



TMD IS MARCH 4, VOTE

Town Meeting Day is a longstanding Vt tradition where residents gather to vote on local budgets, elect officials, and discuss community issues. As one of the purest forms of direct democracy, it allows towns to make decisions through open debate and majority vote, often taking place in town halls or school gyms. Look for local results online at [MountainTimes.info](http://MountainTimes.info).



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Congrats on your 250th column Merisa Sherman!  
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**ELECTING LEADERS**  
Rutland and Killington candidates answer FAQs.  
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**WHO'LL WIN AN OSCAR?**  
The Academy Awards are this Sunday, March 2. See our predictions for who will win.  
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## Downtown Rutland hotel project moves forward as mayoral election looms

By James Kent

Just 12 days before voters decide whether to re-elect Mayor Michael Doenges or elect challenger Henry Heck on March 4, city officials and developers took a significant step toward the long-awaited Downtown Hotel + Living Project.

At a press event Thursday morning, Feb. 20, Mayor Doenges and developers from Center & Wales LLC signed a letter of intent, marking a formal commitment to move forward with the \$40 million investment that will reshape the corner of Center and Wales streets. The project will bring a seven-story, mixed-use building featuring 99 hotel rooms, 26 market-rate apartments, a restaurant, a bar, and a rooftop bar.

While the project has been in development for years, Thursday's announcement lands at a politically significant moment, with Rutland voters set to decide the city's leadership March 4.

Downtown hotel → 26



By James Kent

Kent Belden (left) from Center & Wales LLC shook hands with Rutland City Mayor Michael Doenges (right), moments after the two signed the letter of intent to move forward with the Downtown Rutland hotel project.

## UVMHN will maintain dialysis services in Rutland

A Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) decision Friday, Feb. 21, will enable University of Vermont Health Network (UVMHN) to continue providing community-based dialysis services in Rutland as well as St. Albans and Newport.

Since November 2024, the health system has been working with Rutland Regional Medical Center, Northwestern Medical Center, and North Country Hospital to identify the best way to maintain care for patients who rely on dialysis at these sites.

After exploring options that included transitioning operation of dialysis to other providers, it became clear that no other organization would be able to take on the services while providing high quality care without significant losses. On Friday, the GMCB voted to increase UVM Medical Center's revenue cap to include revenue from community dialysis services and

Dialysis → 2



By Zach Godwin, Killington Resort

Killington Resort held a celebration at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, after Mikaela Shiffrin won her 100th Alpine race earlier that day at a Slalom in Sestriere, Italy.

## Killington celebrates Shiffrin's 100th win, 3 months later

Shiffrin's 'MIK100: Reset the Sport' campaign aims to raise \$100,000 for youth initiatives

Mikaela Shiffrin earned her 100th win Sunday, Feb. 23 at a Slalom in Sestriere, Italy, extending her record and solidifying her legacy as one of the greatest athletes of all time. The milestone was originally tee'd up to happen at Killington but just moments before she was able to secure the win in Giant Slalom Nov. 30, she fell and suffered a puncture wound to the abdomen that took her off the snow for weeks as she recovered.

Shiffrin cried in a post-race interview when asked what her 100th win meant after all she had been through. "Everyone had been so nice and so supportive. I am so grateful, thank you," she said, adding "[It was] just an amazing day in the middle of some really tough months."

As part of the 100th win celebration, Shiffrin announced a partnership with the Share Winter Foundation aiming to raise \$100,000 for learn to ski and snowboard programs for youth who otherwise would not have access to the sports.

Share Winter works with mountain partners and brands to reduce barriers and fees, and community organizations to create opportunities for youth to ski across the U.S. Every dollar raised is used to cover program costs. \$100,000 will cover the costs for 200 youth to learn to ski this season.

"I know that not everyone is blessed with the good fortune I have come across, in fact very few are, and over the years the lack of accessibility for a diverse group of people in winter sports has funneled us into a very not diverse community," said Shiffrin in an Instagram post announcing her ambassadorship. "I love this community, but can't help but wonder how much more potential there is for it to be stronger if we could help Share Winter with everyone,

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"I see this 100 victory conversation as an opportunity to bring more eyes and, ideally, more passion to the sport," Shiffrin wrote. "This will make that 100th victory one of the most meaningful to me."



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Chittenden town will begin issuing parking tickets

By Brett Yates

Earlier this month, the Chittenden Select Board approved a motion to start giving out \$50 tickets to illegally parked cars on Wildcat Road. The town’s road foreman had already ordered signs that would warn drivers not to leave their cars in the roadway.

“People go up there to go cross-country skiing, and they park in the road, and the plow trucks can’t get by,” Road Commissioner Dave Sargent said. “If the plow truck can’t get by, probably the ambulance and the fire truck can’t get by.”

But municipal government in Vermont isn’t so simple. When local officials contacted the Pittsford Police Dept., which Chittenden contracts for patrol services, they learned that towns can’t enforce parking regulations unless they’ve adopted a parking ordinance.

“They can give warnings right now, but they can’t actually give tickets, and they can’t actually tow anyone,” Select Board Chair Kathie Pratt said.

When a municipality adopts an ordinance, it must post the text “in at least five conspicuous places” and publish it (or “a concise summary”) in a local newspaper, according to state law. It takes effect after 60 days — unless residents gather signatures in opposition from 5% of local voters, in which case it goes to a townwide vote.

Chittenden officials have not yet drafted an ordinance, but Select Board members agreed informally on Feb. 24 to get started on one. They expect it to name each town road in which parking restrictions will apply, and Wildcat Road may not be the only one.

“We have to decide how far we want to go,” Pratt said.

Rockefeller Fund at the VCF announces \$63,500 in grants to support Woodstock and area communities

The Laurance & Mary Rockefeller Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation recently awarded \$63,500 in grants to 22 organizations in its 2024 competitive grants round. Grants include a combination of awards to organizations supporting arts, social services, youth programming, and public health in Woodstock and its surrounding communities.

The fund grants to organizations working to preserve and enhance the physical, cultural, spiritual, and wellness environment of the communities of Barnard, Bridgewater, Hartland, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock.

For nearly two decades, the Laurance & Mary Rockefeller Fund has supported the vision Laurance and Mary held dear — to enhance the physical, cultural, spiritual, and wellness environment for those living within the Ottauquechee River watershed.

The advisory council noted, “In 2024, we were pleased to support the important and ongoing work of 22 local organizations, impacting the lives of people across all ages—from toddlers to seniors, and supporting those with special needs, whether physical, emotional, or economic. Through arts, environmental, and social service initiatives, these efforts touch everyone in this special corner of Vermont.”

The Laurance and Mary Rockefeller Fund holds an annual grant round in the second half of the year, with awards and notifications sent in January of the following year.

2024 Grant Recipients

- BarnArts Center for the Arts, \$2,000
  - Bookstock, \$1,500
  - Dismas of Vermont, \$1,500
  - Finding Our Stride, \$2,000
  - Girls on the Run Vermont, \$1,000
  - Good Neighbor Health Clinic, \$2,500
  - Mission Farm, \$1,500
  - Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center, \$5,000
  - Norman Williams Public Library, \$5,000
  - Ottauquechee Health Foundation, \$5,000
  - Purple Crayon / Artistree Arts Center, \$2,500
  - Sustainable Woodstock, \$5,000
  - The Community Campus, \$1,000
  - Special Needs Support Center, \$1,500
  - Windsor County Mentors, \$2,000
  - WISE, \$2,000
  - Woodstock Area Council on Aging, \$5,000
  - Woodstock Area Mountain Bike Association, \$2,500
  - Woodstock Community Trust – The HUB, \$5,000
  - Woodstock Community Trust – Local Deeds, \$3,000
  - Woodstock Community Trust – Woodstock Village Conservancy, \$2,000
  - Woodstock Recreation Center, \$5,000
- For more information, visit: [vermontcf.org/rockefeller](http://vermontcf.org/rockefeller).

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Sherburne UCC “Little White Church,” Killington, VT

Dialysis: from page 1

enable their continued operation so patients do not have to travel further for the lifesaving care they need.

UVM Medical Center will continue to sustain the losses while they search for opportunities to decrease costs to provide dialysis to Vermonters.

“We’re very appreciative of the board’s willingness to collaborate with us to secure access to this important care in rural areas of the state,” said Stephen Leffler, MD, president and chief operating officer at UVM Medical Center. “I’m happy to reaffirm our commitment to

providing these essential services.”

Dr. Leffler acknowledged the uncertainty that dialysis patients and staff have endured over the past few months.

“We sincerely apologize for any stress or anxiety that people have felt while we worked to identify a path forward for this important service,” he added.

“We will continue to work together with our regulator, the state of Vermont, area hospitals, and other partners to make progress on solutions to our most pressing health care challenges.”

GMCB held a hearing Friday morn-

ing to review UVMCMC’s request for an adjustment to their nearly \$2 billion FY25 budget.

GMCB Chair Owen Foster made the official motion, stating: “I move to approve UVMCMC’s request for a budget adjustment to their FY25 budget to allow a total NPR of not more than \$1,903,520,112, subject to UVMCMC’s continued staffing and operation of the dialysis clinics at RRMCMC, NMC, and NCH, and subject to the same other conditions and limitations as set forth in UVMCMC’s FY25 budget order.”



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# Rutland City Mayor race: Meet the candidates

By Pearl Bellomo

RUTLAND CITY—On Tuesday, March 4, residents of Rutland City will vote on its next mayor. Will it be a second term for incumbent Michael Doenges or a first term for Rutland City Alderman Henry Heck? The Mountain Times spoke with each candidate to learn more.

## Q&A with Rutland City Mayor Michael Doenges

*Tell me a bit about your past two years as mayor. Why did you decide to run again?*

The past two years, what I recognized after getting into the city, was that what was on the surface and was behind the scenes were two kind of different things. The city was in a bit of a rut...many, many, many years of status quo had put the city in kind of a spot where we had to dig out a little bit, and we needed to start building a foundation that would allow us to get to the next steps, whether it was policies and processes or internally, relationships with the state and other partners, relationships with our neighbors — they were all kind of in a holding pattern. And that wasn't my plan when I started...but we really needed to create a better base first. So we did. We created this amazing base that has really allowed us to focus on what Rutland city residents want.

We want to maintain the momentum into the next two years with things like the work we're doing on the downtown hotel, on our Tax Increment Finance District, on our roadways and sidewalks; all of the investments that we've made have been really well thought out, and it's going to take some time to get us to the next step.

Same thing goes with public safety. The initiatives we started there are working, but I need to continue to lobby in Montpelier for the bills that are going to make Rutland safer. So, in order to do that, I need to be in this seat. I need to have the support of the voters, and we need to keep working on the things that people keep asking for.

*What's the current status of the Center Street hotel project?*

[Thursday, Feb. 20] the Board approved signing the letter of intent with the Beldens to create, or to start the creation of a public, private partnership. And what this will allow us to do is make improvements in the downtown with tax dollars that the hotel will generate, and that's fantastic because it allows us to get our infrastructure to the place where the hotel can work, and then we get a hotel out of the deal. So it's a win-win for everybody, and it's a great position to be in. There's a lot of steps till the hotel gets built still, but having that letter of intent signed gets both the hotel and the city on the right track to getting this built and done. We hope to see it up and open by spring of 2027.

*What about the Diamond Run Mall project?*

What we're doing in the city is we're trying to re-imagine the Downtown Plaza space. If you look at the Downtown Plaza, everything from Walmart all the way out to the end of Evelyn Street, there's some real opportunity there. And we've got a team of what seems to be over 25 people now, concerned citizens, residents, neighbors that are all working to kind of re-envision what that space could be.

And while we understand that it's owned by a private landowner and they can do whatever they want with it, I think it would be short-sighted for the city to not put some effort into considering what needs to go in that space. There's certain

By Peral Bellomo  
Michael Doenges

## Q&A with Rutland City Alderman Henry Heck

*You have a long history of public service in Rutland, including your present role as city Alderman and prior as city clerk. What made you decide to run for mayor?*

Making the run for mayor has been something I've had in the back of my head, even as clerk. There were always people that mentioned to me, why don't you run? Wouldn't you like to look at those things? So the first thing was, if I can't be elected Alderman, I don't think it's going to make any sense to run for mayor. So when I became a member of the Board in January, it said that people are still receptive to me being in politics and still appreciated me working for the city or the community as an Alderman. So, at that point in time, I started to put a plan together to do a mayoral run.

*You've raised concerns about moving City Hall and the library to the Asa Bloomer Building. Can you talk more about your reservations?*

I don't have an issue with the library moving. I don't have an issue with potentially City Hall moving. The Asa Bloomer Building, though, for me, is a deal breaker... There's a lot of work that needs to be done. The roof may need to be repaired; there may be mold mitigation in the basement, and one elevator was inoperable, I was told, for a year because of flooding issues... Not only is it the Asa Bloomer Building, but it's the parking garage that [it] would be attached to.... It's not a good investment for the taxpayers, and that is my No. 1 reason. If it was a beautiful brand-new building and everything was up to code, I'd absolutely have the opinion taking a closer look. But it's just not a good project right now for the city.

*What are your thoughts on the Diamond Run Mall project?*

I know economically, we would like to see a retail business go in there to help generate that 1% local option tax... Walmart is probably one of the No. 1 contributors to that local option, and that's a significant amount of money...Brickmore still owns the entire plaza, is my understanding, and we need to reach out to them and work with them as a partner, which I think we've done in the past, and see what there are for options. You know, I continually hear movie theater, movie theater, movie theater. Is that an option? That space right now is pretty significant, so it might be able to be broken down into more than a single entity. It could be broken down into small, little incubator-type things for job creation. I think we need to look at every option that's out there and do what's going to be best for the community, for the city, and for the taxpayers.

*What about the hotel project? Do you support it, or do you have hesitations as well?*

So the hotel project is very interesting... There are a lot of "ifs" within that letter of intent. So there's a ton of moving pieces for this, the TIF, the tax stabilization, the ask for the city's involvement, what they will do, and at some point, I truly believe there will be an ask to the taxpayers. I don't think the TIF districting can pay for all the infrastructure type of improvements that

Submitted  
Henry Heck

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# Q&A with Killington Select Board candidate Rick Bowen

Tuesday night, Feb. 18, the Killington Pico Area Association (KPAA) held a forum for the four candidates vying for two seats on the Killington Select Board. One seat is for a 3-year term; the other a 1-year term. Incumbent Chris Karr will face a challenge from Patrick Cushing for the 3-year seat. Karr is the owner of the Karr Group which operates half a dozen restaurants and businesses in Killington. Cushing is a senior consultant with Deloitte Risk & Financial Advisory. He works in intelligence and investigation field supporting government clients.

Incumbent Rob Hecker will face a challenge from Ricky Bowen for the 1-year seat. This seat was vacated by Steve Finneron and Hecker was appointed by the Select Board to fill it May 13, 2024, until voters could elect a replacement this Town Meeting Day. Hecker worked over two decades with ADP in New Jersey before moving to Killington in 2021. He's since started a small construction company called Peak Construction, LLC. Ricky Bowen was the foreman for the town of Killington highways and facilities for 36 years until May 15, 2024, when he resigned.

Each candidate was given the following eight questions in advance of the forum. Answers were submitted to the Mountain Times. *Note: responses from Chris Karr, Patrick Cushing and Rob Hecker were published last week and are online at: mountaintimes.info. Bowen was not able to complete the Q&A before deadline so requested to be included in this edition.*

**1) Why are you running for the Killington Select Board and what do you think makes you most qualified to represent the citizens of Killington?**

I am running because I care deeply about this town, the people of Killington and the people who work for the town as well. Having worked for more than three decades serving the people of Killington, I have an important perspective as a board member. I have a vast knowledge of the town's infrastructure, including design, construction, and repair. For example, the rebuilding of the town's roads after [Tropical Storm] Irene and the flood of two summers ago. My background and input will be valuable in all of the current and upcoming projects. I also have an understanding of cost-effectiveness and the budgetary process. I truly think that I could have been utilized a whole lot more than I was in this aspect, but hindsight is 2020.

**2) Are there specific problems or concerns that are motivating you to run in this election?**

My primary motivation is to add, not subtract. Are there problems? Yes there are. Will other problems surface? Of course they will. Every town has problems, and as a Select Board member, my job will be to address the issues and do my best to fix them, while being open to listening to the people who give so much to this town.

**3) The municipal budget on the Town Meeting Day ballot is \$7,912,875 which is an increase of 12.5% over last year's budget. Do you support this budget, why or why not??**

I do feel that a 12.5% increase is quite substantial and I understand some of the reasons for that increase. I would like to be able to see how the various departments come up with their numbers.

**4) How do you feel about the Town's initiative "Killington Forward?" Please touch upon the follow areas: The reconstruction of Killington Road, the creation of a new municipal water system, building workforce housing, support of the Killington Village?**

We can all see what the condition of Killington Road looks like, and it is obvious that it is in dire need of reconstruction. However, as a team, we need to make sure that it is done wisely and cost-effectively. Of course, we would have to see what happens with the current pause on funding.

It is clear that the town needs a water system. Many businesses on Killington Road have had well issues and obviously, the water system is needed for the development of the village. Without water, there is no village.



I support it because it will provide opportunities that other resort towns do not. As long as everyone gains from this

Bowen → 14



Rick Bowen

Submitted



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## Doenges:

from page 4

things that the city receives and benefits from that space, right? Walmart sells a lot of product. A lot of that product generates what we call a 1% option tax...it also brings people downtown. It also is a place where you can get necessities. So when we look at replacing it, do we want to replace it with the same thing or something a little bit different? And so those are the conversations we're having now.

### Are there ideas of how to use the old Walmart space?

All sorts of different ideas. And I think what's so interesting is, we did a visioning session about a month ago, and everybody went into separate rooms and wrote down ideas on paper, and we all came back together, and almost everybody had the same vision. Imagine getting off the train right in downtown Rutland, and you're in this space that has beautiful outdoor lighting, music, a place for people to hang out downtown, shops, and apartments kind of over where the asphalt parking

lot is right now, on the far side. Then over in the Walmart Space, maybe something that's family-centric. We have everything, from making that like a pavilion space to putting another store in there. So there's all sorts of ideas, but no one came back with, "We want another Walmart." Everybody came back with, "Hey, here's where the opportunity is. Let's make this space so amazing that people want to come here."

### Do you have any reservations about either of these projects, financially or otherwise?

No. You know, we are always cautious. We're cautious that the revenue being generated for the Tax Increment Finance District is enough to cover the needs and installation on the city spot portion, but it's cautious optimism for sure. I think if we focus on what we need in getting something done, we'll see success, right? Focus is very key in my administration.

