years. Duration: 30-60 minutes. Info: normanwilliams.org.

**Ukulele Group**

Noon-1 p.m. Weekly. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Musician Steven Wilson leads the group through specific sheet music. All levels welcome. Must pre-register. chaffeeartcenter.square.site or call 802-775-0356.

**Play Bridge at Norman Williams**

2 p.m. Thursdays. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Beginners are welcome to observe. normanwilliams.org

**NewStory Center Hosts Ribbon Cutting and Open House**

3-3:30 p.m. 101 Grove St., Rutland. Free. Join NewStory Center for a ribbon cutting and open house event. This renovation will increase the emergency shelter capacity of NewStory Center. newstorycenter.org

**S.T.E.A.M.**

3:30-4:30 p.m. Thursdays. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Join us for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) and craft activities each Thursday. Something different every week! November is Build-It Month. hartlandlibraryvt.org.

**FRIDAY**

12/1

**Artery at Chaffee Art Center**

10 a.m.-Noon. Fridays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$10-\$20. Adult group for connection and inspiration. Painting in all mediums welcome. Participants will work on their own pieces. When possible, a 30-minute focus on technique will be held. Must pre-register. chaffeeartcenter.org

**Story Time at the Library**

10:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. sherburnelibrary.org

**Hip-Hop Holiday Party + Light River Junction**

5-7 p.m. JAM - Junction Arts & Media, 5 S Main St, White River Junction. Celebrate the 50th anniversary of hip-hop at this holiday party. Decorate music-inspired cookies and enjoy hip-hop classics. Experience the "Light River Junction" projections by local media artists. uvjam.org.

**Londonderry Tree Lighting & Tractor Parade**

5:30 p.m. Mountain Marketplace, 5700 Route 100, Londonderry. Santa arrives at 6:30 p.m. Facebook.

**Blue Cat Music Series: Cammy****Errington**

6-9 p.m. Fridays. Blue Cat Bistro, 575 Main St., Castleton. No cover. This week Blue Cat Bistro features Cammy Errington. Blue Cat runs every Friday through the end of the year.

**Silent B&W Films w/ Live Accompaniment**

7 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. A variety of old silent black & white films, accompanied by Leslie Klami on piano. This week: Charlie Chaplin's "The Rink" (1916), Buster Keaton's "Cops" (1922), "What's the World Coming To?" (1922). Suggested donation: \$10 to support programming, expenses.

**Champions of Magic**

7:30 p.m. The Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$45-\$65. The Champions of Magic cast present incredible interactive magic. paramountvt.org

**Vermont Comedy Festival:****Saturday Late Show!**

10-11:30 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club, 101 Mill Road Bridgewater. \$25. Join us for a showcase of VCF comics from around the country. vermontcomedyfestival.com

**SATURDAY**

12/2

**Holiday Cookie Share & Silent Auction**

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Shrewsbury Library, 9823 Cold River Road Shrewsbury. \$25. Back again after a long delay.

**Christmas Bazaar, Tree Lighting, Live Nativity & Candlelight Service**

9 a.m. West Windsor Town Hall, 29 Union St., Windsor. Crafts, bake sale, and live music. Luncheon at 1 p.m. Community tree lighting at the corner of Rte. 44 & Brownsville Hartland Road at 4 p.m. with a possible visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus. Festive refreshments and a fire pit available. The day will wrap up with a live Christmas Nativity at 5: & 5:30 p.m. at the Brownsville Community Church pavilion, 66 Brownsville Hartland Road. Accompanying the two live nativity pageants there will be live music and live animals, too. westwindsorvt.com

**32nd Annual Christmas Fair**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Rutland Recreation Community Center, 134 Community Drive, Rutland. This event features over 40 vendors offering a wide range of handcrafted products, clothing, jewelry, Vermont food items, toys, stuffed animals, wreaths, and more. rutlandcountyfarmersmarket.com

**Hike and Hang 3.0**

10 a.m. - 12 noon. Woodward Mountain Park on Reason at Killington. The Hike & Hang is an event geared towards creating once-in-a-lifetime memories. It's an event that seeks to facilitate skiers meeting each other for the first time & creating friendships. It is a celebration of skiing where prizes are given for learning new tricks, having fun, or just participating. At the Hike & Hang, everyone goes home with a prize and a fun story to tell. Everyone of all abilities is welcome! killington.com

**Santa's Workshop**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 66 Merchants Row, Rutland. A magical holiday event where kids and families can decorate cookies, sip hot cocoa, make crafts, and visit Santa. All proceeds go towards supporting the museum and providing affordable admission for families in Rutland County. wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/events

**Auditions for Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre**

10 a.m.-noon. Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre, 35 Marble St., West Rutland. Free. Auditions for the Greek comedy "Lysistrata" by Aristophanes with a new version translated by Sarah Ruden. Seeking actors of all skill levels, ages mid-20s and up. For more information and to sign up for an audition, please contact: actorsrepvt.org@gmail.com

**The Vermont Farmers' Market**

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Howe Center, Suite 92, 1 Scale Ave. (off Strongs Avenue), Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market has moved indoors for the winter. One of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Vermont, it was the first to operate 52 weeks out of the year. Find seasonal harvest, winter veggies, crafts and more. vtfarmersmarket.org

**Christmas at the Farm**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Woodstock Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$5 per person plus admission. Step into a Victorian Christmas Past and experience traditional decorations, candle dipping, mince pie making, outdoor fire pits, snowshoeing, and visits with farm animals. Sleigh rides available on select days. billingsfarm.org

**Storytime!**

10-10:45 a.m. Saturdays. Hartland Public Library, 123 Main St. Free. Themed reading, crafts, experiments, and games for preschool and early elementary aged kids. hartlandlibraryvt.org

**Make & Take Saturday Kids' Class**

10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Ages: 6-12. Weekly fun activity featuring arts and crafts. \$15. Min. 5 students. Must pre-register. chaffeeartcenter.org

**Christmas in Castleton**

11 a.m.-6 p.m. 629 Main Street, Castleton. Free event featuring a Christmas Market, kids crafts, lighting of the Tree of Remembrance, lighted parade, fireworks, and a visit with Santa. facebook.com/CastletonChristmasMarketVT

**Holiday Open House**

11 a.m. President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, Route 100-A, Plymouth, Vermont. Free. Celebrate the holiday season in Plymouth Notch with greenery, song requests on Grace's piano, a tree lighting ceremony, caroling at Union Christian Church, and a museum gift shop clearance sale. historicites.vermont.gov

**HIKE AND HANG 3.0**

SATURDAY 10 A.M.

← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 14

# SUNDAY

## 12/3

### Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club

11 a.m.-3 p.m. 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. Free. Maintained by the Rutland Railway Association, Inc., the historic depot is now a museum that houses an operating HO scale model railroad setup and displays hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs and memorabilia saved from an earlier time, including the former Rutland Railroad Caboose #45. rutlandrailway.org

### Artist Member Show

Noon-2 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Twenty-one talented artists showcasing a variety of media including painting, photography, woodturnings, pottery, collage, and mixed media. Through Sunday, Dec. 10. stonevalleyarts.org

### Drop 'N' Paint

Noon-2 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25. All ages. All materials will be set up and ready for you with a choice of 3 images you can paint. Includes use of canvas, paint, brushes, easel, and smock. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Must pre-register. Info and registration: chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Okemo Valley INNdulgence Tour

12-5 p.m. Blue Gentian Lodge in Londonderry, Echo Lake Inn in Tyson Village in Plymouth, Franklyn Farm Inn in Chester, Fullerton Inn in Chester, Golden Stage Inn in Proctorsville Village in Cavendish, The Governor's Inn in Ludlow, Grafton Inn in Grafton, Rowell's Inn in Andover, Seesaw's Lodge in Peru, & many more. Enjoy tasty treats and holiday decorations. Proceeds benefit local charities. facebook.com/InndulgenceTour

### The Friends of NWPL Holiday Tea

1-3 p.m. Norman Williams Library, The Mezzanine, 10 The Green, Woodstock. The Friends of the Norman Williams Library kick off December with their annual Holiday Tea. Sherry Belisle will share the intriguing history of carols and invite singalongs. normanwilliams.org

### Billings Farm Film Series: 'Breaking the News'

3 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum Visitor Center Theater, 69 Old River Rd, Woodstock. \$15 person/\$12 Billings Farm member. A documentary screening and Q&A session with Amanda Becker, Washington correspondent for 19thnews.org. billingsfarm.org

### 'Leave the Light On' photo exhibit

5-8 p.m. Analog Cycles, 188 Main Street, Suite #1, Poultney. \$15-\$150. 'Leave the Light on', a solo photography show by Tim Farrell, explores the artist's journey from postpartum depression to hope and clarity. Using a combination of digital and analog techniques, Farrell delves into themes of isolation, despair, therapy, and community. timjfarrell.com/shows.

