



## BACK TO SCHOOL

Most area students return to school this coming week, with orientations starting Monday, Aug. 28, and the first day of classes Wednesday Aug. 30.

Page 22

## AUGUST SLOPESTYLE

KMS's Eleanor Andrews will ski in New Zealand with U.S. team.

Page 3

## CLEAN UP DAY AUG. 26

Gov. Phil Scott has named Aug. 26 Clean Up Day to pick up trash after Vermont's July floods. Much like Green Up Day, trash bags will be provided.

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## SUMMER FESTIVALS NOT TO BE MISSED

The Best of Vermont Summer Festival is returning to Ludlow Aug. 25-27. Sunday, Aug. 27, a Meadow and Mountains Festival will also be held at Mission Farm in Killington. Both feature Vermont food and live music.

Page 17

## Woodstock puts pause on short-term rentals

By Katy Savage

Woodstock is temporarily suspending short-term rental and bed and breakfast permits while the Planning Commission reviews enforcement and compliance issues.

The Woodstock Select Board voted unanimously Aug. 15 to suspend short term rental and bed and breakfast applications for six months, starting Oct. 1 and ending March 31.

Steven Bauer, the director of planning and zoning, proposed a review process.

"A lot of things are going well," he said at the meeting. "A lot of things aren't going perfect."

The town started regulating short-term rentals five years ago, requiring homeowners to register their rental and go through three enforcement agencies while paying a series of fees. The Woodstock fire department, the state fire marshal and the town planning board reviews the permit applications. The process then requires short-term rental owners to acquire a conditional use permit for \$375 plus pay a commercial

Woodstock STR → 31



By Sarah Calvin

## Gabby Barrett lit up the Rutland Fairground

Country music superstar Gabby Barrett dazzled crowds at the State Fair Thursday, Aug. 17.

## Local officials lobby for federal money to cover larger culverts

By Polly Mikula

On Wednesday, Aug. 16, U.S. Representative Becca Balint, D-Vt., met local officials at the Killington Welcome Center before heading out for a tour of flood damage in the eastern sections of East Mountain Road and connecting roads, including Bear Mountain Road and Trailside Drive where the group got out to see the damages up close.

Flooding in Killington began July 7 with mudslides when Killington received between about 6 inches of rain in two hours. Route 4 (a state road) and the East Mountain Road area in Killington saw the worst damage then and subsequent rains further overwhelmed culverts and destroyed roads in that area. While crews have been working diligently since to reopen roads and make access to homes passable, the damage is still easy to see.

Federal aid → 9



By Polly Mikula

Local leaders met with U.S. Congresswoman Becca Balint at the Killington Welcome Center before touring damage around East Mountain Road. Pictured (l-r) Bottom Row: Jim Harrison, State Representative; Michael Ramsey, Killington town manager, Becca Balint, U.S. Representative; Brian Collamore, senator; Amy Laramie, Killington Resort director of brand marketing, events & special projects. Top Row: Mike Doenges, mayor of Rutland City; Jim Haff, Killington Select Board member; Mike Coppinger, VP of KPAA board of directors; Terry Williams, senator.

## \$2.8M culvert replacement on Route 4 to continue into fall

Staff report

Traffic is reduced to one lane on a portion of Route 4 as a sewer line is moved and an existing pipe culvert is replaced with a concrete box culvert near Spring Hill Road in Killington.

The \$2.8 million project, which started in June, is expected to be done this fall.

The contractor, J.P. Sicard, Inc., is currently moving an existing sewer line deeper and higher uphill to accommodate the larger culvert, which will be about 12 feet long and 8 feet high.

The sewer line will be encased in a metal sleeve under the culvert in case it needs to be replaced in the future.

The contractors are also moving the new culvert about 30-40 feet downhill and constructing new channels to maintain flow inside the existing culvert during construction.

"That took some coordination with engineers," Agency of Transportation Project Manager James McCarthy said.

The previous culvert, a 6-foot long asphalt-coated galvanized pipe, constructed in 1965, had a rating of 3 and was in "serious" condition for 10 years, according to the Agency of Transportation.

While most culverts in the state are inspected every five years, this one was inspected every year due to its deteriorating condition.

"Quite often we see sinkholes when the culverts get into that condition," McCarthy said. "Typically, there's a lot of perforations in the bottom of it, the galvanizing wears off."

The new concrete box culvert is currently being pre-fabricated. \$2.8M culvert → 3

"Quite often we see sinkholes when the culverts get into that condition," McCarthy said.

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## Volunteers clean up Ludlow's flood-damaged lakes

Over 40 volunteers came out to Lake Rescue equipped with work gloves, kayaks, small motorboats, and pickup trucks Sunday, Aug. 20, to clean up debris left behind after the historic July 2023 flood dumped about 8 inches of rain upon the Ludlow lakes region. The Lake Rescue Clean-Up Day was the second of two such endeavors; the Lake Rescue Association (LRA) had organized a similar Lake Clean-Up Day the previous weekend on Lake Pauline, just south of the Lake Rescue dam, in cooperation with the Black River Action Team (BRAT).

"We had two tremendous clean-up events," said Bruce Zanca, president of LRA. "It was real community spirit, and it made me really proud. Many of our neighbors showed up and worked long hours doing heavy lifting, and we made some great progress cleaning up the devastating mess from the July 10 floods."

Zanca said volunteer drivers made more than 20 runs to the (Ludlow) Transfer Station with truckloads of debris from the lake, including "derelict docks, trees floating in the water, trash, all sorts of different things."

Still, despite the success of the two Lake Clean-Up Days, he said, "We still have some work to do."

"It was awe-inspiring," said Gloria Katsiff, an LRA board member, as she handed out sandwiches and bottles of water to volunteers on Red Bridge Road, beside the horseshoe-shaped dam where much of the soggy detritus had been propelled by raging water down the Black River and through 184-acre Lake Rescue. Splintered docks, battered boats, large trees, life jackets, and broken pieces of outdoor furniture were jumbled in an unsightly mess by the lakeshore and against the dam edge before volunteers arrived at 9 a.m. Sunday and got right to work.

"It gave me goosebumps, to see in



Submitted

A volunteer removes debris in Lake Rescue in Ludlow.

the first 30 minutes those big logs and things coming out of the water. People were working with their neighbors, with strangers, working hand in hand, to remove these big items that we thought we would never get out," said Katsiff. Many of the volunteers had suffered flood damage themselves, and yet still came out to help.

People waded into the murky water, or used kayaks with ropes attached, to pull debris ashore to be carted away. Volunteers with chainsaws, backhoes, and large trucks pulled fallen trees out of the lake, carved them up, and disposed of the wood. Water quality tests conducted by both the LRA and BRAT after the flood found the lake to be within acceptable levels for *E. coli*.

"I just love this area," said Emily Sause, who came to volunteer from New York. "When I heard they needed help cleaning up, I had to come."

"It warms my heart to see how

much people care," said Cindi West, whose home across the street was rendered uninhabitable by floodwaters.

The Lake Rescue Association installed a heavy-duty hand crank on the Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) boat it uses to ameliorate invasive milfoil, which enabled the crew to pull up large dock pieces and debris mired in mud since the flood. With the help of volunteers in small motorboats, large dock pieces were returned to their owners around the lake.

The Lake Rescue Association works to maintain, restore, and ensure the future of Lakes Rescue and Pauline and build a stronger lakes district community. It often works in cooperation with BRAT to advance the health of the Black River Watershed, which runs from Plymouth through Lakes Amherst, Echo, Rescue and Pauline, before continuing south to Springfield.

## Green Mountain Lawyers grand opening event at Casey's raised \$4K for flood victims

Staff report

On Tuesday, Aug. 15, Green Mountain Lawyers held its grand opening party and fundraiser at Casey's Caboose in Killington.

Attorney Daniel Ewald and his staff recently joined forces with Attorney Peter DaMore and his firm, DaMore Law, creating a team of 18 paralegals, law clerks, legal assistants and support staff along with six attorneys that practice in various states within northern New England.

Ewald started his own law practice in Killington in 1981 and has been a staple in the Vermont real estate law community since. Green Mountain Lawyers is located at 1995

Route 4 in Killington.

The grand opening event was free to attend and was very well attended, featuring a buffet, full bar and dozens of prize baskets that were raffled off.

The event raised \$2,105 with Heritage Family Credit Union/Heritage Family Cares 4 You and Green Mountain Lawyers together matching those funds for a total of \$4,000 to be donated to the Vermont Main Street Recovery Fund and Vermont Community Foundation to help victims of recent flooding in Vermont.

Grand opening → 31

# KMS's Eleanor Andrews makes 2023 FIS Park and Pipe Junior World Championships Team

The next generation of the world's best freeskiers, aged 15-18, will be competing in the 2023 FIS Park and Pipe Junior World Championships in Aotearoa, New Zealand, Aug. 25-Sept. 5, 2023.

On Aug. 16 U.S. Ski & Snowboard announced the 20 freeski athletes who were called up to represent the U.S. in the slopestyle, big air and halfpipe disciplines at Cardrona Alpine Resort (however, due to low snow conditions this summer's Junior Worlds will not host the halfpipe portion). Many athletes competing at Junior Worlds are looking to secure a spot for the 2024 Youth Olympic Winter Games, to be held in Korea in January 2024.

The Junior World Championships are an opportunity for the up-and-coming generation to compete against the best junior athletes in the world and to experience an international-level event. Athletes competing range from junior athletes, to World Champions and Beijing Winter Olympians, showcasing a wide range of talented athletes.

The U.S. roster includes Stifel U.S. Freeski Team athletes Kate Gray, Ellie Derosier, Ben Fethke and Henry Townshend, along with several promising newcomers on the freeski circuit.

Live streaming is free and available for the public for all events.

## 2023 Women's Slopestyle & Big Air Freeski Team (hometown, ski program)

- Eleanor Andrews (Killington, Vermont; Killington Mountain School)
- Ellie Derosier (Bend, Oregon; Park City Ski & Snowboard)
- Kate Gray (Crowley Lake, California, Mammoth Mountain Freeski Team)
- Elaina Krusiewski (West Dover, Vermont; Ski & Snowboard Club Vail)
- Alex Thisted (Frisco, Colorado; Team Summit)
- 2023 Men's Slopestyle & Big Air Freeski Team:
- Daniel Hough (Frisco, Colorado; Cork Tech Freeski)
- Hugh MacMenamin (Hudson, Wisconsin; Wy'East Mountain Academy)
- Cael McCarthy (Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Cork Tech)
- Henry Townshend (Park City, Utah; Park City Ski & Snowboard)

## Freeski Slopestyle

- Sunday, Aug. 27: Freeski qualifications
  - Tuesday, Aug. 29: Freeski finals
  - Freeski Big Air
  - Friday, Sept. 1: Freeski qualifications
  - Sunday, Sept. 3: Freeski finals
- For more information visit: [Wintergamesnz.kiwi](http://Wintergamesnz.kiwi).

# Norwich man arrested for impersonating officer

Police said a Norwich man was impersonating an officer after he used his personal Black Ford Explorer to stop a vehicle on Interstate 91 using emergency blue lights.

VSP units located the vehicle in Woodstock and conducted a traffic stop to learn the operator Arturo M. Johnson, 24, of Norwich, worked as a security guard and conducted a

traffic stop for a miscellaneous reason. Johnson has no police authority and owns the vehicle he was driving. Johnson was given a criminal citation to appear in court on Oct. 17.

Anyone with a similar experience can contact the Royalton Barracks at 802-234-9933 or submit an anonymous tip online at [vsp.vermont.gov/tip-submit](http://vsp.vermont.gov/tip-submit).



By Jason Mikula

Route 4, just west of The Flats in Killington, has been under construction as concrete box culvert replaces the old one.

## ← \$2.8M culvert: from page 1

cated in New Hampshire and will be installed under phased construction.

"They will excavate and put in half the concrete box and then put the traffic on top of the concrete box and do the other half," McCarthy said.

The Agency of Transportation evaluated alternatives for rehabilitation or replacement of the bridge in an engineering study completed in March 2020. This study assessed the

right-of-way, hydraulics and community concerns. The agency considered installing a culvert invert, a spray-on liner, a new four-sided box culvert and a new concrete rigid frame.

"Given the age of the structure, site constraints, existing geometry, and current conditions, the engineering study recommended a full replacement with a concrete box culvert," according to the Agency of Transportation website, [vtrans.vermont.gov](http://vtrans.vermont.gov).

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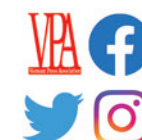
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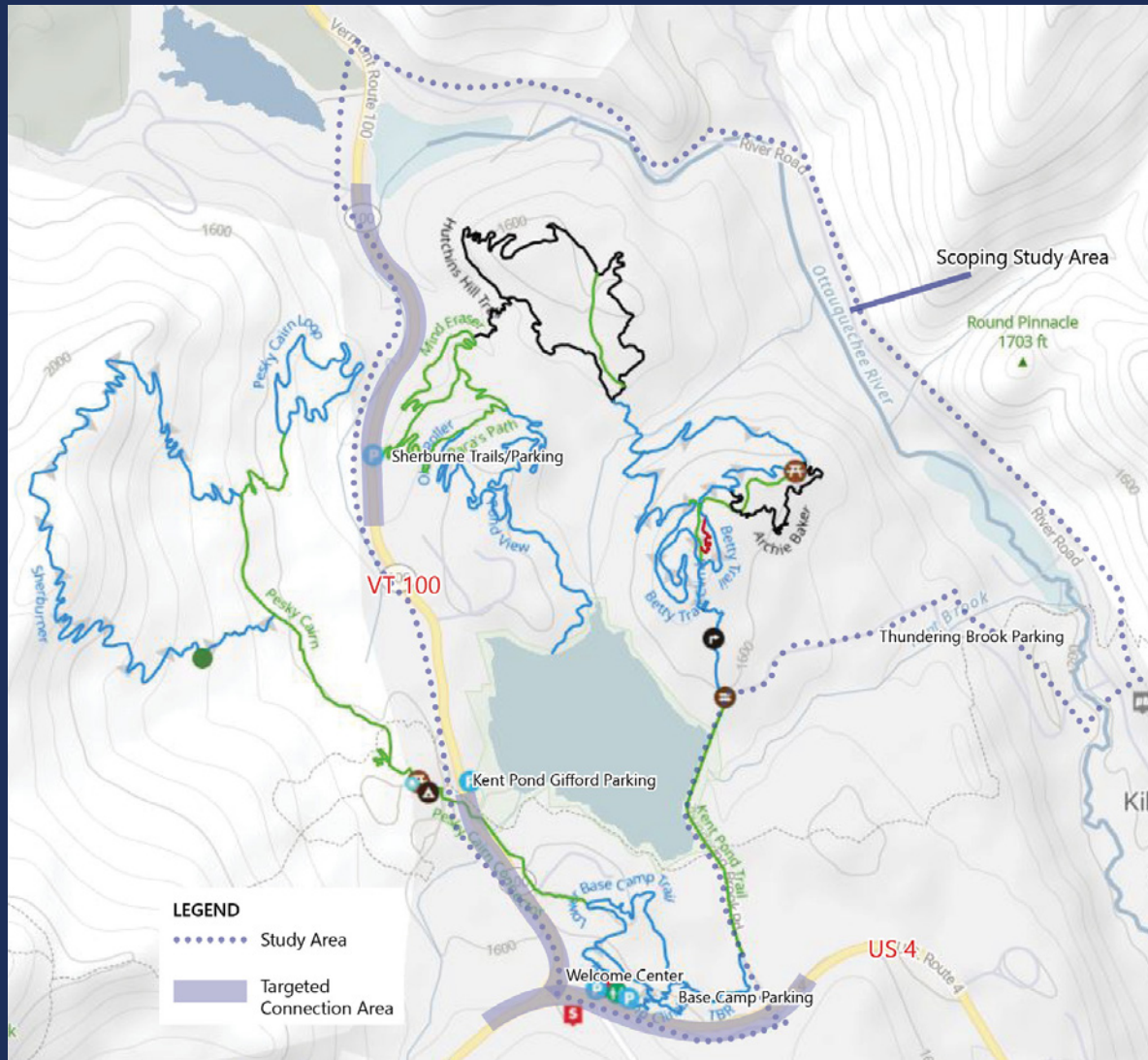
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# KILLINGTON CONNECTING TRAILS SCOPING STUDY



## MEETING DETAILS

**DATE:** August 24th, 2023

**TIME:** 7:30 PM

## IN-PERSON LOCATION:

**Sherburne Memorial Library**

2998 River Road,  
Killington, VT 05751

## VIRTUAL OPTION:

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**Meeting ID:** 889 6464 4941

**By Phone:** +16468769923

**By Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88964644941>

## LOCAL CONCERNS MEETING

Please join us for the first 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 new multi-use, off-road trail networks: Gifford Woods trails, Sherburne trails, and trails around Kent Pond.