### You've recently said it's too early to say whether the Asa Bloomer Building Library/City Hall move is a good idea. Do you still maintain that? Are there any updates on the project?

There's a sentiment that the decision's already been made. It's far from made...I think what is different for Rutland residents is for years and years, people here have said, "We want to be involved. We want to be part of the conversation. Bring us in early so we can talk about this." So now we're bringing them in early, and it's an uncomfortable space because they're so used to us bringing them in when we're so far down the road. But this is so early stages. If it moves, it's going to be crucial that we are moving into a place that the public would like to see it.

I, as mayor, have to balance what the city can manage from a cost standpoint and what we can manage from a debt load standpoint...If we were to rebuild the library in place with that old courthouse, we're talking \$20-\$25 million. If we just repair the library as is and make it more accessible, that's \$9-\$10 million, maybe \$12 million at this point, just because of cost increases. Moving to another location that's already suited and that is not in poor condition could cost less, and that's where the discussion began. I do think it's still very early in the process to determine where the library should go and if it should go in the Bloomer building at all.

### You've made strides to improve Rutland Housing, such as with the Roofs Over Rutland program. How would you continue to improve Rutland's housing and population?

So, we set a goal of 1,000 new housing units in a five-year period, and we're one year in, and we don't have 1,000 new units or even a quarter of that, but what we do have is a lot of interest. So that goal has generated interest, and we've seen more permits in our building department in Rutland City for new housing units in the past two years than we've seen in the previous 10. So that's great. Then, Roofs Over Rutland brought \$8 million of non-taxpayer revenue to the city to be lent out for building new units. What was interesting about that is we brought the program online, and within two months, we had \$6.5 million in applications for that money. That means there was a demand waiting in the wings to get these things built.

What we can show now on the commercial side is that we have interest, demand, and a goal. And then, on the municipal side, what we can show is that we've reduced permitting costs for housing units. We have instituted at the state level, but in conjunction with the city, Act 250 reform that now currently means if you build inside of what's called the Neighborhood Development Area, which is a quarter mile around the downtown, there's no Act 250 permit necessary for housing...we've removed a lot of the barriers to entry for developers to come in and build here.

The next step for the city is to hold a developer conference...To talk about how we are making Rutland the most developable city in Vermont and allowing them to see the eight-plus ready-to-go-spaces that we have in our community where they can build 50-plus units of housing.

### Alderman Heck has raised many concerns about city spending, tax increases, and the general cost of living. How do

### you plan on making Rutland more affordable?

We absolutely know that affordability is key, and in my first term here, I'll be real honest, we were suffering from major inflation issues that weren't being addressed in previous budgets, and we also were dealing with the fact that we had a police force that wasn't properly funded. So we've put dollars into public safety, and we put dollars into adjusting for inflation and right-sizing the budget to reality...But this year, the budget proposal that's on the ballot is down under a 3% increase, and that's a big deal. We heard that affordability is key. We made every effort to stick to and Rutland always has kind of been a bare minimum city. We have no frivolities in our budget. In the areas where things are a little bit more wants versus needs, we're going to be continuing to look for efficiencies.

Some of the other things we can do is get creative with the different revenue sources that we have. One of those revenue sources is the 1% sales option tax that the voters approved in March of 2023, and that tax has generated revenue for Rutland, and in the past, we've used it on things that people are asking for—infrastructure, streets, and sidewalks. And the Board just approved the Capital Improvement Program, which is the program my administration put together to look at the next five to 10 years of Rutland's needed capital, asset and improvements, assets and improvements, and gives us an outline of over \$80 million worth of needs, but we're going to be able to address those needs without increasing property taxes because we have the 1% sales tax.

### Can you outline your plans to increase Rutland's safety?

Some of the things we've done already is we lobbied in Montpelier for two different bills...a retail theft bill and a vehicle break-in theft bill. The retail theft bill basically says if you commit more than a certain amount of retail thefts in a certain period of time, it treats it as a felony instead of a misdemeanor. And this is a big deal because this is what allows us to hold these bad actors accountable...That passed, and that is now law.

People have also been found rummaging through vehicles, and these vehicles were unlocked, and people were upset that the police couldn't do anything about it, and that's because of Vermont's very unique trespassing laws. So there's a new bill that also passed that says if you're in someone's vehicle without their permission, you can be charged.

One more thing that we did was something called the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative, and this is using tools outside of normal policing tools, but with the Police Dept., with our Building and Zoning Dept., our Dept. of Public Works, our Rec. Dept., and our Fire Dept. to look for unsafe homes that are not just a blight in the neighborhood, but are actually problem homes in the neighborhood...And most of these problems homes have other things that are attributed to them: Somebody is being taken advantage of, there's a vulnerable population that's being abused, there's drug deals going on in these houses, things like that...So when we find those situations to be true, we're able to leverage our team to go and close down those houses and stabilize that part of the neighborhood.

Moving forward, we're going to continue to lobby for bills. There's a bill in Montpelier right now that's a gun theft bill. [Currently] if you steal a firearm, and that firearm is worth less than \$900, that's a misdemeanor charge...this bill proposes that stealing any gun is an automatic felony. And the reason that that's so important is there's a high likelihood that stolen guns will be used in drug sales or in the drug trade.

I'm also proposing a bill to escalate sentencing minimums for xylazine, fentanyl, and heroin. And what this bill does is it gives the judges some teeth. Right now, on all three of those drugs, if you sell those three drugs, there's no bite. While we understand that substance use is complex in nature, there's no room for people to sell illegal drugs. There's no room, no grace, no need for it. What we can do is lobby in Montpelier to change the laws so that our community is safer and that is such an important process, and we have to continue to do that.



**FROM GROUNDWORK TO GREATNESS**

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← **Heck:**  
from page 4  
need to happen.

There's two pieces to that. There's the underground piece that the hotel needs and has to have—infrastructure, water and sewer separation, utilities being buried, etc. Now I've heard that could be either just north or south of \$4 million for that specific piece. And what will the TIF districting give us to do that? I don't think it's going to cover the whole basis. And then there's also the Center Street marketplace project... they're maybe turning it into a one-way, bumping out the availability for restaurants or business people to utilize some of Center Street. So there's a lot of options, and it's unfortunate that some of them are unknown. Right now, we have to do something in order to start the project. Or the old saying goes, you eat an elephant one bite at a time. You gotta take that first bite in order to get in there.

**How do you plan on making Rutland more affordable?**

Well, I can't do it myself. You know, we can have plans. Mike can have the greatest plans out there. It's a matter of whether it can come to fruition.

I've been looking at this as kind of like the chicken and egg question. Which came first? What comes first? Public safety is a huge piece. If people don't feel safe, they may not come here to invest in their city. But at the same time, there's an affordability piece. How do we make the state of Vermont, Rutland, specifically, more affordable? It boils down to jobs, jobs, and jobs. And not just \$15 an hour jobs, we need \$30 an hour jobs here...I still believe in progress and in investing in our community. I'm not going to not invest in a community or cut, cut, cut...but one of the bigger issues for me is the long term.

I think it's a multi-pronged attack that we need to look at. We need to support our public safety people. We need to get legislative changes, and we need to make our streets and neighborhoods safer. We need to have investors who want to come here and invest in homes or in businesses. But we also need to look at bringing higher paying jobs. And whether it's 100 jobs or

even one job... It's going to take a lot of combinations of a lot of different things to create the perfect storm to really get to move the needle.

**How do you plan on rebuilding trust with the community following your recent controversial statements towards police and an alleged breach of confidentiality?**

I met with the police commission. I've spoken with the commission chair a couple times. I've reached out to officers that have made statements. So, I'm in the process of doing what I can to mend or at least let those folks know I've always supported the police. There's nothing there. There's no one that can disprove that I have not supported the police. There's various functions I've been to. There's things that I've done during Covid, when I worked as a city clerk. I was right there for those people from day one and the so-called breach...there was no breach of executive session. I think that was pointed out by Chief Kilcullen. Again, there was no discussion of executive session-type things, as far as that goes... I'm looking forward to working with the police dept. and making sure that those people, those officers, get the necessary tools to do the best job and to really fight for them in Montpelier.

**How do you plan on improving Rutland's housing, how do you think it's been handled under the present mayorship?**

I know Mike has pretty big initiatives, pretty big plans. He's more vocal...I worked very closely with the Louras administration and probably even closer with the Allaire administration. The city has X amount of tools that it can help with development and those kinds of things. And I think both of those prior administrations were very open if someone came and they had ideas about how to promote housing or promote jobs or businesses.

I don't think Mike's the first guy to take that on. He's a little bit more vocal about it, whereas the others were focusing on the items that they did; if there was a public safety piece,

that's what they did.

Chris Louras helped bring forth Project Vision, which has turned into a model throughout the entire state of Vermont. Jim Baker, who was part of that process, I've been in contact with Jim and looking to get together and have a dialogue about where Project Vision is today compared to where it was post-Covid or pre-Covid because the dynamics have changed. And I don't care what anyone says: Covid changed the dynamics of how our world is, whether it's people just staying at home, working from their homes, businesses closing down, not doing whatever...people have noted that.

I heard the number could be 1,000 units within Rutland County that are just waiting to be rehabbed. It doesn't have to be a state-funded or a federally-funded type of project.

**Is there anything else you want to add?**

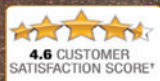
One of my greatest pleasures and pride was being a city clerk and running city elections for my community. Presidential elections, the first one I came in for was the Obama election. It was a record-setting election for our city. I think there was a 70% turnout, which is 7,000 people. But for whatever reason, the March mayoral election has always been kind of, I don't want to say the "red-headed stepchild," but it's just for some reason harder to get people out.

People want to be heard, to be represented. People don't like what's going on with the current leadership. People don't like the fact there's no fireworks, or there wasn't enough representation for the road diet, or that local sports teams want to have an escort in or out of the city. I don't think that's asking too much, but we need to get people out to vote.

Be informed and hopefully, we'll see a lot of people at the polls on March 4.

The candidates have had their say. Now, it's up to the voters of Rutland City to have theirs. Rutland City's Town Meeting day is on Tuesday, March 4.

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TOWN OF  
KILLINGTON  
VERMONT

PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE: PROPOSED SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS,  
AMENDMENTS TO KILLINGTON ZONING BYLAWS,  
and KILLINGTON ZONING MAP

The Killington Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed Subdivision Regulations, Zoning Bylaw Amendments, and Zoning Map Amendment for the Town of Killington on: March 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building; 800 Killington Road, Killington, Vermont. The hearing will also be held remotely via zoom. The link to join remotely is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82016521376?pwd=A5o6YgZerFHNta7lpNGzI74DLnyuey.1> or by call in: +1-646-931-3860, +1-929-2056099

This public notice is given pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 4444.

The principal purpose of the proposed subdivision regulations and zoning bylaw amendments is to (1) provide for orderly growth and coordinated development in the Town of Killington, and to further the purposes of the Town of Killington Municipal Plan, (2) to amend the current zoning bylaws to reflect changes made by the adoption of subdivision regulations in the Town of Killington, (3) to clarify Section 407 of the Zoning Bylaws that relates to the short term rental of dwelling units, (4) to require a zoning permit for the removal of trees within an area equal or greater to the maximum lot coverage percentage applicable to the subject zoning district or the removal of more than five (5) trees with a caliper width of eight inches (8”) or greater within twenty (20) feet of any side or rear property boundary in any twelve (12) month period except for the removal of dead or diseased trees and the removal of trees in accordance with a forest management plan, (5) to reduce the number of allowed driveway curb cuts to one unless exempted by the town road foreman and fire chief, and (6) to clarify the exemptions (specifically signs) from setbacks in all zoning districts. The Town of Killington Zoning Map has also been amended to rezone a small portion of the Forest Reserve District to the Valley District. The adoption of subdivision regulations and proposed zoning bylaw amendments will affect every geographical area of Killington, and are consistent with the goals and policies outlined within the Town Plan.

The proposed amendment to the Town of Killington Zoning Map is in conformance with the Land Use Chapter of Killington’s Town Plan. Specifically, this change is designed to maintain consistency among the Valley Zoning District and to encourage the use of PUDs to cluster development.

The proposed zoning bylaw amendments affect every section of the zoning bylaw, however, the section headings materially affected by the proposed subdivision regulations and zoning bylaw amendments are: SECTION 100 – ENACTMENT, SECTION 120 – DEFINITIONS, SECTION 300 – CONDITIONAL USES, SECTION 407 – SHORT TERM RENTAL OF DWELLING UNIT, SECTION 420 – LOCATION OF ACCESS DRIVEWAYS, SECTION 440 – SIGNS, SECTION 615 – ZONING PERMIT FOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT OR LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT, SECTION 712 – GENERAL DUTIES, and SECTION 751 – PUBLIC NOTICE: CONDITIONAL USE REVIEWS, VARIANCES, MAJOR SUBDIVISION REVIEWS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPEALS.

The full text of the proposed Town of Killington Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Bylaw Amendments may be found at the Town Clerk’s office, 2706 River Road, Killington and on the Planning Commission page of the Town’s website at <https://KillingtonTown.com>.

*Dated at Killington, Vermont this 26th day of February.  
William H. Austin, Assistant Town Planner, Town of Killington, Vermont*

Town provides progress  
update on Killington  
Forward Initiative

By Abbie Sherman, Killington public works director

Construction of the Killington water system, which is visible along Route 4 and the top of Shagback Mountain, is well underway. A summary of the status of Phases 1 and 2 is below, and additional information regarding connection to the water system is available on the town of Killington website (click the Killington Forward Initiative link).

Phase 1

Contracts 1, 2, and 3A provide for the development of the wells, the wellhouse, the high-pressure pump station, the first 750,000-gallon water storage tank, and all the water mains between each. Completion of these contracts is expected to be in September 2025.

Contract 4 for the water system will pick up the distribution line at a point on East Mountain Road (by the road to the water storage tank), continue along East Mountain Road, through the TIF District by Killington Resort, down Killington Road and ends at Ravine Road. Contract 4 was awarded to SUR Construction of Winchester, New Hampshire, on Feb. 7, 2025. The signing of contract documents will occur on March 5, and construction is expected to begin this spring, completing by the end of calendar year 2026.

A dry distribution line from Anthony Way to Route 4 was installed in the summer of 2024 as part of Phase 1 of the roadway improvements and will be connected to the water system under Phases 2 to 4.

Costs for Phase 1 of the system were guaranteed by the 2023 bond vote for \$47 million plus various grants the town has received. The bond will be paid for with the new property tax revenue from development within the TIF District and pursuant to the development agreement with Great Gulf.

Phases 2 to 4

Phases 2 to 4 of the Killington water system picks up the distribution line at Ravine Road and continues down Killington Road to Anthony Way, connects to the dry distribution line, then heads west to 1894 Route 4.

Construction of these phases of the Killington water system is critical to bringing the development of workforce housing to reality (see summary at the end). Contracts 5 and 6A will pick up on Ravine Road, continue down Killington Road to Anthony Way, and will also include a distribution line to Killington Elementary School. Contract 7 is for the section along Route 4. Phases 2 to 4 require voter approval for a \$11.2 million bond, which is on the ballot for Town Meeting Day, March 4, 2025. A Public Informational Meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, starting at 7 p.m. Additional information regarding that bond vote appeared in the February 12-18, 2025, edition of the Mountain Times and is available online.

Roadway improvements

Improvements to Killington Road, Old Mill Road, a section of East Mountain Road, and the creation of a new road (so-called Road “H”), are all included in the initiative for the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District. A summary of each phase of these improvements is provided below.

Phase 1

Phase 1 of the roadway improvements is further broken down into Phases 1A and 1B. Phase 1A is for improvement to roads located within the TIF District – Killington Road, Old Killington Forward → 11





TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

## WINTER MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES REMINDERS

**Snow Plowing:** Residents and private contractors performing snow removal are reminded that it is illegal and dangerous to deposit snow on Town Highways. Depositing snow on any highway results in increased maintenance costs and may result in a highway accident. When snow is blown or plowed across the highway, it may cause slippery conditions or snow berms that in turn could cause an accident. Likewise, it is also illegal to dump snow on the edge of the roadway, leaving for the Town plow to wing back. Snow can turn into ice and become a safety hazard for all motorists, including the Highway Crew. When a plow hits ridges of ice or a frozen bank, damage to expensive Town equipment can occur.

Unauthorized plowing of Town Highways is also illegal and interferes with the operations of Killington's Highway Crew. It unnecessarily wastes taxpayer dollars on salt and sand which the Highway Crew has applied to the road. This also creates hazards on the road as new salt or sand is not being applied by parties unauthorized to plow. Parties who do not have the authority from the Town of Killington to plow Town Highways are fully liable for any property damage or personal injury resulting from these activities.

**Violations can result in a traffic ticket which carries a \$50 waiver penalty or civil action may be brought under 19 VSA 1105 which carries a fine not to exceed \$1,000 plus costs.**

**Streetside Parking:** Parking on public highways in Killington is prohibited per the Town's Parking Ordinance. Streetside parking interferes with plowing or removal of snow in the Town right-of-way. Any law enforcement officer may issue a parking ticket and/or cause the vehicle to be removed at the owner's expense.

*Cooperation with these safety concerns is necessary to help keep Town Highways as safe as possible.*



TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

## WARNING

### PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING: MARCH 3, 2025 & BOND VOTE: MARCH 4, 2025

Pursuant to 17 VSA 2680, the legal voters of the Town of Killington, County of Rutland, State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified that a Public Informational Hearing will be held on Monday, March 3, 2025, commencing at seven o'clock (7:00) in the evening (p.m.) to be held at the Killington Public Safety Building at 800 Killington Road, Killington, Vermont and via electronic means. The object and purpose of this hearing is to consider indebtedness for the purpose of improvements for the Town, consisting of the planning, design, acquisition, construction and installation and equipping of water system improvements for the Town. The estimated cost of the improvement is \$11,200,000; the amount of bonds proposed to be issued is \$11,200,000.

The article as it will appear on the Annual Town Meeting Warning is as follows:

Article 4. Shall the bonds of the Town of Killington in an amount not to exceed ELEVEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$11,200,000), subject to reduction through the receipt of any other sources of funding, be issued for the purpose of the planning, design, acquisition, construction and installation and equipping of water system improvements for the Town of Killington?

The above article will be voted by Australian ballot at the Killington Town Office at 2706 River Road in Killington on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Information for attending the Public Informational Hearing via electronic means will be posted in the Agenda on the Town website: [Killingtontown.com/calendar](http://Killingtontown.com/calendar)



TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

## WARNING:

### PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING: March 3, 2025 & ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: March 4, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Killington, County of Rutland, State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Killington Town Office at 2706 River Road in Killington on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. to vote by Australian ballot on the following Articles.