### Annual Tree Lighting at West Rutland Town Hall.

6-8 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall, 35 Marble St., West Rutland. Please bring a cookie plate to share. westrutlandtownhall.com.

### Vermont Comedy Festival featuring Colin Quinn.

8 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. \$40; \$45 day of show. Colin Quinn is a stand-up comedian known for his work on MTV's "Remote Control," SNL, and Comedy Central's "Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn." His latest book, "Overstated: A Coast-to-Coast Roast of the 50 States," is available now. pentanglearts.org

### 29th Annual Middletown Springs Holiday Craft Fair

**Fair**  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Middletown Springs Elementary School. \$25. This craft fair is a hub for renowned artists and crafters. With a wide range of fine arts, crafts, culinary delights, and more. From Peter Huntoon prints to Filthy Farmgirl soaps, David Muryak fine woodwork to M&M Labate honey and beeswax products, there is something for everyone at this one-stop shop. There will be Soups, stews, drinks, and sweets at the kitchen. The proceeds from the kitchen will benefit the Middletown Springs Historical Society. middletownspringscraftfair.com

### Christmas at the Farm

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$5 per person plus admission. Step into a Victorian Christmas past and experience traditional decorations, candle dipping, mince pie making, outdoor fire pits, snowshoeing, and visits with farm animals. Sleigh rides available on select days. billingsfarm.org

### Wonderfeet: Winterland

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 66 Merchants Row, Rutland. \$15 add-on to regular admission. Kids will create three seasonal crafts, including a custom photo craft, for gifts or family keepsakes. Preregistration for your hour slot is recommended. wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/events

### Make & Take Saturday Kids' Class

10:30-11:30 a.m. (Saturdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Ages: 6-12. Weekly fun activity featuring arts and crafts. \$15. Min 5 students. Must pre-register. Info: chaffeeartcenter.org.

### A Holiday Market

12-5 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free admission. Lunch is \$5 (non-spicy) and tickets available at the library. Shopping with local vendors, lunch, and live performance by Celtic musician and storyteller Jeff Snow. All proceeds go toward programming for children and families.

### Artist Member Show

Noon-2 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Twenty-one talented artists showcasing a variety of media including painting, photography, woodturnings, pottery, collage, and mixed media. Through Sunday, Dec. 10. stonevalleyarts.org

### Holiday Auction

12-4 p.m. Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square, Brandon. Join the Brandon Free Public Library for an entertaining and philanthropic afternoon at their annual holiday auction. Wine, cheese, door prizes, and lots of fun! Preview at 1:30 P.M. Auction at 2 P.M. brandonlibrary.org

### Okemo Valley INNdulgence Tour

12-5 p.m. Blue Gentian Lodge in Londonderry, Echo Lake Inn in Tyson Village in Plymouth, Franklyn Farm Inn in Chester, Fullerton Inn in Chester, Golden Stage Inn in Proctorsville Village in Cavendish, The Governor's Inn in Ludlow, Grafton Inn in Grafton, Rowell's Inn in Andover, Seesaw's Lodge in Peru, & many more. Enjoy tasty treats and holiday decorations. Proceeds benefit local charities. facebook.com/InndulgenceTour

### Auditions for Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre

1-3 p.m. Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre, 35 Marble Street, West Rutland. Free. Auditions for the Greek comedy "Lysistrata" by Aristophanes with a new version translated by Sarah Ruden. Seeking actors of all skill levels, ages mid-20s and up. For more information and to sign up for an audition, please contact: actorsrepvt.org@gmail.com.



**HOLIDAY AUCTION**  
SUNDAY 12 NOON

### Santa Is Coming!

1-3 p.m. Pittsford Fire Dept. House, 152 Pleasant St., Pittsford. Free. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, free milk and cookies, face painting, and Sara's Stories books for kids. Raffles, gingerbread house for kids, 100 gal. of fuel oil from Gecha Fuels, and a 50/50. Sponsored by the Pittsford Recreation Center & Pittsford Christmas for Kids. members.rutlandvermont.com

### Brandon Library Holiday Auction

2 p.m. Brandon Town Hall (upstairs). \$1 "paddle" fee to register for bidding. \$1 donation requested at the door. Contact the Library at (802) 247-8230 for more information.

### Billings Farm Film Series: Breaking the News

3 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum Visitor Center Theater, 69 Old River Rd, Woodstock. \$15 person/\$12 Billings Farm member. A documentary screening and Q&A session with Amanda Becker, Washington correspondent for 19thnews.org. billingsfarm.org

### Science Pub Returns to Brandon

4 p.m. Brandon Inn, 20 Park St., Brandon. Free. 'Cracking the Code': The story of how a book-burning bishop, a chain-smoking painter, a French shell collector, an English knight, a 12-year-old genius, and a Siamese cat deciphered Mayan hieroglyphics. Join Science Pub to learn about the 500-year effort to understand Mayan hieroglyphics and the extraordinary civilization behind them. This event (excluding food and drink) is in its 13th year.

### Festival of Lights

5-7 p.m. The Odd Fellows Hall, 37 Lake St., Belmont, VT. Vintage and new items, decorated wreaths, wine and cheese raffle. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. mounthollyvtmuseum.org/upcoming\_events.htm

# MONDAY

## 12/4



**BILLINGS FARM FILM SERIES: 'BREAKING THE NEWS'**  
SAT & SUN 3 P.M.

### Baby and Toddlers Rock

10-10:30 a.m. Mondays. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. A music and pre-literacy program for children 0-24 months. Children and caregivers love this program, join us and see why. rutlandfree.org or 802-773-1860.

### Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Weekly. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-4323.

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ON THE KILLINGTON ACCESS ROAD

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THURS: DUANE CARLETON  
FRI: LAST CHAIR  
SAT: DUNE CARLETON  
SUN: FOOTBALL

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← **Calendar:**  
from page 15

**Movie Matinee**

1-3 p.m. Weekly. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-9765. Please note: this program is paused for December, returning Monday, Jan. 8.

**Free Consultation with a Cannabis Nurse**

2-7 p.m. Down to the Roots, 7 Pineview Drive, Chester. No product purchase required. Meet with Jessilyn Dolan, Cannabis Nurse. Register at 802-374-0095 or visit downtotherootsvt.com.

**Art Bar - Open Craft Time!**

3:30-4:30 p.m. Monday. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Craft supplies galore - work on any project you want! Browse our craft books for ideas. We'll occasionally provide a specific craft or have special supplies available. rutlandfree.org or 802-773-1860.

**Poetry Group**

4-5:30 p.m. Every other Monday. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Are you looking for feedback on your poems? You are invited to join the poetry group at NWPL for sharing and critique. Info: normanwilliams.org.

**JAM Scriptwriters Group**

6:30-8p.m. 123 Main St. Free. Gather with local writers to learn script writing techniques, receive feedback, and workshop various scripts meant for performance. uvjam.org/scriptwritersgroup/

**TUESDAY**  
12/5

**WoodSpryde Arts Early Learning Adventures**

9:30-10:30 a.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney, \$12. Stories and activities that celebrate the seasons, the holidays, and our connections with friends & family, filling our hearts with warmth to carry us through the cold of winter. events.stonevalleyarts.org/WoodSprydeArts

**Baby Story Time**

10:30-11 a.m. Weekly. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. This story time features short stories, interspersed with songs, finger puppet plays, free play, and more. It is geared for children ages birth to 20 months and will run for about 20 minutes. normanwilliams.org or 802-457-2295.

**Stories on a String**

10-10:30 a.m. Weekly. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Join Ms. Helen of Green Mountain Music for interactive storytelling and songs for all ages! No registration is required, free to all. Geared for ages 2 and up. rutlandfree.org or 802-773-1860.

**Gift-of-Life Marathon Blood Drive**

11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. President's House, 119 Alumni Drive, Castleton. Vermont's biggest blood drive is celebrating its 20th anniversary, with Rutland resident Alex Adams serving as ambassador and sharing his story of survival. The event aims to inspire friends, coworkers, and neighbors to donate blood and support people in need. RedCrossBlood.org

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**Santa Claus is Coming to Town!**

4-7 p.m. Wonderfeet Kids Museum, 66 Merchants Row, Rutland. Ticket to this event is an unwrapped, new toy or \$10. Meet Santa, play in the museum, get your face painted, and enjoy ornament making. members.rutlandvermont.com

**Play Chess & Backgammon!**

5-7 p.m. Weekly. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Play in the company of fellow enthusiasts where everyone is welcome. normanwilliams.org or 802-457-2295.

