



## SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

There are a plethora of area summer camp options for kids of all ages and interests. Sign up early, most will fill up!

Page 25-31



## SNOW TUBING IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED

Killington Resort announced Feb. 17 that its tubing park is closed due to "unexpected operational challenges." Check [killington.com](http://killington.com) for updates on reopening.



## SKIERS DEBUT CLIMATE CHANGE SPEED SUITS

U.S. Ski & Snowboard launched the climate-change-themed race suit at the Alpine World Championships held Feb. 6-19.

Page 9

# School Board discusses crisis prevention policy

By Katy Savage

In the wake of an alleged threat at Woodstock Elementary School in which parents felt left in the dark, the School Board is tightening its policy around communication with parents.

The School Board policy committee met Feb. 13 and changed the language of its School Crisis Prevention and Response Policy to include a sentence that says, "All incidents involving use of deadly weapons, whether a threat or an actual act, must be communicated to community members as soon as it is safe to do so."

The policy, last updated in 2016, also directs the superintendent to create a school crisis team in each school and a district wide school public safety team in consultation with law enforcement and other agencies.

The policy committee passed the updated wording unanimously on Feb. 13. The policy will go to the full board for approval.

"It's hard to specify one category of a potential crisis to the exclusion of others," said board member Carin Park. "We are in a culture, a situation right now in our society where gun violence specifically is something that people are concerned about and for good reason."

The policy was updated after a fourth grade student allegedly brought a 9 mm bullet to school on Jan. 24 and threatened

Crisis policy → 49

# What is workforce housing? Who qualifies?

Killington town has plans for a 250-300 unit development, if the TIF bond for a municipal water system passes (Article 5)

By Polly Mikula

In addition to safe drinking water, one of the most popular promises of a municipal water system in Killington is the possibility for a significant workforce housing development.

Last Thursday, Feb. 16, the Killington Select Board unveiled its plans for a 250-300-unit workforce housing development on 70 acres at the base of Killington Road. The announcement was made at the end of the KPAA and Killington Resort's annual Community Update.

The plan maps space for 6-8 multifamily buildings and 16-20 duplex or single family homes with lots of green space in between. Access to the development would be via Nanak Way off Killington Road and Old Route 4.

The terms "workforce housing" and "affordable housing" (although often used interchangeably) are different. Affordable housing typically refers to housing very-low income Vermonters — those earning up to 60% of the area median income (AMI), or \$36,000 per year or less.

Workforce housing thresholds are greater — up to 120% AMI, according to Mary Cohen, executive director at the Housing Trust of Rutland County — that means a single person with an annual income of up to \$72,000 could qualify for workforce housing.

Workforce housing → 2



By Paul Holmes

## Easy pickings

Two large bald eagles took advantage of the warm weather to hunt for food on the open waters of the Ottauquechee River on River Road in Killington last Wednesday, Feb. 15. Photos page 4.

# Preschool proposed for North Chittenden Grange Hall

By Brett Yates

Two Chittenden residents want to organize a year-round, "nature-based" preschool for local families who've struggled to find full-time, affordable childcare in the area.

Although the proposed Chittenden Forest School would offer most of its instruction outdoors — even in the winter — it would also need a facility for naptime and occasional indoor play for its 20 students. Its founders have asked for a three-year lease on one of two floors at the North Chittenden Grange Hall, a publicly owned building on Lower Middle Rd.

The unexpected request

has so far yielded a divided response among townspeople, as well as plenty of questions from municipal officials. The Chittenden Select Board received a

"I would really like it if we had this kind of passion for most of the stuff that goes on in the town," Pratt said.

20-page plan not long before its Jan. 20 meeting, and discussion continued on Feb. 13 amid unusually robust public attendance.

A final decision still awaits. "I've gotten multiple, multiple emails from both sides of the issue," Select

Board chair Kathie Pratt said. "I would really like it if we had this kind of passion for most of the stuff that goes on in the town."

In their submission to the board, Clair Purcell and Kristin Lucas described "forest schools" as an increasingly popular "alternative to more traditional preschools," citing examples in Burlington, Bristol, and Montpelier.

They called Rutland County "an ideal location" for the model.

"Families love to spend time in nature during all seasons of the year, and we believe many of them would value a preschool experience

Pre-K at Grange → 14



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# MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME AND RENT							
							
\$36,000 \$17.30/HR	\$46,320 \$22.27/HR	\$48,000 \$23.08/HR	\$54,850 \$26.37/HR	\$60,000 \$28.85/HR	\$77,200 \$37.12/HR	\$72,000 \$34.62/HR	\$102,840 \$49.44/HR
60% AMI		80% AMI		100% AMI		120% AMI	
Office Assistant   Customer Service Rep Truck Driver   Pharmacy Technician		Licensed Practical Nurse Social Worker   Medical Assistant		Registered Nurse   Dental Hygienist Shift Supervisor		Occupational Therapist   Licensed Social Worker   Business Quality Engineer	

Courtesy of the Housing Trust of Rutland County

Area median income (AMI) in Rutland County is shown above in categories with correlating salary, hourly wage for both a single person and for a family. (Icons depicting individuals and family structures intentionally vary in examples above.) Examples of professions below each category are just a few of the many possibilities.

## Workforce housing: Killington Select Board to discuss preliminary workforce housing plans Feb. 22

Area median income is assessed annually and is applied county wide. In Rutland County, the current area median income is about \$60,000 (100% AMI); which equates to \$28.85/hour for a single person working full time.

Simultaneously, starting this spring, the town will begin pre-development work, i.e. required studies and permits including Act 250, environmental testing and historic preservation.

The planned completion for the development and the municipal water system are thus projected to be on about the same timeline — the earliest it could be completed would be 3-4 year.

**What's a housing trust? How does it guarantee affordability?**

"The Housing Trust of Rutland County has been around for about 30 years and we do what's defined as affordable housing, meaning the bulk of the residents that we serve are at 60% of median income and below," explained Cohen.

When you say workforce housing, it's really like 60% of median income up to 120% of median income. That's where people are working, but there's not adequate housing that they can afford. So that's the problem we're trying to solve now," said Cohen.

"Clearly workforce housing is what's needed," Cohen said. "And when you say workforce housing, it's really like 60% of median income up to 120% of median income. That's where people are working, but there's not adequate housing that they can afford. So that's the problem we're trying to solve now."

While it is too early to know exactly what the qualifications would be for the Killington development, it is safe to say that those at or below average income for their family size would be eligible to apply.

"The goal is for those people working here to be able to live in town," said Jim Haff, member of the Killington Select Board. "If Article 5, the TIF bond, passes on Town Meeting Day we can move forward with the purchase of this land and begin conversations with a housing trust and potential developers to make this a reality... but nothing like this can happen without municipal water, so the vote passing is the first crucial step."

### Timeline

If Article 5 passes on Town Meeting Day, March 7, then the town will finalize the purchase of the 70 acres of land for \$700,000.

The municipal water system will begin to be constructed this spring/summer and will take about two years for the first phase to be completed (the portion paid for with Tax Increment Financing that brings water from Route 4 to the village.) The next phase(s) that bring water all the way down the road and to the proposed workforce housing site could take another year or two.

Trust of Rutland County has been around for about 30 years and we do what's defined as affordable housing, meaning the bulk of the residents that we serve are at 60% of median income and below," explained Cohen.

Housing Trust of Rutland County's current portfolio has "almost 400 units that we have developed and manage," Cohen added.

All Housing Trust units are rented with minimum one- year leases.

"We get funded from Vermont Housing Conservation Board (VHCB) as well as the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) through their Vermont Community Development Program," Cohen explained. "And when they give us funds to build these things, we promise to them that we will make sure that people are income-qualified."

Developments can have a mix of affordability ranges based on assessed needs of the community they're intended to serve. "Once we decide on what that mix is, then VHCB holds us to it," Cohen explained.

"There's a lot I don't know about the Killington market and what the town of Killington wants. These conversations are extremely early," she added.

There are also many factors that could push the timeline out, she said: "My funding sources through the state through VHCB are not unlim-

ited, unfortunately. And there are people developing affordable housing and workforce housing all across the state. Sometimes we kind of have to get in line," she explained.

In the past, most funding for housing has focused on the lowest income Vermonters to protect against increased homelessness, and help the disabled and elderly, Cohen added. "But if you take a look at the landscape, workforce housing is a dire need. The governor's talking about it and VHFA (Vermont Housing Finance Agency) is trying to figure out a good product to help developers create housing for this 'missing middle' — that's what they're calling it.

"So, these projects focused on workforce housing are a little bit different," she added. "There's so many unknowns at the moment. But it will certainly be interesting conversations as we move forward."

### Next steps

Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. the Select Board will be doing a more detailed presentation on the preliminary workforce housing plans. The meeting is open to the public in person at the Public Safety Building or via Zoom (link at: killingtontown.com/calendar).

On a positive vote March 7, the town of Killington will conduct needs-based assessments to ensure it's development plans meet the true needs of its workforce and will proceed accordingly with whatever route it determines will best suit those

"The goal is for those people working here to be able to live in town," said Haff. "But nothing like this can happen without municipal water, so the vote passing is the first crucial step."

goals, Haff said. "Who knows, maybe we only need 75 units at this time," Haff added. "This might be a phased project. This is a plan to meet the town's needs for the future. We're in the early stages, obviously, but everyone knows we need housing that our working residents can afford. We don't want them to have to live outside of town; we want them to be able to make a life here with their families."



Courtesy Natascha's Photography

## Jamisyn Baker, 17, of Rutland crowned Miss Vermont Collegiate America 2023

Jamisyn Baker, 17, of Rutland was crowned Miss Vermont Collegiate America 2023 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. On Sunday, Nov. 19, 2022. Jamisyn will represent Vermont at the national Miss Collegiate America pageant in June.

Jamisyn is currently an active student at Rutland High School. She is a part of the Spanish National Honor Society, as well as National Honor Society, OVX Club, a model and a pageant queen.

Jamisyn has been an active volunteer with the Vermont chapter of the Alzheimer's Association with a direct impact on her family. Since the age of 9, Jamisyn has been partaking in the Rutland Walk To End Alzheimer's, and has raised funds throughout the years.

When she was 9 years old, her great grandma was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. In 2018 she lost her great grandmother (GG), and later on in the year her grandmother was diagnosed with it. Once Jamisyn became involved with the Vermont Alzheimer's Association, she made it her mission to do as much as possible.

When Jamisyn was younger, she was bullied for having crooked teeth. Her experience with bullying was tough, but now Jamisyn uses that experience to help others. Her newest title allows her to reach out to her community and work to prevent childhood bullying. Her platform incorporates

the five letter acronym, B.R.A.V.E. Which stands for — Building, Respect, and Values for Everyone. She stresses the importance of "respect" and "values" because everyone's value deserves respect.

"Everyone has a value," she said.

Jamisyn believes if she had known this acronym when she was being bullied, it would've helped her out a lot. Jamisyn plans to have an impact locally in her area, talking to students about the harsh reality of bullying and teaching them about B.R.A.V.E. She wants to encourage each child to talk to each other about their differences and embrace them no matter what they are.

She plans on continuing to teach everyone she knows how to be B.R.A.V.E. During the national competition, the delegates are scored in three categories — an individual interview with judges (40%), evening gown (40%), and fun fashion (20%).

The Miss High School America Scholarship Pageant Organization was started in 2009, for the purpose of providing personal and professional opportunities to young women. It is the goal to provide outstanding junior high, high school and collegiate girls the opportunity to compete in a prestigious national level scholarship pageant.

For more information on the pageant, visit [americahighschoolpageant.com](http://americahighschoolpageant.com) or visit our Facebook at [facebook.com/mis-highschoolamerica](https://facebook.com/mis-highschoolamerica).

## Hartland budget is up 6.85%

By Curt Peterson

On March 7 Hartland voters will be asked to approve, via Australian ballot, the fiscal year town budget of \$3,480,358 — \$2,992,315 of which will be raised by taxes. This represents a 6.85% increase over the previous year's budget.

If a property owner is paying \$2,000 in taxes, the proposed budget will raise that amount by approximately \$137.

The general fund and highway fund are both affected by inflation. The consumer price index, which determines town employee wage adjustments, represents a 6.9% increase in total wages. Health insurance costs for employees increased a whopping 18% for fiscal year 2024, well higher than the inflation rate at its worst.

Law enforcement is in flux — the Vermont State Police, seriously understaffed, is unable to provide even the modest number of hours contracted for during 2023, so the town is going to research other avenues, including the Windsor County Sheriff's proposal, as well as the town of Windsor and increased responsibilities for the town's own first constable.

Appropriations — funds allocated by taxpayers to support public service organizations — total \$167,107. Three beneficiaries, Aging in Hartland's community nurse program (\$28,200), the Hartland Volunteer Fire Department (\$80,000), and the Special Needs Support Center of the Upper Valley (\$3,700) will be voted on in separate articles

because they have requested increases over last year's appropriation.

Select Board chair Phil Hobbie told the Mountain Times that completion of the long-time-coming Three Corners intersection reconfiguration would not affect the budget in any way, and that sorely needed renovations for Damon Hall and the Recreation Center, as well as highway projects

and paving, which will rely heavily on state and/or federal grants, will remain part of the town's plans.

While the majority of property owners' tax bills

are "education taxes," control over the education tax rate lies largely with the state, which negotiates wages and health insurance costs statewide and mandates certain services the local districts must provide.

The proposed Hartland School District budget is \$9,991,128, which represents a per-equalized-student investment of \$22,841.81. The budget increase over the previous year is 4.28% or \$409,779, and the warning estimates the cost to taxpayers of approximately \$99 per \$100,000 taxable property value (before homestead adjustments).

The district has experienced a decline in student numbers.

As with the town budget, most of the proposed increase is due to "local negotiated wage and benefits changes and Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union assessments, the latter consisting of "increased special education costs and SU negotiated wage and benefits increase for teachers and staff."

Health insurance costs for employees increased a whopping 18% for fiscal year 2024.

## Hartland voters meet candidates for 2023 Town Meeting

By Curt Peterson

This year's Australian ballot and face-to-face floor vote at Hartland's Town Meeting, March 7 will be fairly non-controversial.

There are six uncontested officers — a town moderator, one selectperson, one lister, first constable and two library trustees.

Select Board member Mary O'Brien is stepping down from the board mid-term, and two candidates are vying to finish her term. O'Brien's husband, Tom Kennedy is in the running as is Jacob Holmes. Jim Rielly is running unopposed for reelection to his selectboard seat.

The Hartland Public Library sponsored its 7th annual "Meet the Candidates" program on Feb. 15.

Rielly told the virtual

audience that his goal is "to serve the town" through promoting prudent fiscal policy. He looks forward to the town-wide survey proposed by the Planning Commission, which will reveal how most residents feel about the future of Hartland.

"Shall it continue to be a rural community," he said, "or become another Woodstock or Quechee?"

Jacob Holmes said as selectman he hopes to find ways to "help the town grow, while maintaining its character." He touted his military service and work in law enforcement — he is a current police officer in Woodstock. He favors having a full-time school resource officer at Hartland Elementary School as a means of providing student

safety.

Someone in the audience asked Holmes how many Selectboard meetings he has attended.

"I keep an eye on the list-serve," he said, "and attend as many meetings as I can."

Tom Kennedy moved to Hartland in 1992, and has done community work for 30 years, partly at a nearby regional commission.

"The town is at a crossroads," he said, "and I'm hoping my experience may be valuable to Hartland."

Asked about his ideas relating to climate change, Kennedy focused on short-term action.

"We need to develop more electric vehicle charging stations," he said, "and find a way to offer more public transportation."



By Paul Holmes



By Paul Holmes



By Polly Mikula



By Polly Mikula

Two large bald eagles were spotted catching rodents and fish by the Ottauquechee River along River Road in Killington on Feb. 15. It was easy pickings for these birds of prey!

## Three district offices not on school ballot

By Curt Peterson

Two officers for the Windsor Central Unified School District, Rayna Bishop and Calista Brennan, are seeking write-in votes from residents of the seven participating towns — Killington, Plymouth, Bridgewater, Pomfret, Woodstock, Reading and Barnard.

Traditionally the district clerk (Bishop) and district treasurer (Brennan) offices, as well as district moderator, would be nominated and voted on from the floor, but during the Covid pandemic, when in-person town meetings were impossible, Gov. Phil Scott had allowed all school district elections to be included in Australian ballots.

Bishop told the Mountain Times the governor extended the Australian ballot option another year, but didn't sign the bill, H. 42, until Jan. 25.

The district board met on Jan. 26 and decided to go the ballot route. Jan. 30 was the deadline for producing the ballots.

Bishop said there were essentially only three days for the candidates for the three offices to obtain the required 60 district voters' signatures so their names could be printed on the ballot.

So Bishop and Brennan are using the area listservs to ask for write-in votes. Bishop said she doesn't know whether Matthew Maxham, who has been moderator, is actively seeking re-election. On March 7 the ballots will be cast at the seven town offices or can be voted by mail if requested by the voter.

The district clerk maintains records of proceedings, produces warnings, prepares ballots and distributes formal notices, Bishop said. It is an unpaid position.

"The (clerk's) duties mesh nicely with my job as executive administrative assistant to the Superintendent," she said. "There is no conflict of interest."

Brennan has served as district treasurer since 2018.

"In the event that a person does not receive enough write-in votes to qualify for election," Bishop said, "the school board can appoint someone to fill the position(s)."

## ACLU issues letter to Rutland town, urging an updated trespass policy

Staff report

Rutland town may revise its trespass policy after receiving a letter from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Vermont.

ACLU of Vermont Staff Attorney Hillary Rich sent the letter to the town on Feb. 8, explaining the ACLU examined public records from 2020 to 2022 and found Rutland Town police issued at least 10 trespass notices restricting access to public property. People had been barred from Northwood Park, the entrance to Green Mountain Plaza, the Town Hall and recreation facilities and fields.

"Police served six of those notices at the express request or prompting of Select Board members — without providing a reason for their issuance in the notice or a process to chal-

lenge them," according to the ACLU.

"When government officials can unilaterally restrict someone's ability to participate in public life, without any true limits on their discretion, there is a real risk of abuse of power and violation of constitutional rights," Rich said in a press release. "We hope that Rutland and other towns will take this opportunity to ensure their policies are consistent with constitutional mandates as well as the values of an inclusive, participatory democracy."

The letter says Rutland's current policy for trespass notices is inadequate to protect residents' due process rights. Prior to being contacted by the ACLU, the town did not have a policy.

Trespass policy → 55

# TUESDAY MARCH 7 VOTE KILLINGTON FORWARD ARTICLE 5

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

### SAFE DRINKING WATER

The installation of a municipal water infrastructure is essential to provide safe water for our schools, homes and businesses.

### UPGRADES TO THE KILLINGTON ROAD

Improved pedestrian, driver and biker safety through side walk expansion, bike lanes, bus stop pull offs and improved lighting.

### AFFORDABLE WORKFORCE HOUSING

The development of 250-300 living units featuring a mix of multi-family buildings, duplex and single family homes.

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST YOU?

The bond of up to \$47 million will be paid for by the village development (using a portion of the taxes collected from the increased in value of the village/TIF district). Read the development agreement with Great Gulf that guarantees the bond payments: [tinyurl.com/DAKillington](https://tinyurl.com/DAKillington)

To learn more about Article 5 and plans to move Killington Forward join us:

MARCH 6 • 7PM

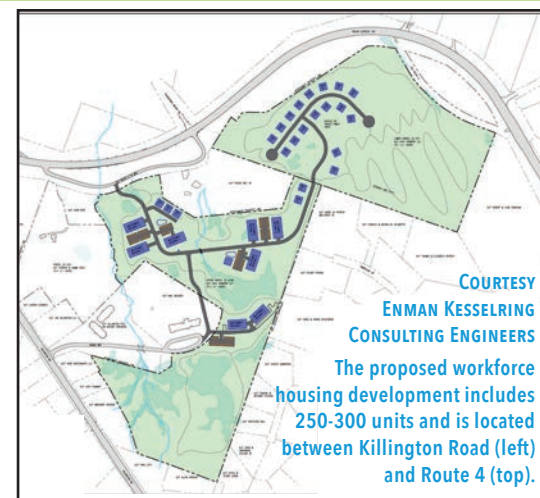
Public Safety Building/Zoom

TUESDAY MARCH 7  
7AM-7PM

Town Meeting Day  
Vote at the Town Offices



LEARN MORE



COURTESY  
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CONSULTING ENGINEERS

The proposed workforce housing development includes 250-300 units and is located between Killington Road (left) and Route 4 (top).

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: VISIT [MVP.VERMONT.GOV](https://MVP.VERMONT.GOV)

TOWN OF KILLINGTON: 802-422-3241 Follow the prompts to reach the Dept of choice.



TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

# NECESSITY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Killington Selectboard has determined that the public interest and necessity of the Town of Killington and its inhabitants require that real property be acquired and municipal offices be constructed on 2046 US Route 4 in Killington (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the cost of the Project will be approximately One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000); and

WHEREAS, this amount is too great to be paid out of the ordinary annual income and revenue of the Town of Killington, even after applying all grants in aid of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Killington Selectboard has determined that, for the reasons set forth above, authority to finance the Project through debt instruments for a term of more than five years, is required;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Selectboard of the Town of Killington that the proposition of incurring debt through issuance of such debt instruments be submitted to the qualified votes of the Town of Killington in the following form:

ARTICLE 4. Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Killington in an amount not to exceed One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal grants-in-aid and the application of available reserves, to be financed for a period not to exceed ten (10) years, be issued for the purpose of purchasing and renovating the property at 2046 US Route 4, which includes the Post Office, to become the new Town Hall.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a vote on said proposition shall be conducted by Australian Ballot at the annual Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at the Killington Town Office, 2706 River Road, Killington, Vermont at which meeting the polls will open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Warning for the above-mentioned Town Meeting shall be published in the Mountain Times on February 16, 23, and March 2, 2023 and that the Warning for such meeting shall be posted in five public places in the Town of Killington, and the same shall be posted on the Town website.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Selectboard will hold a public informational hearing on the above-stated proposition on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. at the Killington Public Safety Building, 800 Killington Road, Killington, Vermont.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Warning for the 2023 annual Town Meeting is specifically approved for use in connection with the consideration on the above-stated proposition of making public improvements and financing the same for a term not to exceed ten (10) years.

Dated at Killington, Vermont this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023.

Stephen Finneron

Jim Haff

Christopher Karr

Received for record this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2023.

Lucrecia Wonsor  
Killington Town Clerk

## Rutland Mental Health receives \$183,242 for inpatient diversion facility

Federal funding provides greater, more equitable access to community services statewide

In the fall of 2021, Vermont received \$4 million through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to make existing housing and community-based service facilities provide mental health services more accessible, safe, compliant with the ADA, or expand their capacity to provide services.

Rutland Mental Health is one of 19 locations to receive funds allocated by the Legislature and distributed through the Department of Mental Health (DMH), according to a news release Feb. 14.

The recipients are using the funds to address air quality, lack of insulation and even, in some case, failing structures.

"It would be hard to overstate how important these updates are," DMH Commissioner Emily Hawes said. "If someone can't navigate stairs or get a wheelchair through narrow doorways, they're not going to return or be able to live in a building where they can get the mental health care they need. These funds are allowing our community mental health agencies to invest in safety and wellbeing in ways that haven't been possible in many years."

The agencies estimate another \$12 million in repairs are needed.

### Vermont ARPA grant awards include:

- Alyssum (Rochester): \$24,431 for their peer respite center to renovate the kitchen and build a wheelchair ramp.
- Champlain Community Services (Colchester): \$66,613 to make a building that serves Vermonters with disabilities fully accessible.
- Clara Martin Center (Randolph): \$111,660 to weatherize and improve air quality in two different buildings where Vermonters with severe mental illness receive services.
- Counseling Service of Addison County (Middlebury): \$187,777 will be improving several residential buildings by upgrading ramps and renovating kitchens and bathrooms to be accessible.
- Families First (Brattleboro): \$69,752 to renovate a building at the Wild Hopes Farm that provides housing for individuals with developmental disabilities, provides crisis services, and offers staff space.
- Green Mountain Support Services (Morrisville): \$102,350 to upgrade

Health grants → 12

## New report shows Vermont adults generally in good health, but disparities persist

Increase in adult cannabis use, poor mental health stand out

Newly released data from the Department of Health show that most Vermont adults report they are in good health, according to a news release Feb. 16. Over the last decade, adults have taken steps to reduce health risks and increase preventive behaviors.

At the same time, disparities highlight the public health challenges Vermont continues to face. Vermont adults also report increased use of cannabis, and the number of adults reporting poor mental health has gradually gone up over the last decade.

The data comes from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), an annual survey that tracks adult health-related behaviors, chronic health conditions and use of preventive services. Results from the 2021 survey of 6,580 adults include new data on regular caregiving, intimate partner

violence, sexual violence, and Covid-19 immunizations.

"Collecting and analyzing data on Vermonters' health is critical to understanding how we can improve health

Compared to the U.S....  
Vermont adults are more likely to engage in physical activity.

outcomes," said Health Commissioner Mark Levine. "This survey data may begin to reflect changes as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, which we will closely monitor moving forward. As the pandemic made clear: while we are a healthy state overall, we must focus on reducing health disparities in all areas of our work — to give all Vermonters a fair and just opportunity to be healthy."

### Health status

The survey found that most adults report good to

excellent health, with one in eight (12%) reporting only fair or poor health. The report also confirms ongoing and concerning disparities in health status exist: 20% of

Vermonters with lower education levels, 32% with low income, and 34% of those with a disability reported fair or poor health.

Compared to the U.S., the rates of chronic kidney disease, diabetes, high cholesterol, hypertension, obesity and overweight are statistically lower, and Vermont adults are more likely to engage in physical activity.

Most adults report having access to health care (94% of those 18 to 64 have a health plan) and a personal health care provider (90%). Only 6% report they delay going to the doctor due to cost. Disparities exist here as well, with BIPOC adults (11%), LGBTQ+ adults

Health status → 14



TOWN OF  
KILLINGTON  
VERMONT

WARNING:  
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING: March 6, 2023  
&  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: March 7, 2023

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 7, 2023, 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 6, 2023, 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. A moderator for a term of one year;
- b. A selectboard member for a term of three years;
- c. A town clerk for a term of three years;
- d. A lister for a term of three years;
- e. A cemetery commissioner for a term of three years;
- f. A library trustee for a term of five years

Article 2. Shall property taxes be paid in three installments: the first due August 15, 2023, and overdue subject to interest after August 25, 2023; the second due November 15, 2023, and overdue subject to interest after November 25, 2023; and the third due February 15, 2024, with the total tax delinquent after February 25, 2024?

Article 3. Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures of \$6,409,784, of which an estimated \$378,945 shall be applied from the 2022 general fund balance, \$4,367,100 shall be raised by property taxes, and \$1,735,700 in estimated non-property tax revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023?

Article 4. Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Killington in an amount not to exceed One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal grants-in-aid and the application of available reserves, to be financed for a period not to exceed ten (10) years, be issued for the purpose of purchasing and renovating the property at 2046 US Route 4 to become the new Town Hall?

Article 5. Shall the Town Selectboard be authorized to pledge the full faith and credit of the Town to secure indebtedness or make direct payments for the purpose of funding one or more public improvements and related costs attributable to projects serving the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District, specifically:

- a) Projects: acquire and construct a municipal water system; construct new roads and upgrade existing roads and acquire those roads to ensure future maintenance.
- b) Related Costs: payment of or reimbursement for TIF eligible related costs incurred by the Town for the creation, implementation and administration of the TIF District, including costs paid to outside vendors, consultants, and various related fees and other expenses related to the TIF District, as well as direct municipal expenses such as departmental or personnel costs related to creating or administering the District to the extent they are paid from the municipal and not education incremental taxes and are otherwise reimbursed in accordance with law; in a total principal amount not to exceed \$47,000,000 (which will bring the total TIF District debt approved since the TIF District's creation to \$47,000,000) and to issue bonds, notes or make interfund loans for such purpose, in one or more series, and expend up to \$650,000 for related costs, which will bring the total related costs authorized by voters to \$650,000, with the understanding that tax increment from the properties within the TIF District shall be pledged and appropriated for the payment of such indebtedness or direct costs of the improvements?

Dated at Killington, Vermont this 30th day of January 2023.

Stephen Finneron

Jim Haff

Christopher Karr

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Table of contents

Local news .....2

Opinion .....8

Puzzles .....15

Calendar.....32

Arts, Dining, Entertainment.....36

Pets .....44

Horoscopes.....45

Columns.....46

Service directory.....48

Real estate .....49

Classifieds .....55

MOUNTAIN TIMES

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# Powering forward: Ted Brady of Vermont League of Cities and Towns

What most people notice when they meet Ted Brady, especially on Zoom, are his open-hearted smile and generous laugh, plus his unwavering focus on listening intently before he comments or asks any questions.

Brady, 45, is coming up on two years as executive director of Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), the 55-year-old nonprofit whose mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. Influential stakeholders and young professionals alike speak highly of his leadership, but they also comment on how much they like him.

When asked about this in a recent interview, Brady replied, chuckling, “I believe that’s because, for the last 16 years of my career, I’ve been in positions where I could hand out a lot of money.”

Brady projects his affability even toward those who comment about his tremendous presence. At 6 feet, 6 inches he easily could have played the high-scoring power forward position in basketball, a position that requires a talent for quick rebounds. In addition, Brady has the formidable build of a defensive end who could give an aging

Super Bowl champion (no relation) a run for his millions.

“Power forward” is an apt metaphor for Ted Brady’s two decades of career accomplishments — in management, media, business and municipal relations — and for his current mission as VLCT’s leader.

“My personal goal for the League,” Brady explained, “is to galvanize a group of people around an idea that’s bigger than the minutiae they have to deal with in their local municipalities, so that some sort of systemic change can happen for our state.”

VLCT’s services benefit residents of Vermont’s 247 cities and towns, and include educational workshops and advice for municipal officials; support for legislation that strengthens local government; and comprehensive insurance coverage for municipalities.

In short, VLCT facilitates efficient and effective discussion, and action, about issues that are of concern to all Vermonters: affordable housing; technology accessibility; transit; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and the economic aftermath of Covid.

Among these issues, the one that has generated the most attention over the past few years is housing.

“We survey our members annually on their priority issues and, for two years running, all we hear about is housing, hous-

ing, housing,” Brady said. “So the League works hard to help individual municipalities recognize the state-wide impact their local decisions have on housing,” he added.

Echoing the sentiment of community development experts throughout Vermont, Brady asserts that Act 250, not local zoning, is the single largest impediment to building more homes in Vermont. (Act 250 was enacted by the state in 1970 to protect certain designated environmental, social and fiscal assets from overdevelopment.)

“Today, housing developers frequently must pay two sets of permitting fees and legal fees,” said Brady. “So, they face the uncertainty in appeals twice, even when they are proposing smart growth in areas where Vermonters want development.