Legal voters are further warned that a public informational hearing will take place at the Killington Public Safety Building at 800 Killington Road in Killington and via electronic means on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. For information on how to participate in this public informational hearing, please see the Public Informational Hearing Notice and Agenda posted herewith.

**Article 1.** To elect the following town officers:

- A moderator for a term of one year;
- A selectboard member for a term of one year;
- A selectboard member for a term of three years;
- A town clerk for a term of one year;
- A town treasurer for a term of three years;
- A lister for a term of three years;
- A cemetery commissioner for a term of three years;
- A library trustee for a term of five years;

**Article 2.** Shall property taxes be paid in three installments: the first due August 15, 2025, and the overdue subject to interest after August 25, 2025; the second due November 15, 2025, and overdue subject to interest after November 25, 2025; and the third due February 15, 2026, with the total tax delinquent after February 25, 2026?

**Article 3.** Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures of \$7,912,875 of which an estimated \$5,422,325 shall be raised by property taxes, and \$2,490,550 in estimated non-property tax revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025?

**Article 4.** Shall the bonds of the Town of Killington in an amount not to exceed ELEVEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$11,200,000), subject to reduction through the receipt of any other sources of funding, be issued for the purpose of the planning, design, acquisition, construction and installation and equipping of water system improvements for the Town of Killington?

**Article 5.** Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Killington, in an amount not to exceed Four Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$490,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal grants in aid and the application of available reserves, to be financed for a term not to exceed 15 years be issued for the purpose of completing renovations of the new Town Hall at 2046 US Route 4 in Killington?

**Article 6.** Shall the Town of Killington elect two (2) additional Selectboard members for terms of two years each pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2650(b) whose terms shall take effect June 1, 2025, with a Special Meeting to be warned to fill these additional positions in the event this Article passes?

Dated at Killington, Vermont this 27th day of January 2025.

Jim Haff

Robert Hecker

Christopher Karr



# The double dare

Last week, the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced their version of the annual Budget Adjustment Act (BAA) on a party-line 4-3 vote (4 Democrats, 3 Republicans). Previously, the House passed their version on a partisan vote as well. The major obstacles continue to be extending the hotel voucher winter rules to June 30 and re-allocating \$20 million of funds previously earmarked to reduce state bonds.

The full Senate will vote on the measure this week, which will likely be once again approved along party lines. Democratic leaders may be “daring” Governor Phil Scott to veto the bill. If that were to happen, they would not have the votes to override, and they would be faced with making changes to satisfy the governor or risk not passing other critical funding in the bill, such as emergency nursing home assistance.

With the session now seven weeks old, Senate Republicans are growing impatient with the lack of consideration for changes to any of the previously passed energy bills that had been enacted by overriding gubernatorial vetoes. One such measure is a proposed repeal of the Clean Heat Standard that the Public Utilities Commission indi-

cated would increase the cost of heating fuel in Vermont. The expectation is that Senate Republicans will make a move on Tuesday to pull the Clean Heat repeal out of the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Such a move rarely succeeds. However, senators who vote against pulling the repeal bill from the committee could be seen as against the repeal and for proceeding with the Clean Heat law. Certainly, the Republican “Dare” could make for some interesting theater in the Senate this week.



By Rep. Jim Harrison

**Other issues of interest:**

Potential alternative education reform plans to the administration’s are starting to emerge.

Democrats have unveiled a plan that would set minimum class sizes, a move that could force the closure of small schools.

The House Agriculture Committee unanimously gave a thumbs-up in favor of continuing to support universal school meals. The cost to the Education Fund, while less than the original estimates, is about \$18-20 million annually. According to the committee, there has only been a 10% increase in the per-student use of school meals (51% to 61%).

The governor’s proposed changes to last Harrison → 23

# Town meeting season has begun

Pomfret’s informational town meeting was held Saturday, Feb. 22 – kicking off Town Meeting season. I always hope to attend as many of the 25 town gatherings as possible. Still, it is a challenge as the vast majority are held during three periods:

Saturday morning, March 1, Monday evening, March 3, and Tuesday, March 4. So, the fact that Pomfret’s meeting came early was helpful, and I doubt any other Town Meeting will have the benefit of Alice Lamson’s delicious homemade doughnuts that all of us were treated to in Pomfret.

As the Vermont Legislature only meets from January through mid-May, Town Meeting marks just shy of our halfway point. Usually, by this time, we have a sense of how major priorities are shaping up. This year, not so much. One of our top priorities has been education property tax reform. I hoped that by this time, we’d have made more significant progress on this. To his credit, the governor and his administration have presented a proposal on transforming Vermont’s education system. This proposal is bold and big and not entirely fleshed out. For the Legislature to act on any of these proposals - governance restructuring, funding and financing, school scale, and rules

and regulations — we need details. We need draft legislation to work from, and we need to agree that we are all moving in the same direction. We all want a sustainable education system that is sustainably funded. But we need a more detailed map to get there.

My sense is that we’ll find a way to education tax relief this year. It is what our constituents cried out for. It may not be the final education financing reform that will make the system sustainable over time – but what is clear is that this bold a revisioning of our education system will take us all, working together, more time to get it right.

I have a clearer sense of the bills that will be making it out of Senate Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs by cross-over. I expect we will pass out three committee bills: Housing, Economic Development, and Labor – each with several elements. Our Housing bill builds on several successful programs established to increase housing: VHIP – the Vermont Housing Improvement Program, which provides grants or loans to bring back online vacant, blighted, non-code compliant buildings and to build ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units). With inflation as high as it is in the construction Clarkson → 25



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

# TOWN MEETING PASTA DINNER

## Take Out

### Monday, March 3

### Drive Thru at the

### Public Safety Building on the

### Killington Road

### Lasagna/Salad/Bread/Dessert

**Serving from 4:30-6:00pm**  
**Suggested Donation \$5**  
**Proceeds benefit**  
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← 100th win: .....  
from page 1

rather than just those of us who have the means, the access, or the background and bloodlines to support it.”

“I see this 100th victory conversation as an opportunity to bring more eyes and, ideally, more passion to the sport,” she continued. “Helping Share Winter bring more kids to the mountain is really meaningful. It’s far bigger than me winning 100 races. This will make that 100th victory one of the most meaningful to me.”

Shiffrin is passionate in her support of philanthropic endeavors. She has also launched the Jeff Shiffrin Athlete Resiliency Fund, in partnership with U.S. Ski & Snowboard, in honor of her late father Jeff. The fund has raised more than \$3.7 million to help cover expenses for fellow teammates, ultimately allowing the athletes to focus on their sporting journey.

When Shiffrin reflected on her legacy, she said she hopes it will involve: “spreading the passion for and access to sports with more people, because it has had such a big impact on my life, my health — both mentally and physically — beyond just competing on the mountain... If I simplify it, ‘legacy’ is about how we impact the people and world around us and the way we choose to exist in the landscape of all the things we love to do,” according to FIS.

Several of Shiffrin’s corporate partners will play an integral role in the MIK100: Reset the Sport initiative, with Ikon Pass leading the way by matching up to \$50,000 in donations towards the \$100,000 fundraising goal.

Shiffrin kicked off the efforts with a \$10,000 donation of her own and challenged her sponsors to match her donation, including Barilla, Stifel, and Visa.

Killington Ski Resort will match Shiffrin’s donation, and Adidas, Atomic, Leki, Longines, Oakley, and Reusch will all offer exclusive MIK100 items for auction via the Share Winter website.

New items will be released throughout the season to celebrate Shiffrin’s 100+ victories, culminating in Sun Valley at the FIS Ski World Cup Finals.

Constance Beverley, CEO of Share Winter Foundation, said: “the willingness to take this moment and transform it into a movement, to share this win in an effort to create opportunity, that’s what makes Mikaela Shiffrin the greatest of all time... It’s not the win that makes her the best, it’s her understanding of what the win could mean, a chance to reset what’s possible for everyone in our sport.”

*For more information, visit: [sharewinterfoundation.org/mik100](https://sharewinterfoundation.org/mik100).*

New items will be released throughout the season to celebrate Shiffrin's 100+ victories.

← Killington Forward: .....  
from page 8

Mill Road, East Mountain Road, and Road “H”. Design plans are 90% complete and the Town anticipates bidding the project out soon. We hope to bid out in time to coordinate the water system work with the road work to the extent possible.

Construction of Phase 1B of Killington Road (Route 4 to Anthony Way) will be completed by June 30, 2025. All that remains is moving the last communication line, removal of the old utility poles and restoration of the bank they are located on, and various punchlist items.

Costs for Phase 1 of the Roadway Improvements are covered by the same 2023 bond vote for \$47 million as Phase 1 of the Water System, and various additional grants the town received. The bond will be paid for with the new property tax revenue from development within the TIF District and pursuant to the Development Agreement with Great Gulf.

**Phases 2 to 4**

Phases 2 to 4 are all for improvements to the remainder of Killington Road. The \$25M federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant Killington was awarded last summer would provide for most of the cost for these improvements.

The town was in the process of developing the grant agreement with Federal Highway and the Vermont Agency of Transportation when the federal funding freeze occurred and paused those efforts. The RAISE grant is only for Phases 2 to 4 of the Roadway Improvements (Killington Road), and which would be part of a TIF District Phase 2 filing the Town would submit to the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC). Discussions began in-house for the Phase 2 filing, but since the RAISE grant is on hold, we have decided to also put the Phase 2 filing on hold until we have more certainty on the RAISE grant.

The hold on Roadway Phases 2 to 4 and the RAISE grant does not affect any part of the Killington Water System or Phase 1 of the Roadway Improvements. The Town will revisit this situation every few weeks and hope to be able to move forward on Phases 2 to 4 of the Roadway Improvements in the next few months.

**Workforce Housing (Nanak Way)**

The Town secured a 70-acre parcel off Nanak Way in the summer of 2023 for future development of workforce housing. The property is on the Alpine sewer line, but connection to the Killington water system is required before the Town can begin the planning effort for development.

In the meantime, the town has partnered with Killington Resort and with Great Gulf to cover the purchase cost of the parcel. When access to the public water system is about two years away, the town will begin collaborating with housing trusts and developers to build workforce housing.

# NIGHT RUNS AND FAMILY FUN

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## EDITORIAL

### Expanding the Killington Select Board: pros, cons

By Polly Mikula

Voters in the town of Killington will be asked to consider expanding its current three-member volunteer Select Board to five at Town Meeting Day this Tuesday, March 4.

The question has been on the ballot before, and the measure failed, but there may be more appetite for it this time. Unfortunately, there hasn't been much of any community discussion on the topic (there's been only one letter to the editor, organizers of the petition have not returned our requests for comment, and even Select Board candidates at last Tuesday's forum provided little beyond "yeah, more participation is good" when asked directly about it).

Over the past few weeks, we've had casual conversations off the record with folks in town as well as experts with experience in area towns and hope to provide a bit more context for voters to make informed choices on Town Meeting Day.

Let's explore the pros and cons.

#### More participation

First, more participation is generally good. Five thoughtful, engaged volunteers who are driven by a selfless passion to improve the town could better direct the multitude of ongoing projects and could bring creative/diverse ideas to future decisions in the decades to come.

Additionally, given the \$80 million infrastructure investment over the next decade, having two more decision-makers at the table would help ensure that the town's needs are prioritized throughout the process.

And, with two of the current board members invested in Killington Resort's new independent owners group, a five-member board would allow them to appropriately recuse themselves if/when conflicts of interest arise.

It also allows the formation of information-gathering committees to divide workloads.

But the decision may not be quite that simple or straightforward. It's worth considering the potential downsides, too.

#### Contested elections are good for democracy

Moving to a five-member board is likely to make an already long meeting even longer, candidates for Selectmen have stated. Longer meetings, in addition to the frequency of meetings currently required (multiple times a week, days and nights), put limits on the application pool. If the schedule is such that only those who are retired or have extremely flexible work/home schedules (or don't work or have families) have the time to fulfill the role, then most residents will be logistically excluded. And those who can run may not represent the majority of Killington residents or their visions for the future.

Limiting the pool of potential candidates in an already tiny town is not good for democracy. It likely means less choice, not more. In the last decade, only about half of the elections for Select Board have been contested. And that's with only one seat to fill each year (this year, the remainder of Steve Finneron's term is up for election, too, which is why there are two seats open). With a board of five, the town would need to fill two seats most years.

Contested elections are good for democracy as they give voters a choice about who will represent them and the vision for the future of the town they support.

If we had a robust population interested in serving the 5-member board → 14

A five-member board made up of folks who got in by default no longer feels like better representation.



New Three Branches of Government by Christopher Weyant, CagleCartoons

## LETTERS

### Killington needs workforce housing

Dear Editor,

We've been part of the local community, owning a 3-family property we rent to locals, for 10 years now. Many locals recognize that housing for the local workforce is a major concern as the town looks to build the village. In a recent Mountain Times article, the developers stated that the target buyers for the condos in the village are "young professionals with a high six-figure income, with young families, looking for a summer/winter getaway home."

That says two things: these are not homes for the local workforce, nor homes that will be occupied year-round. Yet these homes and the other new housing on Bear will require an additional workforce for maintenance and services while we already have a shortage of affordable housing and workers. Meanwhile, many homes sit empty most days, with the owners hoping to cash in on them as short-term rentals.

In the past 10 years, real Workforce housing → 13

### Rob Hecker for re-election

Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of Rob Hecker for election to the Killington Select Board. Rob was appointed to the board last year to fill an open seat resulting from the untimely resignation of Steve Finneron.

He has spent the past year listening and learning, which is exactly what we should expect from a new board member. He is now up for election for a one-year term.

His comments on hiring and retaining the next town manager are keys to a successful future.

Although Rob and his family have lived in Killington full-time only since 2021, he has already served on the Planning Commission as well as the Select Board. His years of corporate leadership experience Hecker → 13

### Please vote 'yes' for the Town of Killington, Article 4, water bond vote

Dear Editor,

Hi it's Jim Haff, and it's election time.

I've been really quiet, letting you voters decide ballot items on your own, but I wanted to point out one thing on Article 4.

This is the waterline that will feed the community, not the village section. This will feed the much needed parcel that the town has bought now with donations from the resort and Great Gulf for workforce housing.

We need this to pass.

Once again, I will stay out of the rest of the articles, but please, this is a must for the town because we already got the water through for the village.

If you decide to vote "no" then I guess you only voted to get the water for the village and not the town. I really don't think that's the case.

**Jim Haff, Killington**  
Editor's note: Jim Haff is a current member of the Killington Select Board, he is not up for re-election.

### Vote 'yes' for a five-member Select Board (Article 6)

Dear Editor,

The time has come for Killington to move to a five-member Select Board. This change will bring numerous benefits to our community and help us better manage the demands of a growing town.

A five-member board will reduce the need for special meetings by allowing the Select Board to create smaller committees of two members to research and work on special projects.

These committees can then report to the full board for discussion and/or decision.

Currently, any time two members get together, it constitutes a quorum, which requires a special meeting to be warned. This can be cumbersome and inefficient.

Select Board members also serve on the board of civil authority (BCA), working alongside the Justices of the Peace and Town Clerk to conduct elections and hear tax appeals.

Article 6 → 13



## CAPITOL QUOTES

### Congress eyes cuts to Medicaid

With a Republican congress primed to fulfill a Trump administration desire to cut taxes for corporations and wealthy Americans who received lucrative tax cuts under the first Trump administration, taxpayer-funded programs like Medicaid are being eyed as prime targets for fund slashing.

**“It’s common sense. Little things like that make a big difference not only in the budgeting process but in the morale of the people. You know, work is good for you. You find dignity in work,”**

said House Speaker **Mike Johnson** regarding a Medicaid proposal requiring new work rules.

**“Hospitals will close, including in rural America and urban America and the heartland of America. Nursing homes will be shut down, and everyday Americans, children, seniors, those who are suffering with disabilities, will be hurt,”**

said House Democratic leader **Hakeem Jeffries** during a recent speech on the House floor.

**“Last night’s vote made one thing crystal clear: Senate Republicans would rather line the pockets of their billionaire friends than protect vital programs American families rely on,”**

said Senator **Peter Welch** of an all-night Republican budget resolution which threatened to slash Medicaid funding.

**“I told him [President Trump] I very well may not vote for this, and I’m certainly waiting until the last minute to see if some changes can be made, because I’m very unhappy,”**

said **Jeff Van Drew** Democrat turned Republican Representative on Monday, Feb. 25.

## LETTERS



### Workforce housing:

from page 12

estate values and rental rates have soared, with many who purchased homes looking to cash in on short-term rentals rather than occupy them. Our street used to have six homes occupied year-round, with three occupied seasonally or occasionally by the owners. As owners have sold or passed away, these homes have joined those hoping to cash in on short-term rentals, remaining empty the majority of the time. One of those had a long-term tenant who saw her rent increased 100% by the new owner, forcing her out. Currently, only three of the nine homes on my street are occupied year-round, all by people who are part of the local workforce. The other six properties are only rented or owner-occupied several weekends per year since we have such a large stock of rental properties. As I go on my daily walk, I note how many homes are empty most of the time. The writing is on the wall that as the current owners age and move or sell, the new owners will raise the rental rates, likely putting rents out of range of the local workforce. Or worse, put them on the short-term rental market.

Many locals can no longer afford to purchase their own homes, even in Killington or surrounding

towns. Even the most inexpensive units in Mountain Green are out of reach now due to the special assessment. “Affordable housing” has been promised, but will it be enough, given the additional workforce needed to staff the promised housing, facilities, and shops? Even existing openings are never completely filled since Killington and local businesses are constantly searching for workers.

To address the issue of workforce housing, several ski towns have or are looking to tax incentives to homeowners who rent to those in the local workforce. I’ve been told that Belleayre in the Catskills has such a policy. Given the significant increase in taxes we are all dealing with, such an incentive might cause homeowners to consider offering their property to local workers and families, even though the short-term rents are significantly higher per diem than a yearly lease. I’d urge the town to consider starting such a program. We need our locals. They make Killington the warm, inclusive, vibrant, and authentic ski town it has always been known for. Without them, our town would be no more inviting than a giant multi-acre hotel.

**Barb and Gary Palmer, Killington**



### Article 6:

from page 12

During the 2011 Reap-praisal, the BCA received over 200 tax appeals. Since 2011, the BCA has consistently received two or more annual tax appeals.

At times, BCA members must recuse themselves due to conflicts of interest, leaving fewer members to handle these responsibilities.