The Local Concerns Meeting is an opportunity to share your comments and concerns about trail connections along VT Route 4 and Route 100 in Killington to help identify issues and inform opportunities for the study.



# Rutland City shuts off water and sewer

Staff report

Rutland City started shutting off water and sewer for delinquent payers in June and July for the first time since 2009.

City Treasurer Mary Markowski sent 25 letters to homeowners in May, notifying people that water will be shut off at the end of the month if they don't pay their past bills or come up with a payment agreement.

The 25 homeowners accounted for 40% of the total owed to the city. The highest amount owed from a singular resident was about \$17,000, Markowski said in a phone interview.

Markowski started shutting off water in two rounds in June and July.

In round one, which started in June, just four homes were shut off

after seven people established payment agreements with the city and 14 paid their dues in full.

"We really tried every avenue to reach out," Markowski said at the

In round one in June, four homes were shut off from water and sewer.

In round two in July, two homes were shut off, City Treasurer Mary

Markowski said.

Board of Aldermen meeting on Aug. 21, explaining the four properties were likely vacant.

Two homes were shut off in July after 24 people received warning letters.

"I'm pretty pleased with how that has worked," Markowski said.

Collection for both water and sewer bills has been an ongoing issue. There were around 400 delinquent homeowners, totaling about \$458,000 owed to the city before the shutoff notifications, Markowski said.

This was the first time in Markowski's tenure that the city resorted to water and sewer shutoffs.

Markowski said city staff were busy making payment agreements.

If the homeowners break their payment agreement, their water and sewer could be turned off immediately.

# Governor announces Aug. 26 cleanup day for flooding

Gov. Phil Scott has launched two initiatives to support cleanup efforts in Vermont following this summer's severe flooding. On Saturday, Aug. 26, Green Up Vermont, with support from the state and other partners, will hold a state-wide Clean Up Day, which will operate very similarly to the annual May Green Up Day. Additionally, the state is finalizing a plan to assist those living in mobile homes that were destroyed by flooding to safely deconstruct and remove the condemned structures, at no cost to the flood victim. Support for these efforts is being made possible in part from a \$250,000 contribution from Subaru of New England, which has a long history of philanthropic support in Vermont.

"I want to express my sincere appreciation to Subaru of New England and Ernie Boch Jr. for the deep commitment to our state and willingness to step up and help in our time of need," said Scott. "This incredibly generous contribution will help support Vermonters who were hardest hit by catastrophic flooding. It will also ensure we keep Vermont the clean and beautiful place we know and love, helping support our economy and communities."

For Clean Up Day, orange bags instead of the iconic green will be distributed around Vermont for this recovery clean up. A special webpage has been set up on [greenupvermont.org](http://greenupvermont.org) to help towns communicate their needs and for volunteers to find various efforts around the state. Green Up Vermont is also encouraging the use of their app so that coordinators can communicate broadly the specific details and needs for each area. The Green Up Vermont app can be

[Vt clean up day](#) → 10

# DMV warns of private-sale vehicles with flood damage

The Vermont Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reminds Vermonters to be on the lookout for flood damage when purchasing used vehicles in private sales. After the recent flooding, consumers

should take precautions in coming weeks and months to avoid unintentionally purchasing vehicles that were damaged by flooding.

Some private sellers take a vehicle from a flooded area

and get a new title in a different state before trying to sell it. Consumers should be aware when purchasing used vehicles with titles issued during storm periods that they could be flood vehicles,

even if the title is not from a state affected by the storm.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration advises consumers to be aware during private

DMC → 10

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TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**Rural Development**

**Town of Killington: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact**

**AGENCY:** Vermont Rural Development, USDA

**ACTION:** Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

**SUMMARY:** The Vermont Rural Development Agency has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to Town of Killington, Vermont for the construction of the Killington Forward – Killington Road Reconstruction Project in Rutland County, Vermont.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** To obtain copies of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and FONSI, or for further information, contact: Shaun Fielder, VT NH Community Program Specialist, phone 802-828-6034. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review on the Town of Killington website at [www.killingtontown.com](http://www.killingtontown.com)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed project consists of road construction improvements as part of the Killington Forward initiative. Alternatives considered by Rural Development and Town of Killington include: No reasonable Alternative. Vermont Rural Development has reviewed and approved the EA for the proposed project.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the following newspaper(s): The Mountain Times on August 2, and 9 and a 14-day comment period was announced in the newspaper notice(s). The EA was also available for public review at the Town of Killington website at [www.killingtontown.com](http://www.killingtontown.com) and or by contacting Shaun Fielder at the Vermont USDA Rural Development office. No comments were received from the public.

Based on its EA, commitments made by the Town of Killington, and as no public comments were received, Vermont Rural Development has concluded that the project would have no significant impact (or no impacts) to water quality, wetlands, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety.

VT Rural Development has initiated a National Programmatic Agreement with the Vermont Department of Historic Preservation due to a pending obligation deadline and the Town of Killington will be required to meet all Section 106 guidelines prior to construction activities commencing. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof. The proposed project would not disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income populations.

Under the Action Alternative, USDA RD would consider financing the proposed Project, and Killington would construct the noted proposed roadway reconstruction improvements. This project scope and details are best described in the Environmental Assessment.

The proposed project includes impacts to approximately 8,246 square feet of wetlands. These wetland areas are primarily drainage areas or ditches immediately adjacent to the current roadway prism. To meet the objectives of

traffic flow and management, pedestrian and bicycle safety, vehicular turning and access, etc. the roadway prism will be widened or shifted.

These wetland areas are located primarily in 4 roadway segments. As a means to meet the project objectives, the EA evaluated alternatives and presented a reasonable argument that there is no practicable alternative.

The Town understands that, per Section 363 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (“ConAct”), USDA-RD is prohibited from loan making for activities that would result in the draining, dredging, filling, leveling, or manipulation of a wetland. Accordingly, the Town understands that those components or segments of the Proposed Action that would result in direct impacts to wetlands (but not state-regulated buffers) are not eligible for funding through USDA-RD. The EA discusses mitigation and avoidance efforts that will be incorporated into the project development and design through the permitting process with State and/or ACOE.

The analyses in the EA documented that the proposed Project would have no adverse effects to Land Use, Important Farmland, Floodplains and Water Resources, Municipal Parks, Federally and State Listed Species, Socio-Economic Issues, Economic Justice, Air Quality, Transportation, Noise, Radon, Solid Waste Management, Wild and Scenic Rivers or Visual Aesthetics. A summary of anticipated impacts on the human environment is provided below, including mitigation measures deemed necessary to avoid or minimize impacts. The Town of Killington is responsible for implementing these measures.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified.

Therefore, Vermont Rural Development has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508), and USDA Rural Development’s Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project.

Vermont Rural Development is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. Vermont Rural Development’s federal action would not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.

*Dated: August 17, 2023.*

# Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County: Inspiring and mentoring kids to ensure Vermont's future

For nearly three decades, Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County (BGCRC) has navigated challenges as well as triumphs in providing safe and supportive places for kids 5-15 years old, to learn, play, and grow.

The need to nurture Vermont's youth has never been greater — a cause that Caitlin Perry has been intensely involved with, personally and professionally, for many years. Perry, a vice president in the Rutland office of UBS (the multinational investment bank and financial services company), has served as chair of BGCRC's board since 2020. As such, Perry has been the chief catalyst driving BGCRC strategy, operations, and fiscal solvency.

"This past year has come with its own unique challenges and opportunities," Perry said in a recent interview. "Our volunteers and staff continue to deal with the reverberations of the pandemic on youth development and mental health," she added.

BGCRC currently hosts about 350 members daily, under the guidance of adults who inspire and mentor them, at six sites throughout Rutland County. Nearly 30% of BGCRC's members come from single-family homes, and 75% qualify for free and reduced lunch.

"Our community recognizes the enormous need for the quality after-school care that Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County provides," Perry noted. "Securing the resources to do it, is essential."

To be sure, Perry is gratified that over the past 12 months BGCRC has increased its positive momentum.

"We have great momentum, are growing our membership and the youth we serve every month. In the coming school year, we are focusing on youth mental health; boosting enrichment programs for career and academic opportunities; and continuing development and education of staff, to cultivate a culture where staff and youth thrive."

"Exposing young people to varied opportunities and experiences breeds self-confi-

dence, social and emotional resiliency, and gives them something to look forward to," Perry pointed out. "They have the opportunity to meet and learn from new people, in a safe, structured setting"

Perry's leadership of BGCRC has provided several reasons to celebrate. Among them: hiring and onboarding a new executive director, Nicole Rice, who joined in October 2022.

As Perry noted, "Nicole's extensive experience in mental health, both inside and outside the school environment, has been a crucial asset."

In addition, BGCRC has reinforced its partnerships with local schools; boosted collaboration with Wonderfeet Kids Museum and the Rutland Recreation department; secured a grant that has helped the organization expand its services for youths who require more one-on-one support; and refurbished the flagship BGCRC on Merchant's Row, which Perry credits to loyal employees, volunteers, and the generosity of Home Depot.

Cognizant of the requirements of donors,

"I am passionate about healing, connecting, and mentoring in all facets of life," Perry said.

Perry noted that BGCRC's leaders monitor the organization's impact and performance through regular member surveys. Rated high are rules for how members should treat each other; opportunities to talk to an adult if they have a problem; and BGCRC's safe and positive environment.

Perry credits her father, who owned a hardware store, for her strong work ethic, commitment to problem-solving, and respect for diverse customers — skills she says she learned at a very young age.

Before graduating from the University of Vermont in 2010 with a major in political science and business, Perry served as a combat medic in the U.S. Army. "I knew the military would provide structure and discipline, plus allow me to see the world and receive an education without taking on

student loan debt," explained Perry.

Following the military, Perry worked at TD Bank, "cramming classes in" at UVM, as she put it. It was at TD that she first became excited about a career in finance. Perry's subsequent accreditations, certifications, and licenses led to her current role as vice president, wealth management in the Rutland office of UBS.

Of that role, Perry said, "I most enjoy building meaningful relationships with my clients, through honest communication and education about the positive impact of financial planning on their lives. I am passionate about healing, connecting, and mentoring in all facets of life," Perry added.

In addition to her leadership of BGCRC's board, Perry serves on the boards of the Paramount Theater and StartUp Rutland. She has also served as president and board member of Rutland South Rotary, whose focus is on youth and education.

A native of Rutland Town, Perry lives in the house she grew up in, which she bought from her mom in 2021. Late last year, Perry became engaged to Kieran P. Keefe, who

works as director of technology for the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (of VT).

As the Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County continues to fulfill its promise as the place where kids can learn, play, and grow, in a safe and supportive environment, the very future of Vermont is at the heart of its essential mission. In our own hearts as well, should be the zeal for ensuring that this vital organization continues to thrive.

On Sept. 7, the Killington-Rutland community can celebrate BGCRC's many achievements as well as help advance the organization's mission, at a fundraiser being held at Lake Bomoseen Lodge and Tap Room, beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$125, which includes food, drinks, and live music. Visit: [biddingforgood.com/bgclubrutland](http://biddingforgood.com/bgclubrutland).

For more information about BGCRC, including how to volunteer, visit: [Rutlandbgclub.org/info](http://Rutlandbgclub.org/info).

*Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is principal and owner of Liz DiMarco Weinmann Consulting, L3C, based in Rutland, serving charitable and educational institutions: [lizdimarcoweinmann.com](http://lizdimarcoweinmann.com).*



**For the Greater Good**  
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann



Courtesy BGCRC

Above left: BGC Rutland County's board chair, Caitlin Perry and Kieran Keefe, her fiancé. The facilities in Rutland offer space for creative play, team work and movement.



## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Chronic underfunding of Vermont 211 shortchanged Vermonters when they needed help most

*Editor's note: The following is a joint statement from the leaders of Vermont's local United Ways, which each contribute funding to Vermont 211.*

State officials repeatedly urged Vermonters to call 211 to report damages and get connected to resources in the days and weeks following July's catastrophic flooding.

Ten days before the disaster, Vermont 211, a program of United Ways of Vermont, cut back its hours and decreased staff due to lack of funding. Roughly 90% of Vermont 211's budget comes from state contracts and funding has not increased for the past five years despite increased operating costs and high demand for services.

As communities grappled with devastating damage and loss in the wake of historic flooding, Vermont 211 staff scrambled to respond to a record-breaking number of calls, emails, and text messages from Vermonters reporting damages and seeking help.

In the last week of July alone, Vermont 211 received more than 3,500 calls, surpassing the total number of contacts Vermont 211 fielded in the entire month of June (less than 2,800) when they had two additional staff members.

Not surprisingly, Vermont 211 staff struggled to keep up with the increased volume and Vermonters seeking immediate relief found themselves unable to get through or waiting for responses as a backlog grew.

"We can't have these things not work for Vermonters, especially in such an awful moment in people's lives," United Ways of Vt Executive Director Elizabeth Gilman told Seven Days.

Vermont 211 is the relied upon service for the state of Vermont that supports our whole community, including some of the most vulnerable. Vermont 211, a nonprofit program of United Ways of Vermont, contracts with the state to provide a variety of essential services to Vermonters: information & referral, including emergency housing; support for local community action agencies with the VITA tax program; and administering Vermont's database for 988, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The demand for these services has only increased due to the state's closure of the motel housing program and increased demand for mental health services despite a massive workforce shortage (also related to chronic underfunding).

As seen during Tropical Storm Irene, Covid19, and our most recent flood, having one number for Vermonters to call for support also plays a critical role in the state's emergency response system. Yet 211 currently receives nothing in the form of financial support from the state for emergency management services, unlike it did during the days of Irene.

Vermont 211 leadership has made this clear to state leaders including the Legislature. Testimony at the House Appropriations hearing on April 12, summarizes a critical

Ten days before the disaster, Vermont 211, a program of United Ways of Vermont, cut back its hours and decreased staff due to lack of funding.

211 → 31



Back To School by Bob Englehart, PoliticalCartoons

## LETTERS

### Many to thank for the successful completion of Kids' Kingdom

Dear Editor,

In 2019, after an extensive state inspection, Killington Elementary School was faced with the looming reality of a deteriorating Kids' Kingdom in need of replacement. In the spring of 2021, Parents and Educators Aligned for Killington Students (PEAKS), the parent organization at Killington Elementary School (KES), began the endeavor of raising funds for a new playground to improve accessibility for all students pre-Kindergarten through grade 6.

PEAKS was charged with this incredible task amidst the impact of a global pandemic. Yet, their dedication to the project and the generous support of the surrounding community made the seemingly impossible become a reality.

Nearly 80 local businesses, organizations, families and individuals made monetary donations reaching nearly \$100,000 to help us build a new playground. These donations are represented by custom monogrammed bricks that are embedded in a

walkway to the new playground. Several community members dedicated endless hours in order to prepare the groundwork to install Yeti Kingdom, as named by the students of KES.

Thank you to everyone who made monetary donations to this project, particularly Killington Resort and Casella Waste Management who ignited our beliefs early on in the fundraising campaign that we could reach our project goal. We could not have done this without you!

Thank you to PEAKS for their tireless efforts in raising funds to construct the initial phases of Yeti Kingdom. You are a dedicated team supportive of the mission of Killington Elementary School and are valued for much more than your fundraising abilities. A special thank you to the PEAKS Fundraising committee members Lorelei Danilchick, Missy Karr, and Sarah Zack for your dedication to and exuberance in this project.

A host of people must be Kids' Kingdom → 9

### Reducing isolation through social dance


Dear Editor,

Even before the pandemic Americans were starting to fall away from connecting with their neighbors. According to the Pew Research Center, social events among neighbors were starting to become relatively rare. "Among Americans who know at least some of their neighbors, a majority (58%) say they never meet them for parties or get-togethers. About three-in-ten (28%) say they have parties or get-togethers less than once a month, and 14% say they do this monthly or more often." That's not much more than 10% of us regularly getting together with our friends! One of the reasons for this is the digital age we are living in, the endless device scrolling people engage in. People are not connecting. Policy makers are increasingly concerned with our tendency toward social isolation and an overall reduction in social connectedness. Loneliness is on the rise. People seem to be forgetting how to socialize. Often people feel awkward reaching out, even when

joining a topic-based club or class. Getting involved can be hard when people have gotten accustomed to just staying home, watching TV, or scrolling devices. The rise in loneliness has given rise to multiple podcasts with a focus on helping us be happier. From these, the listener learns that the research is in — there are a few habits and practices that radically increase our happiness. High on the list are: being active, increasing our social relationships and connections, and challenging ourselves through new experiences and learning. Yet some people who want to reach out and connect have a hard time doing so, and it gets harder as folks get older. Pickleball is one activity that helps people socialize around an activity, but not everyone has the speed and coordination for pickleball. Different forms of folk dance, especially square dance, provides an accessible solution to this growing problem. Since many folks who feel some degree of Social dancing → 10



## CAPITAL QUOTES



The CDC and World Health Organization (WHO) revealed Thursday, Aug. 17 they are tracking another variant of Covid-19. The variant is one of dozens being tracked by national health agencies in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, on Monday, Aug. 21, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services announced the formation of the Office of Long Covid Research and Practice to study the long term health effects of the disease. It's estimated that up to 23 million people in the nation have developed long Covid.