“I’m trying to build a coalition that would be willing to relinquish some local control — that is, if the state also gives up some of its control on Act 250,” Brady added.

Brady and his team at VLCT have addressed these issues in the organization’s strategic plan, whose goals include strengthening the capacity of local government, attracting outstanding talent to the field, and championing diverse and resilient communities.

VLCT’s accomplishments under Brady’s leadership include helping communities plan, spend, and report on the more than \$200 million in local ARPA funding that was directly distributed to Vermont municipalities. And, late last year, with the help of a grant from the Vermont Legislature and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, VLCT launched an initiative that will connect Vermont communities to approximately 400 federal programs.

“It’s important that Vermonters respect and appreciate their local government,” Brady urged. “For example, in the Town of Killington, the people who plow the roads, staff the police, and send out the fire department, are essential resources, especially considering the prominence of the ski area. All of our communities need more capacity.”

A Rhode Island native, Brady graduated from St. Michael’s College in Colchester, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and journalism. Prior to joining VLCT in March 2021, he served for four years as deputy secretary for commerce and community development with the Vermont

Chamber of Commerce. His background includes chairing the Vermont Council on Rural Development for nearly six years.

Brady met his wife, Erin, when he was deputy press secretary for former U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, from 2000 to 2013.

As Ted Brady recalled, “Our offices were only 200 feet apart and we saw each other every day on the elevator. We got engaged in the Capitol Rotunda.”

Today Erin Brady serves as a member of the Vermont House of Representatives (D-Williston), where she is the lead sponsor of House Bill 165, which would require all public schools to provide breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge. The latter reflects Representative Brady’s experience and expertise in education: she also teaches at Colchester High School and serves on the Champlain Valley School District Board.

The couple has two sons and before anyone could ask about whether the Brady couple constantly “talk shop” at home, Ted Brady said: “We try not to talk politics at the dinner table.”

When asked to provide a summation of his leadership style — in his work as well as in his personal interactions — Brady replied, “It’s really important to be kind, and be personable, and be genuine.”

One can conclude that’s the kind of power forward leadership style Ted Brady instills in his own children as well as his VLCT team. In this day and age, it’s no wonder other leaders speak so highly of him.

More at: vlct.org.  
Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is principal and owner of Liz DiMarco Weinmann Consulting, L3C, based in Rutland, serving charitable and educational institutions: lizdimarcoweinmann.com.



For the Greater Good  
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

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## Senate passes bill prohibiting paramilitary training camps in wake of insurrection, Slate Ridge

Switch to rank choice voting discussed

So much is happening at the Statehouse. Bills are beginning to be passed out of committees at a rapid pace, a new set of pages have arrived, the Budget Adjustment Act is



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

poised for a final vote in the Senate and will probably get to a conference committee, and the building is alive with school groups visiting, public hearings and Farmer's Night on Wednesday evenings. For five months, January through May, the Statehouse is the center of a great deal of activity. If you are interested in seeing your Legislature in action, now is the time to visit – Tuesday through Friday.

On a tri-partisan vote of support, the Senate passed on to the

House a bill, S. 3, which prohibits paramilitary training camps. Sadly, after the insurrection attempt in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 6, 2021 and Vermont's experience with Slate Ridge in West Pawlet, we are all more attuned to the increase in fringe paramilitary activities around the country and in our state. With Slate Ridge, it became apparent that Vermont had inadequate enforcement authority to close this unpermitted paramilitary training facility, which was terrifying its neighbors and flouting our development laws. Senate President Pro Tem Philip Baruth said that this bill will give Vermont "the authority it needs to protect Vermonters from fringe actors looking to create civil disorder." The bill not only makes it a crime to operate one of these facilities, it also allows state prosecutors to seek an injunction to shut a paramilitary camp down. It exempts legitimate training courses like hunter safety, law enforcement, firearm safety and National Guard programs.

Senate Government Operations, my afternoon committee, has several interesting bills in the works. These range from a proposal to adopt Rank Choice Voting (S.32) for our next presidential primary in 2024, to amending the Vermont constitution to require qualifications be set for sheriffs (currently they are not required to be a law enforcement officer), to updating legislative compensation, to a comprehensive redesign of our dispatch system. This committee's wide jurisdiction guarantees we will be discussing something which will have impact on our lives.

Rank choice voting (RCV) is an election method which allows voters to rank candidates in order of their preference (first, second, third choice etc). Currently, we use plurality voting, a method designed to select one candidate out of many (even if the winning candidate gets less than a majority of the votes). With RCV, if a candidate receives more than 50% of the first choices — they win. However, if no one wins 50% — the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and then there is a run-off between the remaining candidates. The voters who ranked the eliminated candidate as their first choice will have their votes count for their next choice. For this reason, no one's vote is wasted — every vote counts.

Over 50 jurisdictions (cities and states) around the country use RCV. Burlington uses it for its city council elections. Many people feel RCV will make our democracy more robust – by giving voters more choices and reducing the negativity in elections. With RCV, a candidate can't afford to alienate voters. If you aren't a voter's first choice, you want to be their second or third. A winner under the RCV method is a winner who enjoys the support of the majority.

Allison Clarkson is a Vermont Senator representing Windsor County. She 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 info, visit the legislative website: [legislature.vermont.gov](http://legislature.vermont.gov).

## The big red truck

Last Thursday, Feb. 16, we had a joint assembly of the House and Senate for purposes of reelecting the Sergeant at Arms and electing three trustees to the UVM Board. I had the honor of seconding the nomination for Rep. Tristan Toleno (D-Brattleboro) for one of the trustee positions. I began my very brief remarks with:

"I have had the opportunity to serve with Tristan as a member of the House Appropriations Committee. It may not surprise you to learn that we look at various issues and priorities before us with a different lens and may at times vote differently. However, he has a big red pickup, which gives me hope that maybe, just maybe, he has a Republican side to him?"



By Rep. Jim Harrison

What does that have to do with anything you might ask? I could have listed more of his resume and life experiences, which were the focus of other nominating speeches. With a captive audience of 30 Senate and 150 House members, I chose to make my remarks short

and light. And yes, Tristan did win the election in spite of my unorthodox nomination.

There will be many issues this session where my colleagues and I will disagree. However, it's important we get along and not take things too personal. Perhaps that will help us find that sometimes elusive middle ground?

With the 2023 session now eight weeks old, several high-profile bills are beginning to advance from their original committees. Of those, the Clean Heat Standard (renamed the Affordable Heat Act this year), which was vetoed by Governor Scott last year, was approved by the Senate Natural Resources Committee on a 5-0 vote Friday morning. While the committee had a strong unanimous vote, it's important to recognize the political makeup of their members do not necessarily reflect the Senate as a whole (no Republicans or moderates for instance).

The measure continues to be supported by a host of environmental organizations, except for groups like 350 Vermont and Standing Trees. In an email to lawmakers, a former Democratic gubernatorial candidate, James Ehlers, referred to the bill as the "Unaffordable Heat Standard." The bill is also opposed by most of the state's fuel dealers and the governor over concerns on the potential fuel price impacts. We expect the scrutiny of the legislation to heat up (no pun intended) in the coming weeks.

### Other issues of interest:

- The House General & Housing Committee advanced the paid family leave bill, H.66, on a 9-3 party line vote. The measure would offer each employee up to 12 weeks of paid leave at 100% of their wage (capped at \$1,135/week) for a list of qualifying events. It proposes to be initially funded by a 0.55% payroll tax shared between the employer and employee. The governor opposes the new tax, and some business groups worry about exacerbating the shortage of employees with the new time-off benefit. Advocates of the legislation believe, however; it will help attract new workers to Vermont.
- Unlike the House, the Senate on Friday approved the mid-year budget adjustment bill, H.145, on a unanimous 30-0 vote. The Senate Appropriations Committee removed the House passed \$9.2 million subsidy to organic dairy farms, reduced the appropriation to the Housing and Conservation Board by \$25 million and made a modest adjustment to the hotel voucher program.
- The Senate approved a measure that would ban paramilitary camps that train people with "the intent to cause civil disorder." S.3 passed on a wide 29-1 vote. The bill was prompted by reports about Slate Ridge in West Pawlet and harassment of its neighbors.

Harrison → 14



Submitted  
U.S. Alpine Ski Team racer and POW Alliance member Travis Ganong models the special speed suit.

## Ski racers support climate change with race suits

By Karen D. Lorentz

Icebergs, oceans and ski-racing suits might seem an odd couple, but the recent World Championships provided a graphic reminder that climate change is real by having U.S. competitors clad in a speed suit featuring large chunks of icebergs sailing in the ocean. The design was based on a satellite photograph of an expanse of ice breaking due to high temperatures and brought global attention to the current situation of a warming climate and its threat to the future of snowsports.

As most every skier and rider knows, the sports of skiing and snowboarding are seeing the impact of climate change every winter now. Commenting on the suits, U.S. Alpine Ski Team racer Travis Ganong noted, "These will help bring awareness to climate change and melting glaciers and shrinking snowpacks around the globe and how that affects our sport directly. We've had so many canceled races this year so it's definitely happening in real time as we speak."

U.S. Ski & Snowboard launched the climate-change-themed race suit at the Alpine World Championships — held Feb. 6-19 — in partnership with Kappa and Protect Our Winters (POW). U.S. Ski & Snowboard is the Olympic National Governing Body (NGB) of ski and snowboard sports in the U.S. and represents some 200 elite skiers and snowboarders who compete on seven teams — alpine, cross country, freeski, freestyle, snowboard, Nordic combined, and ski jumping. Kappa is the team uniform partner, and POW is a nonprofit advocating for solutions to climate change by raising awareness of the issue and educating people on ways they can help to combat climate change.

"From the initial vision and concept to the product in

Race suits → 14

## GUEST COMMENTARY

## Local officials eager to partner to build more housing

By Ted Brady

*Editor's note: Ted Brady is the executive director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns*

Vermont's 247 cities and towns are on the front lines of Vermont's housing crisis – responding to a record number of emergency calls at hotels filled with the housing insecure, re-evaluating their zoning laws to facilitate housing development, and partnering with developers to create innovative housing solutions. But as Winooski Mayor Kristine Lott said recently at a Vermont Mayors' Coalition news conference in the State House, we can't do it alone.

To solve the housing crisis, we must build more housing. The Legislature could ensure the state is a meaningful partner by modestly tweaking Act 250 to exempt state designated areas, reducing the ability of project opponents to file frivolous appeals to both municipal zoning decisions and Act 250 decisions, eliminating the Act 250 provision that establishes jurisdiction over a developer's projects within five miles and five years of each other, encouraging the modernization of municipal zoning bylaws, and continuing to fund innovative affordable housing development.

Rep. Seth Bongartz of Manchester and Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale of Chittenden county recently crafted bills (Bongartz's is H.86 and Ram Hinsdale's has not yet been introduced at the time of this article) that would (a) mandate that towns allow duplexes everywhere they allow housing, (b) mandate multi-units be allowed and create a new statewide maximum lot size of a fifth of an acre where sewers exist, and (c) reduce the number of parking spaces required when building housing.

These proposals would affect every community in Vermont, but they may not have their intended impact. Several towns are ahead of the Legislature, having adopted nearly every proposed provision, and yet the crisis continues in their communities. Just ask Mayor Lott in Winooski. Another 40 or so communities in Vermont have no zoning restrictions at all, yet they also struggle to encourage housing development.

Modernizing local zoning can be an effective way to promote housing development, but doing so with a one-size-fits-all mandate ignores the fact that local planning commissions, closest to their communities, know more about a community than Montpelier does.

Over the past two years, the Legislature and Gov. Phil Scott have provided more than \$1 million in state funds to help communities rewrite their zoning bylaws. These grants have helped 56 municipalities — from Newport City to Newfane — adopt best practices, including those being considered by the Legislature and those in the state's "Zoning for Great Neighborhoods" guide. This approach has incentivized towns to make improvements while respecting the local zoning processes that volunteers have spent decades constructing.

While these municipalities have been aggressively updating their local land use laws, the Legislature has been repeatedly studying whether to amend its own statewide land use planning law, Act 250. To our knowledge, they have never studied the impact of local zoning on housing development

Housing → 50

To solve the housing crisis, we must build more housing... Act 250, not local zoning, is the single largest impediment to the construction of more homes in Vermont.

I DON'T KNOW! SOMETIMES I WONDER MYSELF IF I TRULY HAVE THIS MUCH HATE IN MY HEART, OR IF I'M JUST DOING IT FOR THE LIKES.

cardcartoons.com



Doing It For the Likes by Pat Byrnes, PoliticalCartoons.com

## LETTERS

### Vote 'yes' for Article 5 TIF and support Killington's future

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my support for the Article 5 TIF and the development of the Six Peaks Village in Killington. As a longtime visitor to the Killington area, now a permanent resident of the town and Resort employee, I feel that Killington is long overdue for improvements to our infrastructure. What was once a small ski town known for its vibrant nightlife has now grown into a year-round destination for people with interests that reach far beyond skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, and partying.

A village at the Resort will create a much-needed community hub for Killington, will allow for easier access to the mountain, and a better overall experience for employees and guests once they arrive. The Snowshed and Ramshead base areas can no longer support the influx of visitors in winter and summer, which has caused severe overcrowding and congestion in our main base areas, especially on weekends and holidays. The village will not only bring more commercial and residential space, but also huge improvements to the mountain's chairlifts and

Vote yes → 13

### Thanks to Killington fire

Dear Editor,

This Sunday, Feb. 19, my wife and I noticed some smoke coming from a tree on our neighbor's electricity right of way.

A closer look showed a White Pine had snapped in half with the electric line caught in the hinge holding the two halves together.

We called the Killington Fire Department when we saw there were some small flames as well. After their

A White Pine had snapped in half with the electric line caught in the hinge.

prompt arrival and assessment of the situation the fire department contacted Green Mountain Power who immediately turned the power off and the flames stopped.

The power company wasn't able to reach the problem tree, given there is a small brook in the way. They called for additional equipment, which we were amazed to see was actually a tank with the extension boom and bucket. By now it was very dark, but they went right to work and were able to free the lines of the large

KFD → 13

### Why I, Mike Doenges, am running for mayor

Dear Editor,

Today in Rutland we are facing challenges similar to those in almost every town and city across the country. This doesn't make it any less of our responsibility to address these issues, but it does give us the opportunity to consider solutions that have worked in other communities around the country.

From drug abuse to a rise in petty crime, these are symptoms of the problem that Rutland continues to grapple with on many levels: a lack of proactive leadership in city hall. The status quo is subject to gravity, meaning a city that may seem stagnant, is actually on a downward slope. The steps we must take to move forward require strategic planning, incorporation of data into decision making, and connected, collaborative leadership efforts.

These problems have not just appeared in our city. They are something Rutland's residents have been victims of, and witnessed, for years. Homelessness, substance use disorders, and crime, have become more pressing because of circumstances over the last several years, including the impacts of Covid, and changes at the state level in how courts are treating offenders.

We know from the data

that is collected by the Rutland City Police Department that criminal activity in Rutland has continually increased over the last five years. We know that at least 70% of people committing these crimes are struggling with substance abuse issues. While we see increased crime in our city as the problem, in reality there is a more difficult set of challenges that must be addressed. The symptom is crime; however, one of the main root causes is substance dependency.

So, how do we as Rutland City approach this head on?

I'll start with what we can't do. We cannot just ask the state for help, or hold out our hands hoping for a solution to fall into them; in essence, just wait for something to change. Communicating with the state and regional leadership is important, but it is not a one stop shop to address the challenges that we are facing in our community. Waiting on the state and regional leadership is not an answer either, as we will be waiting for far too long. Resolution, or at the very least addressing the issue, requires someone to take action.

We as a municipality must take that action locally. We must enact a plan to directly address these issues as a city,

Doenges for mayor → 13

## CAPITAL QUOTES

On the one-year anniversary of the Ukraine war on Monday, Feb. 20, President Joe Biden used the President's Day holiday to visit Kyiv as other countries rallied support of Ukraine...

**"China will work with all the peace-loving countries, including Hungary, to make efforts to achieve an early ceasefire and lasting peace,"**

said China's top diplomat **Wang Yi** during a meeting with Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó.

**"Japan is in a position to lead the world's efforts to support Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression and to uphold a free and open international order based on the rule of law,"**

said Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida Kishida**, pledging another \$5.5 billion in financial support to Ukraine.

**"Even though our countries are divided by thousands of kilometers and ocean, we are united by bravery and by love for freedom and our willingness to fight for it. So it has been very important for the people of Ukraine to see American president on the Presidents Day in Kyiv and saying that our strategic friend number one, United States, is with us in this fight,"**

**Oksana Markarova**, the Ukrainian ambassador to the United States, told CNN's Wolf Blitzer.

**"Today was a symbolic day. The 362nd day of a full-scale war, and we, in our free capital of our free country, are hosting a visit from our powerful ally, the President of the United States of America, and talking to him about the future of Ukraine, our relations, the whole of Europe and global democracy. This is an indicator of how resilient Ukraine is. And how important Ukraine is to the world,"**

said Ukraine President **Volodymyr Zelensky**.

## COMMENTARY

### Vermont state lawmakers ought to wait on latest data before moving forward with vaping prohibition

By Lindsey Stroud

*Editor's note: Lindsey Stroud is director of the Taxpayers Protection Alliance's Consumer Center.*

Another legislative session and another bill has been introduced that would ban the sale of flavored tobacco and vaping products in Vermont. This isn't the first time the Vermont Legislature has attempted to restrict adult access to tobacco and safer alternatives to smoking. Legislation has been introduced in both chambers since at least 2020.

This year's persistence comes amid delayed data on youth tobacco and vaping-product use in Vermont. Nationally, youth vaping has halved since 2019 and youth use of traditional tobacco products reached record lows. Lawmakers must refrain from imposing restrictions on adult choices that would only lead to another illicit market and decreased tax revenue in another New England state.

In 2021, according to the Vermont Department of Health's website page in January 2022, state data from the biannual Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was supposed to be published in the early fall of that year. Between January and November, the website page was postponed, stating that the statewide report would be "available late 2022/early 2023," according to

a page viewed in November. As of mid-January 2023, the page has been further postponed and the statewide report will not be available until March, "[d]ue to delays at the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention]."

This year's flavor ban is being pushed, once again, by Sen. Virginia Lyons (D-Chittenden County), who introduced similar legislation in 2020 and 2021. Commenting on previous efforts in a summer 2022 news article, Lyons remarked that there was "some misunderstanding about the value of flavors for people trying to quit... really got in the way of the bill moving forwards."

Senator Lyons is correct that there is misunderstanding about the role of flavors for adults who smoke and the youth who experiment and/or use these products.

In Vermont, according to data from the 2019 YRBS, among high school students that were currently using vaping products, 51% cited using them for some other reason, 17% cited use because a friend and/or family member used them, and only 10% of youth in the that were currently vaping in 2019 reported using them because they were available in flavors.

This is similar to more recent national data. In 2021, among all U.S. middle and

Prohibition → 12

### Understanding how government works will empower Vermonters

By Sarah Copeland Hanzas

*Editor's note: Sarah Copeland Hanzas was elected secretary of state in 2022 after 18 years as a state legislator. She lives in Bradford with her family.*

As I begin my first term as Vermont's 39th secretary of state, I am keenly aware of my role as chief elections officer for the state and the responsibility we all share in civic life. Despite the enormous role democracy plays in our everyday lives, many Vermonters are not civically engaged. This lack of engagement creates a void in Vermont's democracy, a void that is oftentimes filled with dis- or misinformation, attacking the integrity and transparency of government. Elections and voting have been especially popular focus points of these attacks in recent years, but all facets of civic life are negatively impacted by these attacks, which exacerbate apathy and suspicion. It is time for action, not just reaction, against such attacks. This office will spearhead a new civics initiative and bring on a new position, an Education & Civic Engagement coordinator, to implement it; and we will need all the help we can get.

Voting is a constitutional right, and free

elections are the foundation on which faith in government rests. Examples of democracy in action exist around us every day. There are municipal meetings almost every night of the week, citizen petitions and calls to action on Front Porch Forum every day, and lawn signs every spring and fall for town meeting and elections. Despite this,

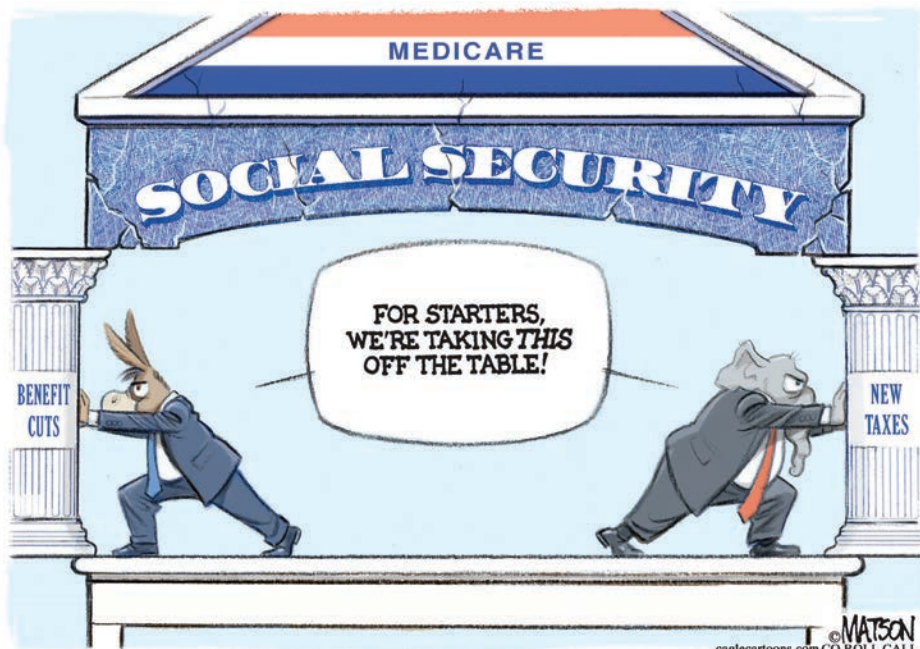
Free elections are the foundation on which faith in government rests.

there are many Vermonters who simply don't vote. We need to recognize that sometimes people don't vote because they don't know how to vote, or they don't know the candidates, or they don't know whether

their vote will make a difference. The next phase of strengthening elections in Vermont needs to be addressing these gaps. Many of us grew up understanding that civics is about the three branches of government, checks and balances, and one person one vote. And some of us remember being told from a young age that we have an obligation to participate in civic life. But as the demands of a 21st-century education have pulled schools away from requiring civics, and modern life has become increasingly full, many of these lessons have been lost.

Elections → 13

## CARTOONS



Shoring Up Social Security and Medicare by R.J. Matson, CQ Roll Call



Password Problems by Guy Parsons, PoliticalCartoons.com



Too Woke by John Darkow, Columbia Missourian

## Health grants: Rutland Mental Health is one of 19 agencies that received funds from page 6

- their crisis and intensive support homes with electrical work, energy efficiency, and roof repairs.
- Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (Springfield): \$350,206 to complete part of a long list of construction needs including renovation of a building to create a peer recovery center with recreational facilities and a full kitchen, building a new therapeutic playroom and two new clinical offices in another building, re-designing a life enrichment center for clients in the Community Rehabilitation and Treatment program and upgrading the Community Space and Training Center.
  - Howard Center (Chittenden County): \$793,476 to invest in several improvements across facilities and programs to increase ADA accessibility, improve heating and air systems, and expand spaces to increase client access.
  - Lamoille County Mental Health (Morrisville): \$146,090 to install air conditioning and update the electrical systems in residential facilities for clients living with physical and mental health conditions.
  - Lincoln Street (Springfield): \$61,201 to install specialized sensory lighting, sound proofing and wall and floor treatments for their space which serves Vermonters with developmental disabilities.
  - Northeast Kingdom Human Services (Newport and St. Johnsbury): \$304,365 to ensure their buildings have doorways, bathrooms and floors compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
  - Northeastern Family Institute (South Burlington): \$159,908 to renovate kitchen space at their North Hospital diversion program, improve accessibility at other buildings, and make improvements to their group and foster care homes.
  - Northwestern Counseling and Support Services (Franklin/Grand Isle County): \$343,987 to make a care home ADA accessible.
  - Pathways (Burlington): \$62,340 to make upgrades to Soteria House which is a therapeutic Community Residence for the prevention of hospitalization for individuals experiencing a distressing extreme state, commonly referred to as psychosis.
  - Rutland Mental Health (Rutland County): \$183,242 to make improvements at their crisis stabilization and inpatient diversion facility and two residences that provide intensive residential services to Vermonters.
  - Specialized Community Services (Middlebury): \$85,196 to do electrical work, air quality improvements and renovations to two buildings where staff work and individuals with developmental disabilities reside.
  - United Counseling Services (Bennington): \$151,228 to complete a parking lot repair for accessibility at a building where Vermonters with developmental disabilities receive services.
  - Upper Valley Services (Randolph and Bradford): \$185,138 to complete paving repairs to increase accessibility at a home for Vermonters with developmental disabilities and mold remediation at another.
  - Washington County Mental Health (Washington County): \$410,515 to completed long-needed repairs and improvements at a residential care home.

## Prohibition: Vaping prohibition under discussion again from page 11

high school students that were currently using vaping products, 43.2% cited using them because they were feeling “anxious, stressed, or depressed,” compared to only 13.2% who had cited currently using e-cigarettes because they came in flavors. Even among kids who had just tried e-cigarettes, 60.6% cited trying them because a friend had, compared to 13.4% who had tried them because of flavors.

Comparatively, numerous studies and surveys of adult e-cigarette consumers find that flavors play a vital role in both attracting adults who smoke to safer alternatives, as well as helping to maintain cessation. A 2020 cohort study of nearly 18,000 participants found that “adults who began vaping non tobacco-flavored e-cigarettes were more likely to quit smoking than those who vaped tobacco flavors.” In a 2018 survey of nearly 70,000 American adult vapers, 83.2% and 72.3% reported vaping fruit and dessert flavors, respectively.

Further, statewide flavor bans have led to increases in young adult smoking, reductions in state excise tax revenue, and it seems that neighboring flavor bans have been an economic boon to Vermont.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, smoking rates among young adults aged 18 to 24 years

old decreased on average by 19.7% between 2020 and 2021. Yet, in three out of four states with active flavor bans, young adult smoking rates increased.

Moreover, Massachusetts enacted a full tobacco and vape flavor ban in 2020. Between 2020 and 2021, state cigarette excise tax revenue fell by over 22%, while in Vermont, cigarette tax collections increased by 3.6%.

Even more significantly, during the same period, the revenue Vermont received from the state’s excise tax on vaping products increased by 76.3%. Comparatively, New Jersey, which enacted a flavored e-cigarette ban in 2020 saw its excise tax collections from vapor products decrease by 39.1%.

These figures are significant as the Green Mountain State consistently spends very little on tobacco control programs, despite increases in revenue. In 2021, lawmakers allocated only \$2.7 million in state funding, which was zero percent change from 2020. This is despite increases in state excise tax revenue from both the cigarette and vapor product taxes.

Rather than continue with draconian prohibitions that do not consider still missing youth survey data, lawmakers ought to revisit the existing tobacco monies and dedicate more state funding towards programs to prevent youth use while helping adults quit.

## Doenges for mayor: Changes needed in Rutland city, mayor candidate says from page 10

in a way that is reflective of the needs and challenges in our specific community. We must use the tools in our toolbox to fix the issues facing our city. We need leadership in city hall that will pursue a plan to coordinate those resources, and can be held accountable for the results. With that understanding, here are some of the things I believe we need to do:

First, we must meet people where they are at.

Project Vision was built for this purpose. With thanks to Commander Sheldon for his hard work over the last few years, and now having Commander Prouty back at the helm, I am confident that Project Vision is the right tool in our toolbox to lead the charge. As they continue to restructure, adding new staff to better serve the current needs of Rutland, we need to consider Project Vision as the tip of the spear. They are the piercing portion of our mission. They are boots on the ground. The team already knows, or has the ability to reach, many of the individuals tangled up in substance abuse and crime. Project Vision's leadership understands the challenges these individuals are facing, and how that leads to poor decision making. We need to enable Commander Prouty and his team to lead these interactions, and guide Rutland's process for addressing these challenges.

In conjunction with and through Project Vision, we need to engage, grow, and support every single community partner. These partners, who are state and federally funded, have the staff and resources to work with the Project Vision team, stay connected with the communities they are serving, and work their way towards treating the symptoms we are seeing, while city hall works on the larger issue of addressing the deeper problems.

City Hall needs to work collaboratively with local agencies and organizations to make sure the resources available to us are being properly engaged and deployed. If we provide structured opportunities for communication and coordination, we then have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of every Rutland City resident.

This will take a set of goals, a clear plan, and focused leadership to execute properly. I know that if we align our efforts, and fully use each tool we have, we can make a swift impact and a massive difference in our city.

Secondly, we need to stop blaming the issue on the hotel housing situation. This is the equivalent of seeing a bloody nose and saying it is the cause of a heart attack!

Yes, the housing system is broken. Using hotels is not a good long-term solution and it has been going on for far too long. However, the data from RCPD again shows that

We are all aware of these challenges and we need to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

10% of these hotel residents are causing issues in Rutland. That means 90% of the people staying in these hotels are not committing crimes in our city. Yes, the two situations are related, but one is not causing the other. Not by a long shot.

The housing situation needs to be resolved as its own issue, so that we can focus on the best path forward to getting these individuals safely integrated back into their communities and housed in a more permanent way. Stability for these individuals is critical to the future of our city as it reduces a financial burden on our region. We need to put our hotels back in order for business travelers and tourists to come stay in our city, and participate in our local economy,

Third, knowing that issues we are seeing in our city are not coming only from residents at the hotels, we must conclude that some people who live throughout our community are causing problems as well. That's a hard fact, but a fact that once acknowledged can be addressed.

We saw the raid on the Baxter Street home. We witnessed the Rutland City PD shut down the scene of many crimes that were taking place in a neighborhood of Rutland families that deserve to live in a peaceful, safe neighborhood. We saw

that home condemned for its poor condition. A majority of the homes and apartments where these crimes occur are in terrible shape and are a blight on the neighborhoods they are in. These homes are in serious disrepair and major issues go unaddressed by the landlords or property owners because there is little to no consequence for the lack of maintenance of the properties.

The city has the ability to establish a board of health, that would review these properties and assist in holding owners responsible for the upkeep and proper repairs. The BOH will also ensure that they are safe environments for people to live, and not a blight to the neighborhoods in which they are located.

Although this option has not been used by our current administration, this is one mechanism that is critical to the health and safety of our city as a whole. We must put this board in place, and hold property owners accountable for the safety and livable conditions of their properties.

The situation is frustrating. We are all aware of these challenges and we need to see a light at the end of the tunnel. We need a plan for what we can do as a community, and we need a person to lead who holds people accountable.