Additionally, BCA members play a crucial role in election night duties, including ballot counting and working as ballot clerks. The more members we have available, the faster and more efficiently we can complete these tasks.

With all the current and future projects contributing to the growth of our town—such as the Killington Road reconstruction, the building of municipal water infrastructure, the development of workforce/affordable housing, and the Six Peaks Ski Village—a five-member board would offer diverse perspectives and better representation for all our residents.

While some have argued that Killington is too small for a five-member board or that it’s difficult to find enough citizens interested in serving, it’s clear that

## Rutland City workers endorse Clifford and McClure for Aldermen

Dear Editor,

Union workers are the backbone of the City of Rutland. From supporting our schools to maintaining the roads, making sure residents have safe and clean drinking water, to responding to emergencies, we are the ones that make Rutland the great city that it is. As such, we also know that we need effective leaders in City Hall who will support our work and the delivery of high-quality public

Aldermen → 14



### Hecker:

from page 12

add a new perspective to the board, and, for those who sat in on the recent candidate’s forum, you saw his energy and interest in using that experience here in Killington.

His thoughts on improving our budget process should be taken seriously in future years, and his comments on hiring and retaining the next Town Manager are keys to a successful future.

I look forward to Rob serving on the Select Board for another term and hearing more from him as time passes.

**Art Malatzky, Killington**

the town’s needs have outgrown these concerns. Killington may only have 1,407 year-round residents (according to the 2020 census), but we also serve thousands of second-home owners. While they may not be able to vote in local elections, they contribute to the town’s needs and deserve strong representation.

A five-member board will provide better service to everyone in Killington.

Please join us on March 4 in voting “Yes” on Article 6.

Thank you,  
**Ken and Lucrecia Wonsor, Killington**



## ← Aldermen: from page 13

services for Rutland's working families. That is why AFSCME Local 1201 is proud to endorse Paul Clifford and Kiana McClure for Alderman on this Town Meeting Day election.

Both Paul and Kiana have long been trusted friends of

working people, have shown themselves to have true integrity, and both have Rutland's best interests at heart.

Therefore, as President of AFSCME Local 1201 I ask that all working people, all union members, cast their ballot for

these two fine candidates on March 4th. Together, and with Mike Doenges as mayor, we will make Rutland an even better place to live for all.

**Tom Franzoni, President of AFSCME Local 1201, Rutland City**

## ← Bowen: from page 5

project, for example, the businesses that are already established and have been for many, many years.

I also support the workforce housing. We can see that housing isn't an issue that's unique to Killington. There's a lack of housing and more often than not, it is cost prohibitive. Also, many people do not want long commutes to their jobs, especially during winter months when driving distances can become a challenge.

**5) Conflict of interest has been a topic locally as well as statewide most recently. The Town has created a new Code of Ethics and Enforcement ordinance. Do you have any current conflicts of interest with matters relative to the town? If so, what are they? How will you handle those, or others that may arise, if elected to the board?**

Currently, I do not have any conflicts of interest with the town as a Select Board member. If something arises, one has to recuse oneself depending on the topic of concern. I do feel, however, that the liaison should be a town employee and not a member of the Select Board.

**6) The last article on Killington's ballot (Article 6) asks voters if the Select Board should grow to five members instead of its current three. Do you support this measure? Why or why not?**

I most definitely support this measure. I feel that it is important for two main reasons.

1. If there is a conflict of interest in a matter and a Select Board member has to recuse from the issue, then there still will be other mem-

bers for a majority vote.

2. It will provide opportunities for a broader spectrum of ideas and viewpoints.

**7) The Town's Recreation Dept and Library are two important assets for this community. As Selectman how will you support and help these departments grow, continue to serve the community?**

The Recreation Department and the library are fundamental entities in a town. When people move to a place, they look for a good school and a place to build community. I think that both the library and the rec department do a great job in hosting events for children and adults alike.

The Select Board members should collaborate with both departments to help them maintain and grow with the town.

**8) What are the biggest obstacles and/or opportunities you see facing Killington's progress that you plan to address in this next first term?**

I am excited about the plans for Killington's future, but at the same time, we can't lose sight of what is in front of us now, the roads that need to be fixed, regular maintenance on buildings, sidewalks, and equipment, among other things.

Through my job, I have been very fortunate to get to know the wonderful people who live here. They are strong, resilient and hard-working, and through my conversations with residents, second home owners, and visitors, I have come to the conclusion that a lot of people truly care for this town.

## ← 5-member board?: from page 12

town and could consistently field enough candidates to ensure two contested elections each year, then a five-member board would make sense.

However, the reality is that volunteerism is low and decreasing across the modern world, including in Killington (hence the move to a paid fire department in town). Couple that with the thankless nature of serving as a Select Board member, and it's understandable why we don't see folks flocking to fill these seats.

With a five-member board, it's not hard to imagine a scenario where most elections are not contested and whoever throws their name in will get in. No choices. A candidate's platform wouldn't even need to be shared in advance, as the only name on the ballot will certainly be chosen. Then, whatever has led them to run — it could be "cut government 75%" or "let's make Killington fancy (and drive out those that can't afford it)" — will be a driving factor on the board for three years.

To be clear, there have been and always will be members of the board each of us may personally disagree with. It's not about preventing any particular person or platform from being elected, only that they are, in fact, elected — that's democracy in action.

If the past is any indication of future interest (and it may not be), we'll have to work hard to encourage enough folks to want to serve on the board in order to give voters a choice on election day. With two seats to fill, this becomes harder.

A five-member board made up of folks who got in by default, no longer feels like better representation.

That being said, it's worth noting that all four current candidates (Chris Karr, Rob Hecker, Patrick Cushing, and Rick Bowen) seem to have a genuine interest in helping the town grow and prosper for its residents in the most efficient way possible. The concern is not about the current slate of interested leaders but rather the prospect of continually fielding such a slate in perpetuity.

### Transparency does not happen behind unknown doors

Two other related arguments in favor of a five-member board are that it would limit any one member's power and that the board would become more transparent. Both are questionable assumptions.

Currently, the three selectmen are not supposed to discuss matters related to the town outside of a warned meeting. With a five-member board, two could meet anytime and discuss anything without the public knowing — and one could meet with each of the four separately and could garner support for their cause in advance of any/all meetings. One member could, in fact, go into every public "discussion," knowing in advance that they had the support of at least two others before a vote was called.

While this is common in politics and occurs in the state house among much larger bodies, the change in our small town does not increase transparency.

It also may not have the desired effect of decreasing one member's power on the board, although it could appear that way to the public who will never know about the one-on-one meetings behind the curtains.

Conversations held out of public view can now include non-transparent dealmaking, i.e., trading support for each others' issues to ensure majority support. Such efforts will not be equally made, as some board members will inevitably work harder at dealmaking than others, thus garnering greater influence — and it will all be out of the public purview, no records required.

Some may contend that a lack of transparency is the status quo with the board's current overuse of executive sessions. But at least there are legal limits imposed on what executive sessions can be called for (real estate and personnel have been commonly cited recently), and the board has to publicly announce the topic and come out after to say what actions, if any, were taken.

Executive sessions will continue in this same way with a five-member board.

### Consider pros and cons, then vote Tuesday

It's also possible to try out a change to a five-member board and go back to three if enough candidates do not come out to give voters the choices that they deserve — although going back to three is probably harder than increasing to five, so again, it's best to choose carefully.

In summary, the change to a five-member board could be beneficial or harmful — most likely, it'll be some of both. As the election nears, consider these (and other) potential outcomes and whether or not you think the pros outweigh the cons or vice versa — not just for this current election cycle but as a better structure for the town for decades to come. It's worth taking the time to fully consider the potential of any new structure.

Most importantly, please vote on Town Meeting Day, March 4. Your vote is your voice; we decide our future together by participating in democracy.



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WORDPLAY

FINANCIAL TIMES WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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ACCOUNT

ACCRUAL

ALLOCATION

AMORTIZATION

APPRAISAL

ASSETS

BALANCE

BOND

BUDGET

DEPRECIATION

DIVERSIFY

EQUITY

GROSS

INCOME

INTEREST

INVEST

LIABILITIES

MARGINS

MARKET

NET

PERCENTAGE

PROFIT

RATE

STOCK

SUDOKU

Solutions → 30

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.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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|   | 2 |   | 8 |   | 5 |   | 3 |   |
|   | 6 | 8 |   | 1 |   |   | 4 | 2 |
| 4 |   |   |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |
|   | 1 |   |   | 8 | 4 |   | 7 |   |
|   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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|   |   |   |   | 3 |   |   | 1 | 4 |
|   |   |   | 2 |   | 6 |   |   | 8 |
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Level: Intermediate

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 30

CLUES ACROSS

1. Greek mythological figure

5. Small amount

8. Play a role

11. River in Georgia and Alabama

13. Water in the solid state

14. Ancient Greek sophist

15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste

16. Fleece

17. Writer/actress Dunham

18. Behave in a way that belittles

20. Comedienne Gasteyer

21. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire

22. Conceits

25. Slowed down

30. Nourishment

31. Midway between east and southeast

32. Fights

33. Comedienne Tyler

38. Standing operating procedure

41. Locks

43. Old

45. Song sung to one's lover

47. Whale ship captain

49. Moved quickly on foot

50. Volcanic craters

55. Large musical instrument

56. Liquefied natural gas

57. Ethiopian town

59. Not closed

60. A team's best pitcher

61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

62. Disfigure

63. Prefix denoting "in a"

64. Sleep

CLUES DOWN

1. S. American plant

2. Soul and calypso song

3. Fruit of the service tree

4. Continent

5. Albania's capital

6. Poisonous plant

7. Argues

8. Assists

9. Town in Galilee

10. Russian leader

12. Promotional materials

14. Wings

19. Not odd

23. Expression of creativity

24. Conceptualize

25. A digital tape recording of sound

26. Peyton's little brother

27. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)

28. Difference in potential

29. Owner

34. I (German)

35. Chinese conception of poetry

36. The world of the dead

37. Sign language

39. Coincide

40. Religious observance

41. Confined condition (abbr.)

42. Polite interruption sound

44. Texas ballplayer

45. Type of sword

46. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician

47. Basic unit of a chemical element

48. Native American people in California

51. Swiss river

52. Hebrew calendar month

53. Easily swindled person

54. One point south of southwest

58. Small island (British)

GUESS WHO ?

I am a boxer born in Michigan on February 24, 1977. I won a bronze medal as a featherweight in the 1996 Summer Olympics. I went on to be a five-division world champion boxer, winning 15 world titles. I was one of the highest paid athletes in the world at one point.

Answer: Floyd Mayweather, Jr.

Nail'd IT.

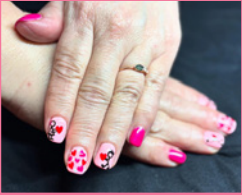
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WED  
2/26

### S.E.A.T. Exercises

9-10 a.m. (Wednesdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$6 per individual class or \$5 per class when paying for the whole month upfront. A brand-new, chair-based full body workout led by Melissa Cox. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853.

### Stick & Puck

9:30-11:30 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

### Winter Naturalist Series: Nordic Ski Adventure

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Prosper Road Trailhead, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Woodstock. Free. Enjoy cross-country skiing on moderate trails through northern hardwood forests, led by park naturalists. Recommended for intermediate and advanced skiers. Trail passes (\$20-\$35) and rentals available at Woodstock Inn & Resort Nordic Center. nps.gov/mabi.

### Michelob ULTRA Ski Bum Race Series

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesdays through March 12. Highline ski trail, Killington Resort, Killington. \$60 per individual. Open to skiers, snowboarders, and telemark skiers ages 21+. Compete weekly for Ski Bum glory, followed by après parties with food, drink specials, and prizes from 4-6 p.m. Training course available 10 a.m.-noon. Registration required. killington.com/ski-bum-race-series.

### Active Seniors Lunch

11:30 a.m. (Wednesdays) The Lookout Tavern, 2910 Killington Road, Killington. \$5 donation towards the meal. 908-783-1050.

### Gentle & Restorative Yoga

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Wise Pines, 184 Hartland Road, Woodstock. \$15 or \$30 for three classes. Yoga class for seniors. wisepines.com/events.

### Public Skating

2-3:40 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Adult \$8, Youth \$6, Seniors \$5, Child under 3 Free, Super Senior (70+) Free. Skate rentals \$7 (figure or ice hockey). unionarena.net.

### Cribbage for Adults

3-5 p.m. (Wednesdays) Hartland Public Library, 135 Route 5, Hartland. Free. hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar or 802-436-2473.

### Public Skate

3-5 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

### Wine School: Wine 101

6:30-8 p.m., Putnam's Vine/Yard, 188 South Main St., Hartford. \$50. An introductory class for wine enthusiasts and beginners, covering the fundamentals of wine tasting, aroma identification, and grape varieties. Led by certified wine expert Victoria, who brings international experience from Spain, France, and beyond. Tickets non-refundable but transferable. putnams-vineyard.square.site/.

### Bone Builders at the Chaffee

3:30-4:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Heather Wilson leads a bone-building class focused on weight training and balance exercises. chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Intermediate Line Dance

9:30-10:30 a.m. (Thursdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853.

### Stick & Puck

9:30-11:30 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

### Survivors Support Group

10 a.m.-noon. (Thursdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Fliers are available at the Godnick Center or call 802-775-3232. rutlandrec.com/godnick.

### Bone Builders

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

### Public Skate

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

### Chaffee: Artery

Noon. (Thursdays) Adults. Connect and create with others. \$10-\$20. Painting in all mediums welcome. No set topic or instructor, attendees will work on their individual artwork. Must pre-register. chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

### Ukelele Group

Noon-1 p.m. (Thursdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Attendees will play a collection of sheet music. All levels welcome, ages 12+. Must pre-register by Wednesday at noon. chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

### Michelob ULTRA Race World

1-3 p.m. Thursdays through March 13. Pico Mountain, 73 Alpine Dr., Killington. Refer to website for details. Weekly race series featuring individual and team competitions, followed by after-parties at the Last Run Lounge with food, prizes, and Michelob ULTRA specials. picomountain.com.

### Stick & Puck

1:30-3:30 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

### Play Bridge!

2-4 p.m. (Thursdays) Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Beginners are welcome to observe. normanwilliams.org or 802-457-2295.

### Kids' Mandala Painting

4-5 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$20. Kids explore self-expression through mandala art using various mediums. All supplies included. Pre-registration required. chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Introduction to Smelt Fishing

5-8 p.m. Kehoe Access Area, Bomoseen. Free. Learn the basics of smelt fishing, including ice safety, regulations, and techniques, in this hands-on clinic. Equipment provided. Participants should dress for the weather and bring a flashlight and chair. Register in advance. vtfishandwildlife.com.

### Mandala Painting & Tea

5:30-7 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25. A creative experience featuring mandala dot art, tea, and sweet treats. Participants will explore self-expression through color and patterns while learning about Chaffee Art Center's history. All supplies included. Pre-registration required. chaffeeartcenter.org.

### 'Our Town'

7 P.M. Chandler Music Hall, 71 N. Main St., Randolph. Pay-what-you-will preview performance. Preview showing of this Vermont-inspired reimagining of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," featuring live covers of songs by Grammy-nominated Vermont native Noah Kahan. Directed by Ben Rapson with music direction by Ryder Musselman. The Smithsonian Institution's "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" exhibit will be open in the Chandler gallery. chandler-arts.org/ourtown.

### Stick & Puck

7:45-9:15 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

FRI  
2/28

### Slash & Berm Banked Slalom

8 a.m.-8 p.m. Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Road, Killington. Snowboarders take on The Stash in Killington's 11th annual banked slalom, benefiting Wings for Life. Friday features an invite-only team competition. New this year: The Switch Run challenge. \$70 competitor lift tickets available. Registration and volunteer sign-ups required. killington.com.

### Mom's Day Off Fundraiser at Bromley Mountain

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Bromley Mountain, 3984 Vermont Route 11, Peru. \$30. Mothers, including honorary and pet moms, ski or ride for a discounted rate by showing a photo of their children or pets. All proceeds support breast cancer services at the Dartmouth Cancer Center at SVMC. The Wild Boar Tavern will donate 50% of its proceeds. Tickets available day-of; event will move to March 7 in case of inclement weather. bromley.com.

### Stick & Puck

9:30-11:30 a.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

### Intro to Improv Dance

10-11:30 a.m. (Fridays through Feb. 28) Artistree, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$150 for the entire class. Participants of all experience levels to explore creative self-expression through dance. The class incorporates various movement prompts, group and solo compositions, and music from diverse genres. Opportunities for reflection and somatic introspection are included. Registration required: hisawyer.com/artistree/schedules/activity-set/111816?source=semesters.

### Bone Builders

11 a.m.-noon. (Fridays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Heather Wilson leads a bone-building class that focuses on weight training and balance exercises to improve strength, balance, and bone density. chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Connections & Interconnections of Life Weekly Group

Noon-1 p.m. (Fridays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. A place to share thoughts, philosophies, spirituality, cultures, and more in a respectful way. All are welcome. Must RSVP: chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

### Inner Seasons Women's Circle

12:30-4:30 p.m., Wise Pines, 184 Hartland Hill, Woodstock. \$30. Join a supportive women's circle focused on growth, connection, and renewal. Session explores guided discussions, holistic tools, meditations, and personal insight practices. Register at wisepines.com/events. wisepines@gmail.com.

### Stick & Puck

1:30-2:50 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$10 per session. Helmet required; other gear strongly recommended. unionarena.net.

### West Coast Swing Dance Classes

5:30-6:30 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall (upstairs), 35 Marble St., West Rutland. \$15 per class. Learn West Coast Swing with flexible registration options for individual nights or the full series. Pre-registration required. vtwestiebest@gmail.com.

### The Fab Four – The Ultimate Beatles Tribute

7:30 p.m. The Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$39-\$59. The Emmy Award-winning Fab Four delivers note-for-note renditions of Beatles classics with stunning accuracy, featuring three costume changes to represent different eras of the band's career. paramountvt.org.

## SLASH & BERM BANKED SLALOM

FRI & SAT @ 8 A.M.





← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info.....  
from page 16

**Fierce Friday Presents: Fatal Attraction Drag Show**  
8-11 p.m., Elks Lodge, 44 Pleasant St., Rutland. \$25-\$30. A night of glamour, drama, and high-energy performances featuring some of the fiercest drag artists. Doors open at 7 p.m. Special features include a free vaccination clinic hosted by the VT Department of Health and a 50/50 raffle. Ages 18+. Tickets are non-refundable. rcpride.org.