**“Today we are more prepared than ever to detect and respond to changes in the Covid-19 virus. Scientists are working now to understand more about the newly identified lineage in these four cases, and we will share more information as it becomes available,”**

CDC spokesperson **Kathleen Conley** told CBS News.

**“As our nation continues to make strides in combating Covid-19, it is crucial that we address the impact of Long Covid and provide resources to those in need. Last year President Biden called on HHS to coordinate the response to Long Covid. The official establishment of the Long Covid Coordinating Office and the launch of the RECOVER clinical trials solidifies this issue as an ongoing priority,”**

HHS Secretary **Xavier Becerra** said in an announcement.

**“The Office of Long Covid Research and Practice will enhance efforts being undertaken across the U.S. government to improve the lives of those who continue to experience the long-term impacts of the worst public health crisis in a century,”**

HHS Secretary Admiral **Rachel Levine** said in a statement.

**“We will be encouraging all Americans to get those boosters in addition to flu shots and RSV shots,”**

an official from **Moderna** said.

## Federal aid:

from page 8

“Most of the culverts never clogged,” said Killington Selectman James Haff. “There was just too much water so when it got full, the water came up over it. So the culvert did not fail; it just wasn’t big enough to handle all that water.”

“All our culverts after (Tropical Storm) Irene were upped to the 25-year flood,” Haff said. “So now, we have Nicole Kesselring, from Enman Kesselring Engineering, upping us to the 50- to 100-year flood,” he said. “So what we really need is help from the government to say this is allowed to happen.”

The problem, Haff said, is that when the town enlarged the culverts after Irene, “some of those upgrades were not approved,” and the expense fell back on local taxpayers.

“We believe going to the 50-100 year flood [size culverts] is needed to take care of the infrastructure we have,” Haff continued.

Haff and all local officials on the tour hope that Balint can help change the federal funding qualifications to include upgrades that allow towns better plan for the likelihood of future flooding; rather than simply replace existing culverts with the same size that were over-run during this storm — and, therefore, are likely to be over-run again.

“The rain keeps coming, we keep having more mudslides, we keep having more washouts,” said Balint, “so we’re really trying to figure out how to work with FEMA to expand [aid], and I know that’s on everybody’s mind.”

The tour also stopped at Bear Mountain and the Skyeship Base Lodge, which suffered extensive damage and has been gutted, including the bathrooms, explained Killington Ski Resort Communication Director Amy Laramie.

Laramie said the resort was working to get everything fixed ahead of the Spartan race at Bear Mountain, Sept. 16-17.

Snowshed, Ramshead and K-1 Lodges were only minorly affected and remained functional for summer mountain bikers.

After visiting Killington, Balint toured damages on Clover Street in Rutland, where the water reached chest-height in some areas.

While the worst of the damage was fairly isolated, those affected are likely to be left with fewer resources as that flooding doesn’t qualify for FEMA as it’s considered a separate storm with total damage below the necessary threshold.

“The rain keeps coming, we keep having more mudslides, we keep having more washouts,” said Balint, “so we’re really trying to figure out how to work with FEMA to expand [aid], and I know that’s on everybody’s mind.”

## Kids' Kingdom:

from page 8

thanked for their contributions in making the Yeti Kingdom a reality: The town of Killington, Ricky Bowen and the road crew were essential in expediting heavy equipment for parking lot preparations, earth moving and other materials whenever necessary. A special thank you to the town for storing materials when winter weather shut down the installation progress. You really came through for KES!

Additionally, the Killington-Pico Rotary Club recently erected an 8x12 outdoor classroom on Yeti Kingdom that will soon be outfitted as a weather station. It is intended for KES students to begin to gather daily weather data, document weather patterns, and build an awareness of weather impacts on our daily lives. Flooding deterred the ability for employees to assemble this building and Killington-Pico Rotary Club came through for us. Our

students would not be able to engage in this opportunity during this school year if not for their volunteerism. Thank you Killington-Pico Rotary Club!

The construction of Yeti Kingdom has greatly benefited from the knowledge, foresight, and persistence of one volunteer in particular: Jim Haff donated a tremendous amount of time as a volunteer to assist in all aspects of the project’s configuration and installation. He could be counted on to provide constructive feedback, especially when it was difficult to recognize forward progress, and to “do the leg work” to make happen. Thank you, Jim, for supporting KES, not only during this project, but also as a community member who genuinely cares for the children and families of Killington Elementary School.

Killington Elementary School invites school families

and all those who contributed monetary and in kind gifts to a Grand Opening of Yeti Kingdom on Aug. 28 at 4 p.m.

With sincere appreciation and gratitude,

**Mary Guggenberger,**  
principal of Killington Elementary School



Courtesy Jim Haff  
Nearly 80 donors received a monogrammed brick embedded in the walkway to the new playground.

← **DMV:** .....  
from page 5

sales. On first appearance, the vehicle may look fine. If the seller is using a fraudulent title, it may be even more difficult to determine whether the vehicle is flood-damaged. Flood damage can affect a vehicle's mechanisms for years to come and may not always manifest as a problem right away. Flood damage can affect the engine or transmission, corrode wiring, harm the airbag, and impair the vehicle's computers, which may not be immediately visible.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau's (NICB) VINCheck is a free service to help consumers determine if a vehicle has been reported as salvaged or stolen. By entering the Vehicle Identification Number of the vehicle they are considering buying, consumers can learn if the vehicle was ever flooded or stolen.

The NICB also offers a free brochure on its website with tips on how to avoid post-disaster fraud, visit: [nicb.org/vincheck](http://nicb.org/vincheck).

← **Vt clean up day:** .....  
from page 5

downloaded on iPhone and Android platforms.

"It's no secret that Vermonters are committed to Subaru — it's the unofficial car of Vermont. Now more than ever, it's time to show our commitment back to them with a helping hand," stated Ernie Boch Jr., president and CEO of Subaru of New England.

"The needs of the afflicted areas are critical and severe. Together with our Vermont Retailers, Subaru of New England is dedicated to supporting you, your communities, and the ongoing recovery efforts through these dire times. We're in this together."

"Vermonters are very proud of the beauty of this state we choose to live, work, and play in," said Green Up Executive Director Kate Alberghini. "With the gift of this scenic playground we are immersed in, comes responsibility and accountability to keep our natural landscapes healthy and clean. It is also crucial to teach our next generations to actively participate in protecting this legacy. Greening Up and volunteering in communities in need is an easy and wonderful way to support our environment while nurturing community cohesion."

"The needs of the afflicted areas are critical and severe. Together with our Vermont Retailers, Subaru of New England is dedicated to supporting you, your communities, and the ongoing recovery efforts through these dire times. We're in this together," said Boch.



← **Social dancing:** .....  
from page 8

isolation are on the shy side, square dancing provides an excellent method for getting out and socializing, while learning something active that keeps the mind challenged. In square dancing, dancers are interacting with one another, while learning the 50+ calls that make up modern square dancing. New folks feel less awkward because they are socializing while "doing", which reduces that uneasy feeling of starting up a relationship. New dancers then bond over their shared experience, while also getting to know dancers who have been square dancing for a long time. A community forms, and is enhanced by regular potlucks, picnics and celebrations of holidays and birthdays/anniversaries.

Square dancing doesn't involve any fancy moves, so anyone can do it. Dancers dance to popular music, not old timey. Many dancers start out dancing for the physical and mental stimulation of it, but then find a community of people whom they call friends. The experts say we need to "keep company with good people" to increase our happiness!

If this is a great way to reduce your own social isolation in a way where the "wheels are already greased," come dance with us, or find a club near you on [Wheres-the-dance.com](http://Wheres-the-dance.com)

The Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club in Rutland county forms a new class every September and it runs through April in 10-week

blocks. Square dancers learn a few calls each week, with the help of experienced dancers. No partner is necessary, there are plenty of people to help that can dance both parts! When the last block is finished in April, dancers can square dance anywhere in the world, making new friends as they go! The club will have two free nights to come and try it. These are Wednesday, Sept. 13 and 20, 6:30 p.m. at Lothrop School in Pittsford. Get out and connect! Reduce that isolated feeling and find a new hobby and community of friends!

For more information, visit [CastOff8s.com](http://CastOff8s.com) or email club members at [lauren.castoff8s@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.castoff8s@gmail.com) or [rita.castoff8s@gmail.com](mailto:rita.castoff8s@gmail.com).

*Lauren Norford, Pittsford*

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**WORDPLAY**

REEL 'EM IN WORD SEARCH: Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

- ANGLER
- BOBBER
- BUNKER
- DRAG
- HOOK
- REEL
- BACKCAST
- BOTTOM FEEDER
- CHUMMING
- FISHING
- JIGGED
- ROD
- BAIT
- BRAID
- CREEL LIMIT
- FLY
- LINE
- SINKER
- BARB
- BUCKTAIL
- CRIMP
- GAFF
- LURE
- SPOOL

**SUDOKU**

**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.

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

Level: Intermediate

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Solutions →21

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Russian painter
  6. Very fast jet
  9. Phillipine municipality
  13. Intestinal
  14. Small freshwater fish
  15. Algerian coastal city
  16. Vomit
  17. Famed astronomer
  18. Ghanaian currency
  19. Improved the condition of
  21. Int'l association of interpreters
  22. Infections
  23. Dish made with lentils
  24. Thou
  25. Former CIA
  28. Unit used to compare power levels
  29. Members of Pueblo people
  31. Myanmar monetary units
  33. Polished
  36. Signed a contract
  38. Nothing
  39. Once-ubiquitous department store
  41. Neural structures
  44. Thick piece of something
  45. Slang for trucks with trailers
  46. Longing
  48. Senior officer
  49. Levels of frequency
  51. Bird's beak
  52. Move rapidly downwards
  54. Koran chapters
  56. Stretches out
  60. Top of the human body
  61. A Chinese temple and Indian town are two
  62. Fertility god
  63. Sea eagle
  64. Dry
  65. Zodiac sign
  66. "Horizon Call of the Mountain" character
  67. Have the ability to
  68. Take somewhere
- CLUES DOWN**
1. "Iron Man" actress Leslie
  2. Wings
  3. Adjust the spacing
  4. They're usually locked
  5. Atomic #43
  6. Wise individuals
  7. Horse mackerel
  8. Pearl Jam's debut album
  9. Confines
  10. Colorless crystalline compound
  11. Unsatisfactorily
  12. Plant of the parsley family
  14. Determines time
  17. Causes the birth of
  20. Small ornament on a watch chain
  21. Richly decorated cloth tapestry
  23. Vito Corleone was one
  25. Igbo musical instrument
  26. Put in harmony
  27. Japanese alcoholic drinks
  29. Tinseltown
  30. Closes tightly
  32. Songs sung to one's lover
  34. One thousandth of an inch
  35. Small drink of whiskey
  37. Political divisions in ancient Greece
  40. Helps little firms
  42. Baby's eating accessory
  43. Very long periods of time
  47. Small block of wood
  49. Town in Surrey, England
  50. Enquiry
  52. Murdered
  53. Bura-\_: Chadic language
  55. Crater on Mars
  56. Mammal genus
  57. Sock
  58. Make
  59. Stony waste matter
  61. Partner to cheese
  65. Pound

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		34				35		
36				37		38			39			40	
	41					42			43		44		
			45					46		47		48	
49	50		51			52			53				
54		55				56				57	58	59	
60						61				62			
63						64			65				
66						67				68			

*Guess Who?*

I am a singer born in New Mexico on August 20, 1992. I began my career on television, starring in a Disney series as well as with the Jonas Brothers. I also was a judge on "The X Factor USA" talent show.

Answer: Demi Lovato

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## WEDNESDAY

8/23

**Vermont Film Festival, Woodstock**

Aug. 23-Aug. 27. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. Tickets: day pass \$50; 3-day pass (Fri., Sat. & Sun.) \$125; festival pass \$200. The film festival is three exciting days of screenings, networking, a hike and a BBQ. Vermont Film Festival aims to unite the domestic and worldwide filmmaking community while creating opportunities for people to showcase their films and network. Info: pentanglearts.org/event/vermont-film-festival.

**Summer Camp: Fantasy Drawing and Painting**

9 a.m.-Noon, Aug. 21-Aug. 25. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Ages: 6-12. \$140. Discover fantasy art (magic, adventure, fantastical characters, otherworldly creatures) that can be both strange and wonderful with cartooning, manga, abstract and more. Instructor: Karen Wurster. Info: chaffeeartcenter.org.

**Summer Camp: The Art of Storytelling and Writing**

1-4 p.m., Aug. 21-Aug. 25. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St. Rutland. Ages: 6-12. \$140. Campers will learn the techniques of writing in a fun and interactive setting. The instructor will use multiple writing prompts with both individual and group discussion. Attendees will find inspiration and creativity with integrated movement and mindfulness practices. Instructor: Carmen Major. Info: chaffeeartcenter.org.

**Early Literacy Playgroup with RCPCC**

10 a.m.-Noon. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. For 2 to 5 years old. Join RCPCC's Miss Allie, a certified teacher, for a weekly FREE literacy-based playgroup at the Rutland Free Library's Fox Room. Light snacks will be provided, along with crafts, songs, games, and more! To register, please email allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org. Info: rutlandfree.org.

**Vermont Farmers' Market**

1-5 p.m. Wednesdays. Depot Park, Evelyn Street, downtown Rutland. Free. Seasonal produce, local meats, dairy products, freshly baked breads, jellies and jams, maple products, honey, CBD products, snacks, wine and spirits, artisan crafts and more. For more info visit: vtfarmersmarket.org.

**Bike Bum Race Series Finals**

2-5 p.m. Middle-Lower Rabbit Hole, Killington Ski Resort. Entry fee is included in league and lift price. Sign up to ride solo or form a team of three to five people, any combination of age categories. All races will be held on beginner/intermediate trails. For more info visit killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar/kmbc-bike-bum-race2?season=summer. Ends Aug. 23.

**Market on the Green**

3-6 p.m. Every Wednesday until October. On The Green, Woodstock. Free to browse. Produce, crafts, and music take over the town center. Info: woodstockvt.com.

## VT FILM FESTIVAL

WED - SUN, AUG 23 -27

**Lieut. Governor's Banned Book Tour**

6 p.m. Phoenix Books, 2 Center St., Rutland. Join Lieut. Governor David Zuckerman and guests at Phoenix Books in Rutland to hear excerpts from some books that have been the subject of bans and participate in a discussion about the importance of free speech, inclusion, democracy, and open dialogue. Info: phoenixbooks.biz.

**ArtisTree Summer Concert Series: Bessette Quartet**

6 p.m. ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$10. *Bessette Quartet* formed in 2012 to combine bluegrass with lyrical jazz sax. (Service animals specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are welcome, but otherwise please leave your pet at home.) Info: artisreevt.org/artistree-events. Final concert is Sept. 28.

**Music at the Riverbend: The Jazz Collective**

6-8 p.m. Free. Professional jazz artists jam on the pleasant grounds behind the Brandon Inn next to the Neshobe River. Free popcorn. Info: brandon.org.

**Name that Fish Stew! Cooking Class**

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$95. Chef Ted will teach the skills to create a delicious New England seafood stew with shellfish and vegetables. For more info visit odysseyeventsvt.com.

## THURSDAY

8/24

**Vermont Film Festival, Woodstock**

Aug. 23-Aug. 27. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. Tickets: day pass \$50; 3-day pass (Fri., Sat. & Sun.) \$125; festival pass \$200. The film festival is three exciting days of screenings, networking, a hike and a BBQ. Vermont Film Festival aims to unite the domestic and worldwide filmmaking community while creating opportunities for people to showcase their films and network. Info: pentanglearts.org/event/vermont-film-festival.

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**Storytime at Rutland Free Library**

10-11 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Storytime promotes early literacy and socialization skills in a fun setting. Each session might offer stories, movement, and an activity. Geared towards ages 2-5. June-September, find us on the lawn by the Grace Church parking lot, while the weather is nice. Info: rutlandfree.org.

**Killington Bone Builders**

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library in the meeting room. Weights are provided. For additional information call the library at 802-422-9765.

**Toddler Storytime**

10:30-11:30 a.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Join us to enjoy stories, socializing, and often a project tied into the theme of the week. For young children ages 20 months to 3½ years. Info: normanwilliams.org.

**Ukulele Group**

Noon-1 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Meet on Thursdays as musician Steven Wilson leads the group through specific sheet music. All levels welcome. This is not a class, but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together. Must pre-register: chaffeeartcenter.square.site or call 802-775-0356.