The general consensus in Rutland is that we care about each other. We all know someone who is struggling with substance use disorder. Most of us know someone who has died as a result. I personally have seen the most caring among us break down to pure frustration as of late, but I believe our care is not misplaced, it just needs focus and an injection of leadership, to be used as the proper tool that it can be.

We are a compassionate community, and a great deal of effort has gone into treating and supporting those with addiction issues, but we can not back down now; we must double our efforts in order to turn the tide.

Rutland deserves a leader that develops a plan, takes action and reports back to our citizens so that we can move our city forward.

**Mike Doenges,**  
**Rutland**



Courtesy Killington Active Seniors

## Killington Active Seniors celebrate 90th birthday of Kathy Kirchner

The Killington Active Seniors celebrated the 90th birthday of Kathy Kirchner at its weekly luncheon held at the Lookout on Feb. 15. Kathy, although a new resident of Killington, was a season pass holder at Killington into her early 80s along with her late husband, Ted. Growing up in Connecticut, she became a teacher and eloped with Ted on Christmas Eve, in Stowe, over 60 years ago. Stowe holds special memories for the Kirchner family but Killington is a favorite, too, where Kathy now lives with her daughter Bonnie and enjoys visits from her other daughter, Peggy, son Eric and their families.

Always an admirer of Sonia Henie, Kathy, as an adult, became an accomplished ice dancer and teacher. This contributed to the beautiful and graceful skier that Kathy was along with her great technical skills on the slopes.

## Vote yes: Proposed TIF district could be beneficial to Killington from page 10

snowmaking system. This is a winning situation for all!

There is no question our area needs more housing and cleaner drinking water. Local businesses have struggled to fill positions over the past few years due to a lack of housing. Restaurants and homes in Killington have been plagued with poor water quality for as long as I can remember. The first phase

of the development will be to improve the flow of traffic on Killington Road and install new pipelines to bring cleaner water to town. This cannot and will not happen with the support of our community.

I encourage all Killington residents to register to vote, put that vote into action on town meeting day, and vote YES on Article 5, which will initiate the TIF for Killington

and put Great Gulf's development plans into motion. This is a risk-free opportunity for us to be part of a positive change for the place we all call home. Killington is a special place to all of us for many different reasons, and I am excited to raise a family here and share the magic of the Green Mountains for the generations to come.

Sincerely,  
**Taylor Zink, Killington**

## KFD: from page 10

horizontal top half of the tree and cut it down.

Due to their hard work and professionalism, they were able to turn the power back on by 9 p.m.

They returned first thing Monday morning with Mosher Excavating to help retrieve their equipment and with the removal of the bottom half of the tree. We wanted to thank Mike & Matt with GMP, Wyatt with Mosher Excavating, and all of the members of the fire department for doing such a great job and for keeping us all safe.

**Walter and Peggy**  
**Mowle, Killington**

## Elections: Sec. of state outlines elections from page 11

Our focus on civic engagement will be on how you make democracy work for you. Civics is about being able to affect change, solve problems and make life better for all of us. Individuals can only do so much on their own. Working together through civic participation allows us to accomplish things that any one individual would be unable to do themselves.

The education and civic engagement coordinator will be part of the leadership team at this agency and will work with me to create a civics curriculum for our school teachers, will engage Vermonters in their communities on how to do democracy, and will create a voter guide for the 2024 general election, among other activities and initiatives. We have more tools and platforms than ever to engage with voters that my predecessors just did not have at their disposal. But this campaign will also be about "boots-on-the-ground" work, with events, school visits, and other in-person interactions.

I plan to have much more to share about this initiative in the weeks to come. I am excited to start this campaign and energize more Vermonters to participate in 2023 and beyond.

## ← **Harrison:** House discusses legalization of sports betting, bills to deal with illegal drug use, household hazardous collections and a paid family leave bill from page 9

- House Government Operations advanced, H.127, which would legalize sports betting in Vermont, on a 9-3 vote this past Friday. The bill will now be reviewed by the Ways & Means Committee. An estimated 35 states now allow sports betting.
- Rep. Mulvaney-Stanak, P-Burlington and 28 House members introduced H.281, which would dramatically increase the annual compensation of legislators from approximately \$14,600 to \$33,000 and add health insurance and childcare reimbursement. Currently lawmakers receive \$811 for each of the 18 weeks they are typically in session and do not

receive any benefits. (In my view, being a legislator is about public service, not about a 125% salary increase and benefits for a seasonal position.)

- Two vastly different approaches to illegal drug usage may soon appear in bills. One expected to be introduced by Rep. Nicoll, D-Ludlow, would decriminalize drug possession of “personal use amounts” of otherwise regulated substances. The other, by Rep. Peterson, R-Clarendon, would dramatically increase the penalties, including minimum jail time, for dispensing cannabis to a person under 21 years of age and to increase the criminal penalties

for possession, dispensing, and sale of cocaine, LSD, heroin, and fentanyl.

- H.67, designed to require manufacturers to help with the funding of household hazardous collection programs, received unanimous approval in the House Environment and Energy Committee.

The next few weeks will see many more bills advance. I look forward to seeing district residents at the Chittenden, Killington and Mendon town informational sessions on March 6 and the Pittsfield Town Meeting on March 7.

Vermont house Rep. Jim Harrison can be reached at: [JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us) or [harrisonforvermont.com](http://harrisonforvermont.com).

## ← **Health status:** Vermonters are relatively healthy, report finds from page 6

(13%), and adults with a disability (12%) reporting delays due to cost.

### **Mental health and safety**

Vermont adults reporting poor mental health has significantly increased over the last decade: 11% in 2011 compared to 16% in 2021. One in six Vermont adults report poor mental health, with disparities reported among younger adults (26%), adults with lower education or income (21% and 33% respectively), LGBTQ+ adults (31%) and adults with a disability (33%).

Vermonters also report a higher rate of depressive disorder than U.S. adults (25% vs. 19%).

Six percent of Vermont adults have seriously considered suicide, with considerable disparities among younger adults (16%), adults with lower education or income (9% and 10%,

respectively) LGBTQ+ adults (14%) and adults with a disability (11%).

### **Alcohol, tobacco and cannabis use**

More Vermont adults are using cannabis than in past years, with a significant increase in just one year, from 18% in 2020 to 22% in 2021. The survey revealed most adults use cannabis for non-medical reasons (45%). A lower percentage of users reported using it for both medical and non-medical use (39%), while 16% said their use was mainly for medical reasons.

Reported consumption of alcohol and cigarettes has remained relatively steady in recent years but is statistically higher when compared to U.S. rates. More than six in 10 Vermont adults had any alcohol in the past month (61%) compared to 52% of U.S. adults. One in six Ver-

mont adults report smoking cigarettes (16%) compared to the 14% of all U.S. adults. However, e-cigarette use is statistically lower among Vermont adults (5%) than U.S. adults (7%).

### **Additional BRFSS highlights:**

When asked about caregiving, 18% of Vermont adults report providing regular care or assistance to a friend or family member with a health problem or disability in the past month.

Fifteen percent of Vermont adults report that an intimate partner has ever physically hurt them.

More than seven in 10 Vermonters ages 65+ had a flu vaccine in the past year (73%), statistically higher when compared to the same age group across the U.S. (68%).

For the full report, [vermont.gov/brfss](http://vermont.gov/brfss).

## ← **Pre-K at Grange:** New school under discussion in Chittenden from page 1

where their children learn through exploring the outdoors in a child-led and inquiry-based manner. The only preschools that exist within a 30-minute drive are more traditional preschools, and many of them are only open part-time,” they wrote.

During the school year, Chittenden’s Barstow Memorial School offers 10 hours a week of free prekindergarten. In a public comment, Barstow’s administrative assistant, Kimberly Raymond, noted spatial and financial constraints that have prevented expansion.

“I answer the phone multiple times a week from parents all over — Proctor, Rutland, West Rutland, Killington — looking at do we have space at our pre-K,” she said.

Seven members of the public spoke out against Purcell and Lucas’s proposal, and eight spoke in favor. Much of the support came from families with young children.

“As a parent of a 4-year-old, I say, please listen to us that this is something that we need. Families are going outside of Chittenden to get their needs filled for this,” Erin Bodin said.

Opposition centered on the school’s desired location. Several residents urged Purcell and Lucas to seek out a different site.

Constructed as a church in 1833, the Grange Hall entered municipal ownership in 1906, becoming a town hall for the village of North Chittenden before falling into disrepair, according to the Chittenden Historical Society. Since 2001, taxpayer dollars and volunteer labor have served to restore the building, which now offers community programming and wedding rentals.

“Volunteers invested time and labor to make it what it is, a public space. The school daycare will essentially monopolize the building five days a week,” Bonnie Baird said. “It’s a private business in a public gathering space.”

Purcell asserted that most of the Grange Hall’s events take place on weekends, when school is not in session, and its weekday senior lunches could continue on the building’s ground floor while kids used the upstairs.

She also pushed back on characterizations of the school as a potentially profit-motivated privatization of public space. After setting up the program, she and Lucas — both volunteers — would turn it over to the teachers and staff, who would operate it as a worker cooperative.

“In my mind, it was always a public service. A preschool is not a business that makes money,” Purcell said.

Tuition would cost \$275 per week, with class running from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The founders anticipate that Act 166 vouchers, which entitle all 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds in Vermont to 10 hours a week of free prekindergarten for 35 weeks per year, would cover a portion of that price. Families making less than \$80,000 annually receive additional subsidies.

The Chittenden Forest School would pay \$6,000 in annual rent to the town for use of the Grange Hall. Bill Reuther called the figure “ridiculously low.”

But Lucas pointed out that, if the proposal were approved, a \$25,000 grant from the childcare advocacy nonprofit Let’s Grow Kids would also go

to the Grange Hall for building upgrades, such as carbon monoxide detectors, illuminated exit signs, and an outdoor playground. The Select Board would hold a \$2,500 deposit for potential damages.

“This is the first really solid proposal we’ve heard for consistent use of the building, and from my perspective, actually having it used with greater frequency is better for the building,” Selectman Andrew Quint said. “We’ll have someone in there who’ll see if there’s a leak, who’ll be able to tell us if there are problems and where they are.”

By Pratt’s account, Chittenden wouldn’t be Vermont’s first town to host a private preschool in a municipal building. But she’d discovered that doing so would require additional insurance coverage for the town from the Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF).

“PACIF is not in favor of this,” Pratt reported. “They feel that it would be a really big liability for the town to have a preschool there.”

After more than an hour and half of debate on Feb. 13, the Select Board was ready to move on to other business. It was too late for the preschool to appear on the Town Meeting Day ballot, but Purcell and Lucas hope to make an informational presentation before voters.

The town website also has published a link to the proposal. The board plans to review additional feedback before making a decision.

“I think taking more time is imperative because obviously there’s a lot to be worked out,” Selectwoman Julie Fredette said. “I think we have to be careful about our fear of change... It’s so exciting, I think, that there are young people in town that have the energy to make things happen. If we don’t accept this and it doesn’t go forward, then it’s upon all the rest of us to make the Grange vibrant and exciting.”

## ← **Race suits:** Ski racers debut speed suits that support the environment from page 9

hand, we at U.S. Ski & Snowboard, POW and Kappa have created a suit that represents and brings attention to a warming climate,” said Sophie Goldschmidt, president and CEO of U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard recognizes climate change as “an existential threat to the future of skiing. In the 2022-23 winter alone, teams around the world have seen the devastating effects of a warming climate with canceled races due to lack of snow, tracks made entirely of machine-made snow, and athletes racing in 50-degree temperatures in the middle of winter.

“Although a race suit is not solving climate change, it is a move to continue the conversation and show that U.S. Ski & Snowboard and its athletes are committed to being a part of the future,” Goldschmidt noted.

The race suit was designed by Kappa and produced in Italy using Italian fabrics in a factory that is certified in environmental sustainability. “We are proud, as the Official Technical Sponsor of U.S. Ski & Snowboard, to be part of this initiative in support of POW and its fight against the climate change crisis,” said Lorenzo Boglione, Vice Chairman

of BasicNet S.p.A., an Italian company that owns Kappa among other leading footwear, clothing, and accessory brands for sports and leisure.

“POW and U.S. Ski & Snowboard are aligned on the urgency of uniting the snowsports industry and community on meaningful advocacy on climate,” said POW Executive Director Mario Molina. “This World Championships suit designed by Kappa makes a statement that athletes, brands and winter enthusiasts worldwide can get behind. By coming together, we can educate and mobilize our snowsports community to push for the clean energy technologies and policies that will most swiftly reduce emissions and protect the places we live and the lifestyles we love.”

After the World Championships, the suits are being sold at auction with proceeds going to POW, based in Boulder, Colorado. Founded in 2007 by professional snowboarder Jeremy Jones, POW is a community of athletes, scientists, business leaders, and others seeking to educate people on how to protect and preserve the places, lifestyles and winter sports they love.

WORDPLAY

'BREAKFAST' word search: Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

BACON  
BAGELS  
BIALYS  
CEREAL  
COFFEE  
COTTAGE CHEESE

CREPES  
CROISSANT  
FRENCH TOAST  
GRANOLA  
HAM  
HASHBROWNS

MUFFINS  
OATMEAL  
OMELET  
PANCAKES  
PARFAIT  
SAUSAGE

SCRAMBLED  
SMOOTHIE  
TEA  
WAFFLES  
YOGURT

SUDOKU

Solutions → 55

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.

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

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am an actress/singer from California born on February 20, 2003. I gained early fame for an acting role based on an American Girl book series. I released my debut single in 2021, and won a Grammy for Best New Artist the following year.

Answer: Olivia Rodrigo

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 55

CLUES ACROSS

1. Sea grape  
5. European public health group (abbr.)  
9. A way to delight  
11. Appetizers  
13. Ancient heralds' wands  
15. Make a booking  
16. '\_\_\_ death do us part  
17. Pearl Jam front-man  
19. Spider genus  
21. Fill with high spirits  
22. A major division of geological time  
23. Catch  
25. An independent ruler or chieftain  
26. Electronic music style (abbr.)  
27. Influential Spanish cubist painter  
29. Illegally persuades  
31. A way to derive  
33. British School  
34. Appear alongside  
36. Surely (archaic)  
38. Harsh cry of a crow  
39. A day in the middle  
41. Kansas hoops coach Bill  
43. The longest divi-

- sion of geological time  
44. The first sign of the zodiac  
46. Appetizer  
48. Link together in a chain  
52. A bacterium  
53. In a way, forces apart  
54. Cheese dish  
56. Combines  
57. In an inferior way  
58. Colors clothes  
59. Dried-up

CLUES DOWN

1. Gastropods  
2. Confusing  
3. Romanian monetary unit  
4. The rate at which something proceeds  
5. A prosperous state of well-being  
6. Asked for forgiveness  
7. Makes less soft  
8. Part of speech  
9. Outside  
10. Advice or counsel  
11. Badness  
12. Protein-rich liquids  
14. Not moving  
15. Call it a career  
18. Poetry term

	1	2	3	4					5	6	7	8	
9						10			11				12
13						14			15				
16				17				18					
19			20		21							22	
	23			24		25					26		
		27			28		29			30			
			31			32		33					
		34					35		36			37	
	38				39			40		41			42
43					44				45		46		47
48			49	50					51		52		
53								54			55		
56									57				
	58									59			

20. Not wide  
24. Pastries  
26. Turns away  
28. Satisfies  
30. Gift adornments  
32. San Diego ballplayers  
34. Manufacturing plant  
35. Check or guide

37. Dogs do it  
38. Chilled  
40. Scorch  
42. Unproductive of success  
43. Electronic counter-countermeasures  
45. Attack with a knife

47. Feel bad for  
49. Enclosure  
50. Assert  
51. Geological times  
55. Midway between east and southeast

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# WINDSOR CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT 2022/2023 BUDGET REPORT

The voters residing in each member district will cast their ballots on **Tuesday, March 7, 2023** in the polling places designated for their town as follows:

- Barnard Town Hall located at 274 Barnard Road, Barnard, VT  
**10:00AM- 7:00PM**
- Bridgewater Town Clerk's Office located at 45 Southgate Loop, Bridgewater, VT  
**8:00AM-7:00PM**
- Killington Town Hall located at 2706 River Road, Killington, VT  
**7:00AM-7:00PM**
- Woodstock Town Hall located at 31 the Green, Woodstock VT  
**7:00AM- 7:00PM**
- Plymouth Municipal Building located at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, VT  
**10:00AM-7:00PM**
- Pomfret Town Office located at 5218 Pomfret Road, North Pomfret, VT  
**8:30AM-7:00PM**
- Reading Town Hall located at 799 VT-106, Reading, VT  
**7:00AM-7:00PM**

## AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

Windsor Central Supervisory Union  
Windsor Central Unified Union  
School District

The financial records are being audited by RHR Smith & Company for the year ending June 30, 2022. Copies of the completed audit, when available, may be requested by calling the Director of Finance and Operations at 802-457-1213, extension 1089.

## Financial details for:

- The Windsor Central Supervisory Union, and
  - The Windsor Central Unified Union School District
- budgets will be posted on our website at:  
**www.wcsu.net**  
as documents become available.

## WARNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WINDSOR CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT MARCH 7, 2023

The legal voters of the Windsor Central Unified Union School District, comprising the voters of the Towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock, are hereby WARNED and NOTIFIED to VOTE, in accordance with H.42 of the 2023 Legislative Session and signed by the Governor on January, 25, 2023, by AUSTRALIAN BALLOT either via mail as provided by their respective Town Clerk or at their respective Town polling places hereinafter named for the above-referenced towns on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, during the polling hours noted (right).

### ARTICLES TO BE VOTED ON BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT- MARCH 7, 2023

**ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator who shall** assume office upon election and shall serve for a term of one year or until their successor is elected and qualified.

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall the voters of the Windsor Central Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend Twenty-Five Million Eight Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Forty-Eight Dollars (\$25,836,048), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$23,135 per equalized pupil.

**ARTICLE 3: To elect a Clerk who shall enter** upon their duties on July 1 following their election and shall serve a term of one year or until their successor is elected and qualified.

**ARTICLE 4: To elect a Treasurer who shall** enter upon their duties on July 1 following their election and shall serve a term of one year or until their successor is elected and qualified.

**ARTICLE 5: The legal voters of the specified** towns designated within this itemized Article shall elect only their director(s) as follows:

- Barnard: one school director to assume office upon election and serve the remaining two years of a three-year term or until their successor is elected and qualified
- Bridgewater: one school director to assume office upon election and serve the remaining two years of a three-year term or until their successor is elected and qualified
- Bridgewater: one school director to assume office upon election and serve the remaining year of a three-year term or until their successor is elected and qualified
- Killington: one school director to assume office upon election and serve a term of three years or until their successor is elected and qualified
- Killington: one school director to assume office upon election and serve the remaining year of a three-year term or until their successor is elected and qualified
- Plymouth: one school director to assume office upon election and serve a term of three years or until their successor is elected and qualified
- Pomfret: one school director to assume office upon election and serve a term of three years or until their successor is elected and qualified
- Reading: one school director to assume office upon election and serve a term of three years or until their successor is elected and qualified
- Woodstock: two school directors to assume office upon election and serve a term of three years or until their successor is elected and qualified

**ARTICLE 6: To fix the salary for District Treasurer** in the amount of \$7,500.00 for 2023-2024.

**ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters authorize the** financing of the design, bidding, permitting, and document development for the proposed new middle/high school in an amount not to exceed One Million Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,650,000), subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years?

**ARTICLE 8: Shall the voters authorize public** school building improvements to convert the steam heating system to a forced hot water heating system at the Woodstock Union Middle High School in an amount not to exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000), subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years?

**ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters authorize public** school building improvements to replace the roof and implement an energy conservation project at the Killington Elementary School in an amount not to exceed One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,750,000), subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years?

Upon closing of the polls, pursuant to 16V.S.A. §741(b)(2), the ballots will be counted by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the Towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock.

The legal voters of the Windsor Central Unified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Section 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

*Dated this 26th day of January 2023 in Woodstock, Vermont.*

# WCSU Board of Directors

Each of the seven district towns elects their own representative on the school district board of directors. Each town has two representatives, except for Woodstock which gets six [it's about three times larger in population than the next biggest town in the district.] Representatives serves three-year terms.

## Bridgewater Representatives

1. Lara Bowers (2023/2025)    lbowers@wcsu.net
2. Vacant (2024)

## Barnard Representatives

1. Bryce Sammel (2024)        bsammel@wcsu.net
2. Carin Ewing Park (2023/2025)    cpark@wcsu.net

## Plymouth Representatives

1. Elliot Rubin, MD (2025)        erubin@wcsu.net
2. Jay Moore (2023)    jmoore@wcsu.net

## Killington Representatives

1. Katie Reed (2023/2024)        kreed@wcsu.net
2. Jim Haff (2023)        jhaff@wcsu.net

## Reading Representatives

1. Anna Sessa (2023)    asessa@wcsu.net
2. Adam Ameele (2025)        aameele@wcsu.net

## Pomfret Representatives

1. Bob Crean (2024)    bcrean@wcsu.net
2. Lydia Locke (2023)    llocke@wcsu.net

## Woodstock Representatives

1. Keri Bristow, Chair (2024)    kbristow@wcsu.net
2. Matt Stout (2025)    mstout@wcsu.net
3. Sam DiNatale (2023)        sdinatale@wcsu.net
4. Ben Ford, V.Chair/Clerk (2025)    bford@wcsu.net
5. Patricia (PJ) Eames (2023)    peames@wcsu.net
6. Vacant (2024)

# WCSU to be named Mountain Views School District starting July 1

The Winsor Central Supervisory Union Board unanimously adopted Mountain Views School District as its new name for the consolidated seven-town district on Monday, Dec. 5.

The new name will become effective July 1, 2023.

The new name is intended to represent and symbolize all seven district towns as mountains are integral to the aesthetics and recreation opportunities in each.

“So many of our schools ‘head to the mountains’ for location-based learning and important milestones,” said a community member. “Graduates of Prosper Valley walk to the middle school at the end of the year. WES kids take field trips up Mount Peg. Barnard kids strap on snowshoes and head out in the snow. Elementary kids learn to ski together at Suicide Six/Saskadena. Killington kids ... well, they live on a mountain.”

The winning name was suggested by Killington Elementary School students.

There were originally nine suggested names gathered from a public survey and solicitations among the individual elementary and middle/high school students. Three were sent to the board. Those were: Mountain Views School District, Calvin Coolidge School District and Riverbank School District.

Renaming the district will help to distinguish the district among similarly named districts in Central Vermont.

Superintendent Sherry Sousa and the school district board of directors thanks the committee for their hard work in helping to come up with name suggestions and congratulated them for their organized process that sought widespread community engagement and support.

# WINDSOR CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING, WARNING, NOTICE, and AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

The legal voters of the Windsor Central Unified Union School District, comprising the voters of the Towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading and Woodstock, are hereby WARNED and NOTIFIED that an INFORMATIONAL HEARING will be held at the **Woodstock Union Middle and High School library, located in the Town of Woodstock, Vermont, on Thursday March 2, 2023, commencing at 6:30PM** to discuss the Australian ballot articles of the 2023 Annual Unified Union District Meeting Warning. Additionally, the public Informational hearing will be accessible through electronic means (online meeting).

Information on how to access the remote hearing:

Topic: WCUUSD Informational Hearing  
Time: Mar 2, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Meeting ID: 847 1975 4295  
Passcode: 007241

By computer: Join Zoom Meeting at: [WCSU-net.zoom.us](https://wcsu-net.zoom.us)

You may have to create a free account or sign into your existing account. Select the option to join meeting and enter the meeting ID if prompted: **847 1975 4295** and passcode: **007241** if prompted.

By smartphone, tablet, or other device: Download and open the Zoom app. You may have to create a free account or sign into your existing account. Select the option to join meeting and enter the meeting ID: 847 1975 4295 and passcode: 007241 if prompted.

By telephone: Dial: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) or +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) Enter the meeting ID: 847 1975 4295 and passcode: 007241 if prompted.

## AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

- 6:30PM: Call to Order
- 6:35PM: Additions or deletions to the agenda
- Public comment
- 6:40PM: To hear the reports of the School District Board of Director
  - Public comment
- 6:45PM: Review and discuss Article 2: Shall the voters of the Windsor Central Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend Twenty-Five Million Eight Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Forty-Eight Dollars (\$25,836,048), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?
  - Public comment
- 6:50PM Review and Discuss: Article 6: To fix the salary for District Treasurer in the amount of \$7,500.00 for 2023-2024.
  - Public comment
- 7:00PM: Review and discuss Article 7: Shall the voters authorize the financing of the design, bidding, permitting, and document development for the proposed new middle/high school in an amount not to exceed One Million Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,650,000), subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years?
  - Public comment
- 7:05PM: Review and discuss Article 8: Shall the voters authorize public school building improvements to convert the steam heating system to a forced hot water heating system at the Woodstock Union Middle High School in an amount not to exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000), subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years?
  - Public comment
- 7:10PM: Review and discuss Article 9: Shall the voters authorize public school building improvements to replace the roof and implement an energy conservation project at the Killington Elementary School in an amount not to exceed One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,750,000), subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years?
  - Public comment
- 7:15PM: Discussion of other non-binding business (if applicable)
- 7:20PM: Entertain motion to adjourn hearing.

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023 in Woodstock, Vermont.

# WCSU & WCUUSD Board of Directors Report

By Chair Keri Bristow and Vice Chair Ben Ford

2022 has been a year of resilience, change and achievement for our school district. In this report to our communities, we present an overview of the past year.

First, we are proud of student-led efforts to provide a new name for the district. As part of the Configuration and Enrollment Growth Working Group, our student representatives Owen Courcey and Aiden Keough-Vella completed a project to find a name emblematic of our identity. After consulting with a team from Dartmouth's Tuck Business School and considering a number of names, the Working Group proposed a particularly apt suggestion submitted by students at Killington Elementary School, the "Mountain Views School District." Unanimously accepted by the School Board, it is the culmination of 18 months of information gathering, discussion, and public input.

Several building projects were advanced in 2022 to invest in the conditions of our schools. Led by District Buildings & Grounds Manager Joe Rigoli and Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair Jim Haff, these projects included:

Completion of renovations to the Prosper Valley School to facilitate its continued use by fifth and sixth grade students;

Installation of solar panels on the roofs of Prosper Valley, Woodstock, and Reading Elementary Schools to enhance efficiency and sustainability. Prosper Valley and Woodstock received new roofs prior to solar panels being installed.

Our energy conservation projects

this year included: new propane boilers in Reading, Killington, Barnard, and Prosper Valley Elementary Schools. New propane burners in the Woodstock Elementary School. District wide building control systems for improved energy efficiency, new windows in part of Woodstock Elementary, LED lighting in all buildings, low flow plumbing fixtures and new/additional weather stripping and insulation in all buildings.

Prosper Valley, Barnard, and Woodstock Elementary had their underground oil storage tanks removed and remediated as needed. Woodstock Elementary received a new parking lot after the oil tank under its parking lot was removed.

Prosper Valley and Reading Elementary had the buildings' exterior painted and repaired as needed. Prosper Valley also received a completely new fire alarm system with addressable detection and a voice evacuation system.

The effort to replace our Middle School and High School buildings also took new direction and made significant progress in the past year. Recognizing the need for additional funding sources beyond our communities' taxpayers, the New Build Working Group enlisted help from Marlena McNamee, who has spent her career in public school fundraising. The Working Group has launched a fundraising campaign entitled "Breaking New Ground", producing a video (found on the WCSU website at <https://www.wcsu.net/breaking-new-ground>), to show the critical need of the project. In its early stages, the campaign

has raised nearly \$3M to reduce tax impacts and to help achieve project sustainability goals. In 2023, district communities will be asked to approve funding for hiring a Construction Manager, completing the permitting process, and taking other steps leading to a school bond vote in 2024.

In a win for the district and the environment, Director of Finance and Operations Jim Fenn secured \$1.2M in competitive grant funding from the US EPA's Clean School Bus Program, which will put three all-electric school buses into service for our district next school year. Our school bus provider Butler Bus partnered with WCUUSD to be awarded this grant. We look forward to continuing working toward more sustainable practices.

We continue to see changes to our enrollment patterns, with an increase in demand for Public PreK access as more and more working families seek to enroll young children in our elementary schools. To meet this demand, three new PreK classrooms were added between WES and Killington Elementary School. Overall, school enrollment was impacted by the graduation of a very large senior class in the spring as compared to a smaller grade 7 class entering the Middle School.

In response to COVID-19 challenges, a new leadership model was implemented at the Middle School and High School this fall with a new Assistant Principal and an additional social and emotional coach. Staff and students report that it has made

Board report → 22

# Superintendent's report

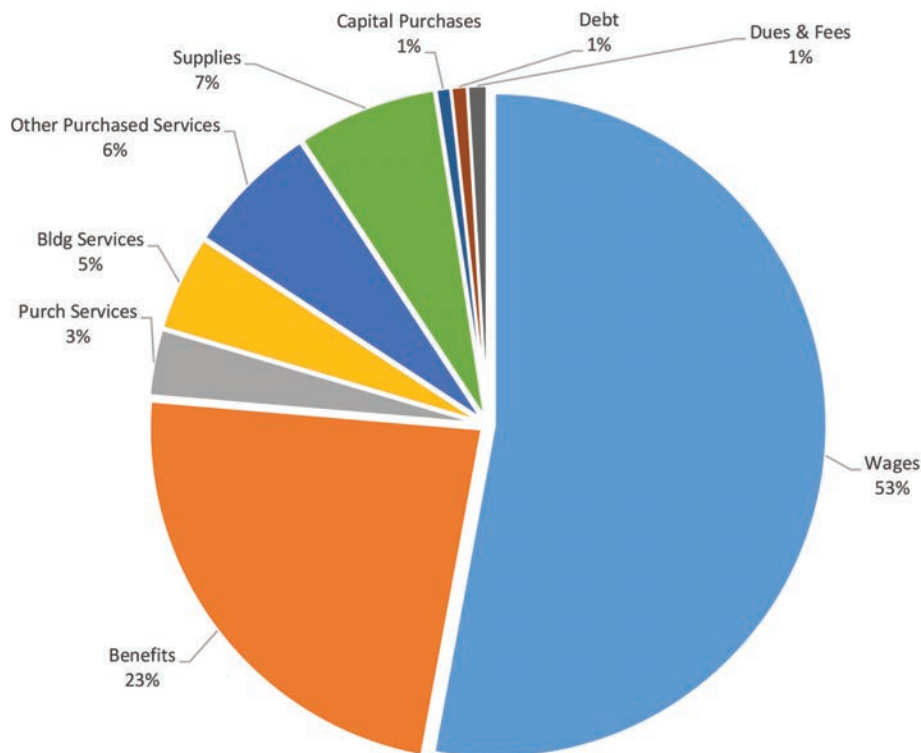
By Superintendent Sherry Sousa

What is remarkable about this school year is how unremarkable it is. After more than 2 years of being impacted by Covid, we were able to return to school without the dark cloud of Covid. While students and educators are forever changed, their desire to be in school together, to return to our rituals and annual events, and to invite parents back into our classrooms has brought great joy to all.