**Tree of Remembrance Ceremony**

6 p.m. Franklin Conference Room, Howe Center, 1 Scale Ave. Rutland. A community event that allows individuals to reflect, honor, and celebrate loved ones who have passed away. The ceremony will include music performed by the Hospice Trillium choir, remarks from Hospice Medical Director Allan Eisemann, MD, recitation of loved ones' names, lighting of the tree, refreshments, and an opportunity for fellowship. This will be the first in-person ceremony since 2019. vnaahs.org.

**COMEDY SCHEDULE**

**2023 Vermont Comedy Festival schedule**

Now in its second year, the Vermont Comedy Festival brings back 4 days of live comedy from Nov. 30-Dec. 3 (featuring national touring acts and special guest headliners), video sketch comedy screenings and industry networking events. New this year: improv and live sketch comedy night. The Festival will double as the unofficial kick off of the world famous Wassail festival in historic Woodstock, showcasing the area's picturesque charm, renowned local craft beer and culinary offerings. For detailed information on pricing, location and more, visit: vermontcomedyfestival.com/programming

**Schedule**

**Thursday, 11/30**

5 p.m. Kick Off Party! At Ramunto's Pizzeria in Bridgewater.  
8 p.m. 1 Minute Stand Up Battle at Woolen Mill Comedy Club  
10 p.m. DJ + Festival Kick Off Dance Party! The Bridgewater Mill

**Friday, 12/1**

2 p.m. Industry Event for Talent and VIPs  
6 p.m. Kick off show at Still On The Mountain, Killington (Limited seating available at the door)  
7 p.m. Musical Comedy Variety Show at The Grange Theater  
8 p.m. Main Stage Show @ Woolen Mill Comedy Club  
10 p.m. Late Show @ Woolen Mill Comedy Club  
12 a.m. Late Late Show @ Woolen Mill Comedy Club - Comedy Talk Show

**Saturday, 12/2**

Noon - 2 p.m. Industry Event for Talent and VIPs at 506 On The River  
4 p.m. Apres Show at Long Trail Brewery  
6 p.m. Early show at Still On The Mountain, Killington (Limited seating available at the door)  
8 p.m. Colin Quinn headlines Vermont Comedy Festival  
10 p.m. Late Show @ Woolen Mill Comedy Club  
12 p.m. Late Late Show at Woolen Mill Comedy Club - Comedy Talk Show

**Sunday, 12/3**

4 p.m. Apres Show at Long Trail Brewery  
6 p.m. Early show at Still On The Mountain, Killington(Limited seating available at the door)  
7 p.m. Final Show @ Woolen Mill Comedy Club  
10 p.m. VIP Closing Party at 506 On The River

**FEATURED ONGOING**

**Okemo Valley Coat Drive**

Oct.1-Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. William Raveis Vermont Properties, 29 Locust Hill Road, Ludlow. Drop off clean outer garments with working zippers for the annual coat drive. https://tinyurl.com/ycyrsdpj

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**

Oct.7-Dec.28 Give blood to those in need at blood drives in Rutland. For dates and location, visit: redcrossblood.org.

**Artist Exhibition – Amy Hook-Therrien**

8 a.m.-5 p.m., through Nov. 30. Neale Pavilion / VINS Nature Center. Amy Hook-Therrien's exhibition showcases her landscape paintings in watercolor, capturing the tranquility and fragility of nature. Proceeds from artwork sales benefit VINS. vinsweb.org



# [MUSIC Scene]

By DJ Dave Hoffenberg  
Have a music scene coming up? Email [djdavehoff@gmail.com](mailto:djdavehoff@gmail.com)

**WED**

11/29

**KILLINGTON**  
6 p.m. Rivershed – Liz Reedy

**LONDONDERRY**  
5 p.m. Black Line Tavern at Magic Mountain – Sammy B

**LUDLOW**  
6 p.m. Off the Rails – Learn to Line Dance

**POULTNEY**  
7 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Open Mic with Danny Lang

**QUECHEE**  
6 p.m. Public House Pub – Chris P

**THURS**

11/30

**BRIDGEWATER**  
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club - Vermont Comedy Festival: 1 Minute Stand Up Battle

10 p.m. Bridgewater Mill – Vermont Comedy Festival Kick-off Party with DJ Dave

**BRIDGEWATER CORNERS**  
5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

**KILLINGTON**  
5 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic hosted by Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris P

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

**LONDONDERRY**  
7 p.m. New American Grill – Open Mic Night hosted by DJ Jazzy Joel & Catnip John

**LUDLOW**  
6:30 p.m. The Killarney – Irish Sessions with Gypsy Reel

**POULTNEY**  
6 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Vinyl Night with Ken

**QUECHEE**  
6:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Trivia with Questionable Company

**RUTLAND**  
6:30 p.m. Angler Pub – Open Mic hosted by John LaFave

8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Karaoke 101 hosted by Tenacious T

**FRI**

12/1

**BOMOSEEN**  
5:30 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Aaron Audet

**BRIDGEWATER**  
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club - Vermont Comedy Festival: Early Show  
10 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club - Vermont Comedy Festival: Late Show  
12 a.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club - Vermont Comedy Festival: Late Late Show (Comedy Talk Show)

**CASTLETON**  
6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Cammy Errington

**KILLINGTON**  
6 p.m. Rivershed – Liz Reedy

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Vermont Comedy Festival: Kick-off Show

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – McMurphy's

**POULTNEY**  
6 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Mean Waltons

**QUECHEE**  
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Duane Carleton

**SOUTH POMFRET**  
7 p.m. Grange Theater – Vermont Comedy Festival: Holiday Hysteria - A Holiday Comedy Show Extravaganza

**STOCKBRIDGE**  
7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Heather Lynne

**SAT**

12/2

**BRIDGEWATER**  
10 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club - Vermont Comedy Festival: Late Show

12 a.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club - Vermont Comedy Festival: Late Late Show (Comedy Talk Show)

**BRIDGEWATER CORNERS**

4 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Vermont Comedy Festival: Free Show

**KILLINGTON**  
3 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Jim Yeager

4 p.m. The Foundry – Ted Arbo's Holiday Toy Party with music by Jenny Porter and Liz Reedy

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Rivershed – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Vermont Comedy Festival: Early Show

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – McMurphy's

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Aaron Audet Band

**LONDONDERRY**  
7 p.m. New American Grill – Rutland's Least Wanted

**QUECHEE**  
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Live Music

**RUTLAND**  
9 p.m. Center Street Alley – Karaoke 101 hosted by Tenacious T

**STOCKBRIDGE**  
7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington & Tuff Luv

**WOODSTOCK**  
8 p.m. Town Hall Theatre - Vermont Comedy Festival: Headline Show with Colin Quinn

**SUN**

12/3

**BRIDGEWATER**  
7 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club - Vermont Comedy Festival: Last Show of the Festival

**BRIDGEWATER CORNERS**  
2 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

4 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Vermont Comedy Festival: Free Show

**KILLINGTON**  
12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with James Joel

5 p.m. The Foundry – Jazz Night with the Summit Pond Quartet

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Vermont Comedy Festival: Early Show  
8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jenny Porter

**RUTLAND**  
3:30 p.m./7 p.m. Grace Church – Messiah

**STOCKBRIDGE**  
7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington's Looping Mayhem

**MON**

12/4

**KILLINGTON**  
5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – BAK'n

6 p.m. Rivershed – Mandatory Mondays with Name That Tune Bingo by DJ Dave

**LUDLOW**  
8 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic with Indigenous Entertainment

**TUES**

12/5

**KILLINGTON**  
6 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Taco Tuesday with Rick Webb

6 p.m. Rivershed – Nick Bredice

**LONDONDERRY**  
6:30 p.m. New American Grill – Trivia hosted by Zach Yakaits

**LUDLOW**  
6 p.m. The Killarney – Trivia with Rick Davis

**PITTSFIELD**  
7 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic Music Jam

**POULTNEY**  
7 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

**QUECHEE**  
5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

**RUTLAND**  
8:30 p.m. Center Street Alley – Acoustic Open Mic hosted by Josh LaFave



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## Second annual Vermont Comedy Festival provides big names, big laughs

The second annual Vermont Comedy Festival is upon us, and this year the committee brought in some big names in the biz to give you some big laughs. One of which is Jeffrey Gurian, who people refer to as a "Renaissance Man," because he's involved in so many things. In the movie world, there's "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon," so I think in the comedy world it should be "Six Degrees of Jeff Gurian." He's connected to so many big stars and comedy legends like Rodney Dangerfield, Joan Rivers, Richard Belzer, Jerry Lewis and Andrew "Dice" Clay and then relative new stars like Nick Kroll, John Mulaney, Tracy Morgan, and Bill Burr.