**SAT**  
3/1

### Slash & Berm Banked Slalom

8 a.m.-4 p.m. Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Rd., Killington. Snowboarders take on The Stash in Killington's 11th annual banked slalom, benefiting Wings for Life. Saturday's open competition welcomes all riders, including groms (ages 13 & under). New this year: The Switch Run challenge. \$70 competitor lift tickets available. Registration and volunteer sign-ups required. killington.com.

### Free Ski Demo at Okemo

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Solitude Village, Okemo Mountain, Ludlow. Free. The Boot Pro, along with top ski manufacturers, offers a free demo event featuring a full fleet of men's and women's skis. Located on Village Run Trail, skiers can test the latest gear. The last skis go out at 1:30 p.m. Registration and a credit card deposit required. Sponsored by The Boot Pro & Mary W Davis Realtor & Associates. bit.ly/solitude-demo.

### Poker Ride-In

9 a.m.-3 p.m., Groomer Shed, RD#9, intersection of Bakers Road and Route 100, Pittsfield. Play poker with a twist—throw darts at your cards instead of drawing! Enjoy food, raffles, and prizes. Sponsored by Tweed Valley Travelers. henry@tweedvalleytravelers.com or call 845-803-0512.

### Community Hike

10 a.m.-noon. F&W SAM Trail, Dublin Road, Plymouth. Free. Join a group hike or snowshoe (weather permitting) on Farm & Wilderness Conservation Land. Register in advance. farmandwildernessconservation.org.

### Winter Group Hike – Howe Hill

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. East Poultny, 1500 East Main St. Free. Join the Slate Valley Trails Winter Hiking Series for a guided group hike exploring the winter landscape of Howe Hill. Meet at the church parking lot. slatevalleytrails.org.

### Vermont Winter Farmers Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Free. Shop local produce, crafts, and goods every Saturday through May 10, 2025. vtfarmersmarket.org.

### Community Toy Swap

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St., Ludlow. Free. Bring up to three clean, like-new or gently used toys and games to exchange for different ones. Donations of toys (no broken items or missing pieces) can be dropped off at the library from Feb. 18-28. fmlnews.org.

### Rutland Railway Association & Model Club

11 a.m.-3 p.m. 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. See an operating HO scale model railroad set up and displays of hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs and more. facebook.com/p/Rutland-RailwayAssociation-100066761013097/.

### Art at the Chaffee: Drop N' Paint

Noon-2 p.m. (Saturdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25 per person, instructor help optional with a fee. All ages. Supplies and images to paint are provided. Must pre register by Friday noon at: chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Annual Drive-Up Rabies Clinic

1-3 p.m. Woodstock High School parking lot, 100 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$15 per shot. Kedron Valley Vet Clinic's Dr. Philippa Richards will provide rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats while owners remain in their vehicles. Dogs must be leashed, and cats must be in carriers. Bring proof of prior vaccination records. Vermont law requires dogs to be licensed by six months of age with proof of rabies vaccination. Unlicensed dogs may be seized per state statute. Contact VSA Humane Society at 802-672-5302.

### Learn to Knit

1-2:30 p.m., Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Suite E, Rutland. \$25 per person. Beginner-friendly class covering casting on, knitting, purling, and basic stitch patterns. Participants need US size 8 needles and worsted weight wool yarn, available for purchase. Preregistration required. greenmountainfibers.com.

### Public Skate

4:15-5:45 p.m. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, 451 Highland Ave., White River Junction. \$5 per person; skate rentals and sharpening available for \$5 each. Season passes also available. Enjoy public skating at this family-friendly venue. hartfordvt.myrec.com.

### Masquerade Jazz & Funk Winter Music Carnival

6-10 p.m. Barnard Town Hall, 115 N. Rd., Barnard. \$15-25, free for ages 6 and under. BarnArts' 13th annual all-ages music and community celebration features live jazz and funk performances, a taco bar, non-alcoholic drinks, a mask-decorating table, and a photo booth. Performances include Michael Zsoldos Jazz Combo, WUHS Jazz Funk Band, The Drop Offs, and The Lost Tribe. Costumes welcome, masks encouraged, and BYOB. Tickets available online or at the door. barnarts.org.

### Grand Shanghai Circus

7 p.m., Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$30-\$40. Experience China's most celebrated acrobatic company, featuring thrilling performances such as Diablo, Bicycle Tricks, Pole Climbing, Russian Bar, Plates Spinning, and more. Stunning costumes, backdrops, and state-of-the-art lighting create a mesmerizing show. paramountvt.org.

### NSquared Dance Presents

#### 'The Lavender Scare'

7 p.m. Briggs Opera House, 5 S. Main St., White River Junction. \$35. Celebrate non-conformity and support the arts with a performance by NSquared Dance, presented as a fundraiser for the Junction Dance Festival. Inspired by the 1940s-50s dismissal of LGBTQIA+ federal workers, "The Lavender Scare" highlights a pivotal moment in civil rights history. Raffles, refreshments, and cookies available. Wear lavender or come as you are. Discounts for LGBTQIA+ and Vermont Dance Alliance members. sevendaytickets.com/events/tjdf-shake-the-cabin-fever-winter-fundraiser-3-1-2025.



## MASQUERADE JAZZ & FUNK WINTER MUSIC CARNIVAL

SATURDAY @ 6 P.M.

### The Vermont Mandolin Trio

7-8:30 p.m., Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$30. Enjoy an evening of bluegrass, jazz, and roots music featuring Vermont mandolinists Jamie Masefield, Will Patton, and Matt Flinner, joined by bassist Pat Melvin. The program spans Bill Monroe, Django Reinhardt, J.S. Bach, and more. 802-457-3500 or artistreevt.org.

**SUN**  
3/2

### Slash & Berm Grom Slalom

8 a.m., Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Road., Killington. Young snowboarders (ages 13 & under) compete in the 11th Annual Slash & Berm Banked Slalom at Lil' Stash terrain park. Prizes for best outfit and fastest times. Check-in at Ramshead Base Lodge from 8-9:30 a.m. \$70 competitor lift tickets available. Registration required. killington.com.

### Public Skate

8:45-10:45 a.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

### Rutland Cold Rolled – PHP

9 a.m.-2 p.m., Pine Hill Park, Rutland. \$35-\$50. A winter fat bike festival hosted by Fiddlehead Brewing, Pine Hill Park, and MTBVT. Enjoy group rides, races, and more. mtbvt.com/archives/27666.

### Tell A Friend Tour with Andy Parry

10 a.m.-3 p.m., Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Road, Killington. Join Andy Parry and the Tell A Friend Tour crew for a freeskiing demo, fun in the Killington Parks, and a pizza party. Guest skiers include Simeon Glas, Kevin Merchant, Will Wesson, and more. Helmet required to participate. Park meet-up at Timberline Park at 10 a.m., followed by skiing until 2:30 p.m. Pizza party and giveaways at 3 p.m. in the Snowshed Base Lodge. tellafriendtour.com.

### Public Skating

11 a.m.-12:10 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Adult \$8, Youth \$6, Seniors \$5, Child under 3 Free, Super Senior (70+) Free. Skate rentals \$7 (figure or ice hockey). unionarena.net.

## FREE SKI DEMO AT OKEMO

SATURDAY @ 9 A.M.





← **Calendar:**  
from page 17



## PUBLIC SKATE

SUNDAY 3:15-4:30 P.M.

### Magic Loop Mittens Class

12:30-2:30 p.m., Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Suite E, Rutland. \$35 class fee. Learn to knit small circumferences using the magic loop technique with Tin Can Knits' The World's Simplest Mittens pattern. Taught by Ellen. Participants must be comfortable knitting and purling in the round and should arrive with the cuff completed. Students must bring needles and bulky weight yarn. Preregistration required. greenmountainfibers.com.

### Public Skate

3:15-4:30 p.m. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, 451 Highland Ave., White River Junction. \$5 per person; skate rentals and sharpening available for \$5 each. Season passes also available. Enjoy public skating at this family-friendly venue. hartfordvt.myrec.com.

### 6th Annual Rutland Figure Skating Club Show

2-3 p.m. Spartan Arena, 100 Diamond Run Mall Rd., Rutland. By donation. An afternoon of figure skating featuring special guests Serena Huang (North Star Figure Skating Club) and Kirk Haugeto (Skating Club of New York), who recently placed 4th at the National Championships in the Junior Men's event. Proceeds benefit the Jessica Ebbighausen Memorial Figure Skating Scholarship Fund. 802-345-8359.

### Science Pub: Atoms in Our Families

4 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge, 2551 Route 30N, Bomoseen. Free, except for food and drink. University of Pennsylvania (ret.) physicist Gino Segrè and former Philadelphia health commissioner Dr. Bettina Hoerlin discuss their personal and historical connections to the Manhattan Project and Los Alamos. Segrè's uncle, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, was a key figure in the project. castletonfreelibrary.org friends-of-castleton-free-library.

### Social Dance Night

5-8 p.m., Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$20 per person (includes lesson). Learn the Texas Two-Step and a fun line dance, then enjoy an evening of social dancing with music for a variety of styles, including swing, waltz, salsa, cha-cha, and tango. No partner needed; all are welcome. Wear shoes that slide. Light refreshments provided. artistreevt.org.

**MON**  
3/3

### Bone Builders

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

### Monday Movie

1 p.m. (Mondays) Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Contact library for film title. sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday or 802-422-9765.

### Public Skate

3-5 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

### Town Meeting Pasta Dinner

#### – Takeout

4:30-6 p.m. Public Safety Building, 800 Killington Road, Killington. Suggested donation: \$5. Enjoy a lasagna dinner with salad, bread, and dessert. Drive-thru at the Killington Public Safety Building. Proceeds benefit Killington's Little White Church. killingtonucc.org.

**TUES**  
3/4

### Lunch Time Skate

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. Discounted lunch rate and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

### Handcraft Gathering

2-4 p.m. (Monthly, 3rd Tuesday) Abbott Memorial Library, Library St., So. Pomfret. Bring your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or mending projects. abbotmemoriallibrary.org.

### Alzheimer's Support Group

4-5 p.m., (Monthly, 2nd Tuesday) Community Health, 71 Allen St., Suite 403, Rutland. Free. A monthly meeting for Alzheimer's caregivers and family members to share experiences and support one another. The group is run by participants with hands-on experience in caregiving. chcr.org.

### Line Dance Classes

5:30-7:30 p.m. (Tuesdays) Bradford Methodist Church, 186 N Main St., Bradford. \$10. Easy line dancing at 5:30 p.m., perfect for novices, followed by a 6:30 p.m. beginner-level class. All ages welcome. Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. No need to register in advance. jeanbeanslinedancing@gmail.com.

### West Coast Swing Dance Classes

5:30-6:30 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall (upstairs), 35 Marble St., West Rutland. \$15 per class. Learn West Coast Swing with flexible registration options for individual nights or the full series. Pre-registration required. vtwestiebest@gmail.com.

### Rutland Area Toastmasters

6-7:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesday) Courcelle Bldg, 16 North St. Ext., Rutland. Develop public speaking, listening, and leadership skills. Guests welcome. 802-775-6929. toastmasters.org.

**ONGOING**

### Cooking Classes at Mission

#### Farm

Check website for classes and registration. The Kitchen at Mission Farm, 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington. Learn to cook, host an event, or teach a class in Mission Farm's open kitchen space. missionfarmkitchen.org.

### Okemo Innkeepers Race

#### Series

Mondays, January - March, 10 a.m.-noon. Wardance slope, Okemo Mountain Resort, Ludlow. The 43rd annual race series welcomes skiers and snowboarders of all skill levels, ages 18-80, competing as teams or individuals. Enjoy a fun, competitive league with awards at season's end. Social gatherings follow on Monday evenings, 5-7 p.m., at local establishments. Contact Ken at okemoracing@gmail.com.

### 'Our Town'

Feb. 28-March 9. Chandler Music Hall, 71 N. Main St., Randolph. \$15-\$25. Children under 12, free. A Vermont-inspired reimagining of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," featuring live covers of songs by Grammy-nominated Vermont native Noah Kahan. Directed by Ben Rapson with music direction by Ryder Musselman. The Smithsonian Institution's "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" exhibit will be open in the Chandler gallery. chandler-arts.org/ourtown.

### Skating Lessons

Tuesday through March 5, 5:30-6:30 p.m., and Wednesdays, through March 6, 4:20-5:20 p.m. Union Arena Community Center, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Skating lessons for all abilities, including Snowplow Sam (ages 3-5), Basic Skills (ages 6+), and Pre-Free to Free Skate levels. Winter session includes participation in the Annual Ice Show on March 9. Registration and details at uaskateclub.com.

### The Art of Grace Dorman

Through March 28. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St. White River Junction. Exhibit of artist Grace Dorman's art. mainstreetmuseum.org.

### Virtual Film Screening: 'Food and Country'

Available to stream anytime Feb. 26-28. Free. This documentary examines America's broken food system through the perspective of renowned food writer Ruth Reichl. Hosted by Sustainable Woodstock and Pentangle Arts. Donations welcome to support the local arts community. sustainablewoodstock.org/event/food-and-country-film-screening.

### Women's Nordic Ski Skate Clinics

Wednesdays, 8:30-10 a.m., Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. Woodstock Nordic Center, 14 The Green, Woodstock. \$30 per session or \$150 for six sessions. Intermediate to advanced skiers can join Olympian Tessa Westbrook to improve skate skiing technique. Sessions run through the end of the season, weather permitting. Registration at the Nordic Center lodge. woodstockinn.com.

**UPCOMING**

### Communication Skills Class

Thursdays from March 6-April 24. 10-11:30 a.m., Bugbee Senior Center, 262 No. Main St., White River Jct. Learn how to improve communication, reduce stress, and build healthier relationships. This course is led by Jeanne Childs. Sign-up required before the first session. 802-295-9068 or email hello@bugbeecenter.org.

### #1MOMSOHARD: Flashback

March 6 at 7:30 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$45.75-\$65.75. Age 18+. Comedy duo Jen and Kristin bring their hilarious take on womanhood, motherhood, and friendship to the stage with a brand-new show. VIP Meet & Greet available for an additional \$85. paramountvt.org.

**I MOM SO HARD:  
FLASHBACK**

COMING — MARCH 6 @ 7:30 P.M.





[MUSIC Scene]

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

|   |   |  |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <div><div>WED</div><div>2/26</div></div> <div><div>CHESTER</div><div>6 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT – Open Mic Night</div><div>KILLINGTON</div><div>2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B</div><div>4 p.m. North Star Lodge Star Lounge – Ski Bum Party with DJ Dave</div><div>6 p.m. Killington Cafe &amp; Wine Bar – Open Mic hosted by Liz Reedy</div><div>6 p.m. Rivershed – Psylas</div><div>8 p.m. Jax Food &amp; Games – Nick Bredice</div><div>LUDLOW</div><div>6 p.m. Off the Rails – Learn to Line Dance</div><div>POULTNEY</div><div>7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Open Mic hosted by Lobo</div><div>QUECHEE</div><div>6 p.m. The Public House – Chris Pallutto</div><div>RUTLAND</div><div>8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Full PA/Backline Open Mic hosted by Josh LaFave</div></div> | <div><div>KILLINGTON</div><div>2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto</div><div>2 p.m. Pico’s Last Run Lounge – Daniel Brown</div><div>2 p.m. Snowshed’s Long Trail Pub – Duane Carleton</div><div>5 p.m. North Star Lodge Star Lounge – Nick Bredice</div><div>6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic hosted by Grateful Gary</div><div>6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto</div><div>6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Allie and Adam</div><div>6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy</div><div>7 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Zach Nugent &amp; Dead Set</div><div>8 p.m. Jax Food &amp; Games – Jenny Porter &amp; Nick Bredice</div><div>LONDONDERRY</div><div>7 p.m. New American Grill – Open Mic Night hosted by DJ Jazzy Joel &amp; Catnip John</div><div>LUDLOW</div><div>6:30 p.m. The Killarney – Irish Sessions with Gypsy Reel</div><div>7 p.m. Off the Rails – Daniel Brown</div><div>QUECHEE</div><div>6 p.m. Public House Pub – Trivia with Questionable Company</div><div>RUTLAND</div><div>8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Karaoke 101 hosted by Tenacious T</div><div>SOUTH POMFRET</div><div>7 p.m. Artistree – Open Mic Night</div><div>WOODSTOCK</div><div>6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Ali T</div></div> | <div><div>KILLINGTON</div><div>1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Duane Carleton</div><div>2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Daniel Brown</div><div>2 p.m. Pico’s Last Run Lounge – Liz Reedy</div><div>2 p.m. Snowshed’s Long Trail Pub – Nick Bredice</div><div>4 p.m. The Foundry – Just Jamie</div><div>5:30 p.m. Killington Cafe &amp; Wine Bar – Rick Webb</div><div>6 p.m. Rivershed – Hitch</div><div>7 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Nick Bredice</div><div>7:30 p.m. The Foundry – Daniel Brown</div><div>8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Turning the Tide</div><div>9 p.m. Jax Food &amp; Games – Just Jamie</div><div>9 p.m. Wobbly Barn – 3AM Tokyo</div><div>LONDONDERRY</div><div>6 p.m. New American Grill – Sammy B</div><div>QUECHEE</div><div>5 p.m. Harry’s Cocktail Lounge - Live Music with Peter Concilio</div><div>5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Bobby Sheehan</div><div>RUTLAND</div><div>6 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton</div><div>8 p.m. Angler’s Pub – Karaoke with Sunset Entertainment</div></div> | <div><div>KILLINGTON</div><div>2 p.m. Skyeship Base Lodge – Liz Reedy</div><div>4 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Jamie’s Junk Show with special guest opener Jenny Porter &amp; Krishna Guthrie</div><div>3:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain (Outdoor Patio) – All Request Apres with DJ Dave</div><div>4 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet</div><div>6 p.m. O’Dwyers Public House at the Summit Lodge – Rambletree</div><div>6 p.m. Preston’s at the Grand Hotel – Liz Reedy</div><div>6 p.m. Rivershed – Hitch</div><div>6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Rick Webb</div><div>6:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Krishna Guthrie Band</div><div>7 p.m. North Star Lodge Star Lounge – Marc Edwards</div><div>7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter</div><div>8 p.m. Jax Food &amp; Games – Aaron Audet Band</div><div>9 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Turning the Tide</div><div>9 p.m. Wobbly Barn – 3AM Tokyo</div><div>10 p.m. Pickle Barrel Crow’s Nest – Jamie’s Junk Show</div><div>LUDLOW</div><div>9 a.m. Okemo’s Sunburst Six Bubble Chair – Lift Line Dance Party with DJ Dave</div><div>2 p.m. Okemo’s Jackson Gore Courtyard – Apres Afternoon with Dustin Marshall</div><div>2 p.m. Okemo’s The Bull – George Nostrand</div><div>8 p.m. The Killarney – Sammy B</div><div>PAWLET</div><div>6 p.m. The Barn – Cry Baby</div><div>POULTNEY</div><div>Noon. Poultney Pub – Vinyl with Ken</div><div>QUECHEE</div><div>5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Jake Geppert</div><div>6 p.m. Harry’s Cocktail Lounge - Live Music with Derek Burkins</div><div>SOUTH POMFRET</div><div>7 p.m. Grange Theatre – Vermont Mandolin Trio</div><div>STOCKBRIDGE</div><div>7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington &amp; Tuff Luv</div></div> | <div><div>SUN</div><div>3/2</div></div> <div><div>BRIDGEWATER CORNERS</div><div>3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Liz Reedy</div><div>KILLINGTON</div><div>Noon. Rivershed – Brunch with Hitch</div><div>1 p.m. Pico’s Last Run Lounge – Duane Carleton</div><div>2 p.m. Snowshed’s Long Trail Pub – Chris Pallutto</div><div>6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones</div><div>6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia</div><div>6 p.m. The Foundry – Jazz Night with the Summit Pond Quartet</div><div>7 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Comedy and Cocktails hosted by Indigenous Entertainment</div><div>8 p.m. Jax Food &amp; Games – Jenny Porter</div><div>LUDLOW</div><div>11 a.m. Okemo’s Solitude Lift – Sunday’s with Sammy B</div><div>QUECHEE</div><div>2 p.m. Harry’s Cocktail Lounge - Live Music with Katie Dobbins</div><div>RUTLAND</div><div>9 p.m. CJ’s Suds South – Karaoke with Sunset Entertainment</div><div>SOUTH POMFRET</div><div>5 p.m. Artistree – Two Step Dance</div><div>STOCKBRIDGE</div><div>7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington’s Looping Mayhem</div></div> | <div><div>MON</div><div>3/3</div></div> <div><div>KILLINGTON</div><div>2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Duane Carleton</div><div>2 p.m. Snowshed’s Long Trail Pub – Chris Pallutto</div><div>6 p.m. Rivershed – Mandatory Mondays with Name That Tune Bingo by DJ Dave</div><div>6 p.m. The Foundry – Blues Night with John Lackard</div><div>8 p.m. Jax Food &amp; Games – Rhys Chalmers</div><div>LUDLOW</div><div>5 p.m. Little Mexico – Sammy B</div><div>8:30 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic Night hosted by Indigenous Entertainment</div><div>RUTLAND</div><div>7 p.m. Angler’s Pub – Trivia hosted by Sunset Entertainment</div><div>STOCKBRIDGE</div><div>5 p.m. Wild Fern – Bow and River</div><div>WOODSTOCK</div><div>6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Bluegrass Etc. Jam with Ben Kogan</div></div> |
| <div><div>THUR</div><div>2/27</div></div> <div><div>BARNARD</div><div>6 p.m. Feast &amp; Field – Rumney Sessions, Turnip Truck</div><div>BRANDON</div><div>5:30 p.m. Red Clover Ale Company – Open Mic hosted by Emily Nelson</div><div>BRIDGEWATER CORNERS</div><div>5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Bobby Sheehan</div></div>   | <div><div>FRI</div><div>2/28</div></div> <div><div>CASTLETON</div><div>6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Krishna Guthrie</div></div>   | <div><div>SAT</div><div>3/1</div></div> <div><div>BARNARD</div><div>6 p.m. Town Hall - 13th Annual Masquerade Jazz and Funk Winter Music Carnival</div><div>BRIDGEWATER</div><div>8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Show with Joe Pontillo</div></div>   | <div><div>TUES</div><div>3/4</div></div> <div><div>KILLINGTON</div><div>2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B</div><div>6 p.m. Rivershed – Live Music</div><div>8 p.m. Jax Food &amp; Games – Taco Tuesday with Rick Webb</div><div>PITTSFIELD</div><div>7 p.m. Town Hall – Open Jam</div><div>POULTNEY</div><div>6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam</div><div>RUTLAND</div><div>5:30 p.m. Moose Lodge – Ryan Fuller</div><div>8 p.m. Center Street Alley – EDM Night with DJ EG, DJ Sims and Sunset Dreamz</div></div>   |   |  |