Educators' efforts continue to focus on the social and emotional needs of students, as their behavioral presentation is much different than in prior years. In addition, teachers and administrators made a significant commitment to alleviate inequities in academic achievement with yearlong professional development in literacy through LETRS training, and mathematics by forming agreements on math practices and instruction. If we think of addressing learning gaps through math and literacy best practices as a stool, the third leg is maximizing our daily schedule. The Leadership Team will review how we distribute time and resources with a national expert so that a students' day has the highest probability of meeting their needs and engaging their minds.

Our school buildings also require great attention as we witness the decline of our largest and one of our oldest schools. Woodstock Union Middle and High Schools' building continues to have significant systems challenges. The heating system failed on multiple days last winter and temporary adjustments were made. The sewage pumping station will be replaced next year, and the other major operations are monitored daily. As we see the building age, the Leadership Team has set as a priority to support the goal of a new facility for WUHS/MS.

Finally, it is important to note the change of name for the Windsor Central Unified Union School District and the Windsor Central Supervisory Union in July of 2023. After great efforts to gather input from community members and students, the Board supported the recommendation of the Configuration and Enrollment Working Group to change the district's name to the Mountain Views School District, with the supervisory union becoming the Mountain View Supervisory Union. The students who presented this recommendation noted that Mountain Views originated from a Killington Elementary student, is politically and socially neutral, is a unique district name in Vermont, is inclusive of all towns in our district, and is accurately representative of our geography.



## WCUUSD FY23 budget by object code

- Wages - 53%
- Dues & Fees - 1%
- Benefits - 23%
- Purchased Services- 3%
- Building Services- 5%
- Other Purchased Services- 6%
- Supplies- 7%
- Capital Purchases - 1%
- Debt - 1%

# Windsor Central Unified Union School District FY2024 projected revenues

	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY24 Budgeted
<b>Local Revenue</b>						
Tuition From Other LEA's	\$1,935,414	\$1,913,755	\$1,880,606	\$1,704,757	\$1,787,500	\$1,588,335
Tuition by Parent/Patron - Pre-School	\$21,238	\$0	\$12,525	\$7,783	\$16,000	\$12,000
Interest Earned	\$37,400	\$16,468	\$36,000	\$15,755	\$18,500	\$17,000
Rental Income	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$5,000	\$45,000	\$50,000
Miscellaneous Local Revenues	\$0	\$4,074	\$0	\$7,985	\$6,500	\$6,500
Summer Soak Revenues	\$10,000	\$110,547	\$27,744	\$1,493	\$9,000	\$136,345
Prior Year Surplus Applied	\$0	\$289,942	\$211,624	\$0	\$350,000	\$500,000
Food Service Program	\$22,000	(\$1,564)	\$18,758	\$54,122	\$18,750	\$10,000
<b>Total Local Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,071,052</b>	<b>\$2,378,221</b>	<b>\$2,232,257</b>	<b>\$1,796,895</b>	<b>\$2,251,250</b>	<b>\$2,320,180</b>
<b>State and Federal Revenue</b>						
Education Spending Grant	\$16,896,833	\$16,864,154	\$17,181,711	\$17,262,242	\$18,258,064	\$19,599,186
Small Schools Grant	\$149,627	\$49,876	\$149,627	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Transportation Reimb	\$440,000	\$222,979	\$442,798	\$217,406	\$266,978	\$266,978
Ed Fund Payment to Tech Center	\$133,988	\$182,310	\$151,202	\$176,302	\$147,557	\$165,000
Driver's Education Reimbursement	\$4,750	\$9,013	\$4,000	\$2,107	\$6,000	\$6,000
Vocational Ed Transportation	\$25,000	\$35,023	\$25,000	\$0	\$35,000	\$35,000
High School Completion Grant	\$0	\$8,315	\$0	\$524	\$0	\$0
State Food Service Program Revenues	\$6,500	\$6,648	\$8,046	\$27,955	\$9,200	\$22,500
Federal School Lunch Program	\$434,000	\$374,777	\$398,573	\$647,320	\$401,826	\$665,000
<b>Total State and Federal Revenue</b>	<b>\$18,090,698</b>	<b>\$17,753,094</b>	<b>\$18,360,957</b>	<b>\$18,333,856</b>	<b>\$19,124,625</b>	<b>\$20,759,664</b>
<b>Special Education</b>						
Special Ed Excess Cost Revenue	\$250,000	\$106,420	\$235,748	\$218,500	\$218,500	\$218,500
Special Ed Block Grant	\$383,198	\$383,198	\$386,789	\$386,789	\$0	\$0
Special Ed Census Block Grant	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,617,647	\$1,803,408
SPED Coord charges to Pittsfield	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,000	\$0	\$9,000
Special Ed Expenditures Reimbursement	\$1,210,000	\$1,172,328	\$1,459,071	\$1,425,933	\$0	\$0
Special Ed State Placed Revenue	\$0	\$6,610	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SPED ED Service to other LEAs	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$208,093)	\$0	\$150,000
Early Essential Education Grant	\$71,579	\$133,592	\$80,816	\$71,048	\$76,067	\$76,000
<b>Total Special Education</b>	<b>\$1,914,777</b>	<b>\$1,802,148</b>	<b>\$2,162,424</b>	<b>\$1,903,177</b>	<b>\$1,912,214</b>	<b>\$2,256,908</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$22,076,527</b>	<b>\$21,933,462</b>	<b>\$22,755,638</b>	<b>\$22,033,928</b>	<b>\$23,288,089</b>	<b>\$25,336,752</b>

## Final FY23 tax rates calculation

	<u>Barnard</u>	<u>Bridgewater</u>	<u>Killington</u>	<u>Plymouth</u>	<u>Pomfret</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Woodstock</u>
FY23 Equalized Tax Rate	\$1.5155	\$1.5155	\$1.5155	\$1.5155	\$1.5155	\$1.5155	\$1.5155
CLA	0.8892	0.8682	0.7570	0.8740	0.9733	0.9967	0.8117
Homestead Property Tax Rate	\$1.7043	\$1.7456	\$2.0020	\$1.7340	\$1.5571	\$1.5205	\$1.8671
FY22 Homestead Prop Tax Rate	\$1.7221	\$1.6642	\$1.7996	\$1.6562	\$1.4940	\$1.4757	\$1.7767
Increase(Decrease) from FY22	(\$0.0178)	\$0.0814	\$0.2024	\$0.0778	\$0.0631	\$0.0448	\$0.0904
Percentage Change from FY22	-1.03%	4.89%	11.25%	4.70%	4.22%	3.04%	5.09%

## Final FY24 tax rates calculation

	<u>Barnard</u>	<u>Bridgewater</u>	<u>Killington</u>	<u>Plymouth</u>	<u>Pomfret</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Woodstock</u>
FY24 Est Equalized Tax Rate	\$1.4398	\$1.4398	\$1.4398	\$1.4398	\$1.4398	\$1.4398	\$1.4398
CLA	0.7637	0.8115	0.6160	0.7702	0.8215	0.8262	0.7537
Homestead Property Tax Rate	\$1.8853	\$1.7742	\$2.3373	\$1.8694	\$1.7526	\$1.7427	\$1.9103
FY23 Homestead Prop Tax Rate	\$1.7043	\$1.7456	\$2.0020	\$1.7340	\$1.5571	\$1.5205	\$1.8671
Increase(Decrease) from FY23	\$0.1810	\$0.0286	\$0.3353	\$0.1354	\$0.1955	\$0.2222	\$0.0432
Percentage Change from FY23	10.62%	1.64%	16.75%	7.81%	12.56%	14.61%	2.31%

# WCSU & WCUUSD Proposed Budget

## FY - 2024

### Function code summary

	FY23 WCUUSD Adopted Budget	FY23 WCSU Adopted Budget	FY23 Adopted Budget	FY24 WCUUSD Proposed Budget	FY24 WCSU Proposed Budget	FY24 Proposed Budget	Change Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
1100 Regular Instruction Program	\$9,253,131.00	\$0.00	\$9,253,131.00	\$9,836,257.00	\$0.00	\$9,836,257.00	\$583,126.00	6.302%
1200 Special Education	\$0.00	\$3,117,653.00	\$3,117,653.00	\$0.00	\$3,035,012.00	\$3,035,012.00	(\$82,641.00)	-2.651%
1300 Vocational Tuition Local	\$280,000.00	\$0.00	\$280,000.00	\$290,000.00	\$0.00	\$290,000.00	\$10,000.00	3.571%
1400 Co-Curricular Programs	\$455,322.00	\$125,845.00	\$581,167.00	\$508,068.00	\$0.00	\$508,068.00	(\$73,099.00)	-12.578%
2100 Student Support Services	\$0.00	\$16,485.00	\$16,485.00	\$0.00	\$18,879.00	\$18,879.00	\$2,394.00	14.522%
2120 Guidance Services	\$831,069.00	\$0.00	\$831,069.00	\$966,369.00	\$0.00	\$966,369.00	\$135,300.00	16.280%
2130 School Nurse Services	\$388,169.00	\$0.00	\$388,169.00	\$439,538.00	\$0.00	\$439,538.00	\$51,369.00	13.234%
2140 Psychological Services	\$0.00	\$199,087.00	\$199,087.00	\$0.00	\$184,955.00	\$184,955.00	(\$14,132.00)	-7.098%
2150 Speech and Other Therapy Services	\$0.00	\$293,365.00	\$293,365.00	\$0.00	\$310,045.00	\$310,045.00	\$16,680.00	5.686%
2160 Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Visions Services	\$0.00	\$33,455.00	\$33,455.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$33,455.00)	-100.000%
2190 Other Student Services	\$12,239.00	\$0.00	\$12,239.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	(\$8,239.00)	-67.318%
2212 Curriculum Development	\$0.00	\$146,780.00	\$146,780.00	\$0.00	\$161,395.00	\$161,395.00	\$14,615.00	9.957%
2213 School Leadership	\$0.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$0.00	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$5,000.00	29.412%
2215 Teaching & Learning	\$272,210.00	\$5,409.00	\$277,619.00	\$276,725.00	\$5,383.00	\$282,108.00	\$4,489.00	1.617%
2220 Library Services	\$392,188.00	\$0.00	\$392,188.00	\$416,956.00	\$0.00	\$416,956.00	\$24,768.00	6.315%
2230 Technology Services	\$496,080.00	\$132,494.00	\$628,574.00	\$506,990.00	\$145,604.00	\$652,594.00	\$24,020.00	3.821%
2310 School Board	\$9,306.00	\$16,250.00	\$25,556.00	\$28,121.00	\$18,550.00	\$46,671.00	\$21,115.00	82.622%
2315 Legal Services	\$6,000.00	\$22,500.00	\$28,500.00	\$9,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$44,000.00	\$15,500.00	54.386%
2317 Audit Services	\$0.00	\$43,500.00	\$43,500.00	\$0.00	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$1,500.00	3.448%
2320 Superintendent's Office	\$0.00	\$448,482.00	\$448,482.00	\$0.00	\$371,715.00	\$371,715.00	(\$76,767.00)	-17.117%
2410 School Administration	\$1,526,052.00	\$0.00	\$1,526,052.00	\$1,745,217.00	\$0.00	\$1,745,217.00	\$219,165.00	14.362%
2420 Director of Instructional Support Services	\$0.00	\$279,502.00	\$279,502.00	\$0.00	\$172,270.00	\$172,270.00	(\$107,232.00)	-38.365%
2495 Grant Writing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$55,739.00	\$55,739.00	\$55,739.00	100.000%
2510 Fiscal Services	\$95,000.00	\$0.00	\$95,000.00	\$81,500.00	\$0.00	\$81,500.00	(\$13,500.00)	-14.211%
2520 Director of Finance and Operations	\$0.00	\$533,825.00	\$533,825.00	\$0.00	\$483,829.00	\$483,829.00	(\$49,996.00)	-9.366%
2570 Human Resources	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$112,483.00	\$112,483.00	\$112,483.00	100.000%
2540 Planning, Research, Development	\$7,900.00	\$0.00	\$7,900.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	(\$3,900.00)	-49.367%
2600 Building and Grounds	\$2,511,115.00	\$36,200.00	\$2,547,315.00	\$2,954,494.00	\$36,000.00	\$2,990,494.00	\$443,179.00	17.398%
2700 Transportation	\$702,045.00	\$78,600.00	\$780,645.00	\$681,352.00	\$103,000.00	\$784,352.00	\$3,707.00	0.475%
3100 Food Services	\$833,697.00	\$0.00	\$833,697.00	\$1,052,248.00	\$0.00	\$1,052,248.00	\$218,551.00	26.215%
4700 Building Improvements	\$375,000.00	\$0.00	\$375,000.00	\$399,000.00	\$0.00	\$399,000.00	\$24,000.00	6.400%
5000 Debt Services	\$76,363.00	\$0.00	\$76,363.00	\$74,354.00	\$0.00	\$74,354.00	(\$2,009.00)	-2.631%
5500 Sub-Grants	\$0.00	\$245,000.00	\$245,000.00	\$0.00	\$245,000.00	\$245,000.00	\$0.00	0.000%
Total Expenses	\$ 18,522,886.00	\$ 5,791,432.00	\$ 24,314,318.00	\$ 20,274,189.00	\$5,561,859.00	\$ 25,836,048.00	\$ 1,521,730.00	6.259%

# Woodstock Union HS/MS principal's report

By Principal Garon Smail

I am so grateful to share with you some of the accomplishments of students, faculty, and staff at Woodstock Union High School and Middle School from the 2021-22 school year. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt thanks to this community for supporting our school.

We offer personalized, authentic, and student-driven learning experiences for our students. During the 2021-22 school year, our enrollment was 486 students in grades 7-12. To meet student needs associated with the impacts of the pandemic, we added a social-emotional learning specialist to the faculty and small group academic support. At the middle school level, we created a club

and activity program providing students with more choices and opportunities to interact and build a middle school identity. The eighth-grade team created an end-of-the-year overnight experience celebrating students transitioning to high school. At the high school level, we continued to enhance our academic program by expanding offerings including the AP program, with 105 students taking 209 AP exams, STEM and design classes, and student-designed experiences via the Center for Community Connections, C3.

We launched teacher initiatives including the C.R.A.F.T. program, which integrates science, technology, and agriculture to promote deep learning

about climate resiliency. The C3 Department created the Trailblazer Series, which hosted presentations and workshops by alumni for current students. The modern and classical language department partnered with the international organization Soliya allowing students to engage in cross-cultural virtual dialogues with peers in Tunisia and Lebanon.

We are proud to recognize achievements and awards earned by members of our school community. The Social Action Club hosted the Leadership Summit for Social Justice. Participants considered barriers to inclusion experienced by students at WUHSMS, reviewed a draft of the WCSU proposed Eq-

uity, Inclusion, and Diversity in Education Policy, and inspired each other to take action for positive change. The Vermont Humanities Council awarded librarian Susan Piccoli the Victor R. Swenson Humanities Educator Award. Students had their work published in the VT Digger and Vermont Standard, broadcast on Vermont PBS, displayed in regional art galleries, and recognized by organizations including the University of Vermont Mathematics Department, American Junior Academy of Science, Future Business Leaders of America, and Vermont Holocaust Memorial.

We saw energy and enthusiasm in athletics and extracurricular activities with more than

70% of students participating and our biggest turnout of fans and audiences in recent memory. The Yoh Players performed four amazing shows, the Unified Sports soccer team won gold at the state tournament, and the girls' ice hockey team made school history by winning the state championship!

I am deeply grateful for the support of our generous community, and I look forward to another successful year at Woodstock Union High School and Middle School.

## WCSU enrollment report

Windsor Central Supervisory Union									
Enrollment Report as of October 31, 2022									
Elementary School Enrollment	On-Site PreK	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total PreK-6
Barnard Academy	19	6	5	7	15	5	10	5	72
Killington Elementary School	25	9	17	8	20	12	11	9	111
Reading Elementary School	7	6	4	3	8	5			33
The Prosper Valley School							47	45	92
Woodstock Elementary School	64	27	35	49	47	32	0	2	256
TOTAL ELEMENTARY	115	48	61	67	90	54	68	61	564
Secondary School Enrollment -WUHSMS									
Grade 7	72	MS TOTAL 141		WCUUSD resident students = 923 Tuition students from sending towns = 89 Act 129 VT High School Choice = 2 State Placed = 1					
Grade 8	69								
Grade 9	87	HS TOTAL 309							
Grade 10	77								
Grade 11	83								
Grade 12	62								
TOTAL SECONDARY	450	TOTAL WCSU ENROLLMENT							1014



## Reading Elementary School principal's report

By John Hansen

RES continues to offer a strong academic program for its thirty-five students in grades PreK through Grade 4. Teachers work with children in three main groupings of PreK and Kindergarten; Grades 1 - 2; and Grades 3 - 4. COVID restrictions began easing in Spring 2022, and were completely removed by the start of the 2022-23 school year.

The core academic program at RES is supported with field experiences, artist residencies, and community collaborations.

In the past year, students participated in artist residencies with Burlington Taiko drummers and the Saint Gaudens National Historic Park's sculptor. Students traveled to Woodstock to visit Sculpture Fest and the Rockefeller-Marsh-Billings National Historic Park for a lesson on the Hudson River School of Painting. Students also attended a production of "Bully No More" produced at Artistree in South Pomfret and the show "Clara's Dream" at the Lebanon Opera House.

Science field experiences included the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) in Quechee and the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, New Hampshire. Right here in Reading, students planted and then harvested pumpkins behind the Fire Department with a local resident; hosted several members of the fire department a couple of times to review fire safety; visited the Hall Art Foundation; and decorated graves at Felchville Cemetery on Memorial Day.

When COVID caused the cancellation of the Woodstock Ski Runners for the second year in a row, parents quickly jumped in to create from scratch a hugely successful ski and snowboard program at Magic Mountain Ski Area, which is being repeated in 2023.

None of the previous mentioned activities would be possible without the support of many generous donors in and around Reading.

The RES PTO and the Hall Art Foundation are both extraordinary supporters, helping to provide funding for enhanced learning opportunities for our children. Parents, staff, and the local community create a wonderful, positive environment for our children to flourish and grow.

Thank you for your continued support!

# Woodstock Elementary report

By Principal Maggie Mills

During the 2021-2022 school year, there were 251 PreK-4 students enrolled at Woodstock Elementary. This was the first year that Woodstock Elementary operated as a PreK-4 school, with our students in grades 5-6 attending the reopened Prosper Valley School in Pomfret.

As a result of the shift in configuration for WES, the school was able to expand its PreK program to house three PreK classes, for a total of 54 PreK students!

Following work and input from staff and families over the summer and fall of 2021, WES has adopted a new mission: to provide a strong foundation and foster perseverance and belonging; as well as a new vision statement: cultivating compassionate, empowered learners.

The 2022-2023 school year opened with an enrollment of 257 students in grades PreK-4. At the close of the 2022-2023 school year, we will say goodbye to our retiring 2nd grade teacher, the beloved Christine Halik.

Here are some programmatic highlights for the 2021-2022 school year:

- In the fall of 2021, WES was able to resume mixing students across classrooms and grade levels for intervention and enrichment opportunities beyond their homeroom classes.
- Typical in-person art, music, STEM, and PE classes resumed in person for grades K-4.
- Before the snow flew, WES participated in the VT DOT Name a Snowplow program. Penguin the Plow, driven by a WES grandparent, visited in November.
- December was “respect and celebrate differences month” at WES. Our school-wide celebration theme was the uniqueness of each snowflake, and families shared their various winter holidays and traditions via a slideshow.
- In the spring, our 4th grade students partnered with Northern Stage’s BridgeUp theater program to produce an entertaining rendition of Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night.

Parents and guardians were thrilled to begin volunteering in the school again in the winter and spring. We had many volunteers turn out for our book fair, teacher appreciation luncheon, and field day. We had missed the active involvement of parents within the school during the pandemic restrictions, and the 2022-2023 school year is allowing for further rebuilding of relationships.

Throughout the limited opportunities of 2020-2021, the dedicated members of the WES PTO played an integral role in sponsoring projects including the annual bake sale, assisting with the book fair, and coordinating teacher appreciation week.

Thank you as always to our broader community for your support and commitment to our children.

WES has adopted a new mission: to provide a strong foundation and foster perseverance and belonging; as well as a new vision statement: cultivating compassionate, empowered learners.

# Killington Elementary report

By Principal Mary Guggenberger

The 2021-2022 school year was shaped by a mindset to maintain and grow programs to best meet the needs of the KES school community. Current enrollment for grades Prekindergarten through grade six is 118 with students coming from within the school district and from Pittsfield.

KES increased capacity in prekindergarten by adding another teacher in order to meet the growing needs of the community. KES now has two classrooms of prekindergarten students who are eager to learn foundational skills socially, emotionally and academically.

Parents and Educators Aligned for Killington Students (PEAKS) continued their mission to support the playground expansion project. During the summer of 2022, excavation work and landscaping were completed in order to install the anticipated embankment slide. KES and PEAKS look forward to finalizing the multiple phases of the playground and recognizing the numerous donors who contributed to make this project possible.

KES continues to promote a multitude of educational opportunities for learning including: Instrumental Music Lessons and Band, Four Winds Nature Program, Student Leadership, Starbase, Trailblazers Ski Program, Literature Lunch Club, and writing and art contests. KES partners with the Town of Killington to offer a state-licensed after school program available to PreK - 6 students Monday through Friday, 3 PM - 5:30 PM, allowing qualifying families to apply for subsidized payments for the program.

KES is extremely grateful to the entire Killington community for the dedication and support of our students. Please visit our website at [www.kesvt.org](http://www.kesvt.org) to find photos and newsletters to learn more about our school community.

# The Prosper Valley School report

By Principal Aaron Cinquemani

The 2022-2023 school year kicked off with great energy and anticipation as a new class of 47 5th graders arrived and became TPVS Dragons. This year we had a total of 94 5th and 6th grade students.

Our very active Student Advisory collaborated with the entire student population to create the first TPVS Dragons Community Contract. Dragons believe in:

- Being Safe, Physically, Verbally, Emotionally
- Being “Kempatetic”: Kind, Empathetic
- Being Patient, With Self, With Others

We continue to focus our programming on ensuring a nature or place-based context for all academic and social curriculum goals. To help realize this vision, staff and students have access to the Horizons Observatory, greenhouse, sugar shack, the hiking trails, and both Barnard Brook and Cloudland Brook, which are on our campus. To bolster and add to our programming, TPVS sought a grant that allowed us to install both an outdoor and indoor challenge course. The challenge course consists of a variety of low and high ropes course elements designed to directly engage students in collaborative problem solving, team work, strategy, and resilience.

This past summer the exterior of TPVS received a new coat of paint and solar panels were installed on the roof.

While it appeared that the pandemic was in the rear view mirror we continued to be vigilant in our health and safety protocols by ensuring both staff and students stayed home when sick. To ensure a safe and healthy work and learning environment, we thank all TPVS families and community members for joining us in this endeavor. We are blessed to have such an involved and supportive learning community. Go Dragons!

# Barnard Academy principal’s report

By Principal Melissa Zoerheide

Barnard Academy is a PreK - 6 school of 72 students with a strong academic program, supported by an important social and emotional learning (SEL) curriculum. Our faculty, staff, students, and families value being part of a community, outdoors experiences, and academic achievements. Our school has begun to establish a steady rhythm and make progress after the disruptions of the pandemic. New leadership, faculty, and staff give us an opportunity to create a school team and identify our vision for student experience in alignment with the WCSU Portrait of a Graduate. We welcome family involvement and community connections with the school in support of our schools’ shared commitment to all students’ success. The Barnard Educational Endeavor Society (BEES) and the Barnard Education Fund continue to support our school to go further with innovative and exceptional learning experiences. Additionally, we partner with BarnArts, Twin Farms, and the Vermont Council for the Arts to provide a wide range of special activities, performances, events, and projects to benefit our students.

The 2021-2022 year brought us some powerful programs that include Bully No More at Artistree Community Arts Center, Haitian musician workshops from Lakou Mizik, and learning about dealing with anxiety from the Vermont Puppet Theater. We also boiled sap in our new sugarhouse, held a Cinco De Mayo celebration, had an all school performance of Peter Pan, and 6th graders had a sleepover at the school. Thus far in 2022-2023, second through fourth grade students went to the ocean, fourth through six grades went snorkeling in Vermont, the musical group LaDama performed, we visited Billings Farm, and had an all school hike to name a few special activities. In the 2022-2023 year we are energized by a new start and the teamwork of our current teachers, staff, parents, and community. Thank you to all for your continued support.

 **Board report:** By Keri Bristow and Ben Ford from page 18

many positive changes in the school community as we returned to full time in-person learning and dealt with the social and emotional aspects of the pandemic.

The Policy Committee was quite active this year in proposing policy revisions and new policies. In May, a new policy “Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity in Education” was approved by the school board following more than two years of consultation, revision, and public input. Currently the faculty and staff are working on implementing the policy and what it looks like at the school level.

Throughout this year several new members have joined the School Board as others stepped down. We thank all of our communities and their representatives for their service to the School Board and for your efforts to bring thoughtful leadership to our schools. With 18 members representing 7 communities, we take particular pride in being recognized by the Vermont School Board Association, which awarded the 2022 Award for Exceptional School Board Leadership to the WC-CUSD Board this fall. The Board was recognized for its responsiveness to challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and demonstration of leadership within the school community, among other achievements consistent with our Strategic Plan Goals.

School Board work is challenging, complex and gratifying. We appreciate public attendance at our meetings, as well as opportunities to talk with community members about concerns. As we look to the future, we are committed to moving all of our students and schools forward educationally, with social and emotional needs being addressed one child at a time. We thank you for your continued support of our schools.

# SummerCampGuide

Your preview to the region's 2023 summer camp options

Center  
fold  
for your  
convenience





# 2023 Summer Camp Directory

## Artistree kids' camps

- Pomfret
- Ages preschool-10th grade
- 3-day to 3-week camps
- [artistreevt.org/summer-camps](http://artistreevt.org/summer-camps)

Give children the thrill and experience of performing. At camp children will cycle through classes such as acting, singing, audition technique, hip-hop, costume design, and so much more based on the theme of the camp. At the end of the week, there'll be a special performance for parents and friends.

## Billings Museum Junior Farmer Camp

- Woodstock
- Ages 7-10
- Day camp
- [billingsfarm.org/junior-farmer-camp](http://billingsfarm.org/junior-farmer-camp)

Have you ever wondered what it takes to be a farmer? Junior Farmer Camp is designed to help kids discover for themselves by stepping into a farmer's boots for a week. Campers will have the opportunity to be up close and personal with the farm's cows, horses, pigs, chickens, and sheep while learning the work that goes into the food that they eat. In addition to daily chores and activities, each day we will explore a different farming topic like dairy, gardening, tractors, and draft animals. On Friday, campers will prepare an animal of their choice for a show and presentation to their families.

## Bethany Birches Camp

- Plymouth
- Ages 6-16
- Day camps plus overnight adventures for older kids
- [bethanybirches.org/summer-camps](http://bethanybirches.org/summer-camps)

A faith-based camp. One of our purposes is to manage and preserve a camp facility where human life, wildlife and plant life can coexist in harmony with one another. In practical terms, this means things like sleeping in a rustic shelter, cooking over the fire, swimming in a freshwater pond and occasionally, getting bug bites and often getting dirty! Most campers find that they absolutely love it.

## Boys and Girls Clubs of Rutland County

- Downtown Rutland, Castleton Elementary, and Orwell Village School
- Ages 5-12
- Day camp
- [rutlandbgclub.org](http://rutlandbgclub.org)

Make some fun summer memories at Boys & Girls Clubs' summer camp, at three locations in Rutland County. Plenty of activities available, including: field trips, hiking, outdoor fun, adventure club, swimming and movies. We provided a sliding fee scale, where no child will be turned away due to income.

## Camp Betsey Cox

- Pittsford
- Girls, ages 8-15
- Overnight
- 2-, 3-, 5- and 8-week sessions
- [campbetseycox.com](http://campbetseycox.com)

Betsey Cox is a camp for girls and young women who intend to make a positive difference in a global world and to have fun doing so. With the guidance of a seasoned international staff, campers from near and far learn to take responsibility for their decisions by creating their own daily schedules from among our 16 activities. Rustic, safe cabin living promotes imagination and opportunities for learning interpersonal life skills. Girls delight in exploring the meadows, forests and the beautiful pond right here in central Vermont.

## Camp Killlooleet

- Hancock
- Boys and girls age 9-14
- Up to 5 weeks
- [killlooleet.com](http://killlooleet.com)

Camp Killlooleet is nestled in a beautiful corner of the Green Mountain National Forest in Hancock. Here every camper can find activities they particularly enjoy and specialize in them. Camp is geared so that the artist can still play on a softball team and the avid basketball player can still ride horses or have the lead in a dramatic production. About half the activities are in sports (waterfront, team and individual), while the other half are in studio and performing arts.

Almost all campers return until they're too old! Everyone explores the beauty of Vermont for 10 days over the summer, on foot, bicycle, canoe and horseback.

## Camp Sangamon

- Pittsford
- Boys, ages 9-16
- Overnight
- 2-, 3-, 4- and 5- week sessions
- [campsangamon.com](http://campsangamon.com)

"The camp with the pioneer spirit!"

An independent overnight camp for boys located in Pittsford. Operating since 1922, this is a boys' overnight summer camp focused on true freedom of choice. Arts, crafts, sports, outdoor pursuits, and other traditional camping activities are offered in a non-competitive, supportive environment.



← **Summer camps:** Many area camps to choose from with a variety of offerings for all ages and interests. Most fill up fast, so don't wait too long to sign up your kiddo(s) for these fun adventures from page 24

**Camp Thorpe**

- Goshen
- Ages 12-adult
- campthorpe.org

Camp Thorpe has a camping program for physical and developmental ages 12-20 (Mountain Reach) and a camping program designed for adults ages 21 and over (Pine Haven). Our campers, both children and adults, come to us with a variety of physical, mental, and developmental challenges and diagnoses. Camp Thorpe strives to meet the needs of campers regardless of diagnosis and ability. Campers receive individual care, close supervision, and assistance with participation in all activities specially designed in a caring structured environment. The ratio of campers to counselors is 3:1. At Camp Thorpe, we want each camper to leave with feelings of self-respect, new leisure skills, and respect for others and for nature.

**Farm & Wilderness Camp**

- Plymouth
- Day camp for boys and girls, overnight camps for just boys, girls and mixed gender.
- 3 weeks, 6 weeks and day camps
- farmandwilderness.org

Guided by the Quaker belief that the light of the spirit is present in every person and that people working together can create a more just and humane society, the Farm & Wilderness Foundation sponsors year-round experiences for children and adults that emphasize the building of community through service, peacemaking, integrity, community, equity and simplicity. Farm & Wilderness summer camps offer fun and wilderness adventure rooted in social justice, Quaker values and delicious, organic food. There are several camp options to choose from, including "Questers" hiking camps.