**Farmers' Market Fair Haven**

3-6 p.m. Village Green, Fair Haven. The Fair Haven market boasts a variety of seasonal produce, flowers and herbs, dairy, maple products, tasty foods prepared by local chefs, fun crafts, and much more. Info:vtfarmersmarket.org. Last day is Oct. 26.

**Feast and Field Summer Concerts: Pointe Noir****Cajun Band**

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm Fermentory, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$5-\$25. Vermont's newest Cajun dance band will have you hopping. Info: feast-and-field.com. Final concert is Sept. 28.

**The River Road Concert Series: Curragh's Fancy**

6 p.m. Thursday evenings. Sherburne Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Irish folk trio performs acoustic Celtic music in the tradition of the all-time favorite Irish bands. Info: sherburnelibrary.org. Final date is Aug. 24.

**Slate Valley Trails Analog x SVT gravel rides**

6 p.m. Free. Analog Cycles, 188 Main St. #1, Poultney. See membership inclusion for details. Join SVT for our weekly summer group MTB rides. Info: slatevalleytrails.org.

**The Right to Read movie screening**

6:30 p.m. Woodstock Union Middle/High School Auditorium. The Right to Read shares the stories of an activist, a teacher, and two American families who fight to provide our youngest generation with the most foundational indicator of life-long success: the ability to read. Join us as we learn about this national crisis and the local steps that have been taken to provide all students the opportunity to be readers. A panel of teachers deeply involved in this work will follow to respond to questions.

**Fair Haven Concerts in the Park: Shake, Rattle & Roll Tribute Band**

7-9 p.m. Thursdays. Fair Haven Park. Free. Performances of hit oldies from the '50s and '60s. Bring your chairs by any time after 5 p.m. Picnic tables in the park for your family to enjoy supper before the concert. Hot dogs, chips, and soda each night, plus a 50/50 drawing each night. Multiple handicap spaces available. Info: poultneyareachamber.com. Final summer concert.

**Open Mic Night**

7 p.m. 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Free. Join our relaxed, supportive, and fun atmosphere and show off your musical stuff. All levels and abilities are welcome to participate in the open mic experience. Come alone or with a group. Come to play or just to watch. Info: artisreevt.org.

**Randy Travis: "More Life" Tour**

7:30 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$65-\$85 + tax/fees. The Country Music Hall of Fame member's long-time touring band will rejoin Randy Travis on the road for the first time since his stroke in 2013. The show will consist all 16 of his iconic No. 1s including "On the Other Hand," "Forever and Ever, Amen" and "Three Wooden Crosses." Randy Travis will make a special appearance. Info: paramountvt.org.

**Bandwagon Summer Series: Mother Dirt Circus**

6-8 p.m. The Grammar School, 159 Grammar School Lane, Putney. \$20; kids under 12 always free. The Bread and Puppet Theater celebrates its 60th anniversary with the Mother Dirt Circus, family-friendly outdoor cultural performances through mid-October throughout Windham County. More than 20 performances of musical styles, circus arts, dance, and theater. Refreshments are sold onsite, including Crossroads Tacos and the return of the hugely popular Barr Hill cocktails. Bring a picnic and a blanket or fold-up chair; a dedicated play area will be available at all shows. Info: nextstagearts.org.

## FRIDAY

8/25

**Vermont Film Festival, Woodstock**

Aug. 23-Aug. 27. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. Tickets: day pass \$50; 3-day pass (Fri., Sat. & Sun.) \$125; festival pass \$200. The film festival is three exciting days of screenings, networking, a hike and a BBQ. Vermont Film Festival aims to unite the domestic and worldwide filmmaking community while creating opportunities for people to showcase their films and network. Info: pentanglearts.org/event/vermont-film-festival.

**Summer Camp: Fantasy Drawing and Painting**

9 a.m.-Noon, Aug. 21-Aug. 25. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Ages: 6-12. \$140. Discover fantasy art (magic, adventure, fantastical characters, otherworldly creatures) that can be both strange and wonderful with cartooning, manga, abstract and more. Instructor: Karen Wurster. Info: chaffeeartcenter.org.

**Summer Camp: The Art of Storytelling and Writing**

1-4 p.m., Aug. 21-Aug. 25. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St. Rutland. Ages: 6-12. \$140. Campers will learn the techniques of writing in a fun and interactive setting. The instructor will use multiple writing prompts with both individual and group discussion. Attendees will find inspiration and creativity with integrated movement and mindfulness practices. Instructor: Carmen Major. Info: chaffeeartcenter.org.

**Brandon Farmers' Market**

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Fridays through Oct. 27. Central Park, Brandon. Free. Locally made produce, goods, and crafts. Info:brandonfarmersmarketvt.com/about.

**Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 12

**Story Time at the Library**

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

**Ludlow Farmers' Market**

4-7 p.m. Okemo Mountain School Green, 53 Main St., Ludlow. Over 14 local vendors, offering everything from fresh vegetables to local maple syrup, and much more! Info: ludlowfarmersmarket.org. Last day is Oct. 6.

**6th annual Benson's Chevy Cruise-In**

5-8 p.m. Benson's Chevrolet, 25 Pond St., Ludlow. Free. Cruise in and showcase your classic car or truck. Info: yourplaceinvermont.com/organizer/bensons-chevrolet-2.

**Music by the River Series: Houston Bernard**

6-7:30 p.m. Woodstock Village Green, Woodstock. Free. This popular concert series features renowned regional and nationally recognized artists. Houston Bernard is an Oklahoma native out of Boston. Rain Location: Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. Info: pentanglearts.org/music-by-the-river.

**Jackson Gore Summer Music Series: Pete and Dane**

6-9 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard, Okemo Mountain, Ludlow. Free. Join us on the lawn at the Jackson Gore Courtyard. Food and beverage will be offered at the venue. Info: Okemo.com. Final concert Sept. 1.

**The Sable Ensemble: "Water in the Wood"**

6-8:30 p.m. 240 Taggart Hill Road, Stockbridge. \$15-\$30. For three weeks the Sable Ensemble has been gathered in the woods of central Vermont, where they have created a multi-media show with sculpture, fiber art, sound, performance, and perhaps a joke or two. Info: thesableproject.org.

**That's Amore! Pizza & Calzone Cooking Class**

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$85. Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 or info@odysseysvt.com.

**SATURDAY**  
8/26

**Foundation - Women's Freeride Progression**

**Weekend**

8 a.m. Sat. and Sun., Aug. 26-27. Black Magic Trail, Killington Bike Park, Killington Road Killington. \$100. A two-day women's freeride progression session with pro riders. Clinics from on storytelling and social media and suspension setup for big jumps. A rider showcase will be open to spectators on Sunday from 3-4 p.m. with the Red Bull truck, a deejay, and special guest Red Bull athlete Hannah Bergemann.

**Vermont Film Festival, Woodstock**

Aug. 23-Aug. 27. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. Tickets: day pass \$50; 3-day pass (Fri., Sat. & Sun.) \$125; festival pass \$200. The film festival is three exciting days of screenings, networking, a hike and a BBQ. Vermont Film Festival aims to unite the domestic and worldwide filmmaking community while creating opportunities for people to showcase their films and network. Info: pentanglearts.org/event/vermont-film-festival.

**Monthly Audubon bird walk in the West Rutland Marsh**

7-10 a.m. West Rutland Marsh, Marble St., West Rutland. Free. Join our friendly and knowledgeable birders on our monthly marsh walk in this Audubon Important Bird Area. No experience necessary. Go the entire 4-mile loop or go halfway. Meet at the marsh boardwalk kiosk on Marble Street. Info: birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.

**Puppies & Pooches on Parade**

10 a.m. - Noon. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. \$30. The 9th annual major fundraising dog show for the Friends of NWPL. There are five categories from petites to "Ms. Fashionista" and "Mr. Beau Geste," with a chance to win Best in Show or Fans' Favorite. Hot dogs and bottled water will be for sale on The Green. Info: normanwilliams.org/events/friends-of-nwpl-puppies-pooches-on-parade.

**Baby Goat Yoga**

10-11:15 a.m. Wellwood Orchards, 529 Wellwood Orchards Road, Springfield. \$15-\$20, \$5 to borrow a mat. Practice yoga in the company of baby goats. Check-in is 9:30-9:45 a.m. Contact by email: yogiaggie4u@gmail.com to sign up, for more information or to be added to the mailing list. Yogi Aggie will reply to your message or email in the evening. PLEASE do not call the orchard. Last day is Aug. 26.

**Vermont Farmers' Market**

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Depot Park, Evelyn St., downtown Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market is one of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Vermont, and the first to operate year round. The market brings together as many as 60 vendors. Seasonal produce, local meats, dairy products, freshly baked breads, jellies and jams, maple products, honey, CBD products, hot snacks, wine and spirits, artisan crafts and more. For more info visit: vtfarmersmarket.org.

**The Art of the Creative**

**Process art show**

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. The artistic creations of five Vermont artists and the unique lighting designs in metal from Hubbardton Forge, join together in this show to demonstrate how much variety there is in the creative process, and how important those processes are to the final outcomes. Info: Stonevalleyarts.org.

**Rutland County Chili**

**Cook Off**

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Rutland Elks Lodge, 44 Pleasant St., Rutland. Support the Child First Advocacy Center. \$10 entry fee to sample chili and also includes 1 raffle ticket. Cash bar. Assorted prizes will be awarded to the winners. Info: mary.nichols@partner.vermont.gov.

**Rutland Railroad Museum & Model**

**Club**

11 a.m.-3 p.m. 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. Free. Children of all ages will delight in the HO scale model railroad operating display (HO is a rail transport modeling scale using a 1:87 scale). The depot is now a museum that displays hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs and diverse memorabilia saved from an earlier time, including the former Rutland Railroad Caboose #45. Info: rutlandrailway.org.

**Best of Vermont Summer Festival**

Noon-7 p.m. (Rain or shine) Okemo Field, Route 103 & Bixby Road, Ludlow. Free, everyone is welcome. Program highlights include live music, craft beverage producers (beer, wine, distilleries), artisan products, specialty foods, fine art, antique tractors and vintage equipment, kids' zone, etc. This year, gate proceeds will support the Okemo Valley Disaster Relief Program. Info: yourplaceinvermont.com/best-of-vermont-summer-festival.

**Cooler in the Mountains Concert Series: Elise Testone & The E.T. Collective**

3-5:30 p.m. Snowshed Lodge Base area, Killington Ski Resort. Free. Expect a mix of vintage funk, soul, and fitting originals. Info: killington.com. The final concert is Sept. 2.

**The Sable Ensemble: "Water in the Wood"**

6-8:30 p.m. 240 Taggart Hill Road, Stockbridge. \$15-\$30. For three weeks the Sable Ensemble has been gathered in the woods of central Vermont, where they have created a multi-media show with sculpture, fiber art, sound, performance, and perhaps a joke or two. Info: thesableproject.org.

**Hands-on Hand-made Pasta Lesson**

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$85. Learn how to make tortellini, fettuccini, and ravioli plus three different fillings and three accompanying sauces. Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 or info@odysseysvt.com.

**Silent movie: Charlie Chaplin's "Gold Rush" (1925)**

7 p.m. Heald Auditorium in Ludlow Town Hall. Free. Donations appreciated for the Ludlow Recovery. Info: fola.us.

**Pond Hill Ranch Rodeo**

7:30 p.m. Pond Hill Road, Castleton. Prices vary. Pond Hill Pro Rodeo events include bareback bronc riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc riding, girls' barrel racing, girls' breakaway roping, and bull riding. For more info visit pondhillranch.com. Last rodeo is Saturday, Sept. 2.



**SUNDAY**  
8/27

**Vermont Film Festival, Woodstock**

Aug. 23-Aug. 27. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green. Tickets: day pass \$50; 3-day pass (Fri., Sat. & Sun.) \$125; festival pass \$200. The film festival is three exciting days of screenings, networking, a hike and a BBQ. Vermont Film Festival aims to unite the domestic and worldwide filmmaking community while creating opportunities for people to showcase their films and network. Info: pentanglearts.org/event/vermont-film-festival.

**Foundation - Women's Freeride Progression**

**Weekend**

8 a.m. Day 2. Black Magic Trail, Killington Bike Park, Killington Road Killington. \$100. A two-day women's freeride progression session with pro riders. Clinics from on storytelling and social media and suspension setup for big jumps. A rider showcase will be open to spectators on Sunday from 3-4 p.m. with the Red Bull truck, a deejay, and special guest Red Bull athlete Hannah Bergemann.

**Eurobuilt Car Show & Charity Auction**

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 So. Main St., Rutland. Show field \$25; spectators \$5. This show has brought international attention to the Rutland Region and brings enthusiasts from all over New England, New York and Canada. The show is open to all Volkswagen, Audi and Euros. There will be an area for non-Euro cars as well. The show will feature multiple classes and awards including Best in Show and more. Info: eurobuiltvt.com/eurobuilt2022.

**The Art of the Creative Process art show**

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. The artistic creations of five Vermont artists and the unique lighting designs in metal from Hubbardton Forge, join together in this show to demonstrate how much variety there is in the creative process, and how important those processes are to the final outcomes. Info: Stonevalleyarts.org.

**Mountains & Meadows Festival**

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mission Farm, 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington. Suggested \$10 donation. Take part in family-friendly activities (supported by our friends at Come Alive Outside), enjoy local food and drink options, and shop the artisan market for unique and locally made products. Don't miss out on the live music performances showcasing talented local musicians and the chance to win big at the raffle! Funds raised on festival day will go directly towards the aid of locals for flood recovery and the completion of two public spaces on the land: an outdoor amphitheater for future event use, and a cooperative commercial kitchen, to serve as a resource for new food businesses and entrepreneurs as well as food charity. Info: missionfarmvt.org.

## ← Calendar:

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### Best of Vermont Summer Festival

Noon-7 p.m. (Rain or shine) Okemo Field, Route 103 & Bixby Road, Ludlow. Free, everyone is welcome. Program highlights include live music, craft beverage producers (beer, wine, distilleries), artisan products, specialty foods, fine art, antique tractors and vintage equipment, kids' zone, etc. This year, gate proceeds will support the Okemo Valley Disaster Relief Program. Info: [yourplaceinvermont.com/best-of-vermont-summer-festival](http://yourplaceinvermont.com/best-of-vermont-summer-festival).

# MONDAY

## 8/28

### Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library in the meeting room. Free. Weights are provided. For additional information call the library at 802-422-9765.

### Slate Valley Trails Group Trail Runs

6-7:30 p.m. Fairgrounds Trailhead, 131 Town Farm Rd, Poultney. The route will vary weekly and may have two route options depending on the number of people. Expect at least a 5-mile run at a social pace with some elevation gain for a standard run. With two groups we will have options for up to 12 miles for one of the routes. For more info and membership details visit [slatevalleytrails.org](http://slatevalleytrails.org).

### Paramount Theatre: Daughtry "Bare Bones" Tour

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$80-\$100 + tax/fees. Daughtry is one of the most visible and consistent rock & roll torchbearers of the 21st Century, with over 9 million albums and 16 million singles sold worldwide as well as sold-out concerts across the globe. Plus: Daughtry Meet & Greet Experience available for additional \$75-225 per seat + ticket + tax/fees. Info: [paramountvt.org/event/daughtry-bare-bones-tour](http://paramountvt.org/event/daughtry-bare-bones-tour).

# TUESDAY

## 8/29

### Stories on a String

10-10:30 a.m. 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 and open to all. Geared for ages 2 and up. If the weather is nice, find us on the back lawn (behind the Children's Room, adjacent to the Grace Church parking lot). Info: [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.org).

### Baby Story Time

10:30-11 a.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. 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. Info: [normanwilliams.org](http://normanwilliams.org)

### Slate Valley Trails Women's Mountain Bike Group Rides

5:30-7:30 p.m. Fairgrounds Trailhead, 131 Town Farm Road, Poultney. See membership inclusion for details. Join us each Tuesday night this summer to ride with an amazing group of women on our beautiful SVT trail network. Info: [slatevalleytrails.org](http://slatevalleytrails.org).

# Beats along the Otter Creek: Celebrating Vermont's newest music festival

By Sarah Calvin

Josh Glassman had a dream. The Boston-based choral musician has long entertained the thought of producing a chamber music festival, but it wasn't until a dear friend sought retirement that that dream became a reality. This summer, Glassman's inaugural Otter Creek Music Festival premiered at the historic Salisbury Congregational Church and the Barn Opera in Brandon for two weekends, July 26-30 and Aug. 2-6.

"It was kind of fate, or coincidence, or it just worked out the way that it was supposed to," said Glassman. "I had ambitions to run a chamber music festival, and the pandemic just made me realize that I'm the most happy when I'm producing concerts."