Gurian has been covering the comedy scene since 1999. He's a comedy writer, performer, director, best-selling author, producer, radio personality, motivational speaker, and doctor with many of those at the same time. He's been interviewing celebrities on the red carpet at the biggest comedy festival in the world, Just for Laughs in Montreal, since 1992. He has over 600 interviews from all the major comedy events and now will be adding the Vermont Comedy Festival to that list. Jeffrey will be on the red carpet for all the events this weekend and you can see all the fun stuff at [vermontcomedyfestival.com](http://vermontcomedyfestival.com).

Gurian has a YouTube channel "Comedy Matters TV" that you should definitely subscribe to. On it, there's a

Submitted

*Jeffrey Gurian*



2-minute video on Jeffrey called "Who the F\*@K is Gurian" and it shows a sample of people he's interviewed. Bob Saget said, "I can't say no to you. I've known you my whole career. I can't say no to Jeff, nobody can say no to him." Nick Kroll said, "People love you, Jeffrey. You have more access to more people than anyone I know in comedy." That video led to a filmmaker making an award-winning short documentary about Gurian, under the same name. Gurian said, "When the filmmaker contacted me, he said I can't come up with a better title than that, I gotta use that." His website is [comedymatterstv.com](http://comedymatterstv.com) and he can be found on Instagram @jeffreygurian.



Rockin' the  
Region

By Dave  
Hoffenberg

Gurian has never been to Vermont but is looking forward to seeing our state and being a part of the festival. He said, "When Matt and Collen asked me, I said Great, I'd love to do that. I know it's their second year, and I love to support people. It's tremendous to create a comedy festival. I respect everybody that performs because it takes a lot of courage to make strangers laugh with what you think is funny." Gurian is the official interviewer at the festival, may do some of his stand-up and do a book signing as well. Gurian has written eight books, the first five on comedy, and the last three of which are in what he calls his "Happiness Series." You can find his books on Amazon.

Gurian and I spoke for almost 90 minutes, which in my interview world is unheard of. This article is only a small sample of our chat. It was as if I was speaking to an old friend, he's very easy to talk to. Ironically, he is kind of an old acquaintance. We realized we both are connected to Naked Angels Theatre Company in NYC, and he attended one of their big galas that I deejayed in 1994 in the Hamptons. I wish I could write about everything we spoke of but space limits that, so I recommend you speak to him this weekend at one of the events. He wrote comedy for Rodney Dangerfield, who did Gurian's stuff on the "Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson and Joan Rivers, just to name a few, but what most impressed me is he was the main writer for the infamous Friars Club Roasts for 12 years. Those roasts are legendary.

Not only does Gurian have a hand, or many, in the comedy world but he also helped many people as a former cosmetic dentist, former clinical professor at NYU in oral medicine and he developed a cure for stuttering which he used to cure himself of a severe stutter. There is not an ounce of stutter in his voice. It was amazing to learn of his techniques. He works with stutters all over the world and if he can't help them in person, he works with them on Zoom or Skype through his website [stopstutteringnowgurian.com](http://stopstutteringnowgurian.com). He said, "There's millions of people who stutter and they don't know they can be helped. It's a very sad thing because they're not being told they can get better."

Both his parents had a great sense of humor. His dad would take him to see films of comedic old-timers like Laurel and Hardy, Abbott and Costello, the Marx Brothers, and W.C. Fields, who is a big influence. He started writing comedy when he was 12. He said, "At 12 years old, I decided what I wanted to be and never changed which is such a rare thing for a 12-year-old to know." He has a short film "I am Woody" about a mob boss obsessed with Woody Allen, which has won several awards. Woody Allen is Gurian's most powerful influence and once told him his comedy is very visual and he should think about making a film out of it.

He met Nick Kroll and John Mulaney at a party for a comedy event and they asked if he would take a picture with them. Nick said if he ever got a TV show, would Jeffrey be on it and obviously Gurian said yes. A few years went by, and Gurian got a call from a production company asking him to come to LA to be on the Kroll Show. He was the first guy to be pranked with Too Much Tuna in the viral "Too Much Tuna" sketch on the "Kroll Show."

Gurian has hundreds of stories about fun stuff in his life like the Kroll Show or being Patrice O'Neal's co-host on "The Black Phillip Show" on XM Radio, which Gurian considers to be one of his greatest honors. His grandfather owned a nightclub and he said, "All our family events were there so I always found show business exciting, but I had no idea how I was going to break into it. There's no easy way. It's been a very weird trip. People always ask how I know all these people and I don't have an answer for them, I don't know. It's amazing to me that I got to meet all the people I admired growing up. I've loved comedy all my life. It's such a great gift to make people laugh. My goal has always been to put positive energy out to the universe. Whether I do that by interviewing someone and making them feel good or performing comedy. I love to make people laugh and make them feel good."

# Get ready for Social Tinkering's 4th Annual Light Up Rutland

It's that wintry time of year again and registration is officially open for Social Tinkering's 4th annual Light Up Rutland. Light Up Rutland is a fundraiser and a community-wide decorating competition that is organized each winter season to brighten our neighborhoods and to bring people together, creating something beautiful for each other during the darkest days of the year.

People all across Rutland County are encouraged to register their households, businesses and organizations, schools, and neighborhoods to an online map created by Social Tinkering staff. Decorators then light up their locations to compete for prizes from local businesses. Multiple households in a neighborhood can register together as a "Neighborhood" to win bragging rights of Best Decorated Neighborhood. Businesses and organizations compete to win Best Decorated Biz/Org of the year. School communities can register for free and team up to light up their halls, hanging sparkly paper cut out snowflakes and colorful snowpeople, icicles, candles, and more to the delight of students and staff alike.

Whether your decoration style competes with the Griswolds or you delight in sharing your family traditions and culture with your neighbors out for their evening walk, Social Tinkering wants you to join in the fun. Registration closes December 8th at midnight and light peeping and voting run through January 28th, 2024. Don't want to compete but still want people to enjoy your decorations? Register to simply be listed on the map.

Whether or not you're a decorator, get ready to brighten your evenings with some light peeping! The 2023 Lights Map will be available Dec. 9th. Dig out that old Thermos in the back of your cabinet and fill it with some warm cocoa or tea. Grab a family member, a friend, or neighbor and head out for a winter wonderland walk through the neighborhood. Or adventure far and wide on a weekly lights drive throughout Rutland County. Check Social Tinker-

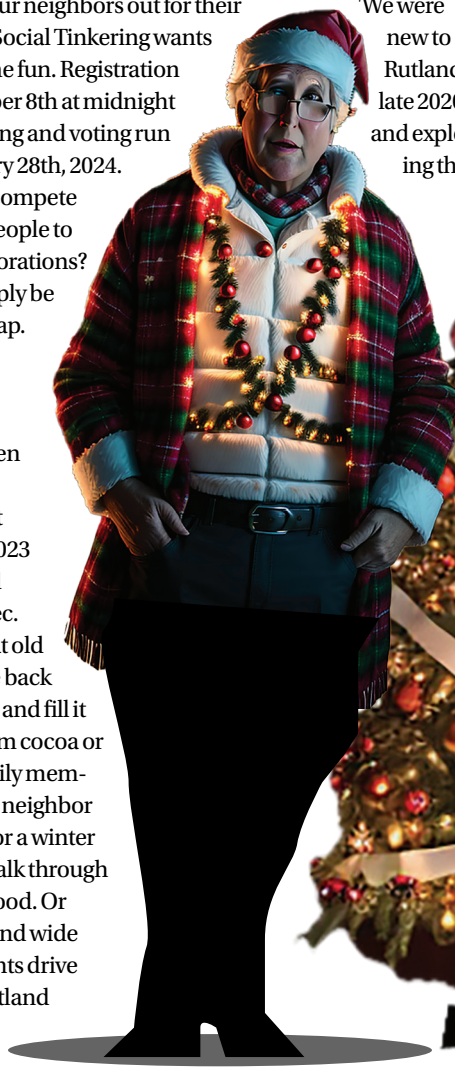
ing's website and Facebook/Instagram for photos and videos of indoor competitors. Keep track of your favorites because the decorators need your votes. Your votes show decorators your love and gratitude by helping them to win fun prizes. Your votes also immediately enter you into a drawing for fun local prizes from all over the region. Social Tinkering's director, Jeanette Langston, started this event back in the winter of 2020. She wanted to create an event where everyone had to work together to create something beautiful all across the community; where together we would all brighten each other's days, have a little friendly competition-while doing so, and ultimately remind each other that just a little bit of kindness can go a long way towards making us feel less alone. Langston said, "Creating a visual display of lights gives us a tangible reminder we are not alone, that we're all in this together." Alderman John McCann surprised Langston last year with handmade wooden Light Up Rutland ornaments that he made at The Mint for all the decorators. "John shared,

"We were new to Rutland in late 2020 and exploring the

Light Up Rutland map was such a great way to get familiar with the layout of our new community. It was so encouraging that Social Tinkering was organizing this sort of activity and we couldn't wait to get a house of our own and add it to the map."