**Green Mountain Rock Climbing Center**

- Rutland
- Ages 7-18
- Five weeks
- Vermontclimbing.com

Green Mountain Rock Climbing Center is offering two camps this summer. An intro to climbing camp will expose climbers to outdoor climbing areas in the area with instructors that guide campers through the basics of outdoor rock climbing.

An intro to sport climbing camp will teach climbers the basics of lead climbing on bolts. Campers will learn proper lead climbing techniques, such as clipping, lead belaying and top anchor set up. It is recommended that campers bring their own shoes and harnesses to both camps.

**Head Over Heels**

- Rutland: (New location) 129 Forest Street
- Full, half and extended-day camps
- Age 3 and up
- 10 full weeks
- Monday - Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm
- headoverheelsvt.com/summer-camps/

Weekly camps are designed around an educational-themed unit. Each student will participate in hands-on activities designed specifically for the weekly theme while incorporating gymnastics, crafts, team building games, problem solving, and more. Students will be provided with snacks, a camp t-shirt and Friday pizza parties.

**Montshire Museum**

- Norwich
- Preschool-6th grade
- Day camps
- montshire.org/programs/for-children-families/summer-camps

The best science and nature camp in the Upper Valley. Highly-trained staff, terrific programs, great facilities, and a low camper-to-staff ratio. The majority of Montshire summer camps are based outdoors at Montshire's 100-acre campus in Norwich. We also offer programs at the Ray School and Storrs Pond in Hanover, New Hampshire and at Crossroads Academy in Lyme, New Hampshire.

Each week is thoughtfully designed to create a unique camp experience that includes hands-on exploration, experiments, careful observation, quiet and active times, games, water play, and more.



Summer camps → 30

# Summer CAMPS



## Join Green Mountain Rock Climbing Center for 2023 Outdoor Vermont Climbing Summer Day Camps!

Camp weeks begin Monday morning and end Friday afternoon.  
Sign up your climber online today!

BOOK ONLINE at [vermontclimbing.com](http://vermontclimbing.com)  
or CALL US 802-773-3343

## the Dates & PRICING

**INTRO TO OUTDOOR CLIMBING**  
Beginner + Intermediate  
Ages 7-15  
\*\$500/Week <sup>+tax</sup>

- July 3 - July 7
- July 17 - July 21
- July 31 - August 4

Camp starts at 9:00am and ends around 4:00pm.

**INTRO TO SPORT CLIMBING**  
Intermediate + Advanced  
Ages 12-18  
\*\$600/Week <sup>+tax</sup>

- August 7 - August 15

Camp starts at 9:00am and ends at 4:00pm.

*\*Includes daily snack and water and all necessary technical gear.*



10 THEMED WEEKS OF SUMMER

TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

**SUMMER  
OUTDOOR DAY  
CAMPS**

JOHNSON RECREATION CENTER • 2782 RIVER ROAD • KILLINGTON, VT 05751

June '23 8:30 AM  
THROUGH UNTIL  
Aug '23 5:00 PM

CAMP LOADS  
OF FUN

GREEN  
MOUNTAIN  
MOVERS CAMP

SPECIALTY  
CAMPS

Registration  
opens in March. Sign up  
early for the best rate.





WEEKLY OR  
ALL SUMMER  
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DAILY  
SWIM  
LESSONS

**KILLINGTONREC.COM**

recdirector@killingtontown.com  
802-422-3241, opt. 4




Community Oriented

Nature Filled






Faith Based

Supportive Staff

 **Bethany Birches Camp**

**WHO WE ARE** A community of love where kids are nurtured and encouraged. A really fun place where the wilderness around us is explored. A place to meet & develop faith. Located in the heart of the Green Mountains in Plymouth, Vermont. Offering 1 & 2 week overnight camps for ages 6-16. *Your child will learn new skills, make friends, challenge themselves and grow!*

SLIDING SCALE PRICING FROM \$125 - \$625 FOR A WEEK OF CAMP MAKES CAMP AFFORDABLE FOR ALL.



Challenge Yourself

Cook Over the Fire

Build New Relationships

Get Creative

Have Fun!

802-672-5220 • [www.bethanybirches.org/summer-camps](http://www.bethanybirches.org/summer-camps)

HEAD OVER HEELS GYMNASTICS PRESENTS

**KIDS**

10 FULL WEEKS BEGINNING JUNE 19, 2023

**SUMMER**

AT OUR NEW LOCATION!

**CAMP**

BOYS & GIRLS  
Ages 3+

Skill Building:  
Cooperation,  
Problem Solving,  
Socialization

Monday  
through  
Friday  
8:30am  
- 3:30pm

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Educational  
Themed  
Weeks

Follow us to learn more  
about our Special Activities.

GYMNASTICS CLASSES, BIRTHDAY PARTIES, FIELD TRIPS & OVERNIGHTS ARE AVAILABLE ALL SUMMER LONG.

CALL FOR DETAILS:



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CALL US NOW! 802.773.1404  
129 FOREST STREET, BURLINGTON, VT 05401  
[WWW.HEADOVERHEELSVT.COM](http://WWW.HEADOVERHEELSVT.COM)

Weekly camps are designed around an educational themed unit. Each student will participate in hands-on activities designed specifically for the weekly theme while incorporating gymnastics, crafts, team building games, problem solving, and more! Students will be provided with snacks, a camp t-shirt and Friday pizza parties!

LEGO'S ★ FAIRIES & GNOMES ★ FARM ★ SPACE ★ SCIENCE  
SAND & SUN ★ ADVENTURE ★ ROCKIN' IT ★ ANIMALS ★ OBSTACLES

# VTF&W host Green Mountain Conservation Camps for teens



Courtesy VTF&W

*Vermont Fish & Wildlife's Green Mountain Conservation Camp program offers young people the opportunity to learn about natural resource conservation and develop outdoor skills through hands-on learning experiences.*

If you are 12-14 years old and want to learn about Vermont's wildlife and gain outdoor skills, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Green Mountain Conservation Camps this summer. If you are a GMCC alum, 16 or younger, consider coming back for another summer.

The one-week camp programs are held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and Buck Lake in Woodbury. Campers participate in hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing and more. Natural resource professionals come to the camp to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities.

"Whether kids come alone or with friends, they are guaranteed to meet new people and form new bonds while experiencing Vermont's natural resources to the fullest," said Fish and Wildlife Education Specialist Hannah Phelps. "An important take-away message and common theme during the week is that conserving and managing habitat will help ensure Vermont will have fish and wildlife in the future."

"We would love to have all of the advanced sessions filled for campers



Courtesy VTF&W

who have already attended a basic session," added Phelps. "Advanced sessions are for campers who have completed a basic session in a previous summer and who are 16 years old or younger. Advanced sessions include more in-depth activities about backpacking, camping, natural resources, and unique hunting and fishing techniques."

Conservation Camps open June 18 and continue until Aug. 18. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment, and financial assistance is available.

Information and registration are available at [Vtfishandwildlife.com](http://Vtfishandwildlife.com).

For more information, email: [FWGMCC@vermont.gov](mailto:FWGMCC@vermont.gov) or call 802-522-2925.





## Camp Thorpe


An amazing multigenerational summer camp nestled in the heart of the Green Mountains for individuals with disabilities. Campers participate in accessible and inclusive programming that meets them at their individual abilities. 1 & 2 week sessions available!

[www.campthorpe.org](http://www.campthorpe.org)

Nature, Arts, Music, Fishing, Dance Parties, Swimming, Hiking, Activity Days, and More.

For more info, email [execdirector@campthorpe.org](mailto:execdirector@campthorpe.org)





## NIGHT EAGLE WILDERNESS ADVENTURE

A unique summer camp for boys, ages 10-14, in the heart of Vermont's Green Mountains.

Call for full brochure 802-855-8661.

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hiking • wilderness skills  
canoeing • backpacking  
archery • atlatls & 'hawks  
swimming • cooperative  
work & play • and much more

1, 2, 3, 4, & 6-week sessions

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



## 5 reasons why summer camp is good for kids

Summer vacation offers students a respite from lessons and the routine of school. Children might once have eagerly awaited those final days of classes so they could lounge poolside, skip rocks across ponds and spend the long days of the season playing with friends. But many of today's youngsters spend much of their summer vacations indoors playing with their digital devices.

Perhaps that's why one of the last vestiges of the classic summer vacation escape — summer camp — remains a viable option for parents who want their children to get outdoors once the school year ends.

Although kids needn't be in camp all summer long, a week or two can benefit campers of all ages. The following are five reasons why summer camp might be the right fit this year.

1. **Explore talents.** Summer camps help young people explore their unique interests and talents. Under an organized, yet often easygoing, camp schedule, kids can dabble in sports, arts and crafts, leadership, community support, and so many other activities that may not be fully available to them elsewhere.
2. **Physical activity:** Lots of camps build their itineraries around physical activities that takes place outdoors. Campers may spend their time swimming, running, hiking, playing sports, climbing, and so much more. This can be a welcome change for kids accustomed to living sedentary lifestyles. Regular physical activity has many health benefits and can set a foundation for healthy habits as an adult.
3. **Gain confidence.** Day and sleepaway camps offer campers the opportunity to get comfortable in their own skin. Camps can foster activities in self-esteem by removing the academic measures of success and fill in with noncompetitive opportunities to succeed. Campers learn independence, decision-making skills and the ability to thrive outside of the shadow of their parents, siblings or other students.
4. **Try new things.** Camp gives children the chance to try new things, whether that's learning to cook, exploring new environments or embracing a new sport or leisure activity. Opening oneself up to new opportunities can build character and prove enlightening for children.
5. **Make new friends.** Camp is a great place to meet new people and make lifelong friends. Campers flood in from areas near and far. This provides kids with a chance to expand their social circles beyond their immediate neighborhoods and schools.

Camps benefit children in a variety of ways. Lessons learned in camp can strengthen values, build confidence, develop coping mechanisms when adversity strikes, and enable campers to make lifelong friends.



Courtesy Lindsey Rogers  
Liam Prior, age 6, jumps off a dock preparing a big splash!



## Camps offer fun ways over summer break

Kids look forward to summer vacation every year. The last day of school gives way to less structured days when kids can spend more time outdoors and less time cracking the books.

Summer vacation can be a dilemma for parents, especially in households where both parents work full-time. An increase in remote working has made that problem somewhat more manageable, but even parents working from home must find fun ways for kids to stay occupied until the new school year begins.

No two kids are the same, so parents may need to try various activities on for size until they find something their children enjoy doing during the lazy days of summer.

### Day camp:

Day camps provide much of the structure of school without all the homework or time spent indoors. Many parks and recreation departments run summer day camps for kids. Camps can be general-

ized or specialized. Parents may offer an array of sports and nature while others may focus on arts and crafts, like musical lessons or dance programs. Camps run by recreation departments do not run all summer long, which parents have in mind when enrolling.

### Reading

Parents may be surprised to learn that their children enjoy reading. A recent poll from the National Education Association found that 70% of students read more than 10 books this summer. The National Literacy Trust found that roughly 45% of children aged 8-11 enjoy reading, suggesting to children that this summer, parents should encourage ways that reading for fun. From reading for school to reading for fun, kids won't have to struggle with reading and emphasize that t



## to keep kids occupied ink, teach skills too

For example, some activities, including walks, in a given day, focus on a single activity or science-based fun by local parks and not typically last all day. Parents should keep their young youngsters.

**Reading:** Surprised by how much good books. A recent National Education Association survey of middle school students found that more than 10 books a year. The survey reports that children between the ages of 10 and 12 read "very much." When asked how often they read more than 10 books a year, the survey can note the many pleasures of reading. Point out that the book reports that they can choose their

own books. Depending on children's ages, introduce kids to a series like "Harry Potter," which is a set of seven fantasy novels that has helped millions of young people across the globe discover and develop a fondness for reading. Weekly visits to the library, where kids can pick from hundreds of books, can get youngsters even more excited about reading.

Local libraries can be great resources for free events as well.

### Play dates:

Play dates are a great way to make kids happy and take a little off parents' daily plates. Arrange routine summer play dates with children's school friends, neighbors and/or cousins. Parents can alternate hosting responsibilities so they can get work done at home and enjoy a break when it's not their turn to host.

Summer vacation is a relaxing time for youngsters, but parents don't want that relaxation to turn into boredom before the new school year begins.



## Smirkus Camp comes to Greensboro

Smirkus Camp is a summer camp for youth of all ages and skill levels who want to dive into the world of circus arts in an immersive camp setting under our big top circus tents! Each of Smirkus Camp's unique sessions offers campers the opportunity to learn, grow, and excel—as their authentic selves—from circus industry professionals and with a stellar counseling staff.

Summer camps include Smirking for a Day and Smirking Overnight for kids ages 5-11. There are two sessions of all levels circus camp and one session of intermediate camp for kids ages 12-18. There are four camps requiring placement: Intermediate skills intensive, advanced ensemble, advanced individual acts and road show.

Set in the lush, rural hills of Greensboro, Vermont, Smirkus Camp is an ideal spot to run away and join the circus! Training with our talented coaches in disciplines such as acrobatics, juggling, clowning and aerials, to name a few. And enjoy Smirkus Camp traditions like themed dinner dress up, "Tagnificence!" and singing around a campfire fueled by circus magic, stories and s'mores.

Smirkus Campers develop new ways to challenge themselves on the ground and in the air, learn skills like problem-solving, and how to work with others both in and out of the ring. They get terrific physical conditioning and have fun all the while! Smirkus Camp is the place to clown around, have the time of your life, and make lasting friendships. It is a magical summer of life changing circus adventure.

Go to [smirkus.org/camp-sessions/](https://smirkus.org/camp-sessions/) to see this summer's camp sessions.

← **Summer camps:** Many area camps to choose from with offerings for all ages and interests. Most fill up fast, so don't wait too long to sign up your kiddo(s) for these fun adventures.  
from page 25

#### Night Eagle Wilderness Adventures

- Wallingford
- Boys 10-15
- 1- to 6-week sessions
- [nighteaglewilderness.com](http://nighteaglewilderness.com)

Night Eagle Wilderness Adventures is a unique primitive summer camp for boys. The camp is situated on 135 forested, tick-free acres in the heart of Vermont's beautiful Green Mountains and completely surrounded by 365,000 acres of the Green Mountain National Forest. At Night Eagle, campers live in tipis and do things that boys did hundreds of years ago — learn to throw tomahawks and atlatls, shoot bows, skin and tan animal hides, make bison jerky, learn survival skills (fire making with flint and steel or bow drills, plant identification, tracking, camouflage), create all sorts of craft items (birchbark baskets, moccasins, rattles), go on hikes, canoe, swim, and play lots of games (Buffalo Robe, Stalk the Chief, Wild Men in the Alders, and Slack 'Em to name a few)!

Through these activities and the slower pace of life in camp, boys naturally develop a deeper respect for the land and an authentic sense of personal accomplishment as they learn to live competently in the woods.

#### Okemo Mountain School (OMS) sports camps

- Ludlow
- Ages 8-18
- Day camps run from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- [okemomountainschool.org/summer-sports-adventure-camp](http://okemomountainschool.org/summer-sports-adventure-camp)

Come and enjoy unique adventure experiences special to Vermont... all while getting in shape and having fun! Vermont offers pristine lakes, challenging mountain terrain for hiking and biking, and awesome skateboarding and rock climbing parks. OMS Adventure Sports Camps are focused on specific training for sport performance with morning conditioning sessions followed by afternoon activities including hiking, mountain biking, running, rock climbing, kayaking, paddle boarding, skateboarding, waterskiing, wakeboarding, and swimming. Athletes will also work on fun teambuilding skills and learn strategies to problem-solve on Okemo's ropes course.

#### Rutland Rec Center

- Rutland
- Day camps, ages preschool-18
- [rutlandrec.com/summer-camp-listing](http://rutlandrec.com/summer-camp-listing)

Themed weeks of day camp throughout the summer, everything from slip 'n' slide and arts and crafts to a family BBQ or river rafting and more.

Sports camps: grades 3 - H.S. including basketball, football, field hockey, skateboarding, golf, tennis, British football, art and theatre.

Preschool camps: Little ones love to explore and play. Test the sports world with Sports Start or learn to ride a bike with a Strider Camp.

#### Smirkus Camp

- Greensboro
- 2- and 4-week sessions
- Ages 5-18
- [smirkus.org/smirkus-camp](http://smirkus.org/smirkus-camp)

Spend an incredible summer full of circus fun at Circus Smirkus Camp: the original circus camp. Step inside one of our spectacular European big top tents and join coaches who have performed with companies including Cirque du Soleil, Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey, Big Apple Circus, Cirque Us, and of course, the Circus Smirkus Big Top Tour!

#### Theater in the Woods

- Burnham Hollow Orchard in Middletown Springs
- Ages 7-16
- [theaterinthewoodsvt.org](http://theaterinthewoodsvt.org)

Do you like to create, run around outside, explore, do plays, sing, move, improvise, write, draw, laugh, perform? You might like only some of these things — that's okay: it takes an ensemble to make a play! We're going to become an ensemble to perform two plays at our Theater in the Woods camp.

Theater in the Woods has woods, orchards and a renovated barn to be in; campers will eat heartily and make great new friends.

#### Town of Killington summer day camps

- Killington
- Ages 3 to 14
- Johnson Recreation Center
- Little Tyke, Full day, half day camps
- [killingtonrec.com](http://killingtonrec.com)

The popular day camps, sports camps, swim lessons and swim team will all return. Additionally, this summer will feature a new summer camp option, Green Mountain Movers (GMM).

GMM will get campers playing with an emphasis on fun over competition. Designed for campers ages 10 to 13 of all athletic abilities, GMM is an inclusive and welcoming camp for tweens. Campers will participate in a variety of classic and nostalgic camp games that encourage movement, play, and relationship building. Each week's activities will center around a different theme.

#### VINS Nature Camp

- Quechee
- Ages 4- grade 8
- Day camps
- [vinsweb.org/nature-camp](http://vinsweb.org/nature-camp)

The VINS Nature Camp mission is to help young people develop the life skills necessary to be a positive force for their community and the environment. By exploring the diversity of nature's living creatures and habitats, VINS Nature Camp nurtures each child's curiosity and helps them to build respectful, caring relationships with themselves, others, and the natural world. VINS Nature Camp registration is sold out for 2023; inquire about the wait list by emailing [camps@vinsweb.org](mailto:camps@vinsweb.org).

#### Wonderfeet Museum

- Rutland
- Ages 3-10
- Weeklong, half-day camps
- [wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/summer-camps](http://wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/summer-camps)

Kids 3-10 can choose between dinosaur camp, writer's camp, robotics camps, pirate party camp, junior activists camp or backyard naturalists programs. All in Wonderfeet's spacious new location on Merchants Row, Rutland.

#### Killington Mountain Bike Camp

- Killington
- Ages 7-17
- 3- & 5-day sessions
- [Killington.com](http://Killington.com)

Our downhill mountain bike camps are day-camps open to ages 7-17 years old of all ability levels from first time mountain bikers to seasoned rippers. Based out of Snowshed lodge, all camps run from 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. daily with lunch included.

#### Cobra Gymnastics Summer Camp

- Rutland
- Ages 4+
- Full Day 9am-2:30pm with early/late drop offs available
- [Cobravt.com](http://Cobravt.com)

Gymnastics, Ninja courses, tumbling, obstacle courses, dance, arts & crafts, indoor and outdoor games, bounce house and water slide!

#### Pentangle Youth in Arts

- [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org)
- Woodstock: Students of all ages

We're thrilled to announce the 2023 Pentangle Youth in Arts programs. Filled with world-class artists, immersive theater experiences, rockin' rhythms, dance and vibrant multicultural encounters, the season will provide arts for students of all ages

#### Vermont Sports & Fitness summertennis camp

- Rutland
- Ages 5-16
- [vermontsportsandfitness.com](http://vermontsportsandfitness.com)

We invite you to join us for a week or for the summer, for loads of tennis, swimming and fun fitness activities. VS&F summer tennis camp offers the best in professional instruction at one of New England's premiere tennis and fitness facilities, including 4 outdoor and 3 indoor tennis courts, swimming pool, and state-of-art fitness facilities.



## Did we miss your camp?

Let us know. We'd love to include you in our April 13 summer camp issue and on our online 2022 camp directory listings.

Email [lindsey@mountaintimes.info](mailto:lindsey@mountaintimes.info)

# summer FUN for KIDS

Okemo Mountain School

SUMMER CAMPS



THREE MAPLES

Day Camp ages 6 - 9

outdoor, experiential learning + play

7 weeks starting July 10

SPORTS ADVENTURE

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SUMMER 2023

August 13-14	Smirking Overnight	Age 5-11
June 18-23	All Levels Circus Camp	Age 8-16
June 25-July 7	All Levels Circus Camp	Age 8-16
July 9-21	Intermediate Camp	Age 12-18
July 9-August 11	Road Show	Age 12-18
July 23-August 11	Advanced Camp	Age 12-18
September 1-3	Family & Friends Camp	All Ages

\*scholarships available\*

What will your  
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## WEDNESDAY FEB. 22

### Winter Wonders Camp

Wednesdays 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum. Members \$200, Non-members \$250, \$50 discount for a sibling. Outdoor activities/adventures, campfire cooking, wildlife explorations, sledding, winter crafts and more. Register at [gbourassa@billingsfarm.org](mailto:gbourassa@billingsfarm.org)

### Woman's nordic ski skate clinics

9-10:30 a.m. Woodstock Nordic Center lodge at Woodstock Inn & Resort, 14 The Green, Woodstock. \$25 daily drop-in rate or \$115 for a 5-session punch-card. Intermediate to advanced skiers looking to improve their skate skiing. For more info call 802-457-6674.

### Rutland Winterfest: A Forest Tale

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Pine hill Park, 2 Oak St. in Rutland. Free. Discover a forest tale along the trails of Pine Hill Park. More info: [rutlandrec.com](http://rutlandrec.com)

### PJs at the Paramount: Buzz Lightyear

10 a.m.-Noon. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. in Rutland. Free. Join Heritage Family Credit Union for a viewing of the movie, "Lightyear." Limited seating. First come, first serve. For more info visit [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

### Early literacy playgroup

10 a.m.-noon Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. A fun playgroup for your 2-5 year old. Miss Allie, A certified teacher hosts. For more info visit: [Rutlandfree.org](http://Rutlandfree.org).

### Magic of Maple at Billings Farm

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. In Woodstock. Ages 4-15 \$8; ages 16-61 \$17; 62+ \$15. Learn about maple syrup traditions through photos from Top Acres and Billings Farms. Learn about the tools and processes of the trade. Stories, crafts and treats. For more info visit: [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org)

### Storytime!

10:30-11 a.m. Kimball Library, 67 N Main St, Randolph. Free. Join Kimball Library for songs, books, and crafts during storytime. Recommended for ages 2-6 but all are welcome. The event will be held outside, weather permitting. For more info visit [kimballlibrary.org](http://kimballlibrary.org).

### Winter Story Time

10:30-11:30 a.m. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, Ludlow. Free. Story Time is the perfect opportunity for children and caregivers to make new friends, practice early literacy and language skills and have fun! Each week features stories, songs and hands on art or STEM activities. For more info visit: [fmnews.org](http://fmnews.org).

### The Great Bigfoot Chase

1-4 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. in Rutland. Free. Grab your expedition pack at the Rutland Free Library front desk and then follow the clues that will take you clue hunting around the city finally help scientist prove the existence of Big Foot. Hot Choc. And scat samples provided. More info: [rutlandrec.org](http://rutlandrec.org).

### Union Arena's upcoming public skating

4:30-6 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$6 Ages 13-up \$5/Ages 4-12 FREE/Ages 3-under. Rental Skates available! \$6/pair. Your chance to enjoy ice skating at Union Arena Skating Rink. For more info visit: <https://unionarena.org/public-skate-sessions>.

### Woodstock Climate Change and Sustainable Film Series: "Watson"

6 p.m. Virtual: Zoom. Free. From award-winning documentarian Lesley-Chilcott, a fascinating portrait of a man putting his life at risk in a quest to protect the oceans and marine life. Followed by a live virtual Q&A with Captain Paul Watson on Saturday, Feb. 25th at 6 p.m. For more info visit: [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org). For more details about Sustainable Woodstock and to get tickets, visit [sustainablewoodstock.org](http://sustainablewoodstock.org).

### Jackson House Elevated Wine Dinner

6:15 p.m. Jackson house Inn, 43 Senior In. in Woodstock. \$125/ person. Jackson House inn's Chef de Cuisine, Jeffrey McClain, joined by Guest-Chef Chad Lumbra of Bistro Midva in Windsor, VT will bring you a 5-course dinner with distinct wine pairings. Keuka Lake Vineyard's Owner Mel Goldman will speak about his vineyard and its fine estate wines. For more info visit: [info@jacksonhouse.com](mailto:info@jacksonhouse.com) or call: 802-676-7512.

### Name that Fish Stew! cooking class

7-10 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$95. Chef Ted will teach the skills to create a delicious New England seafood stew with shellfish and vegetables. For more info visit [odysseyeventsvt.com](http://odysseyeventsvt.com).

### The Green Mountain Fly Tyers Club

7:30 p.m. Godnick Center at 1 Deer St. Rutland. Presenting for the evening will be Chris Cartier and Chris Taylor- aka. Char. Char is going to demonstrate the tying of a fly called the "Rusty Dinner" and Chris is going show members how to tie a "North Country Spider". Fishing season is just around the corner, these will be two flies that every fisherman will want to carry.

## THURSDAY FEB. 23

### Winter Wonders Camp

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum. Members \$200, Non-members \$250, \$50 discount for a sibling. Outdoor activities/adventures, campfire cooking, wildlife explorations, sledding, winter crafts and more. Register at [gbourassa@billingsfarm.org](mailto:gbourassa@billingsfarm.org).

### Rutland Winterfest: A Forest Tale

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Pine hill Park, 2 Oak St. in Rutland. Free. Discover a forest tale along the trails of Pine Hill Park. More info: [rutlandrec.com](http://rutlandrec.com).

### Bone Builders Mendon Seniors

10 a.m. Roadside Chapel, 1680 Townline Road, Mendon. Free. Join Mendon Seniors for their bone building session every Tuesday and Thursday. For more info call Pat 802-422-3368.

### Circle of Parents

10 a.m. Virtual. Free. Virtual. Circle of Parents is a professionally facilitated, peer led self-help support group for parents and other caregivers. Participants meet weekly for 60-90 minutes online in virtual meetings. For more info and to join a group contact Amber at [amenard@pcavt.org](mailto:amenard@pcavt.org) or 802-498-0603.

### Magic of Maple at Billings Farm

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. In Woodstock. Ages 4-15 \$8; 16-61 \$17; 62+ \$15. Learn about maple syrup traditions through photos from Top Acres and Billings Farms. Learn about the tools and processes of the trade. Stories, crafts and treats. For more info visit: [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

### Storytime: Snowpeople

10 a.m. Rutland Free Library 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Storytime promotes early literacy and socialization skills in a fun setting. Each session might offer stories, movement, and an activity. No registration required, free and open to all. Fox Room, Geared towards ages 2-5. For more info visit: [Rutlandfree.org](http://Rutlandfree.org).

### Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. In the meeting room at Sherburne Memorial Library. Weights provided. For more info visit: [sherburnelibrary.org](http://sherburnelibrary.org).

### Union Arena's upcoming public skating

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$6 ages 13-up \$5/ages 4-12; free for ages 3-under. Rental Skates available \$6/pair. Your chance to enjoy ice skating at Union Arena Skating Rink. For more info visit: [unionarena.org/public-skate-sessions](http://unionarena.org/public-skate-sessions).

### Drive-up pick-up meals

12 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. \$3.50 donation ages 65+, \$6 fee under age 65. Reservations required. Godnick Center, in partnership with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, is providing drive-up pick-up meals on Mondays and Thursdays at noon at the Godnick Center. For more info. visit [namivt.org/support/peer-support-groups](http://namivt.org/support/peer-support-groups).

### Circle of Parents in Recovery

3 p.m. Virtual. Free. Support group meets weekly online on Thursdays from 3-4:30 p.m. For more info visit: [pcavt.org](http://pcavt.org).

### NAMI Connection peer support group

3 p.m. Virtual. Free. Struggling with managing your mental health? NAMI Connection Peer Support Group can help. This is a free, 90-minute recovery support group for people living with a mental health condition. For more info visit: [namivt.org](http://namivt.org).

### Circle of Parents for Grandparents

4 p.m. Virtual. Free. Meets weekly online. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For more info visit: [pcavt.org](http://pcavt.org).

### Yoga with Kellie

4-5 p.m. Rutland Free Library 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Join Kellie for yoga weekly in the Fox Room. For more info visit: [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.org).

### VINS: A Forest of Lights

5-7 p.m. VINS, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$10/adults. \$5/youth (4-17). The VINS Forest Canopy Walk and surrounding woodland will take on a festive look and feel this winter. Covered in thousands of lights, the Forest Canopy Walk will glow with magic and enchantment. Visitors are invited to stroll through the immersive forest of lights and experience the peace and wonder of the Forest Canopy Walk at night. For more info or to purchase tickets visit [vinsweb.org](http://vinsweb.org).



### Rutland Winterfest: Cornhole mini-tournament

6-8 p.m. Rutland Rec. Dept. 134 Community Dr. in Rutland. Free. Cornhole will be set up for tournament play as well as boards for free play of all ages. For more info visit: [rutlandrec.org](http://rutlandrec.org).

### Woodstock Climate Change and Sustainable Film Series: "Watson"

6 p.m. Virtual: Zoom. Free. From award-winning documentarian Lesley-Chilcott, a fascinating portrait of a man putting his life at risk in a quest to protect the oceans and marine life. Followed by a live virtual Q&A with Captain Paul Watson on Saturday, Feb. 25th at 6 p.m. For more info visit: [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org). For more details about Sustainable Woodstock and to get tickets, visit [sustainablewoodstock.org](http://sustainablewoodstock.org).

### Book Art

6:30-7:30 p.m. Kimball Library in Randolph. Free. Create art with discarded books. Supplies available at the Library. Bring your ideas. For more info visit [kimballlibrary.org](http://kimballlibrary.org).

### Open gym: basketball

7-9 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run until March. Thursdays will be basketball. The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: [Killingtonvt.myrec.com](http://Killingtonvt.myrec.com).

Calendar → 33





**Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info  
from page 32

**Sweet Baby James: The No. 1 James Taylor Tribute.**  
7:30 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. in Rutland. Bill Griesse visits from Nashville with his critically acclaimed Sweet Baby James show. Audiences rave, saying it is as close to the real thing as can be. For more info visit: paramountvt.org.