Glassman grew up in Michigan, but came to Vermont as a teenager to work as a choral director at Point Counterpoint music camp on Lake Dunmore. Years later, when his in-laws purchased an apple orchard in Addison County, Glassman returned to the state, this time as a vocalist at a small music festival called The Salisbury Series. Its director, Glenn Andres, had invited Glassman to perform. Nearing retirement, Andres saw the enthusiasm, talent, and love for

Vermont the younger man had, and proposed that Glassman take over the series.

The beauty of Vermont's music scene lies in its intimacy. Concertgoers often are able to speak with musicians after their performance, and artists will return year after year to play the same venues. Although they have day jobs—teacher, doctor, sailor—the exuberance expressed by the performers is indication enough they have found their true calling.

A staple of local concert series is the Vergennes-based band Atlantic Crossing, a trio who have been playing together for more than 20 years. They play music that's made its way "to and through New England," singing rousing sea shanties, mournful ballads, and sharing Vermont's rich history with all who listen.

"New England's a real melting pot of cultures, and we play something from most of them," said vocalist Peter Macfarlane.

A native of Great Britain, Macfarlane moved to Vermont to marry his bandmate, talented fiddle player Viveka Fox. Fox and vocalist/guitar player Rick Klein are also not Vermont natives, but none of them can imagine

living anywhere else now that they've made Vermont their homes.

"My parents dragged me here to go skiing at Trapp Family Lodge when I was 6 and the hook was in," said Klein. "Where else would I live [now]?"

Atlantic Crossing write many of their own songs, and use the area's history and people as inspiration. They research local stories, and add fresh perspective to events that happened sometimes hundreds of years ago. Their songs convey a portrait of what it's like to immigrate to Vermont and establish a life in its beautiful wilderness.

Josh Glassman's festival will be a celebration of the local culture Atlantic Crossing sings about. He aims to attract local talent before searching regionally and nationally, and to shine a light on the rising stars of the music world; emphasizing his desire to retain the intimate setting of his series while still producing high-caliber concerts. Otter Creek Music Festival will be a community concert series, celebrating Vermont musicians playing for the people and home they love.

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



Courtesy Barn Arts

This summer, Josh Glassman's inaugural Otter Creek Music Festival premiered at the historic Salisbury Congregational Church and the Barn Opera in Brandon for two weekends, July 26-30 and Aug. 2-6. Otter Creek Music Festival will be a community concert series, celebrating Vermont musicians.

**Grab the Beat!**  
**Feel the Rhythm**

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Contact Gary @ 802-282-2581

# [MUSIC Scene]

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

## WED 8/23

**BRANDON**  
6 p.m. Brandon Inn (Lawn Behind It) – Concert with The Jazz Collective

**LUDLOW**  
6 p.m. Off the Rails – Rick Cogsdon

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

**QUECHEE**  
6 p.m. Public House Pub – Kim Wilcox

**RUTLAND**  
5:30 p.m. Strangefellows – Ryan Fuller

**SOUTH POMFRET**  
6 p.m. Artistree – Summer Concert Series with Bessette Quartet

## THURS 8/24

**BARNARD**  
5:30 p.m. Fable Farm – Feast & Field with Pointe Noir Cajun Band

**BELMONT**  
6:30 p.m. Town Green – Scott Forrest

**BETHEL**  
7 p.m. Babes Bar – Trivia Night hosted by The Babes

**BOMOSEEN**  
6 p.m. Lake House Pub & Grille – Aaron Audet

**BRIDGEWATER**  
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Vermont Film Festival Comedy with Collen Doyle, Matt Vita, Nikki Maccallum and Matt Wayne with music by DJ Dave

**BRIDGEWATER CORNERS**  
5:30 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

**FAIR HAVEN**  
7 p.m. Town Park – Shake, Rattle & Roll

**KILLINGTON**  
6 p.m. First Stop Board Barn – Vermont Film Festival Action Sport Films

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library Lawn – River Road Concert Series with Curragh's Fancy

6 p.m. The Foundry – Ryan Fuller

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

**LUDLOW**  
5 p.m. Off the Rails – Motorcycle Night with the Bear Mountain Boys

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

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

**RUTLAND**  
6 p.m. Strangefellows Pub – Trivia Night

6:30 p.m. Angler Pub – Open Mic hosted by John Lafave

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

**SOUTH POMFRET**  
7 p.m. Artistree – Open Mic Night

## FRI 8/25

**BOMOSEEN**  
6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Aaron Audet

6 p.m. Lake House Pub & Grille – Ryan Fuller

**KILLINGTON**  
6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Live Music

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. The Foundry – Live Music

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

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Aaron Audet

**LUDLOW**  
6 p.m. Calcuttas – Liz Reedy

6 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Summer Music Series with Pete and Dane

6 p.m. Off the Rails – Kenny Mehler

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Dance Party with DJ Dave

**POULTNEY**  
6 p.m. The Poultney Pub – JD Tolstoi

**QUECHEE**  
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Sammy B

**RANDOLPH**  
7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Thomas Gunn with special guest Nate Goyette

## STOCKBRIDGE

5:30 p.m. The Sable Project – Sable's "Water in the Wood" Showcase

7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Heather Lynne

**WOODSTOCK**  
6 p.m. East End Park – Music by the River with Houston Bernard

8 p.m. Town Hall Theatre – Vermont Film Festival Sneak Peak of Killington the Movie

## SAT 8/26

**BARNARD**  
3 p.m. Town Hall – Barnard Street Dance with music by Route 5 Jive, Blind Squirrel Contra Dance, Ben Kogan Band, Sabouyouma

**BOMOSEEN**  
5 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Scott Forrest

**BRIDGEWATER**  
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night

**CHESTER**  
5 p.m. Country Girl Diner – Cruise In with musical guest New Rising Sun

**CHITTENDEN**  
12 p.m. Barstow Memorial School – Chittenden Day with DJ Dave

**KILLINGTON**  
2:30 p.m. The Umbrella Bar at Snowshed – Duane Carleton

3 p.m. Snowshed Lodge Base Area – Cooler in the Mountains Concert Series with Elise Testone & The E.T. Collective with special guest opener Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. Rivershed Killington – Liz Reedy

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Ray Boston

6 p.m. The Foundry – Live Music

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

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Rhys Chalmers

**LUDLOW**  
2 p.m. Okemo Field – Best of Summer Festival with music by Rustie Bus

6 p.m. Calcuttas – Aaron Audet

8:30 p.m. Off the Rails – Chris P

**POULTNEY**  
6 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Jay Ottaway

**QUECHEE**  
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Jake Geppert

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

**STOCKBRIDGE**  
5:30 p.m. The Sable Project – Sable's "Water in the Wood" Showcase

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

## SUN 8/27

**BRIDGEWATER CORNERS**  
4 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Tad Davis

**BOMOSEEN**  
6 P.M. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Ryan Fuller

**KILLINGTON**  
12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with April Cushman

2:30 p.m. The Umbrella Bar at Snowshed –

5 p.m. The Foundry – Summit Pond Jazz

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia Night

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – King Arthur Jr

**LUDLOW**  
10 a.m. Okemo Field – Best of Summer Festival

5:30 p.m. Calcuttas Par Bar – Rick Clogsdon

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

**WOODSTOCK**  
12 p.m. Mon Vert Café – Jim Yeager and Jeff Stedman

## MON 8/28

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

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

**LUDLOW**  
6 p.m. Off the Rails – Sammy B

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

**WOODSTOCK**  
5 p.m. The Village Inn – Jim Yeager and Jeff Stedman

## TUES 8/29

**KILLINGTON**  
5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – Bow Thayer, Krishna Guthrie & Special Guests

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

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

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

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

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

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# Randy Travis and band set to rock the Paramount in Rutland

Thursday, Aug. 24 at 7 p.m.—RUTLAND—The “More Life Tour” starring Randy Travis is ready to captivate audiences with one of country music’s most iconic figures.

This event will bring together Randy Travis and his talented co-star, James Dupré, in a night filled with incredible musical performances.

This reunion reunites Travis and the band after a hiatus due to Randy Travis’ stroke in 2013. Comprised of Steve Hinson, David Johnson, Lance Dary, Bill Cook, Joe Van Dyke, and Herb Shucher, along with the experienced tour manager Jeff Davis, this ensemble will once again grace the stage together. Affectionately known as “Hoss,” Travis is thrilled to be joined by his bandmates as they embark on their musical journey.

Joining Travis on this tour is James Dupré. Renowned for his voice and stage presence, Dupré is the ideal co-star to bring Randy Travis’ hits to life. With appreciation for Travis’ music, Dupré will perform all 16 of Travis’ iconic No.1 songs.

Classics like “On The Other Hand,” “Forever and Ever, Amen,” and “Three Wooden Crosses” will resonate through the concert hall, creating an atmosphere that will transport fans back to the golden age of country music.

In addition to the “More Life Tour,” Travis has recently released his highly-acclaimed memoir, “Forever and Ever, Amen: A Memoir

of Music, Faith, and Braving the Storms of Life.” This book delves into Travis’ journey, sharing the untold stories behind his music,

his faith, and the challenges he has overcome.

“Forever and Ever, Amen” has garnered widespread praise, capturing the attention of media outlets such as Today, the 700 Club, People Magazine, and Billboard.

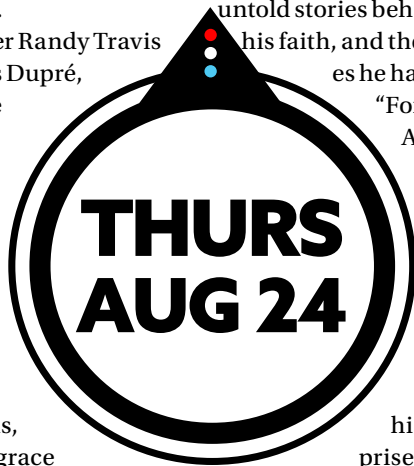
Always dedicated to his fans, Travis has surprised his admirers with the release of two never-before-heard singles this summer. “One in a Row” and “Lead Me Home” showcase Travis’ signature style and lyrical depth, reminding us why he is truly a country music legend.

These songs serve as a testament to his enduring artistry and his commitment to delivering music that touches the soul.

“The More Life Tour” starring Randy Travis promises to be an unforgettable evening of country music. Whether you are a lifelong fan or new to Randy Travis’ discography, this concert is not to be missed.

For more information, visit: [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

*Randy Travis*



Affectionately known as “Hoss,” Randy Travis is thrilled to be joined by his bandmates as they embark on this extraordinary musical journey.



# This Friday’s Best of Vermont Summer Fest in Ludlow will feature the 6th annual Benson’s Chevy Cruise-In, showcasing classic cars and trucks

Friday, Aug. 25 from 5-8 p.m.—LUDLOW—As part of the Best of Vermont Summer Festival, Benson’s Chevrolet will host its 6th Annual Summer Cruise-In on Friday, Aug. 25 from 5-8 p.m.. This event will showcase classic cars and trucks and offers the perfect opportunity to mingle with fellow car enthusiasts.

Benson’s Chevy Cruise-In is a celebration of automotive heritage and the passion that classic car owners have for their prized possessions. It’s a chance for these dedicated individuals to showcase their restored vehicles and share their stories with fellow enthusiasts. The event provides a platform for car owners to connect, exchange knowledge, and revel in their mutual admiration for classic automobiles. There will be an array of vintage models to rugged muscle cars.

As part of the Benson’s Chevy Cruise-In, an exciting classic car contest will take place. Car owners will have the chance to compete for various awards and

recognition. From Best in Show to People’s Choice, these accolades recognize the dedication and hard work that goes into maintaining and restoring these classic automobiles.

While the classic cars take center stage, the atmosphere will be alive with music and entertainment with live performances by talented local artists.

No event is complete without delicious food and refreshing beverages. There will be a variety of food vendors offerings from classic hot dogs and hamburgers to gourmet food trucks **Automotive Camaraderie**

Benson’s Chevy Cruise-In is not just about showcasing classic cars; it’s about fostering a sense of community among car enthusiasts. Whether you’re a seasoned collector or simply have a passion for automobiles, this event offers the perfect opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals.

Benson’s Chevy Cruise-In is not just an event; it’s a celebration of automotive passion and camaraderie.

Whether you’re a classic car owner or simply appreciate the beauty of vintage automobiles, this gathering promises an evening of nostalgia, excitement, and connection.

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







## The Best of Vermont Summer Festival returns Saturday and Sunday in Ludlow

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 25-27—LUDLOW—The third annual Best of Vermont Summer Festival returns to Ludlow. The anticipated event will kick off on Friday night from 5-8 p.m. with the 6th annual Benson's Chevy Cruise-In event (see page 16) and continue through Saturday and Sunday at Okemo Field on Route 103 and Bixby Road. The Best of Vermont Summer

Festival is a celebration for everyone—from locals and new residents to second homeowners and visitors. The festival aims to showcase the vibrant and diverse community of Ludlow and the Okemo Valley region. With a wide array of attractions, including live music, craft beverage producers, artisan products, specialty foods, fine art, antique tractors, and a kid's zone.

This year, the Best of Vermont Summer Festival is not only a celebration but also an opportunity to give back. Gate proceeds from the festival will support the Okemo Valley Disaster Relief Program, providing crucial assistance to those in need within the community. By attending this festival, you not only have a great time but also contribute to a worthy cause.

### Events throughout the weekend at Ludlow

- **Antique tractors & vintage machines:** New this year, Dan Moore of Barker Farm will be showcasing his impressive collection of Antique Tractors & Vintage Machines. Barker Farm, known for hosting the annual Autumn Roundup show in Ludlow in September, will provide a glimpse into Vermont's rich agricultural history. Don't miss the opportunity to witness working exhibits from the 1900s and marvel at the craftsmanship of Vermont-made engines and machinery.
- **Kid's Zone:** The Kid's Zone offers a variety of family-friendly activities. Troy Wunderle of Big Top Adventures will be on hand to provide clowning and circus fun, while face painters add a touch of whimsy to the festivities. The Kid's Zone promises hours of entertainment and laughter for children of all ages.
- **Food tent:** Indulge your taste buds in the delectable offerings at the food tent, sponsored by Diamond Realty. Featuring Mount Holly Beer, Mr. Darcy's Wagyu Burgers, Coleman Brook Tavern at Okemo, Crowley Cheese and more, this culinary oasis is a must-visit for

This culinary oasis is a must-visit for food enthusiasts.

- **Wine tasting:** The Wine Tasting experience is a treat for wine lovers. Discover a selection of exquisite wines and indulge in the sophisticated flavors that Vermont's vineyards have to offer. Immerse yourself in the world of wine and appreciate the artistry and craftsmanship behind each bottle.
- **Yarn spinning with Six Loose Ladies:** For those interested in the textile arts, Six Loose Ladies will host a fascinating yarn spinning demonstration. Discover the ancient craft of transforming raw fibers into beautiful yarns. Watch as the skilled artisans create intricate designs and learn about the history and techniques behind this traditional art form.
- **Vendor raffle:** Participate in the Vendor Raffle and stand a chance to win exciting prizes generously donated by our vendors. This is a wonderful opportunity to support local businesses and take home a special memento from the festival.
- **Live music:** Both days of the Best of Vermont Summer Festival will feature live music, thanks to the support of lead music sponsor Engel & Volkers. Prepare to be entertained by talented musicians who will grace the stage and fill the festival grounds with captivating melodies (see music schedule below).

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Sunday, 8/27

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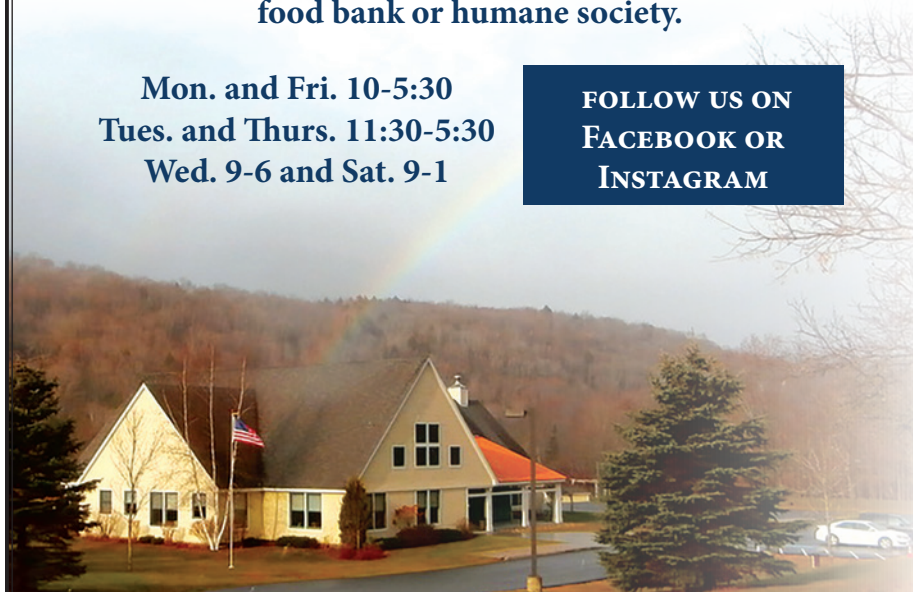
# The Vermont Fairy Tale Festival is back!