"We are all feeling the weight and impact of several challenging community issues going on right now. Putting up decorations and talking about happiness may seem a bit frivolous, but this event has a significant positive impact on all of our hearts and minds each year. We need to feel connected and supported by each other now more than ever. The complexity of loneliness and disconnection are at the heart of many of our social issues and prevent us, our families, and our communities from thriving. Light Up Rutland renews our connections and hope and helps us all continue to work together to fight for kindness, compassion, and a healthy community," Langston said. Light Up

Rutland is an annual fundraiser for the young nonprofit organization. Registration fees and donations all go towards helping the organization to offer more socials and education about why social connections matter for our health and well-being. Social Tinkering hopes to open a Community Living Room space for all ages in 2024, where people can simply go and hang out, to meet new people and grow friendships to fight and heal loneliness and help our community thrive. To participate in all things Light Up Rutland go to [socialtinkering.org/lightuprutland](http://socialtinkering.org/lightuprutland) to register, vote, and donate. Prizes will be announced soon! If your business or organization is interested in donating prizes or to the event in general, Social Tinkering is currently seeking sponsors. Contact Social Tinkering at 802-342-5811 or [info@socialtinkering.org](mailto:info@socialtinkering.org).



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**Stella:**  
from page 8

her family, and she consistently placed the well-being of others before herself. An animal lover and nature enthusiast, Stella found joy in the simple pleasures of life, always expressing gratitude for what she had. Calm and enduring, her loving demeanor left a lasting impact on all fortunate enough to know her.

A woman of many talents, Stella was a passionate gardener who found solace in nature. She enjoyed camping, biking, and wasn't afraid to speak her mind.

A woman of many talents, Stella was a passionate gardener who found solace in nature. She enjoyed camping, biking, and wasn't afraid to speak her mind. She loved playing with her kitties and spending time with her many beloved pets throughout her life. One of her cherished activities was baking cookies with her granddaughter, Bree, creating fond memories that will be

treasured forever.

Stella is survived by her devoted husband Jim, her son Jimi (Beth), and granddaughter Bree. She is also survived by her two brothers, Frank and Jake, and three sisters, Sharon, Mayme, and Ella, along with many nieces and nephews. Also her two kittens, Mischief and Frisky.

Preceded in death by her sister Alvina, her Aunt Marie, and her mother Dorethea Schmidtka, Stella's memory will be honored at Malecki's Funeral Home in Sheril, New York, with calling hours on Friday, Dec. 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A remembrance ceremony will follow at 1:30 p.m. The burial will follow and will be private. Family and friends are invited to celebrate Stella's life at 3 p.m., place TBD.

The family requests that donations be made in Stella's name to the Rutland County Humane Society, reflecting her love for animals. This gesture serves as a fitting tribute to a woman whose warmth, strength, and generosity touched the lives of many.

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**Solutions** From page 13

**Crossword**

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

**Sudoku**

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

# Rutland County Humane Society



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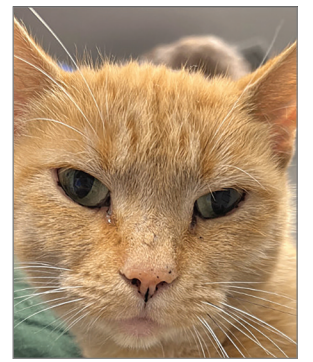
Panyo—4-year-old.  
Spayed female.



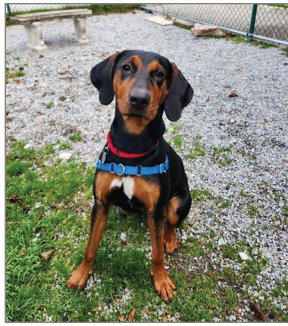
Hooch—3-year-old.  
Neutered male. Akita mix.



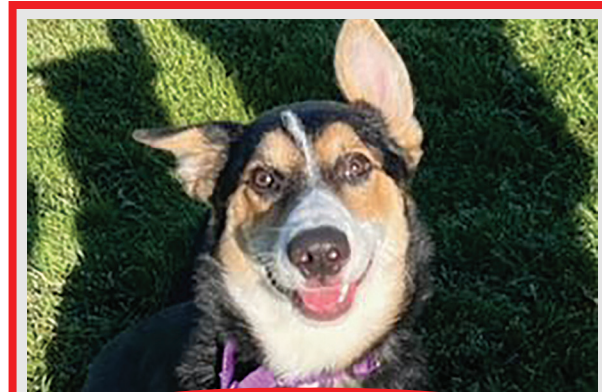
Charlie—8-month-old.  
Neutered male. Pointer Mix.



Moe FIV+ 2-year-old.  
Spayed female.



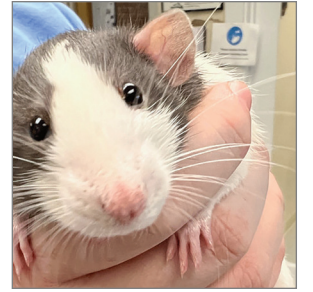
Daisy—8-month-old.  
female. Coonhound.



## WINNIE

Winnie—6-month-old. Spayed female.

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# Cosmic Catalogue



## **Aries** March 21 - April 20

You may be feeling more inspired than you have in some time. With a renewed sense of passion and purpose, you may be able to achieve things you just didn't have the energy for previously. That said, if you're filled with righteous glory and furious anger, be careful. Not everyone sees things as you do. Your important relationships are in tender territory. Remember to be tender and gentle with those you love.

## **Leo** July 21 - August 20

It's your time to shine and be seen in your best light, especially within your social circles or with a creative project. Some confusion is possible, so don't be disappointed if things don't eventuate straight away. That said, this week is so much about who you know rather than what. Go the extra mile at parties and social functions. The effort made now will yield far reaching rewards down the track.

## **Sagittarius** November 21 - December 20

Not everyone shares the same level of passion and enthusiasm as you do. It's not that they don't care or don't want to know, they do. It's just they might still be making choices based on new information or are yet to feel clear on things. If anything, that could be medicine worth taking, especially if you've jumped on your soap box a little too soon. Dial things back a bit and you'll see things more clearly.

## **Taurus** April 21 - May 20

You're in a phase where even caffeine cannot touch the fatigue you've been feeling. It's a soul kind of tiredness. Push through, if you must, on the most important tasks. Delegate the rest or simply say no. There's not much slack left, so instead of breaking, try bending. It's OK to change your mind about something you promised you'd do. Also, cleaning up your diet and daily habits would serve you well this week too.

## **Virgo** August 21 - September 20

Despite your best intentions and efforts, things may not go quite the way you wanted them to go. The sense of being pushed and pulled in all directions is likely to have you drop the ball in one area. That could be disappointing. Or you could reframe it and realize you weren't being realistic with your expectations. If in doubt, remember what it is you really value, not what you think someone else needs or wants from you.

## **Capricorn** December 21 - January 20

All of a sudden, everything that has felt stuck is now unstuck. Everything that's been confusing, becomes clear. Choices you've been dilly dallying about, now feel easy. It's as though a great weight has been lifted from your shoulders. More of this energy is to come. This week, just anticipate knowing this is soon to come and life is about to get so much more exciting. A creative and transformative pathway will soon change everything.

## **Gemini** May 21 - June 20

Your personal energy may come alive this week, as the Full Moon illuminates your sign. However, don't let confusion get in the way of you enjoying your moment. Someone may want something from you that you're not willing to give...or are you? Understanding your limits can keep you from being pushed too far in a direction you're not sure you want to go in. Trying saying, "maybe" rather than jumping straight into "yes."