## FRIDAY FEB. 24

### Winter Wonders Camp

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum. Members \$200, non-members \$250, \$50 discount for a sibling. Outdoor activities/ adventures, campfire cooking, wildlife explorations, sledding, winter crafts and more. Register at gbourassa@billingsfarm.org.

### Rutland Winterfest: A Forest Tale

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Pine hill Park, 2 Oak St. in Rutland. Free. Discover a forest tale along the trails of Pine Hill Park. For more info visit: rutlandrec.com.

### Early Learning Adventures-Arts for the Very Young

9:30-10:30 a.m. (Ages 1 1/2 to 4 ) 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (Ages 5-8)  
Every Friday. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street, Rutland. Literacy-based integrative arts for the young. Students will enjoy a picture book, music and movement, science and math, visual art and dramatic play and social and emotional learning which is all linked to the book. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

### Art Adventures for ages 2-6

9:30-10:30 a.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street, Rutland. \$20/class or 4 classes for \$60. Every Friday students will create an art project based on an adventure into the land of Book Nook Discovery. One free book will be given every class thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Magic of Maple at Billings Farm

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. In Woodstock. Ages 4-15 \$8; ages 16-61 \$17; 62+ \$15. Learn about maple syrup traditions through photos from Top Acres and Billings Farms. Learn about the tools and processes of the trade. Stories, crafts and treats. For more info visit: billingsfarm.org

### All about the arts for ages 3-5

11 a.m.-12 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street, Rutland. Free. Students will have fun creating and doing activities with art, music, literature, and more with instructor Lori Sullivan. One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4 and must pre-register by Wednesday each week. The class requires a minimum of three students. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Red Bull Winter Vibes at Killington Ski Resort

12-4 p.m. Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar next to the new K-1 Base Lodge at Killington Ski Resort. Free. Go from slopes to social at Red Bull Winter Vibes, a high energy apres party at the Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar, next to the brand-new K-1 Base Lodge. Party music, Red Bull cocktails, complimentary ski and board tune-up station, photo booth, Red Bull event truck with local DJ. For more info visit: Killington.com

### Music at the Nordic Center in Woodstock with

#### Rebecca Turmel

2-5 p.m. The Nordic Center at Woodstock Inn& Resort, 14 The Green in Woodstock. Free. Join us at the Nordic center's Fireside Lounge for singer/songwriter Rebecca Turmel. Hot off her Jan. 20th release, "Girls on Fire," recorded at the historic Blackbird Studios in Nashville, TN.

### Lego Play

2-5 p.m. Kimball Library, 67 N Main St, Randolph. Free. Come to the Kimball library on Friday afternoons for free play and creative building. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.

### Union Arena's upcoming public skating

3 p.m.-4:10 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$6 Ages 13-up \$5/Ages 4-12 FREE/Ages 3-under. Rental Skates available! \$6/ pair. Your chance to enjoy ice skating at Union Arena Skating Rink. For more info visit: https://unionarena.org/public-skate-sessions.

### Explore drawing animals, age 6-12

3:45-5 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street, Rutland. \$100 per participant. All supplies included. Students will learn about the principals of drawing with instructor Helvi Abatiell. The four-week course will focus on drawing animals. Course dates are: Jan. 20, Jan. 27, Feb. 3 and Feb. 10. Attendees will receive their own sketchbook. A minimum of five students are required. All must pre-register. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Torchlight snowshoe at Billings Farm

4:30-6:30 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. in Woodstock. Free. An evening of fun for all ages. Showshoe, ski or walk

the Billing's Farm Trail by torchlight. For more info visit: billingsfarm.org.

### VINS: A Forest of Lights

5-7 p.m. VINS, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$10/adults. \$5/youth (4-17). The VINS Forest Canopy Walk and surrounding woodland will take on a festive look and feel this winter. Covered in thousands of lights, the Forest Canopy Walk will glow with magic and enchantment. Visitors are invited to stroll through the immersive forest of lights and experience the peace and wonder of the Forest Canopy Walk at night. For more info or to purchase tickets visit vinsweb.org.

### Woodstock Climate Change and Sustainable Film

#### Series: "Watson"

6 p.m. Virtual: Zoom. Free. From award-winning documentarian Lesley-Chilcott, a fascinating portrait of a man putting his life at risk in a quest to protect the oceans and marine life.Followed by a live virtual Q&A with Captain Paul Watson on Saturday, Feb. 25th at 6 p.m. For more info visit: pentanglearts.org. For more details about Sustainable Woodstock and to get tickets, visit sustainablewoodstock.org.

### That's Amore! pizza and calzone cooking class

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$80.00 Award-winning Chef Ted will then lead a hands-on pizza and calzone-making class.Come have a fun cooking party workshop! We'll greet you with a warm welcome at our mountain top retreat which, wherever you look, has views and picturesque vignettes. Award-winning Chef Ted will then lead a hands-on pizza and calzone-making class.We'll use mostly organic and regional ingredients that herald mainly from nearby Vermont farms. BYOB and eat what you make! For more info call: 802-342-1513 or email: info@odysseyeventsvt.com.

### Rutland Winterfest: Skate with bigfoot

6:30-8 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. in Rutland. Free. Bigfoot is real and he loves winter fun. Come skate with hm at Giorgetti Arena. More info: rutlandrec.com

### The Marshall Tucker Band

8 p.m. The Paramount Theatre on 30 Center St. in Rutland. \$39-\$59. The Marshall Tucker Band came together as a young, hungry, driven six-piece outfit from Spartanburg, South Carolina in 1972. The band has released more than 20 albums and racked up multi-platinum album sales many times over. For more info visit paramountvt.org.

### Wobbly Barn: Inside Out

9 p.m. Live at the Wobbly Barn. Cover charge may be required for entry. Performing both Friday and Saturday night. Inside Out is a top 40 dance cover band that has been entertaining crowds across New England since 2010 by pumping out a non-stop stream of today's high energy dance hits. Nobody does it better than Inside Out!For more info visit: killington.com.

## SATURDAY FEB. 25

### Rutland Winterfest: A Forest Tale

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Pine hill Park, 2 Oak St. in Rutland. Free. Discover a forest tale along the trails of Pine Hill Park. More info: rutlandrec.com.

### Mini Shred Madness at Pico

9 a.m. Starts with registration at 9 a.m. on 2nd floor of Pico Base Lodge. \$20.00 Join us in the park and compete for prizes in a park setting. Get a feel for the fun of competition. Prizes and giveaways. For more info visit: killington.com.

### VINS announces: Winter Wildlife Celebration

10 a.m.-4 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way in Quechee. Included with general admission of \$15-\$17. Fairy Court is ready to greet you as you begin your journey through the woods to hunt for fairies. Visit with the Vermont Reindeer Farm for an up close experience with this amazing arctic species. Be first in line to claim a seat for the chance to have an up close encounter with a chickadee and join Moose Biologist, Nick Fortin, to learn about how the magnificent Moose tackles winter. As you go about your day take a moment to watch as an ice sculpture comes to life! You can also join in for winter games, bird on the canopy walk and attend a program to learn how raptors survive winter. For more info visit: vinsweb.org.

### Winter Farmers Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Franklin Conference Center, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 92, Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers Market is one of the largest and most diverse farmers markets in Vermont, and the first to operate 52 weeks out of the year. The farmers market bring together as many as 60 vendors. With a seasonal variety of produce, local grass-fed meat, eggs, artisan cheeses, freshly baked breads, jellie's and jams, maple products, honey, CBD Products, delicious hot foods, wine and spirits, artisan crafts and more, the Winter Market is a great place to shop, eat and visit. For more info visit: vtfarmersmarket.org.

### Kingdom Fleece and Fiberworks trunk show

10 a.m. Green Mountain yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave. in Rutland. N/A Save the date. Details to follow. For more info visit: Allevents/rutland.in/rutland/kingdom-fleece-and-fibeworks-trunk-show.

### Magic of Maple at Billings Farm

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. In Woodstock. Ages 4-15 \$8. 16-61 \$17. 62+ \$15. Learnn about maple syrup traditions through photos from Top Acres and Billings Farms. Learn about the tools and processes of the trade. Stories, crafts and treats. For more info visit: billingsfarm.org.

### Rutland Railroad Museum & model club

11 a.m.-1 p.m. 79 Depot Lane (off Route 4) Center Rutland. Free. Children of all ages will delight in the HO scale model railroad operating display (HO is a rail transport modeling scale using a 1:87 scale). The depot is now a museum that displays hundreds of rare or antie model trains, photographs, signs and diverse memorabilia saved from an earlier time, including the former Rutland Railroad caboos #45. For more info visit: rutlandrailway.org.

### Puppet making for kids ages 5-9

10:30 a.m. Chaffee Art center, 16 S. Main St. in Rutland. Cost is \$25. Kids will learn how to make different types of puppets with various materials. For more info visit: chaffeeartcenter.org.

### "The Soup to Nuts: An Eccentric History of Food"

#### with historian Rebecca Rupp

11 a.m. Poultney Historical Society, 1499 E Main St, Poultney. Free. You will learn the history of what and how we eat encompasses everything from the prehistoric mammoth luau to the medieval banquet to the modern three squares a day.Find out about the rocky evolution of table manners, the not-so-welcome invention of the fork, the awful advent of portable soup, and the surprising benefits of family dinners – plus some catchy info on seasonal foods. What's the story of chocolate? Why do the Irish eat corned beef and cabbage on St. Patrick's Day? Who invented lemonade? Why are turkeys called turkeys? And what are sugarplums anyway? Guest speaker Rebecca Rupp has a Ph.D. in cell biology and biochemistry from George Washington University and now works as a professional writer. She is the author of some 200 articles for national magazines, on topics ranging from the natural history of squirrels to the archaeology of privies, and nearly 20 books for both children and adults. She blogs on food science and history for National Geographic. This lecture is funded by the Vermont Humanities Speakers Bureau. This is a free lecture and snacks will be served. For more info visit: poultneyhistoricalsociety.org.

### Make your own mosaic heart

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St. in Rutland. Free. Create your own tissue mosaic heart at Chaffee Art Center. Special thanks to partners, Karen Wurster and the Life Intervention Team, for their help with this event. (Rescheduled from 2.11). For more info visit: chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Red Bull Winter Vibes at Killington Ski Resort

Noon-4 p.m. Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar next to the new K-1 Base Lodge at Killington Ski Resort. Free. Go from slopes to social at Red Bull Winter Vibes, a high energy apres party at the Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar, next to the brand-new K-1 Base Lodge. Party music, Red Bull cocktails, complimentary ski and board tune-up station, photo booth, Red Bull event truck with local DJ. For more info visit: Killington.com.

### Vermont Family Adventure Run

12-2 p.m. Hot Dog Hill at Okemo Ski Resort. Lift Ticket Price. Join us at Hot Dog Hill to celebrate the addition of a new feature for our Vermont Family Adventure Run by Toyota. There will be raffles, prizes, hot dogs, & more! For more info visit okemo.com.

### Meet the Candidates for Office in Fair Haven

1 p.m. Fair Haven Free Library. Free. Members of the Itty Bitty Committee the Town Manager. We will be inviting all candidates for office to attend. Our hope is that each candidate will have a short time to introduce themselves, list some of their qualifications for office and talk about what the goals of their tenure are. Following these introductions there will be some time for candidates to meet and greet guests. For more info call the Fair Haven free Library at 802-265-8011.

### Mitten knitting workshop

1-3 p.m. Green Mountain yard & Fiber. Cost is \$30. Join Sarah to learn how to make a pair of mittens. Students will be knitting in the round, and learn work with double pointed needles. For more info visit: greenmountainfibers.com.

### Wonderfeet Winter Dance for Loved Ones

4-6 p.m. One Church, 71 Williams St. in Rutland. Cost for children is \$5, adults \$10, one couple \$15. Kids will dance with their favorite adults to the tunes of DJ Brett Myhre. Photos provided for a night to remember. This even is part of Rutland Winterfest. For info visit: rutlandrec.com.

### VINS: A Forest of Lights

5-7 p.m. VINS, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$10/adults. \$5/youth (4-17). The VINS Forest Canopy Walk and surrounding woodland will take on a festive look and feel this winter. Covered in thousands of lights, the Forest Canopy Walk will glow with magic and enchantment. Visitors are invited to stroll through the immersive forest of lights and experience the peace and wonder of the Forest Canopy Walk at night. To purchase tickets visit vinsweb.org. For more info or to purchase tickets visit vinsweb.org.

**Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 33

## Woodstock Climate Change and Sustainable Film

**Series:** "Watson"

6 p.m. Virtual: Zoom. Free. From award-winning documentarian Lesley-Chilcott, a fascinating portrait of a man putting his life at risk in a quest to protect the oceans and marine life. Followed by a live virtual Q&A with Captain Paul Watson on Saturday, Feb. 25th at 6 p.m. For more info visit: pentanglearts.org. For more details about Sustainable Woodstock and to get tickets, visit sustainablewoodstock.org.

## The Soufflé Also Rises and apple-tart cooking

**class**

12-3 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$80. Learn how to make our un-classic fallen soufflé. First, we handle the classic combo of Vermont dairy and eggs in an unclassic "fallen" soufflé. Then with apples from local orchards, you'll learn to make a light and delicious apple tart with Vermont maple cream. If it's sugaring season we may even walk to our neighbor's shack to see some of the processes. BYOB and eat what you make! For more info call 802-342-1513 or email: info@odysseyeventsvt.com.

## Hands-on hand-made pasta lesson

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners Bridgewater Corners. Cost is \$85. Learn how to make three different types of pasta: tortellini, fettuccini, and ravioli plus three different fillings and three accompanying sauces. BYOB and eat what you make! For more info call 802-342-1513 or email: info@odysseyeventsvt.com.

## Real Rutland Fued

7-9 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. in Rutland. Cost is \$30. Executive Director of Paramount Theatre Eric Mallette will host the game show based on the popular TV version "Family Fued." This event will feature ten teams from local businesses. That will go head-to-head for the trophy. For more info visit: rutlandrec.com or paramountvt.org.

## Stand Up Comedy at Woolen Mills Club with

**headliner Marcus Monroe**

8 p.m. Woolen mills Club, 101 Mills Rd, Bridgewater. Cost is \$20. Join headliner Marcus Monroe and other comedians from New York City, Vermont and beyond. Marcus a NYC based comedian and the recipient of the prestigious Andy Kaufman Award and has been seen on The Late Show, MTV and more. For more info visit: Allevents.in/Bridgewater/stand-up-comedy-at-woolen-mill-with-headliner-marcus-monroe-tickets.

## Wobbly Barn: Inside Out

9 p.m. Live at the Wobbly Barn. Cover charge may be required for entry. Performing both Friday and Saturday night. Inside Out is a top 40 dance cover band that has been entertaining crowds across New England since 2010 by pumping out a non-stop stream of today's high energy dance hits. Nobody does it better than Inside Out! For more info visit: killington.com.

**SUNDAY**  
FEB. 26

## Magic of Maple at Billings Farm

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. in Woodstock. Ages 4-15 \$8; ages 16-61 \$17; 62+ \$15. Learn about maple syrup traditions through photos from Top Acres and Billings Farms. Learn about the tools and processes of the trade. Stories, crafts and treats. For more info visit: billingsfarm.org.

## Union Arena's upcoming public skating

10:10 a.m.-11:20 a.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$6 Ages 13-up \$5/Ages 4-12 FREE/Ages 3-under. Rental Skates available! \$6/pair. Your chance to enjoy ice skating at Union Arena Skating Rink. For more info visit: Unionarena.org/public-skate-sessions.

## Red Bull winter Vibes at Killington Ski Resort

12-4 p.m. Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar next to the new K-1 Base Lodge at Killington Ski Resort. Free. Go from slopes to social at Red Bull Winter Vibes, a high energy apres party at the Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar, next to the brand-new K-1 Base Lodge. Party music, Red Bull cocktails, complimentary ski and board tune-up station, photo booth, Red Bull event truck with local DJ. For more info visit: Killington.com.

## The Soufflé Also Rises and apple-tart cooking

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12-3 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$80.00 Learn how to make our un-classic fallen soufflé. First, we handle the classic combo of Vermont dairy and eggs in an unclassic "fallen" soufflé. Then with apples from local orchards, you'll learn to make a light and delicious apple tart with Vermont maple cream. If it's sugaring season we may even walk to our neighbor's shack to see some of the processes. BYOB and eat what you make. For more info call 802-342-1513 or

email: info@odysseyeventsvt.com.

## Open gym: intermediate/advanced pickleball

2-4 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. Cost is \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run until March. Sundays will be pickleball (for intermediate/ advanced level players). The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: Killingtonvt.myrec.com.

## Hands-on Hand-made pasta Lesson

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners Bridgewater Corners. \$85.00 Learn how to make three different types of pasta: tortellini, fettuccini, and ravioli plus three different fillings and three accompanying sauces. BYOB and eat what you make. For more info call 802-342-1513 or email: info@odysseyeventsvt.com.

**MONDAY**  
FEB. 27

## Babies and Toddler Rock

10-10:30 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. A music and pre-literacy program for children 0-24 months with Linda McFarlane. Free and open to all. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

## A Community of Parents

10 a.m. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center Street, Rutland. Free. The community meets from 10-11:30 a.m. at Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. Snacks provided, siblings welcome. Find connection, education, and a community to share with. They're here to support you during the transition of adding a new baby or child to your family - or whenever you need a community of parents to listen! All parents including expecting parents and caregivers welcome. For more info visit bit.ly/frontlineworkersupport.

## Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. In the meeting room at Sherburne Memorial Library. Weights provided. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.

## Drive-up pick-up meals

12 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street in Rutland. \$3.50 donation ages 65+, \$6 fee under age 65. Reservations required. Godnick Center, in partnership with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, is providing drive-up pick-up meals on Mondays and Thursdays at noon at the Godnick Center. Call (802)773-1853 for information or to make a reservation for pick-up.

## Bingo

1:15 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street in Rutland. Cost varies. Come play bingo at the Gonick Center in Rutland on Mondays at 1:15 p.m. This is a drop-in activity. For more info visit: Rutlandrec.com/godnick.

## Knit night

6 p.m. Kimball Library, 67 N Main St, Randolph. Free. Bring your knitting - or other handicraft - and enjoy an evening of crafting and socializing. For all ages and experience levels. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.

## Open gym: indoor soccer

7-9 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run Mondays until March for indoor soccer. The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: Killingtonvt.myrec.com.

## NAMI Connection peer support group

7 p.m. Virtual. Free. Struggling with managing your mental health? NAMI Connection Peer Support Group can help. This is a free, 90-minute recovery support group for people living with a mental health condition. For more info visit: namivt.org.

**TUESDAY**  
FEB. 28

## Bone Builders Mendon Seniors

10 a.m. Roadside Chapel, 1680 Townline Rd in Mendon. Free. Join Mendon Seniors for their bone building session every Tuesday and Thursday.



## Stories on a string

10 a.m. Fox Room Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Join Ms. Helen, of Green Mountain Music, for interactive storytelling, folk tales, and songs for all ages! No registration required, free and open to all. Geared for ages 2 and up. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

## Chess club

4 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. Free. Like Chess? Come challenge an opponent to a friendly game and hone your skills. To register call 802-855-4533.

## Circle of Fathers

4 p.m. Virtual. Free. Fathers Support Group. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For more info visit: pcavt.org.

## Circle of Parents in Recovery

5:30 p.m. Virtual. Free. Virtual support group. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For more info visit: pcavt.org.

## Grief support

6 p.m. VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region's Rutland office at 7 Albert Cree Drive, Rutland and virtually. Free. The VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, (VNAHSR) will provide grief support services both in-person and virtually every Tuesday from 6-7 p.m. at the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region's Rutland office on 7 Albert Cree Drive. Led by Spiritual and Bereavement Coordinator, Collin Terenzini. Space is limited. For more info visit: vermontvisitingnurses.org.

## Learn to create top-notch veggie dishes

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. \$75.00 Award-winning chef shows you how to create beautiful veggie dishes. Perfect for vegans—or carnivores looking for special accompaniments! Learn hands-on how to prepare beautiful vegetable dishes. This is a perfect class for vegetarians or vegans who want to learn how to make special dishes and for carnivores who are looking for unique vegetable accompaniments—and for everyone a delightful lunch or light supper. BYOB and eat what you make. For more info call 802-342-1513 or email: info@odysseyeventsvt.com.

## The Origin of Bird Names

7 p.m. Via Zoom. Free. Bird expert Maeve Kim presents a lively talk on the origin of bird names. To participate, please email birding@rutlandcountyaudobon.org.

## Open gym: beginner pickleball

7-9 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. Cost is \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run until March. Tuesdays will be pickleball for beginner level players. The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: Killingtonvt.myrec.com.

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED  
2/22

KILLINGTON  
1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Chris P  
  
2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B  
  
2 p.m. Pico’s Last Run Lounge – Daniel Brown and Silas McPrior  
  
2 p.m. Snowshed’s Long Trail Pub – Alex Shier  
  
6 p.m. Rivershed – April Cushman  
  
6 p.m. The Foundry – James Joel  
  
6:00 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Minute to Win it with DJ Dave  
  
8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – King Arthur Jr

LUDLOW  
7 p.m. Off The Rails – Alex Shier

QUECHEE  
6 p.m. The Public House – Kim Wilcox

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

RANDOLPH  
7 p.m. Kuyas at One Main – Open Mic with Indigenous Entertainment

RUTLAND  
5:30 p.m. Strangefellows – Strangefellows  
  
9:30 p.m. Center Street Alley – Open Mic hosted by Rick Urbani

THURS  
2/23

BRANDON  
6 p.m. Ripton Mountain Distillery – Open Jam

CASTLETON  
6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – Josh Jakab

KILLINGTON  
2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – ChrisPallutto  
  
2 p.m. Pico’s Last Run Lounge – Daniel Brown  
  
2 p.m. Snowshed’s Long Trail Pub – Acoustik Ruckus  
  
5 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton  
  
5 p.m. The Foundry – Ryan Fuller  
  
6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic hosted by Tee Boneicus Jones  
  
6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – James Joel  
  
7 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto  
  
8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad  
  
9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jenny Porter & Friends

LUDLOW  
3 p.m. Okemo’s Sitting Bull Lounge – Sammy B  
  
8 p.m. Off The Rails – Liz Reedy

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

RUTLAND  
6 p.m. Strangefellows Pub – Trivia Night  
  
6:30 p.m. Angler Pub – Open Mic hosted by John Lafave

SOUTH ROYALTON  
6 p.m. 802 Pizza – Open Mic hosted by George Nostrand

FRI  
2/24

BRIDGEWATER  
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Marcus Monroe (The Late Show)

CASTLETON  
5:30 p.m. Castleton Pizza Place & Deli - Name that Tune Bingo with DJ Dave

CHESTER  
6 p.m. Pizza Stone VT - Andrew & Peter

KILLINGTON  
v12 p.m. Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar – Red Bull Winter Vibes  
  
1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Duane Carleton  
  
2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Alex Shier  
  
2 p.m. Pico’s Last Run Lounge – Rhys Chalmer  
  
2 p.m. Snowshed’s Long Trail Pub – Daniel Brown and Silas McPrior  
  
4 p.m. The Foundry – Just Jamie  
  
6 p.m. Rivershed – Valerie Barretto  
  
6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Ray Boston  
  
6 p.m. The Summit Lodge – Duane Carleton  
  
7 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet  
  
7:30 p.m. McGrath’s Irish Pub – Donal O’Shaughnessy  
  
8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Never in Vegas  
  
8 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Inside Out  
  
9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Just Jamie  
  
9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Super Stash Bros

LONDONDERRY  
6 p.m. New American Grill – Sammy B

LUDLOW  
7 p.m. The Killarney – Acoustik Ruckus  
  
8:30 p.m. Off The Rails – Jenny Porter & Krishna Guthrie

PITTSFIELD  
8 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Alex Hutchinson

POULTNEY  
6 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Jamie Snook

QUECHEE  
5:30 p.m. The Public House – George Nostrand

STOCKBRIDGE  
7 p.m. Wild Fern – Sarah King

SAT  
2/25

BOMOSEEN  
5:30 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom – Ryan Fuller

BRIDGEWATER  
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Marcus Monroe (The Late Show)

CASTLETON  
6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – George Nostrand

KILLINGTON  
10 a.m. Pico Mountain – Mini Shred Madness with DJ Dave  
  
12 p.m. Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar – Red Bull Winter Vibes  
  
1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Alex Shier  
  
2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris P Trio  
  
2 p.m. Pico’s Last Run Lounge – Acoustik Ruckus  
  
2 p.m. Snowshed’s Long Trail Pub – King Margo  
  
4 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Happy Hour with Jamie’s Junk Show and special guest opener Jenny & Liz  
  
4 p.m. The Foundry – Micah Iverson  
  
5 p.m. Mary Lou’s – All Request Apres Ski with DJ Dave  
  
6 p.m. O’Dwyers Pub – County Down  
  
6 p.m. Prestons at the Grand Hotel – Silas McPrior  
  
6 p.m. Rivershed – Valerie Barretto  
  
6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Ryan Leddick  
  
6 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Krishna Guthrie Band  
  
7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter  
  
7:30 p.m. McGrath’s Irish Pub – Donal O’Shaughnessy  
  
8 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton  
  
9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Aaron Audet  
  
9 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Never in Vegas  
  
9:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Inside Out

LUDLOW  
2 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Apres Afternoon with Pete & Mira, Free Smores, Games and Fire Pits  
  
6 p.m. Calcuttas – Sammy B  
  
8:30 p.m. Off The Rails – Bear Mountain Boys

POULTNEY  
7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Laura Mollineli & Ben Campbell

PROCTOTSVILLE  
4 p.m. Outer Limits Brewing – Eric King

QUECHEE  
5:30 p.m. The Public House – Resolution

SUN  
2/26

KILLINGTON  
12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Valerie Barretto  
  
12 p.m. Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar – Red Bull Winter Vibes  
  
1 p.m. Pico’s Last Run Lounge – Duane Carleton  
  
2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Alex Shier  
  
2 p.m. Snowshed’s Long Trail Pub – Pallutto and Prior  
  
5 p.m. The Foundry – Summit Pond Jazz  
  
6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones  
  
6 p.m. Rivershed - Trivia  
  
6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Open Mic with Indigenous Entertainment

LUDLOW  
7 p.m. Off The Rails – Micah Iverson

RUTLAND  
2 p.m. Grace Church – John Kirk & Trish Miller: Benefit Concert for Bridge to Rutland

MON  
2/27

KILLINGTON  
2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Duane Carleton  
  
2 p.m. Snowshed’s Long Trail Pub – Chris Pallutto  
  
5 p.m. Mary Lou’s – BAK’n  
  
6 p.m. Rivershed – Liz Reedy  
  
6 p.m. The Foundry – Blues Night with the Chris P Trio  
  
8 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Josh Jakab

LUDLOW  
7 p.m. Off The Rails – Sammy B  
  
8 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic with Indigenous Entertainment

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

TUES  
2/28

KILLINGTON  
5 p.m. Mary Lou’s – Mountain Music with Bow Thayer & Jack Snyder  
  
6 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Taco Tuesday with Rick Webb  
  
6 p.m. Rivershed – Name That Tune Bingo with DJ Dave

LUDLOW  
8 p.m. Off The Rails – SINGO

PITTSFIELD  
6:30 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic Music Jam

POULTNEY  
7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Open Bluegrass Jam

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





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# Marshall Tucker Band takes the Paramount stage

By L. Kent Wolgamott, Last Word Features

Friday, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. — RUTLAND—The Marshall Tucker Band had its hits in the '70s. But when singer Doug Gray looks out at the audiences at the band's shows, he doesn't see a room full of those who grew up on the songs.

He sees a lot of people who weren't born when "Can't You See," "Fire on the Mountain" and "Heard It in a Love Song" were all over the radio.

"We didn't start out knowing these songs would be a hit, that these songs would be played 8 million times on the radio or somewhere," Gray said in a phone interview from his Carolina home. "Heard It in a Love Song" is catching up to 'Can't You See,' and 'Fire on the Mountain' is in there and they keep going up.

"It's because of the young people and all the stuff that's out there, in movies, on Netflix," he said. "They hear a song, look up Marshall Tucker Band, they hit click and they download that song. It's made life simple for them and it's not hurting our pocketbook at all."

It's also because the MTB classics have become staples on the TV singing contest shows.

"I'm guilty of watching 'The Voice.' I'm guilty of watching 'American Idol,'" Gray said. "I'm 74, but my girlfriend is 20 years younger. She'll see me after watching and say 'you've got tears coming out of your eyes.' It's because I just heard a 16-year-old girl who's going to be a star. I can feel it right now, just like Elvis did. And she did one of our songs. When they do 'Can't You See' in front of 8, 9 million people, I always reach out to them. I wish them good luck and all of that," he said. "Not all of them win."

Gray was one of six young guys who got together in Spartanburg, South Carolina in 1972 and borrowed the name of a blind piano tuner for a band moniker.

Unintentionally, the band came up with a distinctive brand of music that got played on rock and progressive country stations.

"We did it without knowing there was any difference between country, rock 'n' roll,

rhythm and blues or jazz," said Gray. "We put all of those together without knowing what the heck we were doing. We even got invited to jazz festivals."

"Toy and Tommy (Caldwell) were the country influences in the group, Doug, that would be myself, and George (McCorkle) were the R&B players," Gray said. "Jerry (Eubanks) was the flautist. He played sax in the high school band, too. You bring all that together and it's like the soup your mama made on Sundays when she cleaned out the refrigerator. You drop everything into the pot and out comes the Marshall Tucker Band."

Toy Caldwell was the band's primary songwriter and lead guitarist. His brother played bass, McCorkle played rhythm guitar, Paul Riddle was the drummer and Eubanks played everything else — keyboards, saxophone and flute.

Signed to Capricorn Records in 1973, the band released its self-titled debut album, toured with labelmates The Allman Brothers Band, and put out the first of their three signature songs, "Can't You See." Two years later came "Fire on the Mountain," and in 1977, "Heard It in a Love Song."

The Marshall Tucker Band has, for four decades, continued to tour, with the new audience helping to keep them on the road for about 100 nights in a normal year. And the group isn't too far from reaching that level of activity this year, even though touring has meant complying with COVID protocols. Gray is happy to have some shows to play.

"Here's a band that hasn't really done anything but play," Gray said. "That's what the Marshall Tucker Band is about. If you want to know what the band's about in actuality, that's it. Even from the beginning, we just wanted to go out and play. First, to buy beer, to be honest."

Gray is the only remaining original member in The Marshall Tucker Band. Tommy Caldwell died in an auto accident in 1980. Four years later, Toy Caldwell, McCorkle and Riddle retired, leaving Eubanks and

Gray running the band.  
Eubanks retired in

1996

"Tommy died in 1980 in a car wreck, but before that, in 1971, we had an attorney draw up an agreement, we all had first right of refusal about everything with the band, everything was split equally by six," Gray said. "Two or three shares I bought up when guys got tired of it and wanted to get off the road. That's how I ended up with The Marshall Tucker Band."