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## Meadows & Mountains festival; a community gathering Sunday

Sunday, Aug. 27 at 11 a.m.—KILLINGTON—The Meadows & Mountains Festival is an annual community celebration featuring a wide range of activities for all ages, from live music performances to delicious food and drink options. It will be held at Mission Farm on Mission Farm Road in Killington on Sunday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fork In The Road and Sustainable Eats will be serving dishes made with locally sourced ingredients. There will also be a crafts market showcasing products created by local artisans. Explore the stalls filled with homemade jams, handcrafted jewelry, and more.

One of the highlights of the Meadows & Mountains Festival is the lineup of talented local musicians, including Liz Reedy, the Phil Henry Trio and more.

The Meadows & Mountains Festival also serves a greater purpose. The funds from the suggested \$10 donation will go directly to flood recovery efforts and the completion of two public installations on the land.

“Our vision for this land is to create a public space for spiritual and community connection while we serve as stewards of the land and work to support our local community through growing and sharing food,” organizers said.

Mission Farm recently completed the first phase of the Odeon, an outdoor amphitheater, made using a dry stone technique by renowned local stone artist Dan Snow. The space can be used for small or large gatherings.

For more information, visit: [missionfarmvt.org/meadowsmountainsfest2023](http://missionfarmvt.org/meadowsmountainsfest2023).

## Rockin' the Region with Alice Michele

Usually for this article I interview musical artists, but I'm pleased to say this week I interviewed an actual artist. This article is about local Bridgewater artist Alice Michele. She is native to Quechee but currently calls

Bridgewater home. You can find her on Instagram @alicemichele.art or if you want to reach out and have something painted or join one of her classes, email her [alicemichele.art@gmail.com](mailto:alicemichele.art@gmail.com).

Alice Michele had been doing pop-up art shows, mixed with live music at Mon Vert in Woodstock on the last Wednesday of the month but they're taking a break until after fall foliage.

She said, “I want to continue doing events like that. It was fun.”

Last year she did these at a couple different places. The artists are younger locals who may not be that successful yet, and local musicians like Nick Bredice, who played the past few months.

Michele added, “It was a mixed bag of people that I knew, people that I didn't know. It was cool, we had photography, sculpture, a youth one back in May. It kind of formed into a playground space for younger artists.”

This coming winter, Michele might go back to doing this at multiple venues.

Her brother, Will Sterling, is also an artist and she said, “My brother has stepped up and has been helping me run it. I might have him run one and I have another friend who has been helping a ton with the set-up and getting venues so I may expand this into something that's happening a little more.

It's in its second year, still the formation stage but I really like the energy and the art that's come from it.”

Find Sterling on Instagram @wlsterling.

Michele really liked the youth night and hopes to do another. She said, “Showing someone your sketchbook for the first time is nerve-wracking. It was cool to see the kids open their art books and show everyone. We told them they didn't have to, we made it a comfortable space. It was cool to see them get excited talking to local artists and random people about their artwork and get compliments and gain confidence from that.”

She comes from an artistic family. Her aunt's a potter, mom a painter and her dad owned a screen-printing shop in Quechee for most of her childhood. After school she would go to the shop and tinker around. She said, “I was encouraged to do it as a fun, playtime thing. I don't think anyone ever intended for me to do this as a job, including myself.”

In high school, she started drawing portraits that caught people's attention. She said, “It was then I realized that maybe I'm better than average at this, maybe I'm talented and should pursue this?” She moved to North Carolina, mid-high school, which was a major change. She said her graduating class was bigger than all of Hartford High. Alice continued with art there. Her art teacher there constantly tried to get her to enter contests, but she was nervous, so her teacher took one of her watercolor portraits and submitted it to the North Carolina Women's Council. Alice said, “I won 2nd place, which was cool. I was only 16.”

Her family convinced her to go to college. She said, “I was encouraged by my very well-intentioned family to not make art my job and go to college instead. I didn't necessarily agree with them, I wanted to travel and take a gap year, but they convinced

Rockin' the Region →21



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# Houston Bernard to bring his original country music to the Woodstock Green

Friday, Aug. 25 at 6 p.m.—WOODSTOCK—The Woodstock Village Green will be filled with the sounds of original country music from Oklahoma as Houston Bernard visits Woodstock this Friday. Bernard’s country roots run deep in a family tree that includes songwriters, touring musicians and an outlaw nicknamed “Bitter Creek,” featured by The Eagles on “Desperado.”

Bernard was born in Oklahoma, raised in Alaska. He is also an Army veteran who is now comfortably settled as a professional and popular independent country music recording artist, touring across the United States. With musical inspiration ranging from Bruce Springsteen to Dolly Parton, Houston draws on rich roots in country and rockabilly music, delivering upbeat and soulful music with power. With original songs like “All We Are Is Memories,” “People We Are,” and “American Dream,” Houston has garnered hundreds of thousands of streams on Spotify and YouTube, and has been featured on Country Rebel, CMT.com, and Heartland Network and land network. He has also shared bills with many country superstars including Luke Bryan, Old Dominion, Granger Smith, Michael Ray, Montgomery Gentry, Marshall Tucker Band and Clint Black. When you listen to Bernard’s new single “Ever Gonna Be,” produced by Bill McDermot, it’s immediately clear that they’ve recorded a country song for most people transitioning from one big life moment to the next.

In case of rain, the concert will be held in the Woodstock Town Hall Theatre.  
For more information, visit: [pentanglearts.org/event/houston-bernard](http://pentanglearts.org/event/houston-bernard).



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# The 'Daughtry: Bare Bones Tour' is set to captivate audiences at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland Sunday evening

Sunday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m.—RUTLAND—Daughtry, one of the most influential rock bands of the 21st Century, and special guest Ayron Jones are ready to perform an acoustic set for the Paramount Theatre audience.

With a track record of selling over 9 million albums and 16 million singles worldwide, Daughtry has established themselves as one of the most visible and consistent rock & roll torchbearers. Daughtry has been nominated for multiple Grammy Awards, winning four American music awards and seven Billboard music awards, including Album of the Year. Their subsequent albums, such as "Leave This Town" (2009), "Break The Spell" (2011), "Baptized" (2013), and "Cage To Rattle" (2018), have all been certified Gold and placed in the top 10 of the Billboard Top 200 Albums Chart. In 2020, Daughtry released their newest single, "World On Fire," which marked their return to their rock roots and topped the Rock Charts in the U.S.

Daughtry's journey to success began with their self-titled debut album. Released in 2007, it quickly became the top-selling album of the year. The album's success can be attributed to its four Top 20 platinum-selling singles on the Billboard Hot 100, including the hit songs "It's Not Over" and "Home." The debut album also became the fastest-selling rock debut album in Soundscan history.

Building on their initial success, Daughtry continued to release albums that resonated with their fans. "Leave This Town" (2009), "Break The Spell" (2011), "Baptized" (2013), and "Cage To Rattle" (2018) all achieved Gold certification and secured top 10 positions on the Billboard Top 200 Albums Chart. These albums showcased

Daughtry's evolution as a band while maintaining their signature rock sound.

In 2020, Daughtry released their latest single, "World On Fire," which marked a return to their rock roots. The song resonated with fans and topped the rock charts in the U.S., reaffirming Daughtry's status as one of the leading rock bands of the 21st Century.

Joining Daughtry on their "Bare Bones Tour" is Ayron Jones. Hailing from Seattle, Ayron Jones is a rising rockstar who has made waves in the music industry. His debut major label record release, "Child of the State," featured the chart-topping hit "Mercy," which reached the No. 1 spot on the Billboard rock chart. This achievement positioned Jones as one of the few solo Black artists to achieve such success.

Jones is set to release his highly anticipated follow-up album, "Chronicles of the Kid," which explores the cost of clarity and the power of honesty. Despite the potential repercussions of sharing personal stories, Jones remains committed to being true to himself, making his music an authentic reflection of his journey.

Jones has garnered significant recognition within the industry, earning praise from American Songwriter as "one of the biggest names in the genre." He has opened for iconic bands like The Rolling Stones, Guns N' Roses, and shared stages with groups like Public Enemy.

The "Daughtry: Bare Bones Tour" offers fans the opportunity to enhance their concert experience with VIP packages and meet & greet options. These add-ons provide exclusive access and collectible merchandise to make the evening even more memorable.

For more information, visit: [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).



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- One collectible tour lithograph
- One official Daughtry tour t-shirt (selected by you at the merch table)
- One Daughtry branded luggage tag
- One specially designed Daughtry cinch bag
- One exclusive Daughtry VIP patch
- One official VIP laminate



← **Rockin' the Region:**  
from page 18

me to try the college thing. My second love after artwork is psychology, which is the only other subject in high school I did well in."

Michele did two years of college and then left to become a tattoo artist (which in my opinion is definitely an art). I asked if it's harder to draw a tattoo than a portrait. She said, "I didn't think so, it's just a different medium and of course you're working with people, sharp things, and blood so you have to take extra care that way."

Michele has designed all the tattoos on her body and done a few of them. She said, "My mentor said the first person you're going to tattoo is yourself, so you'll know if you're doing it wrong. 'You have to feel how you feel before you put it on someone else,' was his rule. I started with my foot and went up my leg. For the most part you don't think about the pain because you're focusing on the design."

After a few years of that, she missed Vermont and moved back here in 2016. Art was still on her mind but not as a career. She worked odd jobs, waitressing, etc. It wasn't until Covid hit that she turned art into a career. As most of us were stuck at home, she used the time to hone her craft.

She said, "I sat outside for most of it to mellow my head. I spent two months painting clouds. I still paint clouds; they've always been a thing for me."

She thought maybe now she could treat this as a job. Besides clouds, portrait painting is her bread and butter, but she's also painted nude drawings. She said, "Definitely drawn a good bit of naked bodies. They're beautiful."

Her favorite artist is Van Gogh. She said, "Looking at the way he used color in motion in all his paintings, I feel there was a lot of feeling there and I like that. He was able to create something so profound. I think most artists when they're down, they reach for their paintbrush, guitar, camera or whatever you're trying to express these feelings with."

We discussed our liking of Bob Ross. She said, "Bob is great. I think watching him is fun. His positive just go with it attitude is something we should all be a little more in tune with."

Michele is currently on a cross-country road trip. She said, "I love Vermont, it's lovely, but it's small. I want to go elsewhere to soak up other things. I think it's extremely important to see as much as you can. That's a step closer to understanding more and that's a step closer to being just a good person, in general."

This winter she plans on teaching again because she really enjoys it. She said, "I learn almost just as much from teaching other people as they might learn from me."

Michele loves this artistic life she's made for herself. She said, "I feel I get such a connection to myself and to the world. When you get in that zone and you're putting the right color, in the right spot, on the right canvas and you feel it. That's a way for me to understand the world. There's a lot of meditation behind that, like a Zen state for me. It's important to have a good balance between letting whatever is going to come out of you, come out versus trying to force it. I think there's something in all of us. You just have to do. I feel good when I'm doing."



Submitted

Alice Michele, local artist, samples various art forms.



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## SUDOKU

PUZZLES—from page 11

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# Back to school guide: the ins, outs and must-haves for this school year

As the summer winds down and the fall season approaches, students and parents alike are preparing for the start of the new school year. Whether you're a kindergartner stepping into the classroom for the first time or a high school senior getting ready to tackle your final year, the following information will help students as they enter the new school year.

From orientation schedules and opening day details to open house events and campus-specific information, local schools have planned for a smooth transition for students and their families. By attending orientation sessions, open houses, and special events, students can connect with their teachers and peers, setting the stage for a year of growth, learning, and exciting opportunities.

Rutland City public schools all have slightly different schedules for the first day, orientations and open houses, described below.

## Northeast Primary School

At Northeast Primary School, the school year is set to kick off on Wednesday, Aug. 30. However, kindergartners have a slightly different schedule. Kindergarten orientation days are scheduled for Aug. 30 and Aug. 31, with two sessions available: 9:15-11:15 a.m. or Noon-2 p.m. Parents should refer to the letter they received in early August to determine their assigned session. It's important to note that on Friday, Sept. 1, there will be no school for kindergartners only. First-second-grade students will attend as regularly scheduled on that day. The following day, Monday, Sept. 4, is Labor Day with no school in session. Finally, kindergartners will begin full days on Sept. 5, with car rider drop-offs starting at 8:45 a.m., pick-ups at 3:10 p.m., and bus times outlined in busing letters.

On the first day of school, Aug. 30, Northeast Primary School has a special celebration planned for students and teachers. This event will take place inside the building and is exclusively for students and teachers. It's an exciting way to start the year and create a positive atmosphere for everyone.

Additionally, an open house is scheduled for Sept. 21 at Northeast Primary School. Families are invited to meet their child's teachers during this event. The schedule for the open house is as follows: Kindergarten at 6 p.m., Grade 1 at 6:30 p.m., and second grade at 7 p.m. More information will be provided closer to the date, so mark your calendars and stay tuned!

## Northwest Primary School

Similar to Northeast Primary School, Northwest Primary School will also begin the new school year on Wednesday, Aug. 30. For first and second-grade students, morning car drop-offs will take place from 8:45 a.m.-9 a.m. starting on Aug. 30. Students will either go to the cafeteria or directly into their classrooms. There will be no morning recess, so all students are expected to come into the building upon arrival. Bus pick-up and drop-off times will be communicated through busing letters sent in late August.

Kindergarten students at Northwest Primary School will receive letters in mid-August informing them of their orientation schedule. The orientation days are scheduled for Aug. 30 and 31. Students will attend either the morning session from 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. or the afternoon session from 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m. On Sept 1 and Sept. 4 (Labor Day), kindergartners will not attend school. However, starting from Sept. 5, kindergarten students will attend full-day sessions.

Northwest Primary School will host "Meet the Teachers Night," also known as Open House, on Sept. 13. This event provides an opportunity for families to meet their child's teachers and learn more about the upcoming school year. The format and schedule for the Open House will be shared at a later date, so be sure to keep an eye out for more information.

## Rutland Intermediate School

For Rutland Intermediate School, opening day is Wednesday, Aug. 30. All students, regardless of grade level, will begin school on this day. It's important to note that school officially starts at 8 a.m., and students should arrive no earlier than 7:55 a.m. Any students arriving after 8:10 a.m. will be marked tardy. Upon arrival, students are expected to go directly to their classrooms. Breakfast will be available for those who choose to take it.

Bus riders will enter the building using the main entrance on Library Avenue. Car riders and walkers will enter the building using the staircase off the semi-circle entrance on Church Street.

School begins at 8 a.m., and students may be on-site no earlier than 7:55 a.m. Students are expected to go directly to their classrooms upon arrival.

Students will begin dismissal starting at 2:22 p.m. Walkers East and West will be dismissed first and exit from their respective doors. Car riders will exit using the stairs leading out to the Church Street semi-circle. Bus riders will exit from the main entrance on Library Avenue.

Before the official start of the school year, Rutland Intermediate School's Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) is hosting a Back to School BBQ on Monday, Aug. 28, from 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. The BBQ will take place on the school playground and is a fantastic opportunity for students, families, and staff to come together and kick off the new year with food and fun.

Rutland Intermediate School's Open House is scheduled for Sept. 14. The event will be divided into two sessions: Grades 4 and 6 will meet from 5:30 p.m.-6 p.m., followed by an opportunity to meet with the administrative team from 6 p.m.-6:15 p.m. Grades 3 and 5 will have their session from 6:15-6:45 p.m.

## Rutland Middle School

At Rutland Middle School, the first day of school for 7th-grade students is Wednesday, Aug. 30. All other students, including 8th graders, will begin school on Thursday, Aug. 31. On both days, students who take buses or are car riders should be dropped off on Library Avenue between 7:30-7:45 a.m. Students will not be allowed in the building before 7:30 a.m. The main entrance at the Keefe Gymnasium doors will be used for student entry. Breakfast will be available in the cafeteria from 7:30-7:45 a.m.

During dismissal at Rutland Middle School, students will exit the building through the main entrance. The dismissal process will begin at 2:40 p.m. It's important to note that on Tuesdays, there will be an early release at 1:45 p.m. for all students.

Rutland Middle School's Open House (in-person) is scheduled for Sept. 6 from 5:30-7 p.m. This event provides an opportunity for families to meet teachers, explore the classrooms, and learn more about the curriculum and expectations for the coming year.

## Rutland High School

For Rutland High School, the highly anticipated first day of school is Wednesday, Aug. 30. The school has specific orientation times for different student groups. Freshmen are required to report to school at 7:50 a.m. and will be dismissed at 1:15 p.m. All new transfer students

and upperclassmen, including sophomores, juniors, and seniors, will report for orientation at 1:30 pm. On the following day, Thursday, Aug. 31, all students are expected to report to school by 7:50 a.m. for a full day of classes.