## **Libra** September 21 - October 20

It's no easy feat to make a choice and see it through. It takes courage to go against everything you know in order to reveal the truth of who you are. As old layers of yourself continue to be stripped from you, you get to rebuild in exactly the way you want, based on new ideas and beliefs. The path you're on may seem uncertain, but at the same time, you've never been so sure.

## **Aquarius** January 21 - February 20

Careful what you wish for, is how it goes. Your powers of attraction may be stronger than you realize. That may be exciting. It also comes with a warning. On the one hand, you're feeling ready to make a significant move. What happens if you win? If you get what you want? So then what? What if you don't get it? No one wins until the fat lady sings. So, don't get too big for your britches!

## **Cancer** June 21 - July 20

By week's end, things will become clearer for you. You'll feel more grounded and able to communicate the abundance of thoughts, feelings and ideas that have been welling up inside you. Despite being busy and running yourself thin, you do still need to take care of you too. Among the confusion is where you're more inclined to reach your limit. Understand where enough is enough and be confident enough to vocalize it.

## **Scorpio** October 21 - November 20

It's so easy to get whipped up in the frenzy and / or the spirit of things. This is even more so if you're not fully aware of what you're getting caught up in. Whether it's your energy or your money, it may be wise to take a step back and think about things a little more. Be generous with your time, energy and effort. At the same time, you don't have to be a doormat either.

## **Pisces** February 21 - March 20

Everything that has burdened you, weighed you down or been a seemingly insurmountable obstacle since March finally shows signs of budging. If you've been firm, stood your ground and didn't give in, the spoils are yours. If you didn't then it's possible that the push-pull energy of this week will help you get clear on how to run a tighter ship. First, start be offloading the cargo that's weighing you down.

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**Empowering you to lead a divinely inspired life.**  
Cassandra has studied astrology for about 20 years. She is an international teacher of astrology who has been published all over the globe.

## Facts are fuzzy

When troubled times are on the horizon, there are various options to explore to discover truth.

There is religion.

There is wisdom from philosophers from ancient eras.

There are the historical facts, which can help put it in context.

One thing is for certain, as Greek philosopher Aeschylus said, "The first casualty of war is the truth."

That is one truth you can most certainly take to the bank. The facts are fuzzier than before. The smokescreens are thicker than they've ever been. The

puppet strings of polarization are stronger than ever. The goal is to confuse, create chaos and divide, which the astrology of this week amplifies.

When you realize this truth, an inner peace dawns. A reconstruction of what it is that YOU value, not what the talking heads say. Let cool heads and warm hearts prevail.

"Why can't you see that you are my child? Why don't you know that you are my mind? Tell everyone in the world that I'm you. Take this promise to the end of you," said heavy metal musician Serj Tankian.



Cosmic Catalogue  
By Cassandra Tyndall

## Shining evergreens

Crystals sparkle,  
As the sun hits,  
Just right,  
The evergreens shine,  
As if glitter had just been,  
Sprinkled all over them.  
Even the pine cones shimmer,  
The trees sparkle so bright,  
They almost look like they're glowing,  
The branches have piles of snow,  
Resting on them,  
Making them twinkle so bright.  
This is Mother Nature's way to decorate,  
Glittering like stars,  
The earth is covered in glistening white crystals,  
Crystals,  
Of snow,  
The mountains are white and green,  
Shimmering,  
Shining,  
Beautiful.  
The earth is,  
Amazing.  
Let's keep it that way.



Poetry Is Power  
By Bree Sarandrea



## Life on the farm versus life in the city

The Mountain Times forwarded to me a hand-written letter from a regular reader of my "Looking Back" column. Her name is Ellen Lee Jones. She shared with me what she remembers about her own life when she "looks back." Ellen gave permission for me to use the details of her life in my column so let's take a look back at her "country living" versus my "city living" back in yesteryear!

Just reading Ellen's letter brought me back to the days when all of us communicated in longhand on a sheet of paper. Our letters were mailed in an envelope with a stamp attached. I haven't received one of those for years. It was a step back in time to



Looking Back  
By Mary Ellen Shaw

read cursive writing.

Although Ellen is only six years older than I am it seems like we lived our lives in different eras. Her life, which began in the late 1930s and my life, which began in the mid-'40s, were very different. She lived her early years on a 250-acre farm that was a world apart from the type of life I lived in the city...even if that city was little ol' Rutland!

As I read the letter I learned that Ellen was the 15th of 16 children born at home on a farm in New York state. The babies were delivered by her father or grandmother. Compare that to my status as an only child who was delivered by a doctor

Looking back → 27



## Canada Yew: A native evergreen

For thousands of years, people have decorated their homes with evergreen boughs, a symbol of eternal life, during the darkest time of the year — around the winter-solstice and Christmas. In addition to common species such as spruce and fir, I've noticed another evergreen in my neighborhood: a low, sprawling shrub growing on the slope of the ravine above a stream. This evergreen is located in a cool, shady spot under hemlocks, where the snow and ice always melt last in springtime. The shrub's flat, dark green needles are ½-to-1 inch long, with sharply pointed tips and two faint white lines on the underside.

This is Canada yew (*Taxus canadensis*), also called American yew.

Canada yews can easily be mistaken for small balsam fir trees that have been browsed by deer. The needles of balsam fir, however have rounded tips and strong white lines underneath. In contrast to

is often found near other understory trees and shrubs such as mountain maple, striped maple, hobblebush, and alternate-leaved dogwood. Where it is abundant, yew forms a dense ground cover.

As mature forests with good habitat for yew have become limited, the plant has become less common. Logging, fire, or heavy browsing can eliminate yew from an area.

In spring, tiny cone-like flowers develop, with male and female flowers on different branches of the same plant. Pollen from the male flowers travels by the wind onto female flowers, both on the same shrub and different shrubs. After fertilization, each female flower develops a single seed surrounded by a soft, red covering — called an aril — which is open at one end. Yew is the only conifer to produce seeds with a fleshy structure, rather than a hard cone. Canada yew may also reproduce asexually by layering, whereby creeping



The Outside Story  
By Susan Shea

Yew is the only conifer to produce seeds with a fleshy structure, rather than a hard cone. Canada yew may also reproduce asexually by layering, whereby creeping stems develop roots while still attached to the parent plant.

stems develop roots while still attached to the parent plant. Eventually the connections between plant sections rot, creating spreading clones.

In late summer and fall, ruffed grouse, cedar waxwings, robins, and other birds consume the arils and subsequently disperse the seeds in their droppings. Moose and deer eat the foliage of Canada yew year-round. In places undisturbed by

This native yew occurs from southeastern Canada throughout the Northeast, and as far south as North Carolina and Tennessee, where it grows in the mountains. Canada yew grows in coniferous, northern hardwood and mixed forests, and occasionally in bogs or swamps.

An understory shrub of old-growth and late successional forests, it is tolerant of deep shade and typically grows on cool, moist banks beneath larger conifers. Yew

TOS → 29



# Dream a Little Dream

I know it's not the most traditional way to celebrate Thanksgiving, but this year, my family traveled to the beach to commemorate the holiday.

Going to the beach during the off-season can be rewarding. Generally, the crowds are at a minimum, so it's easy to get out to dinner and shop. And the beach itself tends to be barren, so taking a long walk or run can be meditative.

Of course, the temperatures this time of year limit your beach adventures. I only saw one kid go into the water the entire time I was there. His family watched in horror as he excitedly ran into the surf, get completely submerged, and then came out screaming like his hair was on fire. He ran to his mother who then immediately wrapped him in a towel. After a few minutes, he was chiding his siblings to do the same, but not one of them would have it.

We made the decision to go to the beach this Thanksgiving because we have family members who just finished building a tiny home in the area. It had always been their dream, so we made the trek to help them celebrate their new beach getaway.

We rented a house a few doors down; a convenient location, but questionable accommodations. Over the course of our stay, we discovered that the hot tub was broken, the dryer door was unhinged, the filtration system was old (so the water smelled like eggs), and there was limited glassware and cutlery.

Personally, I don't mind roughing it when I'm at the beach, but if I'm going to pay top dollar for a rental, I expect it to be functional.

And this was not.

With everyone in a state of angst, I told my family to focus on the things they were looking forward to doing while vacationing near the ocean: My son was anxious to fish, my wife was looking forward to playing tennis, and I was excited to strum my guitar and run on the beach.

And that's just what we did.

Everything was going along fine until a mild tragedy struck. We had just returned from an afternoon lunch in the quaint seaside village nearby when my wife announced that she couldn't find the car keys. This happens on occasion, so I didn't worry, but after listening to her bemoan the fact for a good half hour, I launched into detective mode.

First, I questioned all her recent movements and ticked off possible locations, all of which she claimed to have investigated.