Courtesy Getty Images  
Donna Weinbrecht

# Olympic medalist Donna Weinbrecht will return to Killington on March 1-2 for an intermediate and advanced mogul skier camp

March 1-2—KILLINGTON—Aspiring Freestyle moguls skiers have a rare opportunity to train with one of the sport's greatest athletes as Olympic gold medalist and world champion Donna Weinbrecht returns to Killington for her signature Mogul Camp. The camp, designed for intermediate and advanced skiers, offers two intensive days of expert coaching to help participants refine their technique, build confidence, and master the art of skiing moguls.

If you missed February's camp, this second opportunity occurs the weekend of March 1-2. The camp will take place at Killington Resort, with skiers meeting each morning at 8:30 a.m. at the Killington Grand Resort Hotel. Participants will benefit from personalized instruction during two daily sessions: 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m., with lunch included.

Weinbrecht, who captured Olympic gold in the first-ever women's Moguls event in Albertville, France, in 1992, brings her years of elite-level experience to the slopes, helping skiers improve their balance, control, and confidence in challenging terrain.

Advance reservations are required, and an email detailing the meeting location and full camp itinerary will be sent out in the week leading up to the event. Lift tickets and rentals are not included in the camp fee, so non-pass holders should purchase the camp add-on ticket at checkout.

For more details and to register, visit: [killington.com](http://killington.com).



Courtesy Getty Images  
Donna Weinbrecht

## Killington hosts 11th annual Slash & Berm Grom Slalom

Sunday, March 2, at 8 a.m.—KILLINGTON—Young snowboarders will have their chance to take on Killington's creative terrain as the 11th annual Slash & Berm Grom Slalom returns to the Li'l Stash terrain park on Sunday, March 2. Hosted by Killington Resort, Darkside Snowboards, and Burton, the event brings together riders ages 13 and under for a banked slalom competition designed to highlight speed, skill, and style—all while benefiting Wings for Life, a nonprofit dedicated to spinal cord injury research.

### A competition with a twist

New for this year, organizers are introducing a "Best Outfit of the Day" prize, encouraging competitors to bring their most eye-catching race suits



The annual Slash & Berm Grom Slalom will take place on Sunday, March 2.

Courtesy Killington

or creative costumes to the slopes. Riders will also get four runs through the course, with rankings determined by the combined time of their two fastest runs.

### Divisions

- Grom Boys & Girls: Ages 10-13
- Super Grom Boys & Girls: Ages 9 & under
- Registration & Check-in

Participants must check in at Ramshead Base Lodge (3rd floor) between 8- 9:30 a.m. on race day to receive their bibs and confirm their spots. No registrations will be accepted after 9:30 a.m.

### Lift ticket information

While competitors are not required to have a lift ticket or season pass to participate, a \$70 competitor lift ticket will be available for purchase on Sunday for those who prefer not to hike up to Li'l Stash.

### Parental waiver

All participants must have a parent or guardian complete an Express Assumption of Risk form in advance.

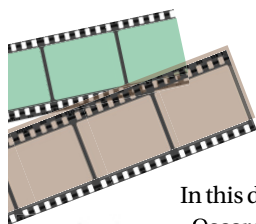
### How to register

Online registration is now open, and spots are expected to fill quickly. If space allows, day-of registration will be available from 8-9:30 a.m. at Ramshead Base Lodge, with credit/debit payment only.

For more information and to secure a spot in the competition, visit: [killington.com](http://killington.com).

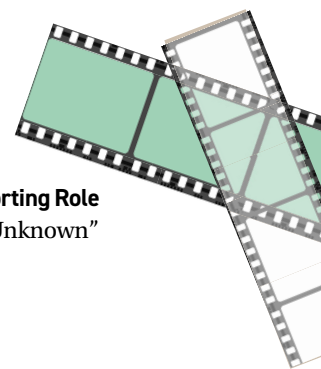






# Is this the year for Oscar surprises?

## Nothing is certain in this year's awards race



### Screens and Streams

By James Kent

In this day and age of endless film awards shows and scores of internet Oscar prognosticators, the winners are all but a foregone conclusion by the time the Academy Awards ceremony takes place; if you even watch the show anymore, all you can hope for is perhaps one surprise win and some years that doesn't happen. This year feels different—until a couple of weeks ago, when “Anora” won the PGA award for Best Picture and the DGA award for Sean Baker as Best Director, there was no clear-cut favorite. One film that appeared to be an Academy darling, “Emilia Pérez,” saw its chances derailed by controversial resurfaced social media posts from its star, Karla Sofia Gascón. Gascón, the first trans actress to be nominated for Best Actress, saw her chances of winning an Oscar evaporate when it was discovered that she may not be as accepting a person as people were expecting a trans person to be. The defense of her past posts did her no favors, and quickly, “Emilia Pérez” went from frontrunner to also-ran. Zoe Saldana still has a chance to win an Oscar for her supporting performance in the film, but even that is no longer a lock.

I've seen all of the nominees in the major categories, so here is a rundown of who I think is going to win the gold statue come Oscar night, Sunday, March 2:



Courtesy IMDB

*A Real Pain,” written by Jesse Eisenberg*

### Best Original Screenplay

- “Anora,” written by Sean Baker
- “The Brutalist,” written by Brady Corbet, Mona Fastvold
- “A Real Pain,” written by Jesse Eisenberg
- “September 5” written by Moritz Binder and Tim Fehlbaum; co-written by Alex David
- “The Substance,” written by Coralie Fargeat

All five nominated films are excellent, and my

pick is “The Brutalist.” Who do I think the Academy will pick? There is a lot of love for Jesse Eisenberg's screenplay for “A Real Pain,” It deserves praise, but if “Anora” is the frontrunner, it could be the winner. If “Anora” wins Best Original Screenplay, I think it will win all the big awards on Sunday.

### Best Adapted Screenplay

- “A Complete Unknown,” screenplay by James Mangold and Jay Cocks
- “Conclave,” screenplay by Peter Straughan
- “Emilia Pérez,” screenplay by Jacques Audiard, in collaboration with Thomas Bidegain, Léa Mysius, and Nicolas Livecchi
- “Nickel Boys,” screenplay by RaMell Ross & Joslyn Barnes
- “Sing Sing,” screenplay by Clint Bentley, Greg Kwedar; story by Clint Bentley, Greg Kwedar, Clarence Maclin, John “Divine G” Whitfield



Courtesy IMDB

*Conclave*

This category is a tough one to call. My pick goes to “A Complete Unknown,” but I think the Academy will pick “Conclave.” Before the controversy around Emilia Perez, I would have said the Academy would select that film. Now, they will choose from the two films they know the best, “A Complete Unknown” or “Conclave.”

### Best Directing

- “Anora,” directed by Sean Baker
- “The Brutalist,” directed by Brady Corbet
- “A Complete Unknown,” directed by James Mangold
- “Emilia Pérez,” directed by Jacques Audiard
- “The Substance,” directed by Coralie Fargeat

Again, “Emilia Pérez” was considered a brief favorite (although I did not think it was good enough to be nominated in the first place), but there is no way that film is winning in this category. If there were any justice, Brady Corbet would win for “The Brutalist.” Hands down, he did the best job of directing this year, and even though the DGA went for “Anora,” and only a handful of times in the DGA's history has their winner for Best Director not gone on to win at the Academy, I think there is still a shot that Corbet wins. “Anora” would be my second choice, although if a shock were to happen and Coralie Fargeat won for “The Substance,” I'd be tickled. That movie is a knockout and deserves all of the accolades it's received.



Courtesy IMDB

*“The Brutalist,” directed by Brady Corbet*



Courtesy IMDB

*Felicity Jones, “The Brutalist”*

### Actress in a Supporting Role

- Monica Barbaro, “A Complete Unknown”
- Ariana Grande, “Wicked”
- Felicity Jones, “The Brutalist”
- Isabella Rossellini, “Conclave”
- Zoe Saldana, “Emilia Pérez”

Saldana was the favorite to win in this category, and I think she will still be the winner come Oscar night. However, the Supporting Actress category has a history of surprise winners. If an Academy shutout happens with “Emilia Pérez,” Ariana Grande could find herself holding the statue. My choice is Zoe Saldana.

### Actor in a Supporting Role

- Yura Borisov, “Anora”
- Kieran Culkin, “A Real Pain”
- Edward Norton, “A Complete Unknown”
- Guy Pearce, “The Brutalist”
- Jeremy Strong, “The Apprentice”

This category is solid, but if I were to replace one person, I'd swap Edward Norton for Clarence Maclin's performance in “Sing Sing.” If there is one category you can safely put your money on this year, it's this one. Kieran Culkin isn't going to lose. He is the clear favorite, and amongst a list of standout performances, his is the best. If you haven't seen “A Real Pain” yet, it's available to stream, and I recommend it.



Courtesy IMDB

*Jeremy Strong, “The Apprentice”*

### Best Actress

- Cynthia Erivo, “Wicked”
- Karla Sofia Gascón, “Emilia Pérez”
- Mikey Madison, “Anora”
- Demi Moore, “The Substance”
- Fernanda Torres, “I'm Still Here”



Courtesy IMDB

*Cynthia Erivo, “Wicked”*

The sentimental favorite to win the Oscar this year is Demi Moore in “The Substance.” Is it the best performance of the five? No. Is it the second-best performance of the five? No, it is not. But is it the performance the Academy is likely to award with an Oscar? Yes, it is. The best performance this year was Mikey Madison in “Anora,” and if “Anora” ends up having a great night, Madison might find herself winning the gold. The second best performance is Fernanda Torres in “I'm Still Here.” If she were to win, I would not be unhappy. But hey, Demi Moore took a significant risk being in “The Substance,” and the film's message is one that I believe many Hollywood actors can relate to. It could be time for Moore to make space on her mantel.

### Best Actor

- Adrien Brody, “The Brutalist”
- Timothée Chalamet, “A Complete Unknown”
- Colman Domingo, “Sing Sing”
- Ralph Fiennes, “Conclave”
- Sebastian Stan, “The Apprentice”

This category is a two-horse race. It's down to Brody or Chalamet. If we are being serious, it should be Brody all the way. His performance in “The Brutalist” is next-level. It's not even close, and we shouldn't have to discuss it. But there is a silly controversy over the fact that some AI-enhanced sound software was used to improve Brody's accent during his Budapest language-speaking scenes, so now it's a Chalamet world, and we're just living in it. I still don't understand how using a computer program to perfect an accent for a couple of scenes is wrong, but using CGI to make someone fly around on a broomstick in “Wicked” or deploying layers of makeup in a film like “The Substance” is okay? Film history is lined with innovations and techniques to lend credibility or magic to the storytelling. They take nothing away from the performances. So, my pick is Brody, and I think the Academy is going for Chalamet. If “The Brutalist” had not come along, my pick would have been Chalamet. He is fantastic as Bob Dylan. So if he wins, there is no shame, but Brody was still the best.



Courtesy IMDB

*Adrien Brody, “The Brutalist”*

Screens & Streams → 26





*Indulge your taste buds*



## Killington Wine Bar

At Killington Café and Wine Bar, we believe that wine tasting should be a journey of both enjoyment and learning, all within a relaxed and inviting setting. Inspired by some of the best boutique wine bars across the country, we're passionate about making fine wine accessible to everyone. Whether you're a

seasoned connoisseur or a curious newcomer, our diverse selection and knowledgeable team are here to guide you. [killingtonwinebar.com](http://killingtonwinebar.com), 802.353.6423.

## killington market

### Killington Market

Take breakfast, lunch or dinner on the go at Killington Market, Killington's on-mountain grocery store for the last 30 years. Choose from breakfast sandwiches,

hand carved dinners, pizza, daily fresh hot panini, roast chicken, salad and specialty sandwiches. Vermont products, maple syrup, fresh meat and produce along with wine and beer are also for sale. [killingtonmarket.com](http://killingtonmarket.com) 802-422-7736 or 802-422-7594.



## Back Country Café

The Back Country Café is a hot spot for delicious breakfast foods. Choose from farm fresh eggs, multiple kinds of pancakes and waffles, omelets or daily specials to make your breakfast one of a

kind. Just the right heat Bloody Marys, Mimosas, Bellini, VT Craft Brews, Coffee and hot chocolate drinks. Maple Syrup and VT products for sale. Check Facebook for daily specials. 802-422-4411.



## Inn at Long Trail

Looking for something a little different? Hit up McGrath's Irish Pub for a perfectly poured pint of Guinness, live music on the weekends and delicious food. Casual dining at Rosemary's Restaurant. Visit [innatlongtrail.com](http://innatlongtrail.com), 802-775-7181.



## Liquid Art

Relax in the warm atmosphere at Liquid Art. Look for artfully served lattes from their La

Marzocco espresso machine, or if you want something stronger, try their signature cocktails. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, they focus on healthy fare and provide you with a delicious meal different than anything else on the mountain. [liquidartvt.com](http://liquidartvt.com), (802) 422-2787.



## Mountain Top Inn

Whether staying overnight or visiting for the day, Mountain Top's Dining Room & Tavern serve delicious cuisine amidst one of Vermont's best views. A mix of locally inspired and International cuisine – including salads, seafood, poultry and a new steakhouse menu – your taste buds are sure to be satisfied. Choose from 12 Vermont craft brews on tap. Warm up by the terrace fire pit after dinner! A short drive from Killington. [mountaintoppinn.com](http://mountaintoppinn.com), 802-483-2311.



## Vermont Craft

Vermont Craft is a lively bar and restaurant located in the Mountain Green Resort in Killington, serving locally sourced craft beer and a range of shareable, casual foods inspired by local farms [vermontcraft.net](http://vermontcraft.net) (802) 342-5469



## Choices

Upscale casual and family friendly Choices Restaurant & Rotisserie has been a Killington, VT favorite for over 35 years. We offer a 40-item menu that features fish and seafood, hand-cut steaks and fillets, sandwiches and home-cut fries, and house-made fettuccine. Try an item from our Rotisserie menu that includes chicken, tri-tip steak, and stuffed pork with prime rib on most weekends. Join us at our wraparound bar with 20 wines by the glass, signature cocktails, and craft beers. Finish off your dining experience with our baked in-house desserts. [choicesvt.com](http://choicesvt.com), 802-422-4030



## Sugar and Spice

Stop on by to Sugar and Spice for a home style breakfast or lunch served up right. Try six different kinds of pancakes and/or waffles or order up some eggs and home fries. For lunch they offer a Filmore salad, grilled roast beef, burgers and sandwiches. Take away available. [www.vtsugarandspice.com](http://www.vtsugarandspice.com) 802-773-7832.