Rutland High School operates in two campuses - the Grove Street Campus and the Allen Street Campus.

## Grove Street Campus

Students who have been accepted into the Alternative Education Program at the 77 Grove Street campus will report for orientation as indicated in their acceptance letter. During orientation, class schedules will be determined, providing students with a clear understanding of their academic journey for the year.

## Allen Street Campus

All students scheduled to attend the Allen Street Campus (ASC) are required to report at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 30. Families will receive specific busing information and schedules through phone calls from the staff. An Open House Barbecue is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 28, from 4.-6 p.m.

## Stafford Technical Center and Rutland High School

Stafford Technical Center and Rutland High School share the same campus. The first day of classes for the 2023-2024 school year is Wednesday, Aug. 30 for Stafford students and 9th grade high school students only. First student day for the rest of high school students is Aug. 31. Students are asked to report to their scheduled class or program area upon arrival. Information provided by Rutland City Public Schools. For more information, visit: [rutlandcitypublicschools.org/families/opening-of-school-information](http://rutlandcitypublicschools.org/families/opening-of-school-information).



## School supply donations needed for children

As the school year approaches, shoebox packers are making use of back-to-school prices to purchase gifts and essential items for children in need around the world. Residents in Killington are collecting school supplies, along with personal care items and fun toys, to pack in shoeboxes. Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, will deliver these gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 100 countries.

For many children, access to these simple items is essential to an education. This was the case for Justin Thomas, a shoebox recipient in Southeast Asia whose parents could not afford the supplies needed for school. Thomas remembers the specific day he received a gift-filled shoebox from Operation Christmas Child and found it filled with toys and most exciting to him—school supplies!

Growing up with hand-me-down clothes and used items, Thomas used to write with a pencil so short that he held it using a pen cap. Having an entire packet of new pencils and a pencil sharpener all his own was a treasure to him. This simple gift made a life-changing impact for Thomas because it opened the doors for him to receive an education.

For more information, visit [samaritanaspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanaspurse.org/occ). Participants can donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination. Browse [samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline](http://samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline) to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement.



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# Rutland County Humane Society



## PUPPIES

These babies are 11 weeks old and looking for loving homes! We are not sure of their mix but they are so cute. We have 5 males left, all handsome brindles of various shades. For the month of August we are taking \$100 off all large breed dogs and puppies. Adult cats are \$25 off and kittens are \$50 off. So if you are thinking about adding a pet to your home now is the time!

This pet is available for adoption at

### Springfield Humane Society

401 Skitchewaog Trail, Springfield, VT • (802) 885-3997

\*Open by appointment only. [spfldhumane.org](http://spfldhumane.org)



## ANGEL

I'm a 1-year-old female. I came to Lucy Mackenzie with a litter of 10 puppies. Well, now that they are all moving on to their new homes, it's my turn to find a family and home of my very own! I'm a sweet and adoring gal that loves to play. My training has been minimal, and I would love a person or family that is committed to training me properly. I would do best in a home without young children...and without other dogs and without cats.

This pet is available for adoption at

### Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society

4832 VT-44, Windsor, VT • (802) 484-5829

\*(By appointment only at this time.) Tues. - Sat. 12-4 p.m. & Thurs. 12-7 p.m. • [lucymac.org](http://lucymac.org)

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Meows—2-yr-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Grey and white. You can often find him making biscuits with his huge paws.



Stella—2-yr-old. Spayed female. Mixed breed. She is a sweet girl who loves to be with her humans.



Patches—3-yr-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. If you are looking for a sweet, easy-going cat, Patches is the one for you!



Luis—2-yr-old. Neutered male. Shepherd/pit bull mix. Luis has a well-rounded and sweet personality.



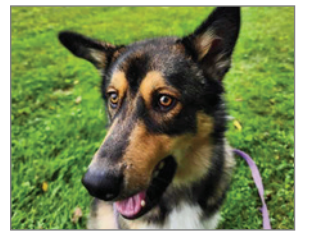
Mowgli—2-yr-old. Neutered male. Shepherd/husky mix. He has a bubbly personality and is always up to make new friends.



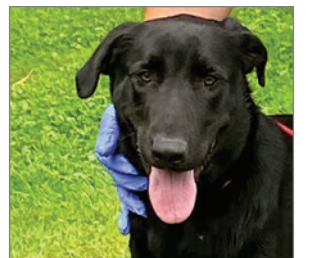
Lizzy—5-yr-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Lizzy is looking for a home where she can be active and play and snuggle, of course.



Maddie—2-yr-old. Spayed female. Mixed breed. Maddie is super sweet, playful and goofy!



Kevin—2-yr-old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Kevin is an adorable fella and a total sweetheart.



Doug—3-yr-old. Neutered male. Mixed breed. Doug is a sweet, playful and cuddly young dog that gets along well with other dogs.



## WILLOW

Willow—3-yr-old. Spayed female. Poodle/Labrador retriever mix. Willow is a sweet lady who is just so adorable and fun to be around.

### Rutland County Humane Society

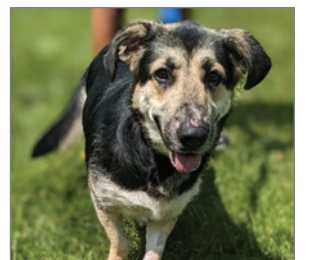
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Daisy—2-yr-old. Spayed female. Mixed breed. This little lady has her nose to the ground in search of her family.



Bella—3-yr-old. Spayed female. Mixed breed. Bella loves everyone and has a happy-go-lucky personality.

## Help out at RCHS

Do you love animals? Do you want to be part of an important cause with a life-saving mission? Would you like to make a difference for homeless animals? If so, the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would like to hear from you! RCHS is currently hiring a Development Director, a part-time Animal Care Associate, and a part-time Volunteer Coordinator. Interested applicants should send their resume and cover letter to [rchs@rchsvt.org](mailto:rchs@rchsvt.org). No calls or visits, please. For more info, visit: [www.rchsvt.org](http://www.rchsvt.org).



# Cosmic Catalogue



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

As adults, the topic of fun seems to evade us. We tell ourselves to “earn” or work for it in some way to be able to justify the experience of having sheer unapologetic fun. Life is too short to have an attitude like that. Fortunately, this week brings a new opportunity to see joy and fun in a new light. It doesn’t have to cost much because more often than not, the simple things in life are often the best.

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

Even if you’re not a morning person, do wake up before dawn at least once this week. Then be sure to go outside and look to the east. If this were a week to ever wish upon a star, this would be your week. Benefits and blessings are available to you in an area where you’ve felt the most troubled or uncertain. Sure, there will be compromise required and things won’t change overnight, but you’re closer than you were before.

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

When your nose is to the grindstone, it’s hard to see that there will be any kind of end point or outcome. If you’ve been thinking that, then you’d be wrong! This week brings a stunning turnaround in your fortune, or at least your attitude. What you’ve been doing may finally show signs of being worthwhile. It could also be time to pull the plug. In either scenario, a compromise of sorts is likely, one way or another.

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

You’ve changed in many ways, which is a good and necessary thing for you. Due to change not being your usual method of operation, it may have taken your family or those you’re closest to a little bit of getting used to. This week, an olive branch may be extended, or a solution or some kind of beneficial outcome can be reached. It won’t be without some compromise though. You may have to bend so you don’t break.

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

Avoid pushing for progress this week. Even if you’ve got deadlines to meet, do your best to not try and bite off more than you can chew. Chances are, you’re not feeling your most clear headed and rational. Fatigue, confusion and uncertainty could be creeping in. If that’s the case, the time to turn your attention within has arrived. A period of self-analysis will help you make wise choices, especially.

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

You’re getting to that time of year where you’re really looking forward to a holiday or some kind of meaningful break. If that’s the case for you, then whip out your calendar and see where you can schedule some much-needed downtime. Is there a place you’ve been before and you’d like to return to? If you’re already on the move, just be sure to make extra time for transit delays or any other logistical snafus. A good book and cocktail might be just the cure!

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

Try not to overextend yourself too much this week. Your ruler, Mercury, hits the brakes and heads in reverse, causing some disruption to home and family matters and what makes your life feel solid and substantial. If things don’t run smoothly, then let that be your clue as to the pace you need to be adopting. Take the chance to return to something you truly enjoy doing. It might be that thing that when it’s in balance, everything else seems to go right for you.

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

Some of the issues you’ve been facing within a social setting are beginning to show signs of resolution or some form of outcome. Whether you’re the one who needs to compromise or someone else needs to step up a little more, you may arrive at some kind of happy medium this week. Sometimes, agreeing to disagree is the best you can do. Either way, it’s a step in the right direction and no doubt, you’ll feel so much relief because of it.

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

Relationships have been really sticky territory for you in the last several weeks. And while they are unlikely to change anytime soon, you have reached a point where you can begin to resolve whatever issues are stirring within your heart. It doesn’t matter what the issues are or who’s to blame, it always takes two to tango. In order to move forward, regardless of which direction, you need to arrive at a workable compromise. See a different point of view.

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

A sense of confidence or that things are on the upswing is likely this week, especially if matters of finance have been an area that has been stuck or stagnant. If that has been the case, ask yourself, what action have you been avoiding because of fear? If you’re honest with yourself, you’ll know what that is. Take a step that your future self will thank you for, even if that means you’re still a little uncertain now. Keep the faith.

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

Every now and then, you simply don’t have the energy for intensity, drama or some of the other attributes that usually come with being a Scorpio. Sometimes, you just need to chill out and not care so much. So if you’re feeling tired or uninspired, just check out! Do what you want to do and don’t buy into the needs or demands of other people. Time spent resting or relaxing by the water would be supremely healing too.

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

Sometimes the best way to handle relationship matters is to simply become oblivious to them! That’s right, just put your head in the sand. Let’s face it, it’s not always your role to help, solve or fix problems. Sometimes, you just have to let someone else figure things out all on their own. This week, avoid the temptation to rush in, even if that means they stew and simmer for a bit. They’ll get over it eventually.

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Cassandra has studied astrology for about 20 years. She is an international teacher of astrology who has been published all over the globe.

## Darkest before dawn

You know the saying, “it’s always darkest before dawn?” Well, it’s dawn now and there is a light and her name is Venus. If you’re one to get up with the roosters, you’ll see her rise before the Sun. For thousands of years, a star reappearing in the East after a period of being invisible was a remarkable omen.

Though still retrograde, Venus now has enough distance from the Sun to saturate her light in the predawn sky. Thus, heralding a return to Venusian things — sweetness, joy and pleasure. At the minimum, it’s a feeling there is light at the end of the tunnel. No, you’re not

bathed in a spotlight. This is more like a salt lamp that gives you enough light to find

your way through the dark. So while you may not have all the answers just yet, it’s hard to ignore the feeling that you’re closer to them than you were before.

Not only do we get to witness her jubilant return, she also gets the nod from Jupiter. Two benefits working together to find a solution, an outcome, no matter the circumstances. No, not every-

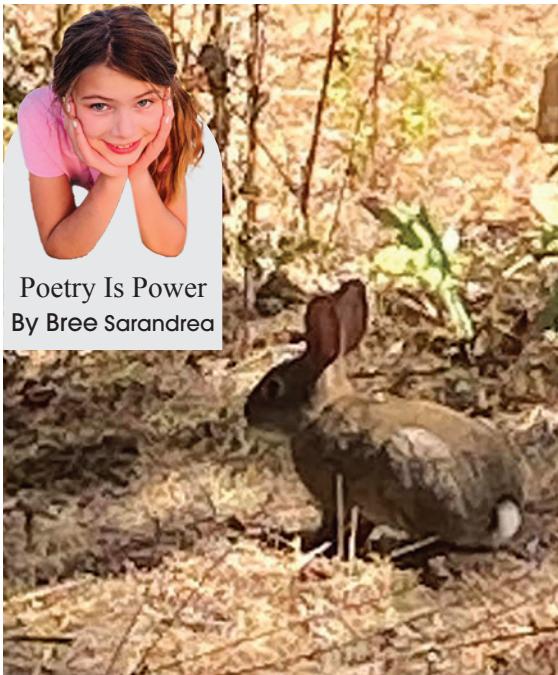
thing is perfect, that we know for sure. But has there really been a time it ever was?



Cosmic Catalogue  
By Cassandra Tyndall

## Learning to be a bunny

Fields and fields of flowers,  
An amazing sight to see,  
Bunnies hopping through them,  
Gnawing on the leaves,  
So much more to learn,  
So much more to see,  
So the bunnies must keep hopping,  
And sprinting through the trees,  
A nearby forest awaits them,  
More flowers to be seen,  
More animals to meet,  
The flowers and the bunnies,  
How perfect they can be,  
Hopping all around,  
Prancing in the breeze,  
Learning and seeing,  
Watching and listening,  
Sniffing all the flowers,  
Saying hi to the bees,  
Learning to be bunnies,  
As amazing as they could be.



Poetry Is Power  
By Bree Sarandrea

## Dumb ideas

During my annual dermatology visit the doctor and I discussed how the choices that people made in the '60s have resulted in skin damage as we age. Sunscreen was not promoted back then like it is today.

A popular trend among my high school and college friends was to slit the sides of a record album cover (remember them?) and put aluminum foil over it. Then we held it to our face with the sun reflecting off it. Usually there was baby oil on our face and body. Now what could go wrong with that? Fortunately, I didn’t do that very often and my recent office visit showed nothing that needed removal. Talk about dumb luck!

As I took a look back at that memory I couldn’t help but think about other “dumb ideas” that occurred from childhood to adulthood.

We all know how annoying it is to get phone

calls that we don’t want. But the person making them often gets pleasure from such things.

At age 12 or 13 we used to call people and ask, “Do you have Prince Albert in a can?” If they said, “Yes” then we told them to let him out. Another question we asked was, “Is your refrigerator running?” When they said, “Yes” we said, “You had better catch it!” Our annoyance calls could have come at a very inopportune moment for the people who answered but young people don’t think about such things!

Neighborhood kids made daily visits to houses under construction on nearby streets. There was often a board in place that went from the framed door opening to the future lawn area. The board allowed workers to pass over the 8-foot drop of the cellar wall. One day we found that the board on the back of the

Looking Back → 27



Looking Back  
By Mary Ellen Shaw

## When North meets South: Flying squirrel hybrids

It’s evening, and you’re in the forest. You close your eyes and inhale the sharp, sweet, turpentine scent of pine. The air is still, yet the branches overhead seem to nod at your presence. You shine a flashlight and catch a glimpse: a fleeting, tiny ball of fur, arms and legs outstretched, tail like a rudder, gliding through the night. It lands on a tree trunk, pauses, then launches itself again. A flying squirrel, in its glory.

If you’re where winter nights are coldest and pine forests abound, you’re likely in the presence of *Glaucomys sabrinus*, the northern flying squirrel. In warmer regions or hardwood forests, you might find yourself in the company of their southern brethren, *Glaucomys volans*. Until recently, the two never crossed paths. Now, they share more than habitat; they’re swapping DNA.

Northern flying squirrels are the larger of the two species. Measuring around 11 inches and weighing about 5 ounces — slightly less than a baseball — these big-eyed rodents can glide up to 295 feet. They prefer mature coniferous forest and construct nests of lichen and leaves on branches, in tree hollows, and underground. They also build separate latrines, unlike southern flying squirrels, which apparently have no qualm about sleeping in excrement.

Southern flying squirrels average a diminutive 9 inches long (tail included), weigh no more than 3 ounces, and only glide as far as 200 feet. Unlike their northern cousins, these squirrels only nest in tree cavities. Some southern flying squirrel dens will house more than 50 roosting squirrels at a time. Both species are nocturnal and have unique patagia (their “wings”) that help them glide long distances and turn mid-air with great precision.

As northern regions become warmer, southern flying squirrels are appearing in territories which previously only supported their northern cousins. This, paired with deforestation and habitat fragmentation, sometimes forces the two species to share one den. There are two main consequences to this cohabitation: death and life.

Southern flying squirrels often carry *Strongyloides robustus nematodes*. While this intestinal parasite doesn’t affect southern flying squirrels, it can be fatal to the northern species. Since southern flying squirrels don’t separate their latrines from their nests, and since the nematode spreads through waste, cohabitation is often fatal for northern flying squirrels. In fact, northern flying squirrels are endangered in Pennsylvania, a hotspot of interspecies squirrel mingling.

Now let us consider life. Officially, North America only claims three species of flying squirrels (scientists discovered a third species in the Pacific Northwest in 2017). But now that southern and northern flying squirrels are forced to live in unprecedented closeness (known as “sympatry”), there’s a new squirrel in town. Hybrid flying squirrels, which were first documented in a 2009 study led by researcher Colin Garroway, are not officially a species — yet. “What we have here is a ‘leaky’ species barrier,” Garroway said. “In a sense, speciation between northern and southern flying squirrels has not quite finished.”