I then dug through her car, through her pocketbook, through her clothing, through the garbage, through the walking path from the car to the house, etc., etc. It got to the point where I was looking in places she'd never even been.

Some people give up after a certain level of frustration, but not me. I doubled down and started to consider scenarios that may

have occurred.

I considered that maybe someone walking found them on the ground. If they were an adult, they would have either clicked the remote, located the car, and stolen it, or (more likely) put them in the car that they

belonged to. Neither of those possibilities panned out.

But then I thought, if a kid found them, they wouldn't think to do that. They would likely bring them home and then the parents would bring them to the most logical place, which was the nearby marina.

I went there to check, and while people did occasionally find keys and bring them in, none of them were ours.

In the end, we never found them and, subsequently, had to drive my brothers-in-law's dumpy truck home with all our gear exposed to the rain.

When we finally arrived home and unpacked, it occurred to me that I might need a vacation from my vacation.

In this week's feature, "Dream Scenario" starring Nicolas Cage, we meet a hapless college professor who would love to take a vacation from his entire life after he begins to appear in strangers' dreams. Initially, he is an innocent bystander, but later things take a dark turn when his presence begins to cause great angst.

To say that this film was different would be an understatement, and that's probably why I enjoyed it. The storyline is brilliantly conceived and a wonderful commentary on our current cancel culture and how it effects society. Add in some great performances (especially Cage), and you've got something really interesting to watch.

Check this one out if you're in the mood for a dark story with consistent comedic undertones.

An imaginative B+ for "Dream Scenario," now playing in theaters everywhere.

Got a question or comment for Dom? You can email him at [moviediary@att.net](mailto:moviediary@att.net).



The Movie Diary  
By Dom Cioffi



# Base-building snowfalls

With my sleeping bag nestled snugly around me and a hot chocolate in my mittened hands, I sat on my front porch watching the snow slowly make its way down. It's my favorite moment, that peaceful time when the snow absorbs all the sound and there is nothing to do but drink your cocoa and enjoy the beauty of winter. Especially after the craziness of the White Circus, it's nice to just have a cowbell-free moment to myself.

Not that I would trade World Cup Weekend for anything. To watch the fastest women in the world come to our little town and put on an amazing show is something that I never thought would happen here. But I am massively behind on my water intake and my body is still shaking from jumping up and down on the grandstands.

Because we went right into a snow day. Let's not call it powder, because it was a little thicker than that. But based on all the tracks in the Canyon and on Pico, this storm is going to be the base for a great season! Isn't that what the classic Vermont response to any storm, whether white or clear? This storm is going to be a good base builder. We will be skiing this snowstorm in May. This should freeze right up when the temps drop and make for a really good base.

Ahhh, the base builder. Where the pine trees are so laden down with heavy snow that they look almost sad. Like the weight of the world is upon their shoulders and they have no hope for the future. Strange that the trees seem so sad when the snow brings us all so much joy.

Well, joy after we finish cleaning up the mess around us. There is shoveling to be done, snowplowing and blowing to get through before we can even think about getting off the property and up to the mountain for some turns. The branches that have fallen and are littered around the lawn from the high winds. The thick wall of snow at the end of the driveway that has to get chipped away. The path around the propane tank that has to be cleared.

The everyday pieces of Vermont life. There is a cost to living in Vermont, and it is not just the state taxes that we all complain about. There are chores to be done and nature to deal with. We cannot just step out our door in the morning and think someone else will take care of our land for us. This is our land, our responsibility and what makes living in Vermont so absolutely special.

I love doing these chores. They make me feel more connected to my land and my home. We check on our neighbors and together we make sure our area of Vermont is cleaned up and ready to go. We look out for each other, checking in to see if the

power has come back on or if we can get out of our driveways safely. I just got off the phone with GMP because there's a branch on a line near my house and it's my job to report it so I can keep my community safe.

In Vermont, we look out for each other and build each other up. We shovel another's driveway when they are injured or away on vacation. Even when it is the biggest snowstorm of the year and you have to spend almost an hour a day trying to keep their paths clear for their return. But I also know there will be fancy cheese and homemade jam on my back door when they come home.

Because we are a family, our "brave little state." Where we look out for one another, where we cheer on every athlete that comes down the course as a sign of respect for all their hard work and dedication to an idea that is more of a lifestyle than a sport. I love watching the Olympic level athletes embrace each other at the finish line or watching my Kindergarten athletes help each other up after falling.

Winter requires teamwork to survive,

Winter requires teamwork to survive, whether we are ski racing or just shoveling snow. That is how we get by in a state that has big needs and few people. We work hard for each other, for a common goal.

whether we are ski racing or just shoveling snow. That is how we get by in a state that has big needs and few people. We work hard for each other, for a common goal of getting through the winter safe and hale. Thank you so much to all the volunteers and employees that put in so much extra effort to make the World Cup the amazing event that it is. A true demonstration of what Vermont is capable of, because we work together, we take care of each other and we love our friends like family.

Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington Resident, Realtor and KMS Coach. She can be reached at [femaleskibum@gmail.com](mailto:femaleskibum@gmail.com)

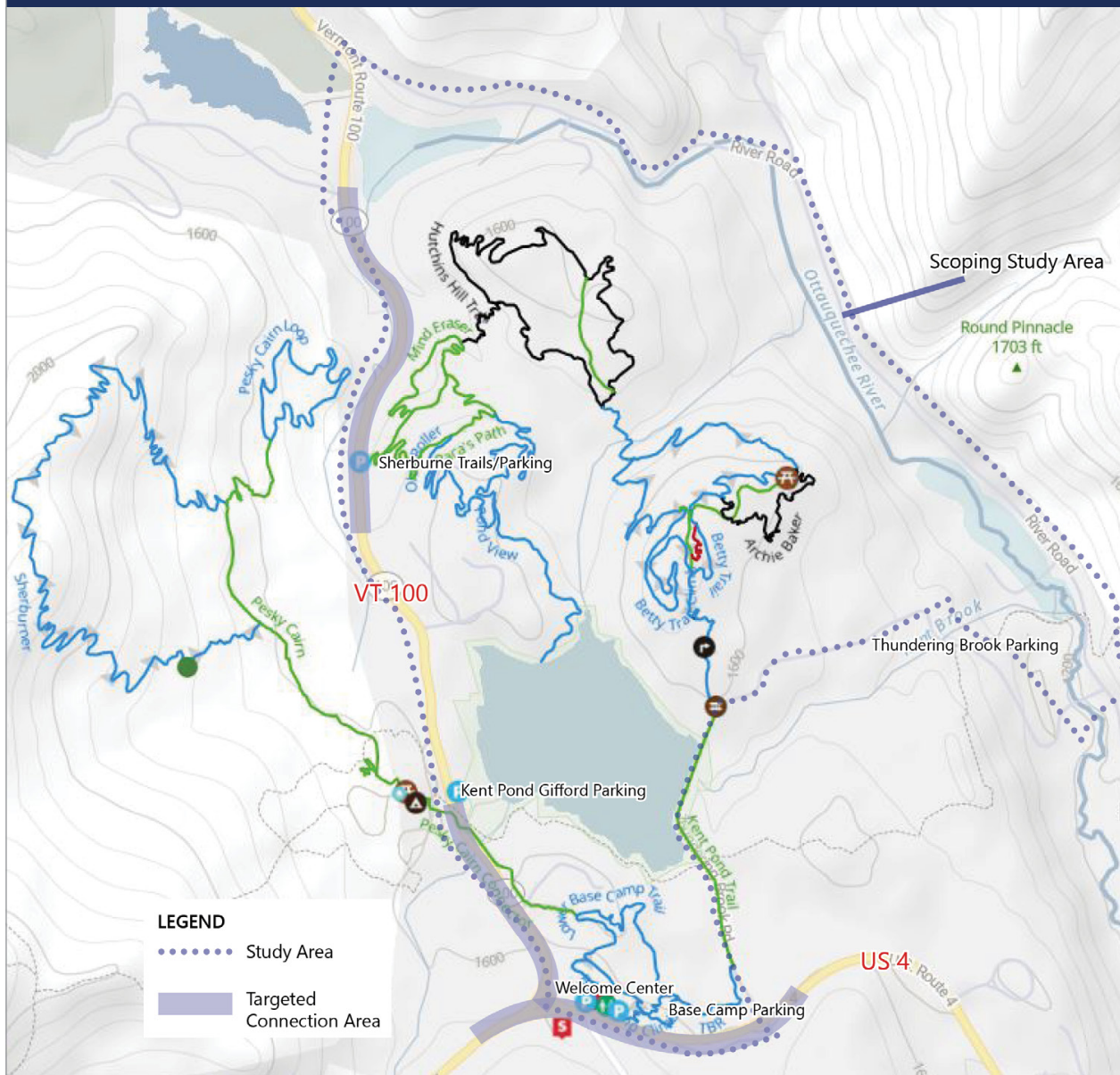


Livin' the Dream  
By Merisa Sherman



Submitted

# KILLINGTON CONNECTING TRAILS SCOPING STUDY



## MEETING DETAILS

**DATE:** December 5, 2023

**TIME:** 7:00 PM

## IN-PERSON LOCATION:

**Killington Public Safety Building**

800 Killington Road,  
Killington, VT 05751

## VIRTUAL OPTION:

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**Meeting ID:** 848 5508 6525