## Lookout Tavern

A place for fun, friends and good times here in Killington! Everything from soup to nuts for lunch and dinner; juicy burgers, fresh salads, delicious sandwiches and K-Town's best wings. Your first stop after a full day on the Mountain for a cold beer or specialty drink and a great meal! [lookoutvt.com](http://lookoutvt.com), 802-422-5665.



## Sushi Yoshi

Sushi Yoshi is Killington's true culinary adventure. With Hibachi, Sushi, Chinese and Japanese, we have something for every age and palate. Private Tatame rooms and large party seating available. We boast a full bar with 20 craft beers on draft. We are chef-owned and operated. Serving lunch and dinner. Delivery or take away option available. Now open year round.

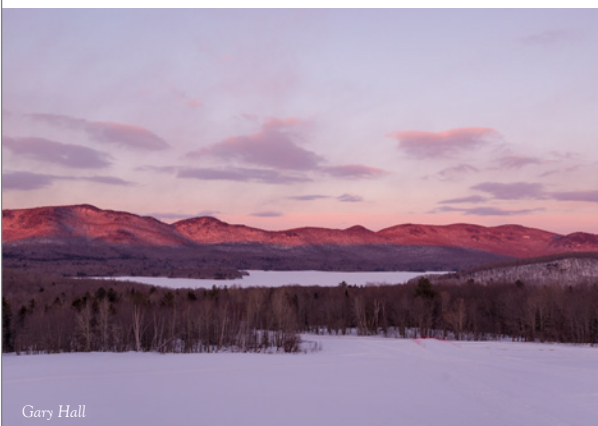
[www.vermontsushi.com](http://www.vermontsushi.com) 802-422-4241.



## SouthSide SteakHouse

Southside provides a modern approach to a classic American steakhouse. Join us for an inviting, upbeat atmosphere featuring thoughtfully crafted food made with the highest quality steaks & chops, fresh seafood, and seasonal produce. We offer dinner and drink service in our dining room, bar & lounge, and on our seasonal patio, weather permitting. 802-772-7556 [southsidesteakhouse.com](http://southsidesteakhouse.com)

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**← Harrison:** from page 10

year’s renewable energy law and the Global Warming Solutions Act to help mitigate costs to Vermonters are drawing the ire of environmental groups. The House Energy & Digital Committee Chair expressed support for keeping the “right to sue” provision of the GWSA that was enacted over a veto by Scott. It is unclear how much that provision will ultimately cost the state. Meanwhile, the Senate Majority leader, Kesha Ram-Hinsdale, appeared open to removing the “right to sue” provision, which she likened to holding a gun to your head in an interview with Vermont Public.

The rising cost of health care continues to be a concern of many in the legislature. However, it is unclear what action the pertinent committees might propose at this point. Vermont’s private health insurance rates are the highest in the country.

H.35, which continues keeping small group and individual health plans separate, was signed into law by the Governor. The insurance plans were separated for rating purposes temporarily in 2021 to allow Vermonters to take advantage of broader eligibility for federal subsidies for those buying in the individual market

The House Human Services Committee continues to focus on legislation, H.91, that would set up a long-term program for shelters and hotel rooms for people experiencing homelessness. It is unclear whether they will be able to reach a consensus on this challenging issue. The legislature will be on recess for Town Meeting week (March 3 – 7). I plan to be at the informational town meetings to share a brief update at:

- Monday, March 3
- Mendon, 6 p.m. – Vermont Transportation Office
  - Chittenden, 6:30 p.m. – Barstow School
  - Killington, 7 p.m. – Public Safety Building
- Tuesday, March 4
- Pittsfield, 6 p.m. – Town Hall
- I hope to see you at one of these meetings.
- Jim Harrison is the state representative for Chittenden, Killington, Mendon, and Pittsfield. He can be reached at [JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us).

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# Chandler Center for the Arts brings a uniquely Vermont experience with ‘Our Town’

Feb. 28 through March 9—RANDOLPH — The Chandler Center for the Arts is set to present a fresh and deeply Vermont-inspired production of “Our Town,” Thornton Wilder’s timeless classic, from February 28 through March 9, 2025. This production reimagines the beloved play with contemporary elements, including live covers of songs by Grammy-nominated Vermont native Noah Kahan and a connection to the Smithsonian Institution’s “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” exhibit, running concurrently in Chandler’s gallery.

Director Ben Rapson, who also plays the role of the Stage Manager, describes the production as a departure from traditional interpretations.

“Gone are the period costumes, the morose church hymns, and the folksy exaggerated sentimentality,” Rapson said. “Wilder’s script begs to play its own role in our modern Vermont lives.”

Rapson found an unexpected synergy between Wilder’s writing and Kahan’s music. “Noah’s songwriting speaks to so many of us in Randolph and the rest of Vermont in the same way that Thornton Wilder’s words perfectly capture something eternal about being a human with a northern attitude,” he said. “We’re really taking that Wilder-Kahan kismet and running with it. And I’m thrilled to say we received Noah’s personal blessing to cover his songs in our show.”

With a cast, ensemble, and live bluegrass band of over 40 people, most of whom are from Randolph, the production promises an emotional and resonant experience. Under the musical direction of Ryder Musselman, the blend of Kahan’s music and Wilder’s themes of love, loss, and mortality will create a powerful atmosphere of reflection and connection. Audiences can explore the Smithsonian Institution’s “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” exhibit, which examines the evolution of small-town life in America. The exhibit is open through March 23 and available for viewing before or after performances.

All performances take place at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph. A pay-what-you-will preview performance occurs on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m.

Tickets for all other performances range from \$15-\$25, with children under 12 free.

For tickets and more information, visit: [chandler-arts.org/ourtown](http://chandler-arts.org/ourtown).



Ben Rapson as Stage Manager



Rob Marois, Hayley Sherman, Caleb Spring, and Rita Champion will perform in “Our Town” from Feb. 28 through March 9.



# BarnArts Summer Youth Theater opens registration for ‘Matilda’ production

BARNARD—BarnArts Center for the Arts has officially opened registration for its 14th annual Summer Youth Theater, offering young performers the opportunity to participate in a full-scale production of “Matilda” this summer. This three-week intensive camp, from July 14 to Aug. 3, will culminate in performances at the Barnard Town Hall from Aug. 1-3.

Campers ages 8-18 will dive into all aspects of musical theater, developing characters, learning songs and choreography, and working with a live band under the guidance of professional theater artists.

The program fosters an ensemble-based, supportive environment where kids learn the craft and build friendships and confidence.

BarnArts is dedicated to making high-quality musical theater accessible to all families, keeping tuition affordable at \$550 through March 31 (\$600 after April 1) and offering additional scholarship funds. The program is serious about theater—kids need to be interested in performance—but fun is a huge part of the experience. Many participants return year after year, growing up as part of



Courtesy of BarnArts  
Campers from 2024’s BarnArts Summer Youth Theater performed “High School Musical.”

the BarnArts Summer Youth Theater community.

To help keep tuition costs low and fund scholarships, BarnArts organizes Race Around the Lake, an annual 5K/10K run/walk fundraiser at Silver Lake State Park, scheduled for Sunday, May 18. The event includes races around scenic Silver Lake, live music, a chef’s-table lunch, and post-race celebrations. Proceeds from the race directly support scholarships and accessibility for families in need.

**Program details**

- **Camp Dates:** July 14 – Aug. 3, 2025
  - **Performances:** Aug. 1-3, 2025, Barnard Town Hall
  - **Hours:** Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (final week may extend to 4:30 p.m.)
  - **Cost:** \$550 ( through March 31), \$600 (beginning April 1)
- Scholarships and before/after care available  
Returning families receive priority registration. New spots are limited and assigned by age group on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information and to register, visit: [barnarts.org](http://barnarts.org).

## Clarkson:

from page 10

world and not enough workforce – these are cost-efficient ways to create more housing units.

The bill will include a funding mechanism to support building water and sewer infrastructure in our village centers, a key precursor to building new housing. It also addresses further Brownfield clean-up, which will help accelerate re-development. This bill has continued support for Renters and Homeownership opportunities, including manufactured home renovations, developing ‘off-site’ housing construction, and supportive housing for our developmentally disabled.

Our Senate Economic Development bill this session is focused on supporting Vermont’s small businesses by funding resources critical to their growth and success (legal services, business advice & counsel, expanding training programs), establishing a trade office in Asia, creating resources for our growing film and media sectors, further supporting our outdoor recreation sector, and establishing a Task Force to explore how the State can help businesses access the capital they need to grow.

The Labor bill our committee is working on eliminates the sub-minimum wage for disabled workers and creates a minimum wage and overtime rules for agricultural workers. And we are exploring a range of issues from ‘good cause’ termination to giving more Vermont workers (judiciary supervisors and assistant attorney generals) the right to organize and collectively bargain.

Alison Clarkson can be reached by email: [aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us) or by phone at the Statehouse (Tues-Fri) (802) 828-2228 or at home (Sat-Mon) (802) 457-4627.

For more information on the Vermont Legislature

and the bills that have been proposed and passed, visit: [legislature.vermont.gov](http://legislature.vermont.gov).



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Screens & Streams: from page 21

Best Picture

- “Anora”
- “The Brutalist”
- “A Complete Unknown”
- “Conclave”
- “Dune: Part Two”
- “Emilia Pérez”
- “I’m Still Here”
- “Nickel Boys”
- “The Substance”
- “Wicked”

My top five films of the year made it onto the Best Picture list, so I can’t complain. “Anora” appears to be the consensus pick this year, although if you’ve seen the movie, you know—it is not the type of film the Academy typically chooses. I think “Emilia Pérez” would be the Academy’s choice, but that all changed as soon as the controversy emerged. “The Brutalist” is the best film of the year and is the one I’d choose if I got to vote. However, the Academy appears to be moving in a different direction. The fun choice would be “The Substance.” It won’t win, of course, but if it were the night’s winner, it would undoubtedly be a moment to remember. Anyone who has seen “The Substance” and that final 20 minutes knows precisely how bonkers a movie it is.

Now, all that’s left is for the winners to be announced on Sunday, March 2, beginning at 7 p.m.

James Kent is the publisher’s assistant and arts editor at the Mountain Times.



Downtown hotel: from page 1

“Since 1973, this has been a hole in the ground,” Doenges said of the vacant area. “There was a fire that burnt down a previous hotel in this space, and it has been a parking lot, it’s been a concert venue—it’s been all sorts of things to the city. And soon, it’ll be a hotel again, and that’s absolutely fantastic.”

A community investment with broad support

The Downtown Hotel + Living Project is the latest development effort to revitalize downtown Rutland, and Doenges emphasized that the initiative reflects local commitment, not just outside investment.

“This isn’t just an investment from a company in the city,” Doenges said. “This is an investment from a standpoint of time and effort from community members who care about our city.”

“This is a major step for us,” said Kent Belden from Center + Wales. “There’s a lot of different moving parts, and we’re not completely there, but this is a major and important step.”

The road to construction

While the letter of intent is a milestone, several key hurdles remain. The formation of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district, which will help finance necessary infrastructure improvements, must be approved by Rutland voters this fall.

“The timing of the closing on our financing is subject to that TIF district vote,” Belden explained. “This is an important step. Our financing is linked to this agreement with the city, and that all has to come together.”

If approvals move forward on schedule and voters approve the TIF district in the fall, construction could begin by the end of 2025, with an 18-month build time for the structure, followed by an additional three months for hotel and apartment fit-up.

Environmental cleanup and economic impact

Before construction can begin, developers must remove 5,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil, resulting from asbestos from the former Berwick hotel, which burned in a 1973 fire, and contaminants from a neighboring dry cleaner business, which also burned. The contaminants left over from the dry cleaner create the most complicated part of the cleanup.

“I think This might be the fourth attempt at cleaning up this site,” Belden said. Some of the most hazardous material will need to be trucked to Michigan for treatment.” Fortunately, the whole site doesn’t have that.”

Despite the costs, supporters say the project will bring lasting benefits. It is estimated to create 200 jobs during construction, with an additional 30 to 40 permanent positions at the completed hotel.

The development is projected to generate \$600,000 in municipal tax revenue, \$2 million for the Education Fund, and \$500,000 annually in room and meal taxes over its first 20 years.

As Rutland voters prepare to decide the mayoral race on March 4, Doenges positioned the project as part of the city’s broader push for economic revitalization.

Doenges’ challenger, Henry Heck, has raised concerns about city spending and economic priorities. While the Downtown Hotel + Living Project has broad support, the election outcome and future city leadership could influence its trajectory.

Rutland City celebrates its step forward.

“We’re going to celebrate the dirt,” Doenges said, acknowledging the disruptions that will come with construction. “This is going to be an amazing thing for our community.” Doenges ended the morning’s remarks with a huge thanks and debt of gratitude to the many individuals and organizations in the Rutland community that have worked tirelessly to bring this long-desired hotel project to reality.

With Election Day fast approaching, it remains to be seen whether voters will credit Doenges for his role in the project (a new hotel has been promised for decades, with serious conversations beginning three years ago, before Doenges took office)—or if the momentum will shift in a new direction.



Courtesy Rutland 360

A Digital rendering of the proposed Downtown Rutland hotel project.

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# 'The Monkey' shines as an absurdist horror comedy

Director Osgood Perkins amps up the gore and laughs in this adaption of Stephen King's short story

If you've seen one possessed toy horror movie, you've seen them all. And if you are still seeking these films out, and judging from the scores of fans of films like "Annabelle" and "Child's Play," there is a market. If you like your horror kills doled out with gobs of gore and twisty Rube Goldberg puzzle-like fashion, you probably can't wait for the latest in the "Final Destination" series to come out later this year.

So, how does one tackle yet another in an endless stream of Stephen King film adaptations, and one whose story is of a possessed child's toy? We've seen that film 1,000 times, and those steeped in the horror film genre know that delivering anything other than a C-quality movie out of a Stephen King adaptation is a rare feat. Last year's dreadful "Salem's Lot" remake, you know what I'm talking about.

Thankfully, director Osgood Perkins is not a hack filmmaker. Love it or hate it, anyone who saw last year's "Longlegs" knows that Perkins has a distinct style, is willing to take risks, and isn't going to settle on providing a lackluster experience. The lane he drives in is horror, and for "The Monkey,"

Perkins takes a decided turn on the humor highway. Or, perhaps, he drove down "Mrs. Todd's Shortcut" cause this movie is off the rails and through the woods, bat-dung crazy.

I'm not a huge horror genre fan, but if the film offers me more than a lame jump scare and an obligatory sequel setup, I'm down for the challenge. Horror doesn't scare me, but it can creep me out a tad when done right. Perkins doesn't try hard to scare anyone with "The Monkey" because he knows he can't. Although

Stephen King's original short story plays it straight, Perkins found the premise of an evil toy monkey that kills at random whenever its key is turned, an opportunity for absurdist humor.

Everything about this film is dialed up way past Nigel Tufnel's 11-numbered amp. If the knob extended to 30, that might be closer to what goes on in this film.

The premise is simple: In the late '90s, two twin boys/rivals discover a wind-up drum-playing monkey amongst their absent father's belongings. We deduce pretty quickly that the father is the person who opens the movie in a hilariously gruesome prologue. The toy monkey doesn't take long to do its thing, and we're off to the races.

The movie's screenplay is laced with a sarcastic and knowing tone throughout, and every character seems in on the joke here. The movie is more "Heathers" than "Scanners," although there are enough exploding body parts in this film to have body-horror fans standing at attention.

If you are looking for scares, "The Monkey" will not satisfy you. If you are looking for laughs and plenty of gore, it's time to saddle up and get thee to a movie theater, posthaste.

*James Kent is the publisher's assistant and arts editor at the Mountain Times.*



**Screens and Streams**

By James Kent



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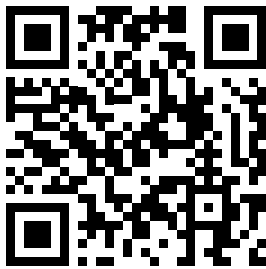
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Solutions

From page 15

Crossword

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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Sudoku

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



Roscoe—5-year-old. Male.



# Cosmic Catalogue



## Aries

March 21 - April 20

Everything that has been seemingly going wrong in your family life and the domestic situation will start to improve this week. The one thing you have to be aware of is that if you're tempted to look for external solutions, don't. The problems you've faced can only be solved by changing the way you feel about them. Your problems aren't caused by how you see them but how you see yourself. Some inner changes are required and are now possible.



## Leo

July 21 - August 20

The past couple of months have seen you grapple with your inner thoughts, past patterns, and your emotional side, which is rarely seen. Chances are, you've severed ties with specific memories that aren't tied to the future you want to create. You've got a little way to go yet, but you'll certainly return to your usual vibrant self soon. In the meantime, continue facing the feelings you tend to push down or avoid. That is where your magic lies.



## Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

Some of your longer-term financial goals may have felt as though they were stuck in some kind of holding pattern so far in 2025. You could point the finger at external influences, or you could also examine what got you into the situation you're currently in. Identifying these patterns will be the key to your growth and prosperity later in the year. Make a wish in terms of the home and family life you've been working so hard for.



## Taurus

April 21 - May 20

Life so far in 2025 has challenged you on a day-to-day basis. It's one thing to go through the motions each day, but that will wear you down over time. Your challenge has been to extract a sense of meaning in the routines you love. If you've done this, then when it comes to luck and general good fortune, this week will invite you to make a wish. Whatever you've been slogging away at for the past two years may finally see some momentum and reward.



## Virgo

August 21 - September 20

You could be feeling a whole lot of pressure or overwhelmed in your key relationships right now. On the one hand, things could be looking better than they have in some time. While on the other, things may be moving at a pace you feel a lack of control over. This week, just have an honest conversation. Discuss your feelings. Don't try to fix, correct or overcompensate. A little bit of care and compassion will go a long way towards connection.

Getting things moving in your professional life or your life direc-



## Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

Sometimes we hold ourselves back in love. We don't want to rock the boat. We don't want to say or share what we truly think and feel. We can be afraid to be seen for who we truly are. That is unconscious love. Do you even want someone who doesn't truly want you? This week, step out of your comfort zone. Make a bold move. Go after what you want. You'll never know unless you give it a go!



## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

The struggle so far in 2025 has been around money or the overall perception of your self-worth. Are you settling for less than you deserve financially, or has it been due to matters of the heart – or both? The work, the turmoil, and the uncertainty have really tested your faith. That said, you know more about yourself than you did before. Claim what you know, deep inside yourself, that which is rightfully yours and nothing less. Hardship always results in rewards.