"Luckily, I can still sing and I have some other great players in the band. People will ask me how the new band is working out. They've been in the band for 25 years. The same band has been together for 25 years. The old band was together for eight years."

The Marshall Tucker Band, of late, has regularly played the Grand Ole Opry, CMA Fan Fest and landed a slot at the Stagecoach Festival, the country version of the Coachella festival — it only took 40 years for the country music industry to figure out that the band had country songs, all the way back to the first album.

The group these days typically plays clubs, theaters, casinos — venues that Gray said are perfect for his band, small enough that he'll know just what the MTB is in for before he walks in the door.

"When the bus pulls up, I see how many pickups are in the parking lot. That way I know we're going to have a good time," Gray said. "I don't want to see too many vans. Those are the moms bringing the kids to see us for the first time. Our biggest, largest drawing audience is 18-37 now. We love playing for them. There's nothing better for me than putting that microphone out in the audience and having them sing 'Can't You See' and 'Fire on the Mountain' or some of the more obscure songs."

Don't miss the show at the Paramount Theatre in downtown Rutland this Friday at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$39-\$59, for more information visit: [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).



The Marshall Tucker Band

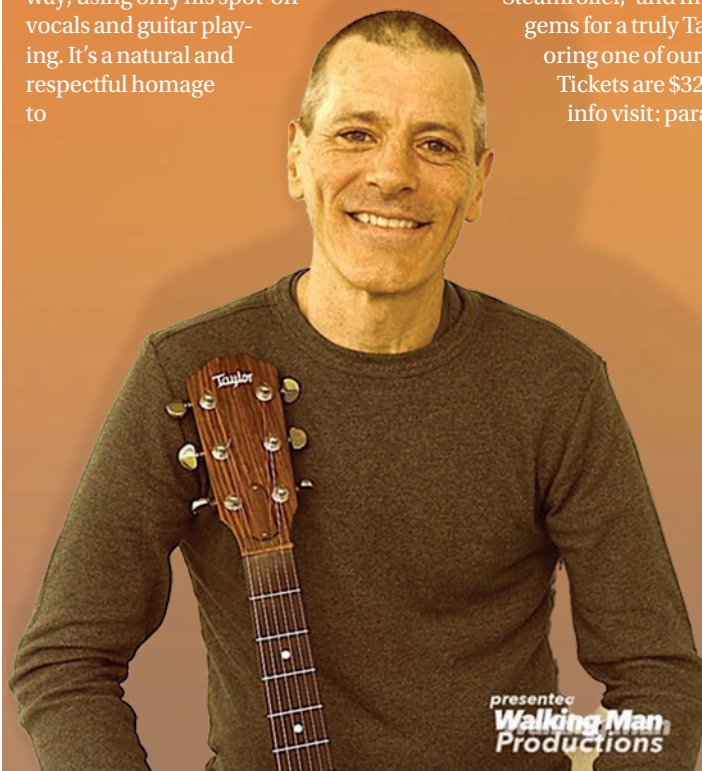
Submitted

## Sweet Baby James, a tribute to James Taylor, performs at Paramount

Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m.—RUTLAND—No. 1 James Taylor tribute artist Bill Griese will visit the Paramount Theatre from Nashville with his acclaimed 'Sweet Baby James' show. Check this show out for the timeless music of the six-time Grammy winner, with a performance you have to hear to believe! It's not your typical tribute band fare, Griese brings you the songs and stories of Taylor in a refreshingly authentic way, using only his spot-on vocals and guitar playing. It's a natural and respectful homage to

an American original. Whether you're a lifelong or casual JT fan, this one is not-to-miss!

See why audiences rave: "close my eyes and it's JT," "the next best thing to James himself," and "like having James Taylor in your living room!" Enjoy the ultimate James Taylor experience, with favorites like "Fire & Rain," "You've Got a Friend," "Shower the People," "How Sweet It Is," "Steamroller," and more; plus hidden gems for a truly Taylor made show honoring one of our greatest troubadours. Tickets are \$32 + tax/fees. For more info visit: [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).



## A history of red tomatoes

By Deborah J. Benoit

Tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*) have been on our tables and in our gardens for so long, it's nearly impossible to think of them as growing in the wild. Once upon a time they did just that.

That's not to say that a typical supermarket tomato or a tasty, red Mortgage Lifter or Big Boy could be enjoyed back then. Tomatoes have undergone centuries of cultivation and hybridization and have changed much during that time. Today, there are more than 10,000 varieties of tomatoes.

Hundreds of years ago, long before Europeans had set foot in the New World, tomatoes grew wild in the Andes of western South America. The indigenous people cultivated them, eventually bringing the plant northward through Central America and into Mexico. When the Spanish arrived in the early 16th century, they found the inhabitants growing a food crop called "tomatl" in the native language.



Submitted Tomatoes have quite a history.

Tomato seeds were brought from Mexico to Spain by those early explorers. From there the plant spread to Italy by the mid-1500s where it began to be incorporated into regional cuisine. Over the following decades, tomato plants were cultivated throughout Europe, but primarily as an ornamental plant.

Along the way, the tomato was known by a number of names, including wolf peach and gold apple. In France, it was called a love apple (*pomme d'amour*) and thought to be an aphrodisiac. Because the tomato was mistakenly considered to be poisonous by many, it was referred to as the "poison apple."

It's a fact that the leaves, stems and roots of the tomato contain solanine, a neurotoxin, and thus should not be eaten. The tomato also is a relative of deadly nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*).

The apparent proof of the tomato's poisonous nature was based on a false assumption. While it

Tomatoes → 39

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## Pico hosts Mini Shred Madness

Saturday, Feb. 25—RUTLAND—Come to the park and compete for prizes in a friendly and fun environment. Grom skiers and riders (13 years and under) will get a feel for park riding and experience the rules and navigation of the park. Mini Shred Madness is all about having fun in a competition setting. Not to mention, there will be all sorts of free giveaways being handed out at the event to competitors.

Divisions include: Super Grom is for ages 9 and under (first time park riders) with boys, girls and combined categories. Grom is for ages 10-13 (have park-riding experience) with boys and girls categories.

Registration will take place from 9-10 a.m. on the second floor of the Pico Base Lodge. Entry fee is \$20 for all divisions. All participants of Mini Shred Madness must have a parent/guardian fill out an express assumption of risk form for them. Each participant must wear a properly fastened snow sports helmet during all event practice/inspection and competition. The day will end with awards presented 11:55 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Submitted

Skiers and riders 13 years and younger are set to compete in a fun-filled competition at Pico.

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## 'Real Rutland Feud' takes to the Paramount Theatre stage

Saturday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. — RUTLAND—The Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) is excited to announce the return of the annual local favorite, "Real Rutland Feud" to the Paramount Theatre on Saturday at 7 p.m.

The "Real Rutland Feud" is based on the popular TV game show "Family Feud." After a memorable show in 2022, this year's teams are ready to take the stage for the event's fifth year in Rutland.

Executive director of the Paramount Theatre, Eric Mallette, will host once again.

"The 2023 'Real Rutland Feud' promises to bring an evening of laughter and great entertainment to our community. The Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region looks forward to presenting another exciting contest between colleagues and friends," said Lyle Jepson, CEDRR executive director.

The event this year will feature 10 teams from local businesses and organizations competing for the winning trophy. Teams facing off in the 5th annual "Real Rutland Feud" will be:

- Xfinity vs. Town of Brandon
- Community Health vs. NewStory Center
- Killington Resort vs. Green Mountain Power
- Rutland Regional Medical Center vs. Rutland Regional Medical Center
- Fabian Earth Moving vs. Casella Construction

Proceeds from the event benefit CEDRR's Regional Marketing Initiative - Real Rutland.

Ticket are \$30 each and will be available during regular business hours at the Paramount Theatre Box Office or online anytime at Paramountvt.org.



Submitted  
Feuders

## Sarah King to give solo acoustic performance at the Wild Fern, Friday

Friday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m.—  
STOCKBRIDGE—Sarah King, singer-songwriter from Ripton, Vermont, will perform a special solo acoustic listening-room style performance at the Wild Fern in Stockbridge on Friday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m. It's her first live performance of the year, and it's kicking off her Women's History Month solo tour at select arts centers around the Northeast.

Known for her powerhouse voice and "fiery, vulnerable songs," Sarah King creates thought-provoking, versatile Americana music. Her genuine stories about real-life emotions and situations also draw on classic folk-blues themes, balancing songs about the devil and booze with hard-won moments of reflection and acceptance. Her acclaimed 2021 EP "The Hour," produced by Simone Felice and David Baron, earned her recognition as the New England Music Awards Songwriter of the Year and performances at the 2022 Folk Alliance International and Philadelphia Folk festivals, as well

as supporting slots for acts including Blues Traveler and The Steel Woods.

"What I learned is that it doesn't matter how good I can sing, people want to relate to something," she said in an interview with the Addison Independent last year, when discussing the album.

"My life had started feeling like a bad country song," she wrote in her artist's bio.

King lost her dog; then she lost her first-husband, Tobey, a soldier, to suicide after a struggle with post traumatic stress disorder. They were high school sweethearts who got back together after college, where King studied opera. The two were together as a couple for three years as he served in the military, but ultimately King realized that her music-career dreams and his military aspirations were at odds so they split. Tobey died in 2015.

Three years later King's mom died of dementia just after her 60th birthday.

"My mom and I didn't have a tight relationship for about 10 years before

King→ 43



Sarah King

Photo by Arielle Thomas

## Inside Out to perform at the Wobbly Barn

Performing both Friday and Saturday night, Inside Out is a Top 40 dance cover band that has been entertaining crowds across New England since 2010 by pumping out a non-stop stream of today's high energy dance hits. Nobody does it better than Inside Out!

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Inside Out

Submitted

← **Tomatoes:** In the 1700s the tomato was ornamental  
from page 37

was true that upper class Europeans did die after consuming tomatoes, the fault was not with the tomato but with the pewter dinnerware used. The high level of acidity in tomatoes leached lead from the pewter, and those wealthy enough to afford to dine on pewter dinnerware died from lead poisoning after consuming tomato-based dishes.

In the early 1700s, the tomato returned to the Americas with European colonists. At that time it was still grown primarily as an ornamental plant in the northern colonies but grown for its fruit in southern regions. Its popularity continued to increase.

Thomas Jefferson reportedly grew tomatoes in his vegetable garden at Monticello and enjoyed eating the fruit. It wasn't until the early 1900s that tomatoes' popularity became widespread throughout the United States.

Today, tomatoes are grown around the world and are a star of international cuisine. They are grown in home gardens and on commercial farms.

They are eaten raw, served cooked in a variety of dishes and processed into products that line our supermarket shelves. Tomatoes are the most popular home-grown vegetable crop in the country.

However, are tomatoes really a vegetable?

While botanically a fruit (actually a berry), due to their sugar content being well below that of other fruits, tomatoes are used as, and popularly considered, a vegetable.

In addition, legally speaking, as a result of the case of *Nix v. Hedden*, which was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1893, tomatoes are considered a vegetable according to the Tariff Act of March 3, 1883.

The real question isn't whether it's a fruit or vegetable. The question is, with so many choices, what type of tomato will you choose to grow in your garden this year?

For more information on the history of tomatoes, see [go.uvm.edu/tomato-history](http://go.uvm.edu/tomato-history).

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Submitted  
From left, Program Coordinator Molly Tobin, Sandy Kish, Felicia Fowler, and Erin Fernandez.



Submitted  
From left, Program Manager Felicia Fowler, Executive Director Erin Fernandez and Erin Riley.



Submitted  
From left, Senior Program Coordinator Tom Alcorn, Dave Morse and Erin Fernandez.



Submitted  
From left, Director of Operations Norm Staunton, Molly Tobin and Kaitlyn Fowle.

## Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports presents 2022 volunteers of the year and Kellen Sams leadership awards

To be a volunteer at Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports is to embody tireless dedication, strong leadership and a big heart. To strive to empower athletes with disabilities is reflected through every highly-trained instructor. The most outstanding volunteers in 2022 were Alexander (Sandy) Kish, Dave Morse and Ellen Riley.

Named 2022 Volunteers of the Year, these three recipients embody the traits and legacy of Jim Hutchinson, a Vermont Adaptive volunteer who left a tradition of empowering people of all abilities through sports and recreation as well as a commitment toward supporting the organization.

In addition, Vermont Adaptive selected Kaitlyn Fowle to receive the 2022 Kellen Sams Memorial Leadership Award.

"For 2022, just like any other year, we recognize those who go above and beyond our expectations" said Erin Fernandez, executive director at Vermont Adaptive. "This year, we couldn't decide on one volunteer of the

year so we chose three. We are so grateful and so proud to have a strong organization and even better individuals that make it all happen."

"This year, we couldn't decide on one volunteer of the year so we chose three. We are so grateful and so proud to have a strong organization and even better individuals that make it all happen," said Fernandez.

When Sandy Kish isn't found on the slopes of Bolton Valley, he's tirelessly supporting the Pushback Program for Parkinson's as a partner. You can always find a beaming smile while instructing, and he is usually the fan favorite for families and participants. While he shows exemplary reliability, his dedication to Vermont Adaptive does not go unnoticed.

Dave Morse has been a part of the Vermont Adaptive community since 2003 and shows his big smile and personality while instructing winter and summer programs, as

well as dedicating his time to annual events. Often the last one standing at the annual Vermont Adaptive Charity Challenge, he is always quick to help out wherever he's needed. His work and passions are reflected in his

Adaptive awards → 41

# Doggo dreams come true

Old museum becomes new dog training facility

By Victoria Gaither

It was a dream come true when Als Allan, a certified professional dog trainer and owner of Mountainside Mutts in Rutland on Route 4 took over the Norman Rockwell Museum building a year ago.

"This building had been on sale for over eight years. There were very few people with a commercial interest around Rutland who didn't come in at some point," Allan said.

"Within the building, we have removed all the old museum display units, and it's now a dog training area. It has approximately 1,250 square feet of training space and a now securely fenced-in area that offers almost double that space to work outside," Allan said.

Allan has been in the positive dog training business for some time. Her street credentials include her training under Victoria Stilwell, the famous English dog trainer and television personality of the show, "It's Me or the Dog."

"I was a student of Victoria Stilwell," Allan said.

The approach to using reward-based methods to train dogs is what she learned at the Victoria Stilwell Academy and through other canine education.

Her resume reads like a laundry list of educational accomplishments. A personal experience with her dog pushed her to seek different training methods.

"I wanted to give people the option that there are other ways" to help your dog, she said.

That different way brought Bethany Sprague to see Allan when she and her husband were getting ready to welcome a new golden retriever pup into their Rutland home.

"I was a little panicky about bringing the new little guy home and wanted to be sure that he had a good start; we hadn't raised a puppy in six years," Sprague said.

Sprague already had another 6-year-old golden retriever named Ranger and cats at home.

She discussed how Allan worked with her and her new pup, Roush, on crate training and basic manners through a reward-

It has approximately 1,250 square feet of training space and a now securely fenced-in area that offers almost double that space to work outside," Allan said.



Submitted

Als Allan trains a dog at Mountainside Mutts.

based system to get the best benefits for the puppy and mom.

Dog mom Laura Schroeder traveled from Dorset to see Allan. Her dog, Darwin, needed a little help when out walking and when someone came to the door.

"Based on our training, I now have a number of techniques I can use to help with my dog's reactivity issues; we've made significant progress," said Schroeder, who believes in reward-based training.

Allan said her first year of business brought some challenges, but on a steady path, her dream is now a reality.

**Adaptive awards:** Vermont Adaptive gives annual awards, names three volunteers of the year from page 40

work everyday.

Ellen Riley, also a parent to a participant at Vermont Adaptive, spends her time volunteering at special events, bike rides, paddling days, Sugarbush trips, ski lessons, and many more adventures. Her dynamic and well-rounded personality shines through her work either assisting Sunday ski and ride race teams or Thursday school groups. Her passion for teaching young kids to ski and staying active is reflected through her time with Vermont Adaptive.

"This year's Kellen Sams Leadership Award recipient is unlike any other," said Norm Staunton, director of operations at Vermont Adaptive. "Kaitlyn is not a volunteer, staff, or intern at Vermont Adaptive. In that sense, she is an unusual nominee for the award. She has donated her time to teach multiple courses, training, and certifications for Vermont Adaptive, at no charge and all passion."

Kaitlyn Fowle can be easily recognized at Bolton Valley, as she works as the patrol director and ensures that Vermont Adaptive is included in all of the ski resort events. She has co-organized training, made time available to her staff to attend Vermont Adaptive training, has attended Vermont Adaptive training herself, and

has pursued trainer status in new course offerings at the organization's request.

Fowle is a trainer for the National Ski Patrol, American Heart Association, Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (wilderness medicine), American Canoe Association, Stop the Bleed, and others. She is also a professional caliber Alpine skier, sea kayaker, stand up paddleboarder, Tele skier, and high angle rescuer.

Kellen Sams was a great outdoor spirit, teacher and avid adventurer. But most importantly, he was a compassionate friend to all he met. Tragically, despite preparedness, the highest safety measures, and years of training and experience, Kellen lost his life in an avalanche in February of 2010 while backcountry skiing the San Juan Mountains of Colorado.

In honor of Sams' commitment to outdoor experiential education of the highest quality, the Kellen Sams Memorial Leadership Award was established.

The purpose of the award is to further Sams' legacy by providing recognition for those Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports' staff, volunteers and interns who show the greatest commitment to professional development and leadership within the organization.

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

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There will be a DJ jamming tunes, hot dogs for lunch, and skiing or riding through the obstacle course park as well as a raffle to win some cool prizes from Toyota! There's so much fun to be had with family and friends at the Vermont Family Adventure Run! Visit [okemo.com](http://okemo.com) for more information.



**King:** Known for her powerful voice and fiery, vulnerable songs, King produces thought-provoking music from page 39

she died," King explained. "When I walked in to visit her for the first time, she lit up like she knew exactly who I was; it was comforting but also weird because she hadn't seen me in a decade. I sang her a couple songs and she fell asleep — she stayed asleep for more than a week and then passed away.

"Her death terrified me," King continued. "Grief is the great leveler and we need to own that... I found myself thinking: if I've only got a short time to live I've got to do what I love. I can't spend any more time working to pay the bills."

So she got to it — doing what she loves.

The pandemic didn't slow her down; actually, if anything, it probably helped. King said that being locked down in quarantine forced her to sit with herself and wrestle with all of "this stuff."

"Usually I write two maybe three songs in a year," she told the Addison Independent. "But this time I had all these songs popping up... A melody would float into my head with a phrase and then a song would come tumbling out of me. I have to wait for the cosmic songwriting juice to start flowing. I don't think I'm the one writing these songs — I just happened to pick up the phone and that's the song."

King managed to partner with producers Simone Felice and David Baron (who also work with The Lumineers, Matt Maeson, Jade Bird among others) and record her EP at Sun Mountain Studio in the Catskills last summer.

"I reached out to Simone because I wanted some direction, some guidance, on how to make my music better, and I definitely learned a lot," King said in a press release for "The Hour." "I am not the same sad, shell-shocked girl I was when I decided I had to start playing music again when my mother died. As David noted, there's a fierce, powerful, loud quality to a lot of my songs — not saying I can't dial it down, but that I am no longer afraid to use my voice, to be strong."

"The Hour's" five tracks explore finding the strength to stand up to someone more powerful (in the first track "Poison"), confronting the fear of physical violence with revenge ("Nightstand"), finding freedom in death ("Cold Hard Ground"), making peace with your dark deeds ("Not Worth the Whisky"), and the hypocrisy of war ("War Pigs"), which was originally written by Black Sabbath in 1970. Together, they show the evolution of King's sound from an acoustic blues rock with a side of southern soul to a more brazen, gothic country. The songs are a promise that she will make her voice, and those of women everywhere, heard.

"I didn't set out to write a political record, or a feminist record," she said, noting that the album starts off with an alluring piano, pop ballad and then gets darker and darker. "It's raw, it's open, and it's all there... I was uncomfortable sharing all of these deep, dark parts of my story until this year. I used to sing about these things but I wasn't open about why I was singing those songs. This album takes a huge bur-

den off of me — I don't have to hold these things so close anymore — this is what makes me who I am."

Approaching the end of the album, as a listener you may begin to wonder a little more about this Ripton neighbor... is it all true?

"Everything in the songs is true, except what isn't," King said in her more comfortable mysterious stance. "For example in 'Nightstand' I did keep a gun in my nightstand after my dog died, but no, I never buried a body..."

The final song, "War Pigs," King hadn't sung since Tobey's death. She walked into the studio on the final day and, "I have to sing this song," Felice agreed but told King she had to sing it live and only had 20 minutes to "nail it."

"No pressure," remembered King, who said the mood was actually pretty good at the studio. "There were candles burning and lights and pictures of Jimi Hendrix on the wall... and I dressed like I was going to do a live show, which helped.... The live take came out so well they agreed to put it on the album. The feeling I was able to bring to the booth that day was incredible... At the end of the day, I want people to feel something with this album. I've got three minutes to hit them in the heart."

The Wild Fern is located at 1703 Route 100 North in Stockbridge. Tickets are \$20 and seating is limited. Reservations should be made by emailing Heather at [spreadintheluv@gmail.com](mailto:spreadintheluv@gmail.com).

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

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# Rutland County Humane Society



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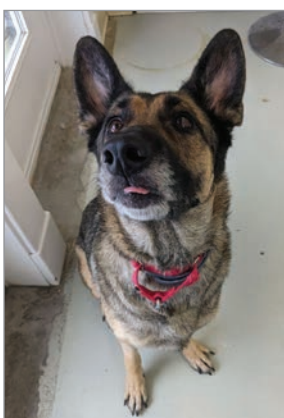
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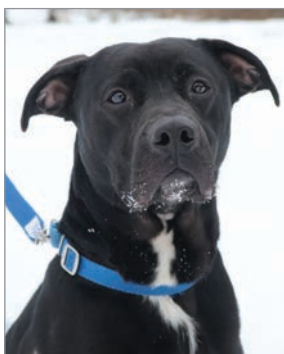
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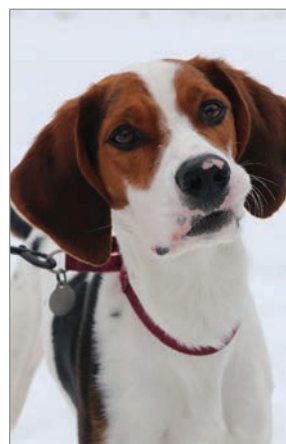
Meet Trix—6-year-old. Neutered male. Pit bull mix. Brindle with white. He has a great smile and is a bit shy at first, but quickly warms up and really wants to be around people.



Meet Kuma—4-year-old. Neutered male. Lab mix. Black/red. Handsome, affectionate, and mellow. He would be best in a home without cats.



Meet Nitro—1-year-old. Male. Lab/pit mix. Black. A sweet and goofy boy who needs a little patience as he is reactive to other dogs and people inside and outside the home.



Meet Bucky—18-month-old. Male. Treeing walker coonhound. Tri-color. He loves the outdoors and needs plenty of daily exercise. He is very sweet and affectionate, and his manners could use some fine-tuning.



## WATSON

Meet Watson—4-year-old. Neutered male. Dachshund mix. Tri-color. His goofy smile matches his silly personality. Watson needs to go to a home without children and without cats. Watson seems to do fine with dogs who are around the same size as him. He loves his coat the way it is and that means he doesn't like being groomed. Watson is a vocal boy who likes to bark, so he may need someone who will be patient and work with him on that.

All of these pets are available for adoption at

### Rutland County Humane Society

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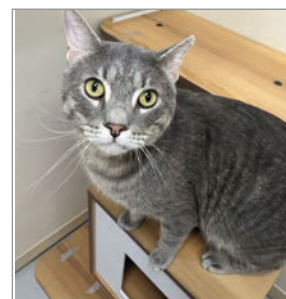
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Meet Leo FIV—2-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Gray tiger. Leo is known to be a professional cuddler.



Meet Miss P—2-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Torbie with white. Meet Miss P! With her gorgeous green eyes and dainty white bib and paws, she is sure to catch your eye.

Meet Baby—10-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Brown tiger with white. Baby may be 10 years old, but she's such a pretty and loving girl.



Meet Boo Boo—4-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Brown/black tiger. Boo Boo is a great girl who likes to be petted and loved up.



Meet Jasper \*\*FELV-positive. 1.5-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Gray tiger. This handsome boy is very social and affectionate. Jasper is a special boy who needs a special home.



Meet Cream (Prefers to be adopted with bff Pearl)—2-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Orange and white.

# Cosmic Catalogue

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## Aries

March 21 - April 20

It may be a dream, an inkling or a knowing that lights the flame for you this week. The question is, is the risk of staying safe inside the bud greater than bursting into a beautiful bloom? Deep down inside, you know something has to change, something has to be different, yet you don't want to take action for action's sake. Move toward something that holds deep meaning. You've got a lot of luck on your side right now – so that's something to keep in mind.



## Leo

July 21 - August 20

You may have a heart full of hopeful dreams and desires that really do help elevate your spirit. Hopes and dreams only take you so far. How do your current financial circumstances support those dreams and goals though? Do you have a plan or is there more month left at the end of your money? You're entering a period where you can take increased responsibility around money, debts and financial security. Taking money seriously is what it will take for making those dreams come true!



## Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

You are in a phase where your personal life is truly coming alive. This could be about solidifying new stability in your domestic scene – making a commitment with someone like living together or a home purchase isn't too far in the distant future. Children, your creative life and hobbies are also a source of magic and happiness. True wealth is a happy home and healthy children – be they your own or someone else's. Where you find meaning and purpose will be at home.



## Taurus

April 21 - May 20

A beautiful opportunity may be presented to you this week through a friend, colleague or a group you're involved with. There's also the chance of planting a proverbial seed in the areas you'd like to see blossom. If you find yourself either aligned or realigning with someone, be sure there's a common interest there. The road to hell is paved with good intentions. Be sure yours are honest and be watchful as other people reveal themselves – good, bad or indifferent.



## Virgo

August 21 - September 20

You can start afresh with someone this week as the New Moon invigorates all things relationships, either at work or within your private life. Even if you're not partnered, you can make a wish around how you want things to be as your love life will change over the next two years. All things money and shared resources are also under the spotlight. This might mean that the chance to put a new plan in place regarding your finances is now possible.



## Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

You don't stop playing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop playing. For you, play is about developing your curiosity and wonder about the world. What do you want to know more about? What do you want to learn? How do you want to grow and rediscover the mystery and magic in life? If you've felt like you've lost sight of that, this week gives you the chance to begin finding it again. Commit to these ideas.



## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Your stars truly are stunning for all things related to career, success and friendship. This week, spend some time envisioning, imagining or even beginning a project you'd like to see blossom over the next two years. It won't be easy, but it will be worth it! Enlist the support of your biggest fans – your friends, colleagues or followers! You're in a double luck phase so make the most of it with focus rather than procrastination. Don't rest on your laurels from former successes.



## Libra

September 21 - October 20

Your relationship zone moves into your week, making the next few weeks the most romantic and supportive. In fact, you can expect a whole new level of togetherness and inspiration not just from your romantic partner, but from other people as well. The road is rising up to meet you in terms of bringing in the right people with the right resources or wisdom to help you make a dream or a goal come true.



## Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

Money is a hot topic and that's not just the state of the economy. For you, there is astrology involved that requires you to take money more seriously. Yes, unfortunately there is a short-term pain for long term gain feeling to this. The art of delayed gratification is a steep learning curve, but one you'll thank yourself for developing. Where do you want to be financially in a few years' time? Set the goal and work diligently toward it.



## Cancer

June 21 - July 20

Your world is opening up for you in stunning ways. Maybe you're traveling for the first time in a while or study is under your radar. Either way, you have the chance to truly commit yourself to a pathway of meaning. Ever wanted to study astrology? Do it! Want to finally finish a degree? Do it! Want to travel to an exotic destination that may change your entire outlook on life, philosophy and religion? Do it! Set the intention to make it happen!



## Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

Managing the balance between work and play is highlighted for you this week. A New Moon invites you to reimagine the areas of life that involve joy, happiness, romance and even children. Maybe your cosmic task is really about putting in the work to extract the divine nectar from life. After all, you were put on this Earth to do more than just pay bills and die. Live a life that is full of spirit, magic and wonder and the rest will take care of itself.



## Pisces

February 21 - March 20

A new era is dawning for you! It's not just about the New Moon in your sign, but Saturn's arrival very soon. You now have the chance to make a choice about how you want your life to look in about three years. Yes, it will mean a little bit of restriction and limitation, to be sure, but the sense of clarity and purpose you'll gain will expedite your goals three-fold – especially if those goals are financial in nature.



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

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## Act on your hunches

A Pisces New Moon begins the week, helping you reconnect to your innermost feelings. Despite what you've been taught or told or what you hear in the news, the question is, does this feel right?

The answer, as is often the case, won't be found by thinking about it or using logic or reason. Instead, it's about tapping into the waters within your body and paying attention to which direction the stream is flowing. When you get used to this, it's actually very simple. We do it all the time. Where people get stuck is they often listen to their intuition, they just

don't follow it. The heart and the mind often want different things.



**Cosmic Catalogue**  
By Cassandra Tyndall

Venus will shift into Aries and move toward Jupiter. This most beneficial of pairing will encourage you to act on a hunch, lean into unbridled enthusiasm and take a risk! New and innovative ideas may be worth acting on. Sudden or unexpected news may prompt a swift decision. Choices made this week will carry you through the rest of the month and into March, where the sky delivers some of the most dramatic shifts

we've seen in a while. To change or stay the same? Both have an element of risk.

## Library experiences from childhood to adulthood

When I heard that Vermont State University plans to remove books from their library shelves and transition to digital books by July 1 it felt like a magic trick about to happen. Just say "Presto" and the paper books will suddenly disappear. Changes of that magnitude usually happen gradually. I have been a library user for over 70 years and if I have a choice between a paper book and a digital book, the paper book will always win out. Digital devices have many wonderful uses but books and newspapers were "born with pages" and yours truly loves to turn them.

My library experience began as a 6-year-old in 1950. Although I don't remember the details my mother told me later in life that my love of reading began with Saturday morning trips to the children's room of the Rutland Free Library. I explored the "world of books" there and selected a couple of books to bring home. From then on I always wanted to have a book to read and that has never changed.

As a 6-year-old I am sure I gravitated toward books with pictures but what types were popular with library patrons back in 1950? According to the City of Rutland Annual Report for that year 17,822 adult non-fiction books and 5,876 juvenile non-fiction books were loaned to readers. A total of 1,784 books were purchased for the library in 1950. A Saturday morning program for young people resulted in a large increase in book circulation among that age group. Those paper pages were being turned "in a big way" back in the day!

I remember getting my first library card while I was in elementary school. It was a small blue square card that came in a little envelope. You presented it at the checkout desk. Each book had a paper sleeve attached to the back of the book. In the sleeve was a card that was put into a machine that printed the date on which the book had to be returned.