**Passcode:** 540423

**By Phone:** (888) 788-0099

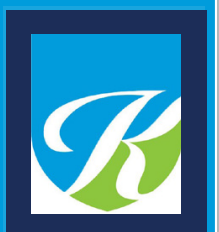
**By Link:**

<https://bit.ly/killington-trails-study>

## DRAFT ALTERNATIVES MEETING

Please join us for the second public meeting of the Killington Connecting Trails Scoping Study. The Town of Killington is working with VHB to develop improvements to bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and safety in the area around several multi-use, off-road trail networks: Gifford Woods trails, Sherburne trails, and trails around Kent Pond.

The Draft Alternatives Meeting is an opportunity to share your comments and concerns about the recommended trail connections along and across VT Route 4 and Route 100 in Killington.





Submitted

## ← Looking back: ..... from page 24

in the Rutland Hospital. I had read only the first paragraph when I realized what a difference there was between country living and city living back in the day!

Ellen's mother cooked on a wood burning stove and the kitchen had a water pump in it. My mother had an electric stove and city water that flowed through the faucet "on command." I know my mother was very grateful for this type of kitchen as she liked life's comforts.

Perhaps the biggest difference in our lives was the four-seater outdoor toilet that served Ellen's large family. Our bathroom, located on the second floor of our house, came fully equipped with a toilet, large tub, shower and sink. Being a "city girl" was definitely the life for me!

When it came to education Ellen's school days were spent in a one-room school house with a teacher who taught six classes. And as you might guess there were outdoor toilets at the school. I attended Christ the King School in Rutland City. There were eight grades with a teacher assigned to each of them. Our bathrooms had several toilets and sinks. I appreciated my city school experience more with each sentence I read.

Country living certainly was more challenging and rugged — it would not have been for me!

But there is a whole lot of farmer in me when it comes to growing food. Ellen said that they grew all their food on the "good land" and didn't need a grocery store. I grow as much as I can on our city lot but weekly trips to the grocery store are essential! I would have loved having space to grow lots of crops.

Ellen walked one mile to the school bus. Our school did not have buses but the distance from our house to school was about a mile and my friend, Elaine, and I often walked. However, on cold, snowy days a warm car was our mode of transportation.

Ellen went into the real estate business after her two children were in school full time. She helped over 500 people during what she refers to as "a wonderful career." One of my best jobs was in the Rutland City Assessor's Office. I was hired during a city wide reappraisal. I worked on the computer entering data that provided comparables in the real estate market to determine property values. One of the best jobs ever!

Ellen moved to Vermont in 2022 to be near her daughter, who coincidentally is also named Mary Ellen.

Although our early lives were very different it appears that we are both content to have lived the way we did. Life would be pretty boring if we all lived in the same manner. Living different lives is what makes us unique.

Ellen said that they grew all their food on the "good land" and didn't need a grocery store.

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## ← Amazing: ..... from page 7

best sports around," he said.

So, being at the World Cup allows Bibb to see elite female racers who have also gone through ups and downs in their careers but keep skiing.

Jimmy Good, in USA gear, was cheering for Slovakian skier Petra Vlhova.

Good explained, "Our day has been fantastic. We root for Petra for our Slovakian friends. We have not missed a World Cup race ever. It's truly amazing for us to experience the greatest skiers in the world right here in Killington, Vermont."

Killington local, Kin Huttvanter, and his friends braved the cold to watch the race.

"It's nice to see everyone out here and having a real good time and enjoying the sunlight and fresh air. We don't have a ton of events in Vermont. It's a small place, so it's nice to see this kind of community," Huttvanter said.

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# December is the start of bird feeding

“Winter bird feeding is a great way to observe and learn about our year-round bird residents such as black capped chickadees, nuthatches and blue jays. It’s also a great time to learn about winter visitors such as evening and pine grosbeaks,” said Jillian Kilborn, Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s bird project leader.

Here are some basic bird feeding tips from Vermont Fish & Wildlife:

- Make your own feeding mixture to maximize the number of species visiting your yard. Black oil sunflower seed is a favorite of many birds, but when mixed with “thistle” (or “nyjer”) or cracked corn you will be sure to attract a wide variety of species. Don’t forget the suet to attract woodpeckers and even chickadees.
- Mix up the type of feeders you use. Hopper feeders are great for large birds such as blue jays, while tube feeders are best for smaller birds. Elevated tray feeders will attract birds that usually feed on the ground including juncos and larger bodied winter visitors such as evening grosbeaks.
- Place your feeders near natural habitat, or even add a habitat for birds to hide in. A Christmas tree is a great addition to a snowbank next to your feeder to provide quick cover.
- Keep your feeders clean. Only put out enough food for a day, and wash feeders every couple of weeks in a 10% bleach solution and let dry to prevent the spread of bacteria and disease. If you decide to feed birds, remember:
- Feeding can expose birds to hazards they might otherwise avoid. The risks of predation are higher close to people, especially from domestic cats—the leading



By John Hall, VTF&W

*Bird feeders offer an easy and safe way to interact with wildlife, and installing them after Dec. 1 limits the potential to attract bears, keeping you, your pets, the birds and the bears themselves safe — and properly wild.*

cause of bird deaths in North America. Keep cats inside and take feeders down if predators become frequent visitors.

- Don’t feed birds when bears are active. Most bears are in dens from December 1 to April 1, but some will delay hibernation or re-emerge to feed during periods of warmer weather. Remove bird feeders immediately if you see signs of bears or know a bear is active in your community. Bears that learn to associate food with a house will continue to return, potentially leading to property damage and dangerous encounters with people. Further, it is illegal to feed bears in Vermont.
- Once you’ve started feeding the birds, keep your feeders stocked. Although wild birds are not entirely dependent on bird feeders, they can become accustomed to this easy food source. If you wish to stop feeding during winter months,

gradually taper off the amount of food you provide rather than stopping abruptly, giving the birds a chance to find other food sources. This is especially important when food is scarce in late winter or during periods of extreme weather.

- Finally, report your observations. While watching your bird feeders, you can participate in one or more bird monitoring projects by looking up the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, the Great Backyard Bird Count and Project Feeder Watch and eBird — all collect important information for understanding bird populations.

As winter sets in, find a comfortable spot inside where you can watch the birds visiting your feeders. Figure out what birds they are, observe how they interact with each other, and see what they prefer to eat. It’s a perfect way to get to know the birds around you better.

For more information visit: [Vtfishandwildlife.com](http://Vtfishandwildlife.com).

← **TOS:** .....  
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these browsers, such as some islands in the Great Lakes, yew may grow as tall as 10 feet.

All parts of the yew except the fruit pulp are mildly toxic to humans. However, traditional uses include brewing yew needles into a tea for treating rheumatism, fever, colds, and other ailments. In recent decades, scientists have found that Canada yew is a good source of the cancer-fighting chemical paclitaxel, originally discovered in the Pacific yew. It also contains two other taxanes that can be used to synthesize paclitaxel. In eastern Canada, farmers grow yew in plantations for use in cancer treatments. Sustainable harvesting from the wild according to regulations is also permitted there.

In the Northeast, Canada yew is relatively scarce, and so is not a good choice for holiday decorating. But its evergreen foliage and red, berry-like fruits are something to admire on woodland walks.

*Susan Shea is a naturalist, writer, and conservationist based in Vermont. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: [nhcf.org](http://nhcf.org).*

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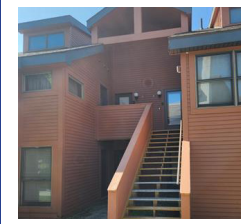
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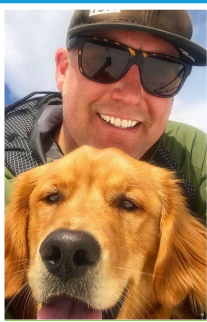
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