## Libra

September 21 - October 20

tion overall has been fraught so far this year. One step forward and two steps back have been frustrating and may have sometimes tested your patience. If you've lasted this far and kept your cool, then the worst is over. If you haven't put in the effort or the hard yards, it's not too late. Manage your time and your energy better for best results, including your health and wellness routines.



## Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

It's time to stop spinning your wheels over a project that is taking too long or isn't yielding results. You have to know when to fold them. If you can actually see the light at the end of the tunnel and your efforts are about to pay off, then you might need to hold them. Whatever your choice is, things will either get better or get worse. Reflect on 2025 so far and ask yourself if you want more of the same or if you want change.



## Cancer

June 21 - July 20

Be gentle on yourself if you feel a little bit more emotional or sensitive than usual. You've worked hard these past couple of months to really break through your personal limits or comfort zones. It's never easy to break your nature, but when you do, the results of your efforts will arrive. This may be a few months away just yet, but your main mission now is to keep the faith and double down on trust. The Universe does have your back!



## Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

Mars, your patron planet, hits the brakes and moves in direct motion this week. Thus, your aspirations and grand plans for 2025 and beyond can finally start to take shape. You might consider signing up for study, booking travel, or diving into a spiritual pursuit. Your mission now is to take all that you've been grappling with and finally take action. Fortune favors the brave. It's also a good week to sprinkle a little romance, joy, and happiness in your life.



## Pisces

February 21 - March 20

This week is really about resetting the priorities in your life. Everything has to do with fun, children, creativity, and romance, and it is getting back on track. It's time to put some fun back at the front and center and remind yourself why you're working so hard. A New Moon in your sign can help you realign with your priorities too. This week, don't sweat the small stuff. Think good, and it will be good. That's all you need to know.

## Trust the process: The power of letting go to heal



Cosmic  
Catalogue  
By Cassandra  
Tyndall

Many moons ago, I worked for a friend in his chiropractic clinic. Patients would arrive with different ailments and injuries of varying degrees, looking for relief.

For some, a quick massage, acupuncture, and manipulation were all it took to get them firing on all cylinders again.

Then there were those who'd complain after their first treatment that their symptoms got much worse. Despite this being a normal part of the healing process, they'd often doubt that things could get better for them. This lack of faith usually delayed their healing process.

A third variety of patient was the type that would come in routinely, yet due to their attitude, would never heal at all. It was as though they had some kind of trapped energy or memory that kept them in a negative feedback loop. If it wasn't their hip, it was their shoulder. If they weren't complaining about their spouse, it was the traffic to get to their appointment.

The point being is that in order to heal, pain often gets worse before it gets better. In order to heal, you have to let go of that which you clung to and trust in something greater.

This week, you have the chance to do just that.

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### Empowering you to lead a divinely inspired life.

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



## Ravens foraging in winter

It's a familiar sight in winter: An inky-black raven soaring over a landscape white with snow. Though similar in appearance to the American crow, the common raven (*Corvus corax*) is distinguished by its large size, fluffy neck feathers, and long, thick beak. The ubiquitous raven croak can carry for more than a mile. It is throaty and rasping, unlike the American crow's shrill caw. While the croak is the most recognizable call that ravens use, it's far from the only one. These intelligent birds can make 33 different vocalizations, which express a whole range of meanings, such as deterring a predator, defending a nest, or communicating the presence of food. Scientists at the University of Vienna in Austria concluded that ravens may even have theory of mind, meaning they're aware of their own and others' thoughts, motivations, and behaviors.

A raven's intellect is essential when insects, bird eggs, berries, and other desirable foods are scarce in winter. Ravens must be dogged in pursuit of the calories they need to make it to spring. "Right now, they are trying to pack on protein and fat," said Anna Morris, director of wildlife ambassador programs at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, where she works with an ambassador raven named Stockbridge.

A raven is unlikely to turn up its nose at any opportunity to eat in winter. They're regulars at compost piles and garbage cans. "You see them a lot in urban areas this time of year," said Kevin Tolan, Vermont Center for Ecosystems staff biologist.

Carcasses, including those of animals killed by cars, illness, or injury, are prized resources in winter. For example, the carcass of a dead male white-tailed deer could offer more than 200 pounds of meat and fat — some of which a raven could store for leaner times in a hidden reserve called a "cache." The trouble is, there's no telling where a raven may come across a carcass; odds are, it could be in another raven's territory.

Adult ravens live monogamously in pairs, defending their territory from incursions by predators and other ravens, usually "vagrants," without their own territory. Juvenile vagrants work together to make it through the lean months. "You get these roving bands of teenaged ravens who are looking to exploit large ephemeral food sources, such as car-

casses," Morris explained.

Young ravens puzzle through their first winter without the help of a mate and develop some wily tricks to make it through, as first documented by biologist Bernd Heinrich, professor emeritus at the University of Vermont. Heinrich observed ravens emitting a loud yell at the site of carcasses — attracting their peers to join in on the meal. Over the course of four winters, as described in his book "Ravens in Winter," Heinrich set carcass baits and observed the ravens' behavior to see whether they were indeed communicating the whereabouts of food to their peers. Paired

ravens, Heinrich found, didn't yell when feeding. In fact, 82 of the 91 ravens who arrived at the baits for four separate group feasts were either non-breeding juveniles or subadults.

"The paired ravens are fully grown adults," Morris said. "They've been through multiple seasons together. They're a little bit more savvy about gathering food and food resources."

Heinrich's study showed that group feasting is a young raven's game. The birds attracted to the carcasses were primarily juveniles without their own territory who, in surveillance flights, had successfully found a meal ticket. They understood that it was a risk to eat in another raven's neck of the woods, so they called in backup.

"All these ravens show up together at this food resource, they make a bunch of noise, they attract other ravens, and therefore the group can overwhelm the defensive territorial pair," Morris explained.

This practice means that each teenage raven gets less to eat at any shared food resource. "If you have to share your birthday cake with your 15 neighbors, you're going to get less of it yourself," Morris said. But for birds who are still learning the art of foraging in winter — and who can't yet rely on the help of a mate or the known resources of their own territory — it's worth it.

*Emily Haynes is a writer currently living in Washington, D.C. An avid birder and hiker, she loves exploring the forests of the Northeast. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.*



### The Outside Story

By Emily Haynes



## 'Becoming Led Zeppelin': Put your records on

When I moved my family into our new home a decade ago, I convinced myself the bonus room located above the garage would be my haven. I imagined spending time there to relax, reflect, and create.

Unfortunately, that never happened.

From the moment I stuck a large screen TV and couch into the space, my son and his cohort of friends made it their domain. Even though I had a desk in one corner and my guitar equipment in another, over time, the area I occupied became smaller and smaller until I finally moved my belongings into the accompanying crawl space under the eaves.

Once my presence was absent, the bonus room officially became the province of adolescent boys, a veritable "Lord of the Flies" experiment happening right under my roof. The destruction began soon after: food smeared into rugs, holes punched through walls, and furniture replete with stains and tears. It got so bad that my wife and I simply stopped looking inside, knowing it would only cause us angst.

But my son has graduated and is moving on with life, so he and his friends now spend little

time at our home. As such, my wife decided that we were ready to renovate the bonus room and reclaim what was once ours.

Over the last few months, we've painted the entire room, installed carpeting and light fixtures, and purchased all new furniture.

I also made the bold decision to revisit something that has been lying dormant in my life for decades.

I climbed into our attic a few weeks ago and found the dusty boxes labeled "Stereo Equipment." I then proceeded to clean all my original components and reconnect them, hoping to dive back into my extensive album collection and return to those hallowed days of audiophilia.

Growing up, one of my jobs was working at a local record store in the mall. Subsequently, I developed a robust album collection, which I still have today. Although I haven't listened to an album in years, I have painstakingly lugged the boxes containing hundreds of vinyl LPs from one house to another throughout three and a half decades.

And now, I was ready to revisit this gateway to my youth.

Movie Diary → 39



### The Movie Diary

By Dom Cioffi

## Living the Dream: The 250th!

We lost a revered ski friend this week who passed with his skis on. I worked with Dan in Ministars over two decades ago. Since the BF and I left the Ramshead team, we've bumped into Dan in the woods more times than we can count, especially since all those years together at Rams gave us the same core woods knowledge. We've bumped into him at Cooper's for a quick stop, at Tuckerman Ravine hiking up to go rip the bowl, and at his treasured Vermont home. Dan wanted everyone to love skiing and the outdoors as much as he did.

The same day we lost Dan, Mikaela Shiffrin won her 100th World Cup victory. If that doesn't showcase the highs and lows of this wonderful sport, then I don't know what does. I spent the morning ecstatic about her accomplishment, getting to witness her greatness right here in Killington and celebrating my home mountain being a part of her story (ix of her World Cup victories took place at Killington) and then crumpling in the kitchen at Baja as I found out about Dan. My brain is still swirling from the dichotomy of the day, and I still cannot process how an accomplished yet extremely smart skier succumbed to what seems to be a simple snow snake. Just like Mikaela on Superstar just a few short months ago.

As we float down the mountain, the consequences of our actions often seem to float into the sky. We ski for fun, choosing trails that make us happy and turns that bring us joy. That is all skiing and snowboarding should be. As Bob Gibson wrote, "Our skis are the things that give me my wings and make me an eagle on high..." Skiing is supposed to be the escape from the harsh realities of life, where we

can soar for just a few moments. To forget the crisis of the world and simply *be* for a run or two.

But like both the First and Second Amendments, these things come with great responsibility. One cannot shout "Fire!" or shoot a gun in a crowded space without endangering the lives of all around, even though we technically have a right to do both. Skiing and snowboarding are not without danger - the liability waiver we sign annually reminds us, but not too many actually read

what we're signing anymore. We make fun of the Responsibility Code and many don't even know what it is. We need a program like the Snow Angel Foundation to remind us that our actions can affect others and ourselves.

This is my 250th column writing for the Mountain Times, and I had so wanted it to be a celebration of Killington life over the past

Living the Dream → 39



### Living the Dream

By Merisa Sherman



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# Meet Diane DePalma Vullo, executive assistant to the VP at Okemo

By Karen D. Lorentz

Many people get “hooked” on skiing at various ages, but their educations often take them to jobs in other states causing them to become “weekend warriors.” That is, until a turn of events brings them to Vermont and work in the ski industry.

That’s the case with Diane DePalma Vullo. She was born and grew up in Westport, Connecticut, graduating from Staples High School in 1986. While attending New Hampshire College, DiPalma Vullo learned to ski at age 19.

“My friends took me to the top of Crotched Mountain and sent me down. It was scary and exhilarating all at the same time, but I was hooked Ever since, I have been working on getting past being a blue skier,” she noted, adding, “I pretend not to panic on the steep stuff!”

After graduating from college in 1990 with a BS in marketing and AS in accounting, DePalma Vullo moved to Boston, where she worked for a large consumer products company. When the Boston office closed, she took her severance package and moved to Vermont.

“I had spent many years driving from Boston to Killington on weekends so when the opportunity to move arose, we opted for the more village-y feel of Ludlow. My husband Joe and I have lived in Cavendish since 2001,” she said.

“I love this area and the community,” DePalma Vullo said, noting they raised their children LilyMarie and Joey there. Both became recreational skiers are currently attending Bryant University.

## Q&A with Diane DePalma Vullo

### Why and when did you join Okemo?

I had always wanted to work in the ski industry because

I love the environment and its energy. I started at Okemo in 2001, gaining experience in various departments from guest services and waiting tables to the accounting department. After the acquisition [by Vail Resorts in 2018], I transitioned into my current role as the executive assistant to the VP and general manager [Bruce Schmidt] and I also assist the senior director of mountain operations [Eb Kinney].

### What are your job responsibilities?

My responsibilities range from traditional assistant duties like answering emails, managing calendars, and setting up meeting agendas to managing the resorts contracts, overseeing the employee experience, and on busy days sometimes bussing tables and orchestrating lift lines. I see my role as one that adapts to the needs of the team and providing support wherever it’s most needed.

### What do you like about your job? Best part?

The Okemo team is a great group. Working with them every day is the highlight for me —they’re a wealth of knowledge.

### Rewards? Challenges?

Seeing happy people on the mountain is very rewarding. The challenges are making everyone happy!

### Were there any people who were special influences or mentors to you?

My biggest influence is Bruce Schmidt. He has an incredible wealth of knowledge about the ski industry and is always eager to share and teach. Bruce has a way of helping me see all sides of a problem, allowing me to handle situations more gracefully versus my usual knee-jerk reactions.

### How do you spend your time outside of work?

I enjoy walking my Border Collie, Miles, riding my bike and skiing — both up and downhill.

We love to travel and sit on Caribbean beaches. I often daydream about becoming a great gardener and living off the land.

### What’s your take on the mountain or ski town lifestyle? on winter? Vermont?

I can’t imagine living anywhere else — the feeling of seeing fresh snow on the ground when I get up in the morning is one I hope to have for years to come.

What would you tell someone who was thinking about getting a job at a ski area?

I would tell them to do it; the atmosphere and people are unmatched.

And Vermont’s a great place to raise a family!



Diane DePalma Vullo

Submitted



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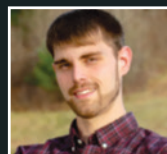
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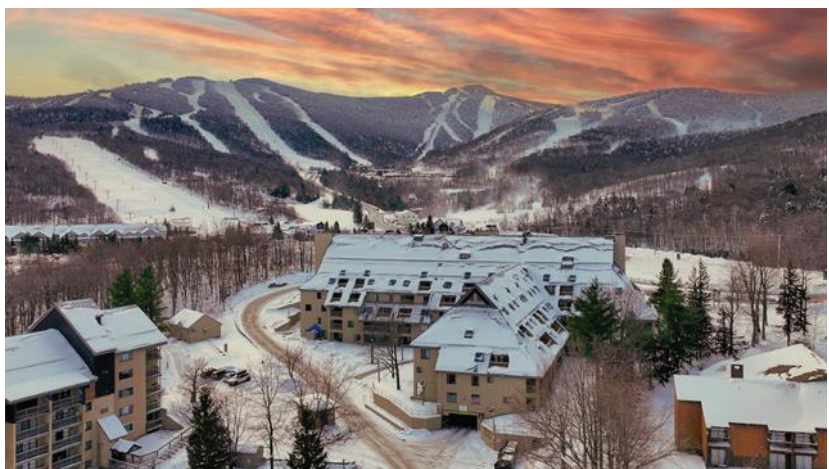
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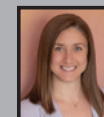
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## Movie Diary:

from page 32

It took some time, but I finally got everything hooked up. My receiver and turntable still worked, but I had long since jettisoned my speakers, which were too large to justify moving around (plus, I knew when the day came, I would likely want new ones). After a bit of research, I landed on a pair of Klipsch bookshelf speakers with accompanying stands.

Once I knew everything was in working order, I wandered back into the attic and cracked open my boxes of albums. I then picked out several of my all-time favorites. I grabbed all my Beatles albums and key selections from Springsteen, Zeppelin, and Pink Floyd. I also chose an assortment of unique vinyl that had special meaning to me.

I knew the first album I touched the needle onto had to be a good one; it had to be a poignant choice. I wanted to hear a song that I hadn't heard in decades. And I wanted to listen to the hisses and crackles of the needle moving across the vinyl as the song played (which I oddly miss since the digitization of music).

I finally landed on an album I have long admired and whose first song I consider as good as anything that's ever been recorded (although it is likely unknown to most of the world). The song I chose was "Mainstreet" by Vermont native James Mee, off his 1982 debut, "Backroad to Mainstreet."

Vermonters know Jimmy well since he played throughout the area for decades. Still, for some reason, "Backroad to Mainstreet" never made it to digital (it's not available on CD and is

unlisted on Spotify). But if you can get your hands on the vinyl, give it a listen.

I dropped the needle on "Mainstreet" and sat back on my couch to take it in. The moment was as magical and nostalgic as I hoped it would be, and Jimmy sounded as great as ever.

This week's feature, "Becoming Led Zeppelin," was also everything I hoped it would be.

The documentary outlines the band's inception, from their humble beginnings in post-war Britain to their meteoric rise into one of the world's greatest bands.

I tried to be subjective while watching this film. I love Led Zeppelin; the band played an integral part in my high school and college years and has remained with me ever since. But I wanted an outsider's perspective, so I dragged my son along. He's familiar with Zeppelin (given my influence), but he'd never done a deep dive with them.

Ultimately, he enjoyed the film, although the extended concert footage proved too protracted for him. I didn't feel the same way, but I could see how someone not deeply invested in the band might.

Fans of Led Zeppelin should be thrilled since the founding members have never given their blessing to a documentary. Ultimately, their commentary is what made this film a winner.

A garish "B+" for "Becoming Led Zeppelin," currently playing in theaters everywhere.

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



## Living the Dream:

from page 32

five years. How far we have come as a community, how much we have grown since November of 2019, when I started this column with an article about U.S. Paralympic Ski Team member & Pittsfield resident Spencer Wood.

And we have grown so much. We came through the pandemic together as one Killington and are now independent of the corporations whose goal seems to be the destruction of the sport. Instead, we are leading by example, our community and resort working together to create something even greater than has been. It's a resort dedicated to serving the community and its guests, a place that Spencer's beloved mom, Barb, could be proud of. A place that Dan, Ray, my dad, and all our Killington Angels could be proud of. A place that Mikaela Shiffrin is proud of. A place that Team PomPom can grow up to be proud of.

A place that we can all call home. Because really, that's what Killington is for so many of us. The place where a few stray flakes have come together to build a family. Our chosen family.

Because we really have grown so much in the past five years. It's been an honor to write this column as the realities of life have punctured the bubble of our little ski world. So much has changed, yet we continue to lean on our ski families, the resort, and the mountain to bring us through.

If I have brought any of you peace or distraction over my past 250 columns, then I have succeeded. If I have reminded you of the innate beauty of this sacred place, then these have been words not wasted. Writing this column of gratitude every week has been an honor and privilege, and I look forward to the next 250. Thank you all so much for reading and being part of my Killington family.

Merisa Sherman is a long-time Killington resident, global real estate advisor, town official, Coach PomPom and a self-proclaimed female ski bum. She is the Managing Broker of the Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty office in Killington and can be reached at [Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com](mailto:Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com).



By Merisa J. Sherman

On the left: Killington Resort rises in the distance, its peaks visible from the surrounding woods. On the right: Merisa Sherman embraced the thrill of the moment as she celebrated her 250th column by doing what else but living the dream.

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