The card was put back into the sleeve and your book was officially checked out.

There was a fine for late returns but it was only pennies per day as I recall. I never had a book in my possession long enough to be late. They were returned every week so I could get more! I remember wondering what would happen if I read all the books? I guess I didn't realize that new books were always coming in. No worries!

As I got older library books became my reference source for research papers. A card catalog in the front part of the Rutland Free Library had index cards that were inside beautiful wooden cabinets. The Dewey Decimal numbers on the cards provided me with the reference numbers I needed to find the books. After writing down the numbers I headed to the second floor to look for them. The numbers were clearly displayed on the book jackets so it was an easy task.

Some reference books could not be removed from the library. That meant spending several hours in the reference room reading the books and writing notes as I got the information I needed. It also meant keeping quiet as talking was not allowed in the library.

Most elementary and high schools had their own libraries but the book selection was limited. Encyclopedias were essential as they were the "search engine" of yesteryear.

In my college years the size of the Trinity College library seemed huge compared to my high school library. There was an excellent selection of books that were needed for the assignments we were given. We also had access to the University of Vermont library which was the largest library I had seen at that age.

Libraries have always served as places to study. There is something about being surrounded by books that sets the mood for an academic experience.

Perhaps it's the younger generation's turn to read and research in the manner that works for them. From comments I have seen many of them appreciate time away from their devices when they read. Numerous students want the books to remain on the shelves. As of Feb. 17 when this column was submitted Vermont State University remains committed to a digital library as of July 1. Stay tuned!



**Looking Back**  
By Mary Ellen Shaw

## Winter wonders: Icicles, snow doughnuts and hair ice

A few winters ago, I snowshoed along a trail that led below a series of cliffs with rows of huge, hanging icicles. These icicles were up to 40 feet long, with colors ranging from blue-green to yellowish-brown.

In some spots, the icicles extended from cliff top to base, forming thick columns of ice. This spectacular display was created by water from melting snow and underground seeps dripping off the cliffs, refreezing, and building up over time. Minerals leached out of rock and soil can contribute to the colors of icicles.

Although less spectacular, icicles on buildings form in the same way. When sunlight or heat emitted through the roof of a poorly insulated building melts snow in subfreezing temperatures, the water refreezes as it drips. Because of the influence of sunlight, more icicles tend to grow on sunny, south-facing sides of buildings and cliffs than on shaded north sides.

An icicle begins its life as a single drop of water hanging from an object in cold air. As the drop starts to freeze, a thin outer shell of ice forms. Water continues to flow down the sides in a thin film, creating more freezing and allowing the icicle to lengthen over time. Actively growing icicles have liquid drips at the tip and a narrow, liquid-filled tube inside. Naturally-occurring salts and other minerals in the water cause ripples on the outside of an icicle. Icicles also develop when rain falls in air slightly below freezing, and rainwater dripping from branches and wires creates an accumulation of small icicles. The rate of growth of an icicle in length and width is a function of air temperature, wind speed, and water flux. Icicles can grow as fast as one centimeter per minute.

While icicles are a common seasonal sight, other winter weather phenomena are more unusual. On warmer winter days, I've occasionally seen long tubes of snow, either hol-

low or filled, on steep slopes. These are snow rollers, or snow doughnuts. For these unique shapes to form, there must be a top layer of fresh, sticky snow, a substrate such as ice or powder that the top layer doesn't adhere to, a temperature just above freezing, and a wind. On hillsides, gravity aids in their formation. Snow rollers can also occur in fields and on frozen lakes where a strong, sustained wind does the work. As a strip of snow rolls down a hill or is blown across a field, it turns over, accumulating more snow and creating a lay-

ered, cylindrical, shape.

Hair ice occurs on humid nights in northern forests.

"The Vermont Weather Book," by David Ludlum, describes hundreds of snow rollers in fields near Burling-

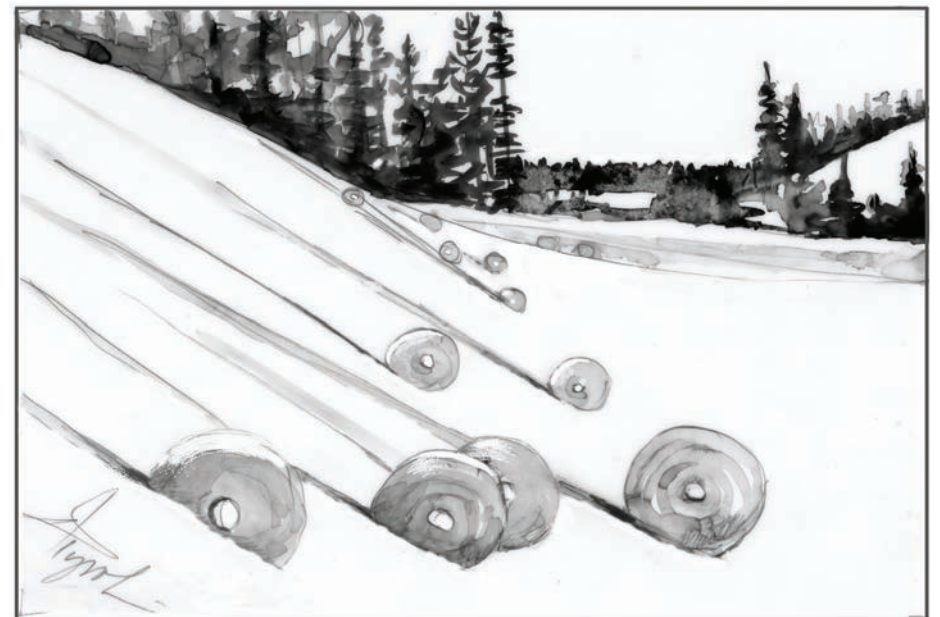
ton, Vermont, that were up to 13 inches in diameter and 18 inches long. The National Weather Service once reported a large occurrence of snow rollers on an Idaho prairie that were up to 2 feet in diameter. Most snow rollers are smaller, some as small as a tennis ball. The weather service considers snow rollers a rare meteorological event because they need a specific combination of conditions to form.

Another interesting, uncommon cold weather phenomenon is hair ice, also called ice wool or frost beard. These are thin filaments of ice that grow out of rotting logs and are packed together in soft curls and waves resembling human hair. Hair ice occurs on humid nights in northern forests when the temperature is slightly below freezing. This ice often melts in the morning, although it sometimes maintains its shape for days. In 2015, Swiss and German researchers discovered a species of fungus that grows on dead tree bark and can cause hair ice to develop. When ice forms on the surface of a log, and the water inside the log remains liquid, the temperature difference produces suction that draws water out of the wood pores and grows the "hair." Chemicals released by the fungus shape the ice into strands.

The Outside Story → 49



**The Outside Story**  
By Susan Shea



## A ruff ride

My wife and I have an agreement that when either one of us travels by air, we always let the other one know when we take-off and land. I guess it's one of those meaningless marital things that develops over the years, but we've always done it.

Recently, I was about to land from a trip, so I grabbed my phone and prepared a text that read, "Just landed. Puppy next to me was great the whole flight!"

The referenced "puppy" was a ridiculously adorable 9-week-old purebred something-or-other that sat in the lap of the guy next me. He was a great little passenger for the entire flight, having slept most of the time.

However, I must admit, during boarding when the couple walked up the aisle holding the pet carrier and motioned to me that they had the window and middle seat in my row, I was dying inside at the prospect of an uncomfortable flight. I was dying not because I hate dogs or am allergic to animals, but because I was convinced this tiny puppy would be jumping everywhere.

It's the same feeling you get when a mom and baby show up in your row: They're beautiful little miracles... until they start getting uncomfortable or need constant attention.

Thankfully, this little pup was a wonderful travel companion.

The guy and wife explained to me that they had flown 1,000 miles to pick up their new dog. The breeder met them at the airport, made the exchange, and then the couple got right back onboard another flight home. They said the travel to get the dog (since it was last minute) cost more than the actual dog.

They also told me that the reason they bought the new dog was because their old dog (of the same breed) had just died and they couldn't bear the idea of their three other dogs being without a fourth.

At this point, I realized that I was dealing with serious dog people.

The guy was a proud Dog Dad so he insisted I look at photos of his other dogs, including the one who had just died. When he talked about Cujo — yes, that was the name — he spoke with an air of pain and sadness. When I looked at Cujo, all I saw was danger.

Cujo looked to be a breed of pit bull, with a stout body and menacing face. The

pictures made him look huge so I inquired how big he was. They guy told me he weighted over 100 pounds and that the little guy in his lap would likely reach that mark as well. It turns out, the other three dogs back at home were also 100-pounders.

My obvious next question focused on the amount of food these animals consumed on a daily basis. He response was, "I work a separate job just to keep these guys fed."

His wife, who had barely spoken but was attentively engaged, shook her head to acknowledge that the statement was true.

After some time, I casually pulled out my headphones and slowly began scrolling through my phone for a podcast, all while the guy kept talking. When enough time had elapsed between conversations about dogs, dog breeds, dog food, dog care, and dog behaviors, I put my headphones in, closed my eyes, and leaned back in my seat.

I tried listening to my podcast, but noticed my mind kept drifting to dogs. I imagined what it was like living with four, 100-pound animals in my home. What does that feel like? What does that look like? What does that smell like?

But more than anything, I couldn't stop thinking about how much that would cost.

I work hard for my money so I can live the life I desire. I also don't begrudge anyone for how they spend their own money on the life they choose. But I must question if these two were sane

after everything I heard.

Our flight landed two hours later and wrapped up with a few more dog conversations before I bid the couple goodbye. As I was walking up the aisle, I heard a high-pitched yelp and turned around to see the guy holding the happy puppy up to his face to exchange kisses. I guess it made sense to me then.

In contrast, this week's feature, "The Pale Blue Eye" starring Christian Bale, made no sense to me

whatsoever.

A mystery thriller set in the early 1800s at a cadet academy in New York, "A Pale Blue Eye" did its best to lure the viewer around to unsuspecting places and characters, but ultimately landed exactly where you might think.

Check this one out if you're into the mystery genre or have an affinity for Christian Bale (who is unexpected the best part), otherwise look for another film to confuse you.

A shadowy "C-" for "A Pale Blue Eye," now available for streaming on Netflix.

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



**The Movie Diary**  
By Dom Cioffi



## Getting out there when your body doesn't want to

*"It does not matter how slow you go, as long as you don't stop," said Confucius.*

Almost despairingly, I lifted my head. I could see the towers sticking up from the summit of Pico and they seemed so very small from so far away. I was worn out and frustrated, my skins sticking to the snow just enough to make each glide forward feel like a battle between me and the snow below. I could feel my brand new skins apologizing to me with each stride, as my hip flexors started screaming from exhaustion.

I have done this commute countless times before and never seemed to struggle so much as today. Even post-injuries, this walk has seemed easy and if not easy, always smooth and graceful. A mellow stroll to the summit in direct comparison to the grueling hike up the front side. The pitch is perfect for an evening glide or a warm soak in the sun, the snow is usually at least partially groomed since it became an uphill travel route and the Pico tours always seem to move gradually forward.

But not today. Today, each stride felt like a battle unto itself. I used to run up this route and today, each stride felt like a battle unto itself. I could barely breathe, each intake of air feeling forced and short, never quite filling my diaphragm or my lungs. No matter how strong my breath, I couldn't get enough air. It hurt. I could feel the tinkling of the air as it went through my inflamed airways, each breath taking so much more effort than usual.

Bronchitis stinks. That's really all I wanted to say in this week's column. I know, maybe you wanted to hear about the big snowfall that's coming on the day you might be picking up this paper but when you're struggling to breathe it's hard to focus on anything else. I've slept 12-16 hours a day for almost a month, just getting out of bed enough to work and then hiding back under the covers. I've never been taken out by something so utterly before and the result was ... a feeling of inadequacy and incom-

petence.

And so here I was, forcing myself up the Hershey Highway to the summit of Pico at the slowest pace I could possibly imagine but still putting one foot in front of the other. I was torturing myself, committed to making it over to Forty-Niner and down Pico, even as my body fought me. My mind was stronger, my legs were stronger and I knew I could do this ... even as I was reduced to coughing spells every five minutes.

I was hoping that my body would take comfort in the familiar movement, that I would get lost in the glide like I had done so many times before and my mind would simply transplant me to another place in the world. Like getting lost in your meditation just by focusing on the repetitive flow of your breathing. Skinning, especially on the highway, has always been a form of moving meditation where the repetition of my breath and the movement of my body create a shift of consciousness that calms my mind and creates a heightened awareness.

How do you accomplish that calm when every breath is a struggle? When every breath reminds you of the suffering of your body rather than creates calm? You persevere. You continue. You dig deep and rely on your willpower to keep your body moving even though you can feel the struggle flowing through you. Perhaps you repeat a mantra, trying to convince yourself that somewhere, buried deep inside you, is the inner strength to keep moving without surrendering.

Some days, it feels like the world is searching for a way to break you, to shove you so far down into the snow that you will asphyxiate before you even have a chance to begin. But you have to believe, believe that hard work can overcome any self-doubt. That your breathing will continue, no matter how difficult the struggle, if you only continue to put one foot in front of the

Living the Dream → 49



**Livin' the Dream**  
By Merisa Sherman



By Merisa Sherman

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## TOS: Wonders from page 46

Along with the challenges of icy roads and shoveling, winter offers a host of wonders if you take time to look.

*Susan Shea is a naturalist, writer, and conservationist based in Vermont. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. Story courtesy Northern Woodlands magazine Well-born Ecology Fund: nhcf.org.*

## Living the dream: Even when you don't feel up for it, don't stop from page 47

other. The doubt fades away as you repeat the movement, whether on the skin track, skiing Highline for the first time or making it to the mountain every day to get that 100 Day Club hat.

Confucius, in his great wisdom, wrote, "It does not matter how slowly you go, as long as you do not stop.

Without perseverance, even the most skilled person will not achieve greatness.

Without will power, a person cannot persevere. Combine these two and you can achieve almost anything — including a very long skin up a mountain. It does not matter how slow you go, as long as you do not stop." It

does not matter how slow you go as long as you do not stop.

It does not matter how slow you go, as long as you do not stop.

*Merisa is a long time Killington Resident, KMS coach, bartender and Realtor with Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty.*

## Crisis policy: School Board members update school crisis policy after alleged violent incident at WES from page 1

to use a gun on others, according to former fourth grade teacher Stephanie Petrarca, who resigned because of the incident.

Petrarca detailed what she knew in her Jan. 29 resignation letter. She said the issue started Jan. 24, when a student in her class told a school counselor he had a bullet. Later that day, the male student informed students on the bus he had a hit list. Petrarca, who was not on the bus, said she heard about the threats from another student.

Nearly 200 people attended a school Board meeting on Feb 6, explaining concerns with heightened violence in school and lack of transparency and communication with parents.

The incident was never detailed to parents or discussed.

Superintendent Sherry Sousa sent a note to the entire school district on Jan. 30. She did not mention a threat. She said the district was going through a "deeply challenging time."

"I want to assure you that violence has no home in our school district community," Sousa wrote.

Both Mills and Sousa later told the Mountain Times they had no concerns about violence in school.

Parents, who have heard rumors of the incident, are demanding more from the administration and School Board.

The policy committee spent about an hour discussing the School Crisis Prevention and Response Policy and what rises to the level of a threat in which parents would need to be informed.

Board members agreed a student punching another or accidentally bringing a pocket knife to school didn't necessitate informing the greater school community.

"We've got to keep in mind these are children," School Board member Sam DiNatale said. "You don't want these messages going out to the entire community and this poor kid who forgot not to bring his pocket knife to school gets ostracized. We don't want to be creating that issue, either."

The School Board discussed adding language to the policy that parents needed to be informed of the incident the same day it happened.

Sousa pushed back. "Sometimes whether it's a credible threat or not cannot be determined," she said, explaining law enforcement officers need to be involved. "If it's the same day, that's a little tricky."

School Board member Matt Stout said the credibility of the threat didn't matter. "If you have a child that's telling other kids in school that they're bringing a gun I don't want to wait for law

enforcement to search the kid's house before we acknowledge that we have a real serious problem," Stout said.

Stout said the issues have been handled well by the district in the past, mentioning a teenager who threatened to bring a gun to a Woodstock Union High School dance. Parents were notified and students could attend the dance at their discretion.

"We didn't wait for police to search that kid's house to determine whether it was credible," Stout said.

The board did not discuss the level of detail the notification to parents should entail.

The School Board is scheduled to meet again on Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Woodstock Union High School - Middle School Teagle Library with public comment.

In the meantime, the School Board is taking action. A new administrative position might be added to Woodstock Elementary School to help with student behavioral issues. The School Board will review the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) system and parents and students are asked to take a survey to be reviewed by the School Board.

A new page will also be added to the district's website dedicated to school safety.


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## ← Housing: Ted Brady of VLCT gives his perspective on the obstacles to increasing housing in Vermont from page 10

or the environment. Act 250, not local zoning, is the single largest impediment to the construction of more homes in Vermont. The law was enacted in 1970 in part as a reaction to many towns having no local zoning policies in place. That is no longer the case. Today, housing developers frequently must navigate and pay two sets of permitting fees and legal fees and face the uncertainty in appeals twice, even when they are proposing smart growth in areas where Vermonters want development. Vermont should exempt Vermont's state designated areas — growth centers, downtowns, village centers, neighborhood development areas, and new town centers — from Act 250.

The duplicative process also gives opponents of housing the ability to mount costly appeals that drive up the cost of developing housing and reduce the number of units being constructed. When the citizens of a community, through the rigorous zoning bylaw adoption process, democratically decide they want housing built in an area, an appeal to local zoning officials based on the number of units or an Act 250 appeal based on character should not be allowed. Current law also allows any 10 individuals from a community to

band together and second-guess the community's zoning decision by filing an appeal to a local decision, even when the project complies with all the bylaw requirements. This should be stopped. Land use decisions should be made by entire communities, not

Vermont increased its housing development budget by 300% in 2022, from \$69 million to \$212 million.

tiny subsections of them.

While the pressures of our housing market are largely set by national and global economic forces, Vermont has tried to keep pace with the rising cost of housing. According to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development's 2022 Housing Budget and Investment Report, Vermont increased its housing development budget by 300% in 2022, from \$69 million to \$212 million.

While costs escalate at a rate that outpaces incomes, the Legislature should consider giving municipalities new tools to build more housing, such as a project-based tax increment financing program. This program would allow towns across Vermont to use a tool similar to what larger cities like St. Albans City, Burlington, and South Burlington have used to finance

municipally owned infrastructure that in turn sparked construction of hundreds of new homes. The program allows municipalities to pledge future tax revenues from new developments to repay debt.

A full third of the Vermont Legislature recently co-sponsored H.111, authored by Rep. Katherine Sims, a Democrat from Craftsbury, and Rep. James Harrison, a Republican from North Chittenden. Among many program

improvements, it would exempt from Act 250 jurisdiction housing development in state designated areas, reduce the ability of individuals to frivolously challenge local development decisions based on character, and eliminate the ability of any 10 community members to band together to challenge a project that doesn't directly impact them.

We are pleased to see the Vermont Legislature and Governor Scott considering modernizing our land use laws to facilitate more housing growth. However, changing local land use laws without changing state land use laws won't solve this crisis. Local officials are eager to partner with the state to solve Vermont's housing crisis. We recognize it may take a compromise, and we hope those defending Act 250 do too.

## Residential contractors reminded to register with state

A registration requirement for residential contractors had been debated for many years before Act 182, a light-touch registration, was passed by the Vermont Legislature and signed by Governor Scott in 2022. Act 182 requires that residential contractors register with the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR).

At its heart, the residential contractor registration is a consumer protection tool. The registration also has broad support from residential contractors, according to S. Lauren Hibbert, OPR director.

The registration requirement applies to any residential contractor who performs residential contracting where the estimated value is \$10,000 or more, inclusive of labor and materials.

Residential contracting is defined as to build, demolish, or alter a residential dwelling unit, or a building or premises with four or fewer residential dwelling units, and includes the following:

- Interior and exterior construction, renovation, and repair
- Painting
- Paving
- Roofing
- Weatherization
- Installation or repair of heating, plumbing, solar, electrical, water, or wastewater systems

OPR opened for registration for residential contractors on Dec. 1, 2022 and is required by April 1, 2023. Hibbert issued a reminder Feb. 8.

For more information, visit the FAQ section of the webpage [sos.vermont.gov/residential-contractors](https://sos.vermont.gov/residential-contractors) or email: [SOS.OPRLicensing2@vermont.gov](mailto:SOS.OPRLicensing2@vermont.gov).

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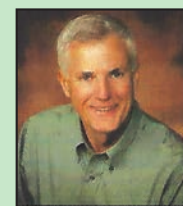
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# Student’s company helps with odd jobs

By Marin Howell/Addison County Independent

Before he was an economics major at Middlebury College, Ben Lash was getting hands-on instruction in the distribution of goods and services by running his own business.

Lash, now a senior at the college, founded American Student Helpers in 2016. The odd jobs company connects students looking for part-time work with community members in need of help with everyday tasks like yardwork or furniture assembly. After seeing success with the business in his hometown of Westerly, R.I., Lash is expanding the operation into Addison County this month.

“So far the responses I’ve gotten from people in Middlebury, it seems like it’s a need that is not being met by other odd job services,” Lash said. “I’m really excited for the opportunity to expand and to see what comes next.”

Lash described the services his company provides as low-skilled tasks, things like dog walking or helping deliver someone’s items to a donation center.

“It’s the stuff that someone’s landscaper or caretaker won’t do or can’t get done that we’ll fill in for,” Lash explained. “(American Student Helpers) covers a lot of areas that there’s not really a someone to fill.”

Interested customers contact Lash and his team with a task they need done, and then Lash coordinates a time for a group of student workers to complete the job.

Lash started the company with his brother and a friend, and the team in Westerly has grown to five part-time workers that offer over 14 services.

“In Westerly, people love it. The response has been overwhelmingly positive,” he said. “It makes me super happy to hear that we’re helping people.”

The opportunity to expand American Student Helpers to Middlebury came earlier this month, when Lash began taking a winter term course on entrepreneurship at Middlebury College. The course sends students out of the classroom to engage with potential clients and customers, which Lash said has helped him think about further developing his business.

“I thought I might as well try it out and see if this business plan is feasible and scalable, because it’s something I know I love to do and would be interested in doing in the future,” he said. “The course has been great. It’s given me a lot of confidence to do this on my own and see how it works out.”

Odd jobs → 53

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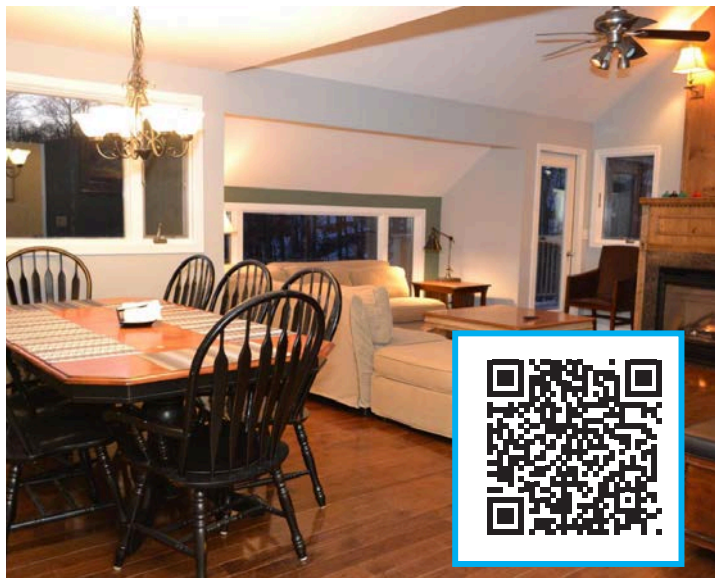
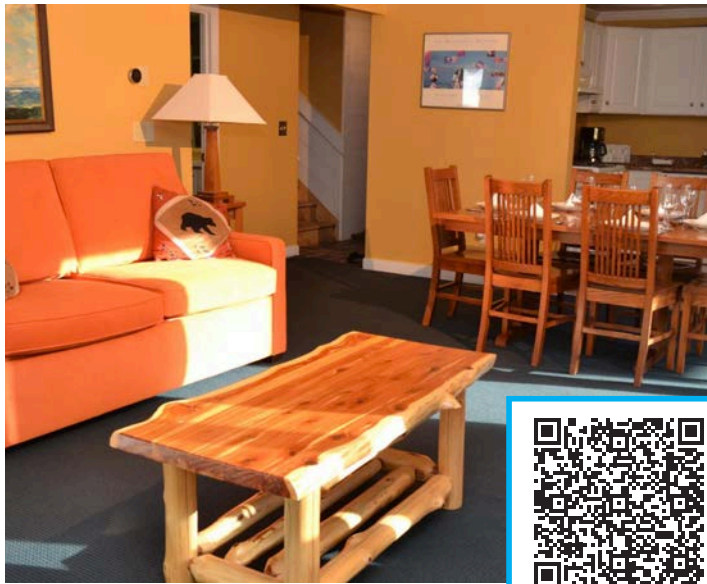
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## ← Odd jobs: Middlebury College Senior Ben Lash is connecting students with odd jobs through a company he started in 2016 called American Student Helpers from page 51

Lash began posting on Front Porch Forum to gauge if the Middlebury community has needs that could be met through a business like American Student Helpers. He found there was a lot of interest from residents that needed help with elderly care, handyman tasks and other services.

He's now putting together a team of Middlebury College students to form the Addison County branch of the business, which he hoped to launch on Jan. 23. In the past, American Student Helpers has operated solely during the summer, though Lash is working to offer services throughout the year.

Lash said he plans to continue surveying Addison County residents about what kinds of jobs they need done and what the price range of those tasks might be. Typically, American Student Helpers charges a base rate of \$30 per hour for each worker, with

some jobs subject to additional fees.

"I want to see what prices (Middlebury residents) are expecting and what they'd like to pay for certain jobs," he said. "I don't want to blindside anyone. I want to be affordable."

Lash said he'd like to continue expanding the services American Student Helpers offers, and he'd like to eventually add student profiles to the company's website (americanstudenthelpers.com) so residents can request a task with a specific team member based on their specialties.

In the meantime, he's excited to begin accepting jobs in and around Middlebury. Lash said he's enjoyed running the business in his hometown for the past six years and is looking forward to getting to know the Middlebury area better by expanding services to Addison County.

"I'm excited to meet new people in

the area. I've gotten to know my hometown really well (through the business), and it's changed the way I see the community," he said. "There's so many nice people in every community, and it's just great to get to know them and learn more about the people you live next to."

Lash said he will likely head back to Westerly this summer, but he's hoping by then he has a strong team based in Middlebury to keep the operation going while he's out of state.

"Ideally we'll build up a client list and enough student workers to where we can run year-round in Middlebury," he said. "I know I can find the right people to trust to do the jobs as well as they can and be reliable."

Those interested in hearing more about American Student Helpers or looking to request a job can contact Lash and his team at americanstudenthelpers@gmail.com.



By Marin Howell

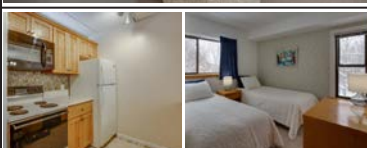
Middlebury College senior Ben Lash is expanding the odd jobs company he started in 2016 to Middlebury. Lash's business, American Student Helpers, is aimed at connecting students looking for part-time work with community members who need help with everyday tasks.



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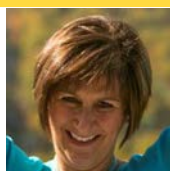
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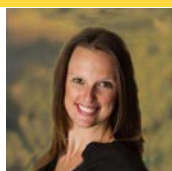


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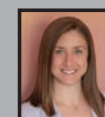
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# Fun in the sun at Killington Resort

Photos by Victoria Gaither

Killington Resort hosts a party on its snow beaches nearly every weekend — and in the spring it ramps up even bigger!



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### The Town of Plymouth seeks its next Clerk and Assistant Treasurer

This is an **appointed** position. We anticipate no town-residency  
requirement and are asking the voters to remove this requirement  
at Town Meeting.

No prior experience as a Clerk/Assistant Treasurer is required;  
however, the successful candidate will have some background in a  
business or office setting. Training will be available and learning on  
the job will be required.

The responsibilities include providing citizens with accurate and  
vital information, assisting the treasurer and tax collector, vital re-  
cords administration, including processing marriage licenses, birth  
and death certificates, dog licensing, maintaining town records and  
documents, managing voter registration and other election-related  
business, such as presiding over election day in coordination with  
the Board of Civil Authority.

The Clerk/Assistant Treasurer is also responsible for recording and  
posting to the town website the minutes of Select Board meetings,  
and other publicly warned meetings and hearings, including the  
Board of Civil Authority. Candidate should have a basic computer  
skills and able to learn to use programs for data entry and updating  
the Town website. An understanding of applicable state laws, rules  
and regulations pertaining to the governing of town business will  
be required, or the applicant must be willing to learn.

The Selectboard is open to whether this is a full-time, defined as 32  
hours per week or more, or part-time position depending on the  
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### Trespass policy: ACLU warns Rutland town from page 5

"In 2022, after receiving a public records request from  
the ACLU-VT, the Rutland Town Police Department  
adopted the Vermont League of Cities and Towns' model  
policy regarding the issuance of trespass notices," Rich said  
in a letter to the town.

Rich said the trespass policy pertains just to private  
property and doesn't protect individuals barred from  
public property.

Rich said the ACLU recently filed a lawsuit against  
Newport and an amicus brief in support of a Montpelier  
resident who was issued a no trespass and forcibly removed  
from a city council meeting without due process.

The letter also notes the ACLU has been successful in a  
case against the Addison Rutland Supervisory Union and  
Burlington over no-trespass orders.

Rutland town Select Board chair Don Chioffi said the  
town was consulting its lawyer about changing the trespass  
policy when the board meets again Feb. 28.

"He's looking at it right now and he'll give us an update  
when he finishes his work," Chioffi said. "We'll see, it's in  
process. Initially he said he didn't feel anything was re-  
quired. He feels we're doing what we're supposed to do."

Though compliant, Chioffi was irked by the letter.

"With all the problems in the world...problems that we have  
in this country that are being violated rampantly, profusely, for  
the ACLU to be down here in the little old town of Rutland wor-  
ried about a notification on a no trespass order has got to be the  
most ludicrous thing I've ever heard of in my life."

Chioffi could only recall one incident in which an  
individual was issued a no-trespass order. Former clerk and  
treasurer Kristen Hathaway was issued a no trespass order  
from the Town Hall in January 2022 following a dispute  
between her and new town clerk and treasurer Kari Clark  
at the Town Office, the Rutland Herald reported. Clark  
was elected in 2020 after defeating three other candidates,  
including Hathaway's husband.

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< PUZZLES page 15

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