Garroway and his team first discovered the possibility of hybridization when they started catching “funny-looking squirrels.” Their fur colors and body size weren’t quite right for either northern or southern flying squirrels. Genetic testing confirmed the researchers’ hunch: the two species were interbreeding. Interestingly, their hybrid offspring were also viable breeders — not just with each other, but also with their parental species. This ability to continue reproducing with their parental species is a key reason why speciation has not officially occurred here.

“What’s neat is that [each] species can be maintained, but different genes can cross the species barrier via hybrids,” said Garroway.

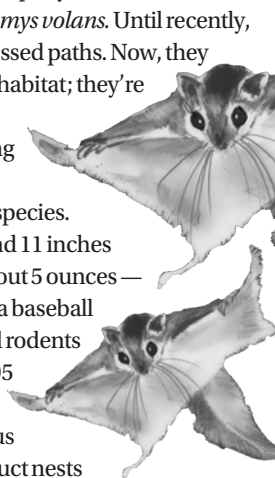
As to what this means for the parent species, things could go a few ways. We may see the formation of stable hybrid zones, where the two species consistently interact. We may see improved fitness of the parent species through successful back-crossing of DNA. Or we may witness the extinction of one or both parent species — hybridization-induced extinction, while rare, is not unprecedented. Garroway, however, doesn’t see the latter happening anytime soon.

As climate change shifts habitat boundaries and brings related species into contact with greater frequency, sympatric hybridization is becoming more common. We’re living in a real-time environmental experiment of unprecedented proportions, and nobody is quite sure what will happen next. The world is in a flux of creation and destruction, and flying squirrels are just one part of that. One small, furry, precious part.

Gretchen Uhrinek is a writer, editor, and biologist living in Pittsburgh, PA. Her work has been published in *The Longridge Review*, *Defenestration Magazine*, *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and elsewhere. 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.



The Outside Story  
By Gretchen Uhrinek



## Seasons come and seasons go

I was on the golf course this past Saturday evening enjoying a quiet round by myself. I teed off around 4:30 p.m. and made my way around the front nine with relative ease. There were a few couples playing ahead of me in carts and a group of four teen boys playing behind me.

As a walker, that's the perfect scenario: the groups in front of you are small enough to move along quickly, while the group behind you tends to be slower due to four people playing. If you're lucky, a bubble of privacy forms, which makes it that much more enjoyable because no one is pushing you or slowing you down.

I generally play two balls, which means that I tee off twice and then play each ball as a separate score. It gives me double the swings and double the opportunity to improve. It also gives me double the opportunity to tire myself out, which is half the reason I golf.

Once I got to the back nine, the groups in front of me bowed out as did the boys behind me, which left me completely alone. I'm not positive, but I think I was the only one on the en-

back nine holes. So, there I am — the sun is setting, the temperatures are cooling, and the crickets are chirping. The sky was piercingly blue and devoid of any clouds, so when I launched a ball into the air, it stood out against the colored backdrop.

Some- where around the 12th hole, I started noticing the environment and how pleasing the scenario felt. In one of those rare moments, the idea of God, or the universe, or an eternal oneness popped into my head as I mentally embraced everything around me.

I took a deep breath and absorbed the experience, reminding myself that these moments are beautiful and fleeting and that I should embrace them whenever they happen. I then selected a club from my bag, hovered over my next approach shot, and proceeded to chunk the ball about 25 feet ahead of me.

In that precious moment, all the joy that I was experiencing came crashing down. I actually laughed out loud at the irony of what happened, which was helpful since those shots generally send me into a tiny rage.

I grabbed my bag and journeyed onward. The beauty of the evening was still palpable,

just slightly less metaphysical.

A few holes later, as I was deciding what club to hit, I noticed a slight breeze. It caught my attention because it was cooler than anything I had felt previously. As I looked up in recognition, the light around me seemed different, as did the moisture in the air. It was at that moment that I was overwhelmed with one thought: Fall is coming.

It happens like that every season; that one moment when you realize that the things are about to change.

I love summer and I love the fall — but I don't like the transition between the two. I'm

happy when fall arrives for all the reasons that make fall great, but I'm genuinely sad to see summer fade because of the great joy it brings me.

I got melancholy for a moment thinking about the diminishing daylight and how that would affect my opportunities to play golf. I also became disheartened about colder temperatures. I stay active in the winter and appreciate what that season offers, but my heart is securely rooted in the summer months.

I finished my round and packed my clubs into the truck. Given the empty parking lot, I was quite sure I was the last guy on the course. By the time I got home, the sun had set and the sky was darkening.

I walked into the house and told my wife about "hint of fall" experience. She told me to stop talking because she didn't want to face the prospect of fall approaching either. This summer had been particularly fun and she didn't want to see it end.

One thing I did want to see end was this week's feature, "Meg 2: The Trench." As far as summer blockbusters go, this was anything but. And while it was inspired by the original summer blockbuster, "Jaws," it played more like "Sharknado."

I'm always game for a good monster movie as long as a few things happen. First and foremost, the monster must be believable. Unfortunately, everything about the creature in this film is unrealistic, from its size to the lame CGI that was used to create it. Add a sorry storyline and pathetic acting and you've got all the makings of a flop, which is exactly what "Meg 2" is.

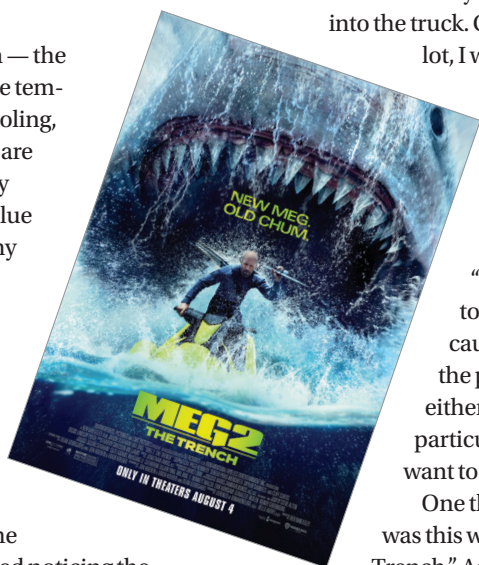
Don't waste your theater dollars on this one. I'm confident it will be available online for free in short order. But even then, it won't be worth watching.

A biting "D" for "Meg 2: The Trench," now playing in theaters everywhere.

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



The Movie Diary  
By Dom Cioffi



## Sounds of change

As the nights turn colder, the sky appears clearer, more precise somehow. I feel like I can see more stars and actually a glimpse up into the heavens. Take a deep breath and you can feel the increasing crispness of the air. The seasons are changing and our lives along with it.

At this time of year, I can sit on my front porch in the mornings with my laptop and get a world of work done while basking in the first rays of sunshine. I'm surrounded

by the songs of birds as they hop along the lawn, nibbling at whatever has risked its life by still being out in the open. The dew glistens in the sunshine while I am reminded that we really need to mow the lawn. There are Indian paintbrush popping up and that stresses out the lawnmower.

There's a buzzing, a constant murmur in the background from all the bugs waking themselves up. I can only distinguish one tone, but I am sure there are thousands all strung together. The whole world seems to be alive, shaking in its vibrancy right in front of me. And I can be here, sitting quietly with only the clicking of my computer keys interrupting the sounds of nature.



Livin' the Dream  
By Merisa Sherman

There's a silent roar of the stream, folding over itself as it tumbles down the mountain-side and through the culvert on the lower border of my land. It's far enough away that it's not frightening water, but just a slight rumbling in the distance. You almost don't recognize the sound at first, so bold is the morning buzzing. But the river is there, if only because it won't stop raining.

As I sit here, I constantly debate the borders of my flower beds. Right now, with the tall grass and slightly neglected and obviously overwatered weeds, I can only see glimpses. I know there is a border there somewhere, lined with last year's black mulch. But you can't really see it. The lawn is growing more into the plants than anything else. Maybe I just need more plants instead. Isn't that always the answer?

We get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of trying to do all the things that sometimes we forget to just enjoy the nature that surrounds us. I have a girlfriend with a screened-in porch and I always sigh with jealousy every time she posts a picture of her yellow lab basking in the bugless sun. My porch isn't that kind of porch. I have a settin' porch, she has a cozy one. Maybe I just need different couches with like bright yellow pillows instead of these brown ones with firepit burn holes.

My grandparents' old grill table serves as my desk; it is just the right size to nestle into the corner in the shadiest spot, enabling me  
Livin' the Dream → 29

### Looking Back: from page 26

house was missing. Instead of going back to the front of the house where there was a board we jumped from the door opening to the lawn portion. Only I didn't jump far enough and down I went and landed on construction trash at the 8-foot bottom. Fortunately, there was a ladder down there and I was able to climb back up. That was one "dumb idea" that could have killed me! FYI: The house I am referring to was owned in later years by fellow columnist, Dom Cioffi and his wife! I have joked with him that I am still finding his golf balls!

Back in the '50s a few classmates from Christ the King School decided to ice skate on Piedmont Pond. We knew that the owners did not want us to do that so went onto the pond from the south side — the one furthest away from the house. Unfortunately, we picked a day when the ice wasn't firm and one kid from our group fell into the pond. It wasn't very deep where the ice gave way but he still got totally wet. It was a cold walk home for him and none of us ever went back there again.

Moon Brook was a popular spot for kids to hang out. It ran behind an apple orchard on Piedmont Drive. My cousin, Betty, and I decided to float a large wooden drawer from the brook to an area near her home on Engrem Avenue. We took the drawer from

my parents' kitchen cabinet and got into it. It sunk immediately and we went nowhere! My parents apparently thought we were old enough to be left alone but a soaking wet drawer was evidence that we were not!

That same cousin and I decided to create a swimming hole at the foot of our driveway. We did a lot of digging and had one deep, muddy mess by the time my parents noticed what we were doing. The two of us were very

creative when it came to "dumb ideas."

My friend Betty (not my cousin) and I wanted to try smoking. My parents didn't smoke but her

mother did. She took two cigarettes from her pack and brought them over to my house along with some matches. We went into our shed and lit up! My father had wood stored in there and how careful do you think two 12-year-olds were? Dumb luck was with us once again or we could have burned down our house.

Another friend, Margaret, and I set a field on fire in the Piedmont and Harrington Avenue area. There were no houses on the north side back then and the roar of fire trucks were what we wanted to hear. They came and we hid. We never got caught but trust me it's the quiet ones you have to watch out for. I was as quiet as a mouse when I was a kid so that expression definitely applied to me.

Thank goodness the majority of us got wiser as we aged.



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## ← Livin' the Dream: ..... from page 27

to actually see my laptop screen to get my work done. A job where I get to help others find peace, serenity and happiness by owning a home of their own in the Killington region. How could I not want to share this, to wish this tranquility for someone else?

I sit out here in the rain, feeling the mist on my face as the water flows down off the roof. I'm safe under here, and dry for the most part. Nothing that won't evaporate in like five minutes. It's a different world out here then, the animals hidden in their bunkers all around, nestled in the dirt and rocks. They are quiet. Perhaps speaking in whispers in their small spaces, for all you can hear then in the rain.

I can also come out at night, snuggled under a blanket with a mug of chamomile tea and a delicious book. Alright, it's a whiskey but still just as relaxing.

Even though the porch lights are blinding and most creatures lie abed, I can still hear the stream coming down the mountain. And in the quiet stillness of the night, the wind rustling through the treetops seems almost like a roar as it rolls down the valley.

It is glorious, making time to sit out in the world every day — if only for the few moments to eat my breakfast or just snag a few breaths of fresh air after a hot shower. To take a moment and just be with nature, not biking or hiking or paddling. Just to be outdoors, letting nature surround me instead of just slicing through it at full speed. These are the cherished moments, the minutes that make Vermont life so utterly special. The moment where Vermont wraps itself around you and, together, you simply are.

*Merisa Sherman is a longtime Killington resident, local Realtor, bartender and KMS Coach. Share your favorite Vermont moments at femaleskibum@gmail.com.*



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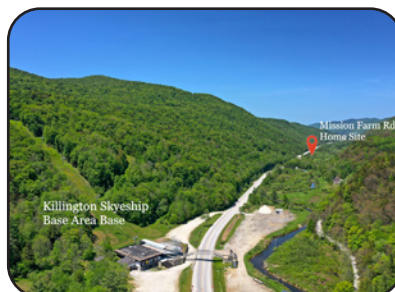
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## ← Woodstock STR: from page 1

conversion fee of \$550 and a recording fee of \$15. There's another \$200 fee due to the fire department if the property is in the town or \$275 fee if the property is in the Village.

"Right now it's burdensome to say the least to go through the process," Bauer said in a phone interview. "It's time for a review. Does it have to be this difficult?"

The regulations further prohibit Village homeowners from renting their properties more than six times a year, except during foliage season, when they can rent their properties as much as they want as long as they are the primary residence.

In the town, homeowners can rent their property no more than 10 times a year with the same exception during foliage season.

Bauer said it takes a property owner an average of 80 days to go through the permit process. And, there is little enforcement for those

out of compliance.

"The enforcement highly relies on complaints being filed," he said.

There are currently 68 short-term rental properties registered with the town and Village, yet there are around 98 active listings on rental websites.

"Right now it's burdensome to say the least to go through the process," Bauer said.

"There's definitely some people who are non-compliant," Bauer said. "It makes for an unfair advantage for people that are skirting or ignoring the regulations."

Some residents at the meeting on Aug. 15 questioned the economic impact of the moratorium.

Derek Dumas, a short term rental owner, said some homeowners would be unwilling to wait six months and may list their property without going through the appropriate

approval process.

"You're shutting the door in their face — do they become one of the people that don't follow the rules?" Dumas said.

Brett Ralph, a resident of Maple Street in Woodstock, said he manages over 100 vacation rental properties in the Upper Valley — most of which are in Quechee. He said the moratorium will impact his business and his employees.

"What kind of impact will that have on the town?" he said.

Jennifer Falvey, a Woodstock resident and real estate agent, said the waiting period would decrease home values.

"Short term rentals have an impact on the real estate value of all our homes," she said.

The board made it clear the moratorium only impacts Woodstock town properties. It will not impact people who are currently renting short-term rentals or bed and breakfasts.

## ← 211: from page 8

point from this spring at which 211 was on the brink of closing due to this chronic funding issue.

Local United Ways across Vermont each contribute funding to Vermont 211 and have long been concerned about how repeated underfunding from the state has limited Vermont 211's capacity and potential. A portion of flood relief fund dollars raised by local United Ways were immediately granted to Vermont 211 because we knew the program was overwhelmed and under resourced.

With adequate investment, Vermont 211 could be an even greater community connector and amplifier of existing and essential services. It could continue to be the critical link to Vermonters in crisis. Vermonters can-

not afford to be shortchanged in accessing resources. Local United Ways are committed to working with and supporting Vermont 211 and the state to create a system that meets the diverse needs of our communities.

*Ashley Bride, Executive Director, United Way of Rutland County*

*Jesse Bridges, CEO, United Way of Northwest Vermont*

*Clarissa French, Executive Director, United Way of Lamoille County*

*Ruben Garza, Executive Director, United Way of Windham County*

*Tawnya Kristen, Executive Director, Green Mountain United Way*

*Helena Van Voorst, Executive Director, United Way of Addison County*

## ← Grand opening: from page 1

"Our grand opening was a huge success!" said Peter DaMore, Jr., Esq. "I am so proud of our community for coming together to raise over \$4,000 to support those in need as a result of the recent flooding. I cannot thank enough all of the local businesses that donated raffle baskets and all of our friends, family, clients and business associates that joined us for a great night and in support of such an important cause."

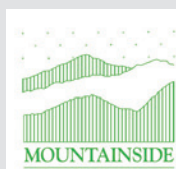
"The excitement and positive energy generated by your attendance enriched our celebration beyond measure," Green Mountain Lawyers wrote in an email after the event. "Your commitment to our cause is genuinely appreciated, and we wanted to take a moment to recognize the impact you've made. We are truly humbled by your kindness and your willingness to support the community. We are excited about the future, and we look forward to keeping you updated on our progress and the positive impact your support will facilitate."

For a gallery of photos from the event, visit [MountainTimes.info](http://MountainTimes.info).

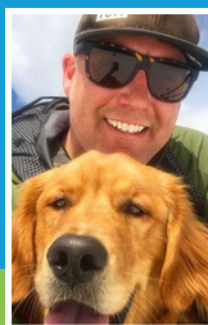
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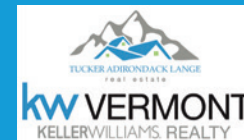


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[mountainsidepropertiesvt.com/glades/](http://mountainsidepropertiesvt.com/glades/)  
 802-236-1360



**TUCKER ADIRONDACK LANGE**  
 Real Estate Salesperson, REALTOR

📍 59 Central Street, Woodstock, Vt 05091  
 ☎ 303-818-8068  
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