



## Will it be fun?

Melissa D's new single ponders the entertainment value of the afterlife. See Arts + Leisure.



## Tigers rolling

The MUHS girls' lacrosse team is feeling good after moving over .500 with two wins. See Page 1B.



## Waterwise

Our Spring Home & Garden section features stories on rain gardens and more. See Section C.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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## Bristol to engage youth in civic life

### New internship program in works

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — A new partnership between the town of Bristol and the local school district's Expanded Learning Program aims to promote a sense of belonging and civic engagement among local youth.

This fall the Expanded Learning Program, or ELP, will begin offering civic internships for high

school students to get involved with municipal entities, such as the town office or the Bristol Fire Department. ELP will collaborate with Mount Abraham Union High School and town officials on the initiative.

ELP Co-Director Mandy Chesley-Park and Bristol Fire Chief Brett LaRose pitched the idea to the Bristol selectboard at

its April 28 meeting. Chesley-Park told the *Independent* that she and LaRose, who both grew up in Bristol, have in recent years expressed a shared concern over the disengagement of young people from civic life.

"We've just noticed that we have an aging population of humans that are so powerfully intertwined in, for example, the Fourth of July planning committee, the historical society, the food shelf, the

cemetery committee," she said. "We hear from individuals who are participating in (those efforts) that they don't have young people, that they cannot figure out how to attract these young people into this unpaid civic duty life."

The new civic internship program is designed to engage more youth into some of those roles, fostering collaboration across generations and enhancing  
*(See Bristol, Page 11A)*



AMERICORPS MEMBERS CELI Byer, left, and Madelyn Clem work with John Derick on trail maintenance at Wright Park in Middlebury even though they had just found out that AmeriCorps was cancelled.

## Ending AmeriCorps takes wind out of community service

### Youth work program helped many

By JOHN S. McCRIGHT

ADDISON COUNTY — A federal program that helped Vermonters by providing nurturing and education for their kids, caring for their environment and encouragement for a sense of community has been summarily terminated.

Beyond the loss of these benefits, the Trump administration's April 25 closure of the nationwide AmeriCorps program could also undermine a generation of young Americans' sense of civic responsibility and dedication to helping their neighbors.

"AmeriCorps is about living for more than yourself," said Celi Byer,

a 22-year-old AmeriCorps member at the Middlebury Area Land Trust. Even with her strong sense of purpose and self-worth, the Syracuse, N.Y., native is unsure what to do next now that her chance to serve here in Addison County has been pulled out from under her so quickly.

"Everything is so shaky," she said. "I'm a kind of optimist and I don't know what to do with dread. I can't make an informed decision because there is so little information."

AmeriCorps is a 25-year-old national program that employs nearly 200,000 people across the  
*(See AmeriCorps, Page 10A)*



### Gameface

THE FANS WERE cheering and the action was hot when the Vergennes Union High School Unified Basketball team hosted its counterpart from Middlebury for a game on May 1. Here, Commodore Thomas Mentzer connects with the crowd as he advances the ball up the court. See more photos of this non-traditional sport on Page 13A.

Independent photo/Steve James



## By the way

The Elise & Jim Blair Fund makes it possible for John Graham Shelter (JGHS) guests to receive one-on-one counseling with a licensed clinician at the shelter. A majority of people experiencing homelessness have a history of complex trauma, and homelessness itself is a traumatic experience. Having an experienced clinician available to shelter guests can improve clients day-to-day quality of life in the shelter, provide crucial support to service coordinators, and lead to better long-term outcomes all around.

The onsite clinician that the Blair Fund will support is licensed as an independent  
*(See By the way, Page 12A)*

## Middlebury's Perine hits century mark



CENTENARIAN ALICE PERINE, who has been an important part of the Middlebury community for 80 years, is joined by her four children at her 100th birthday party on April 27 at Eastview. Behind their mother are, from left, Everett (known as Perry), Ken, Sue and Ron.

Photo courtesy of the Perine family

### Reflects back on years of family, professional life

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury's Alice Perine has already lived a lifetime-and-a-half, by virtually any metric.

And during her century (and counting) on earth, she's touched thousands of other lives — as an educator, union leader, community volunteer, and in her most important role: Mom.

"I was lucky to have four wonderful children," she said during an interview on April 30, two days after her 100th birthday, which she celebrated at an April 27 gathering surrounded by family and friends.

Her four children — Everett, Ken, Sue and Ron — have led to eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. They all marvel at her many qualities, the things she's done and the history she's seen.

Alice was born on April 28, 1925, to Dr. Frederick Neef and Kathryn (Brandt) Neef of Little Neck, Long Island, N.Y. She was the youngest of four children.

Vermont's Calvin Coolidge was in the White House, and in 1925 he became the first U.S. president to have his inauguration broadcast on radio.

John Scopes, a high school teacher in Tennessee, was tried and found guilty of teaching evolution to his students.  
*(See Alice Perine, Page 14A)*

## City eyes youth club building for kids, much more

### Afterschool program to stay; long-term study is planned

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Vergennes City Council last week backed two agreements that tie the city's immediate — and possibly its longtime — future to the property at 20 Armory Lane now owned by the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes.

This could take the city down the path of acquiring the building — for as little as a dollar — as early as next year.

One document the council signed on April 29  
*(See Vergennes, Page 9A)*

## Principal leaves in Ferrisburgh; interim is named

By ANDY KIRKALDY

FERRISBURGH — Ferrisburgh Central School Principal Rae Donovan resigned her position in writing on April 18.

Addison Northwest School District Superintendent Sheila Soule acknowledged that on Thursday morning, but said she could not comment further on Donovan's resignation because it was a personnel matter. Donovan also declined comment on the details of her departure, but told the *Independent* she had enjoyed her nearly four academic years at FCS.

ANWSD Director of Learning Gabe Hamilton will serve as the FCS interim principal until the end of the current school  
*(See Ferrisburgh, Page 12A)*

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# K-12 education forum in Vergennes this Saturday

VERGENNES — Many people have questions about how the proposed changes to Vermont's K-12 school system being debated by the Legislature might impact their kids, school, community, or property taxes. To learn more, join Senator Ruth Hardy for a K-12 Education Community Forum from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, May 10, at Vergennes Union High School.

Hardy will be joined by Rep. Peter Conlon; who chairs the House Education Committee; Senator Steve Heffernan; who is a member of the Senate Education Committee; and area K-12 education leaders.

The forum is open to the public. Panelists will present information about the current status of the

K-12 education transformation bill H.454 and its potential impact on our children's education and our local school districts. There will be plenty of time to hear concerns and ideas, and answer questions about the process, timeline, and details of the bill.

Here's how to participate:

- Come in person — RSVP at [tinyurl.com/K-12-forum](http://tinyurl.com/K-12-forum)
- Watch the MCTV livestream
- Submit your questions in advance at [tinyurl.com/k-12-forum-questions](http://tinyurl.com/k-12-forum-questions)

The education transformation bill has itself transformed over the past several months. For links to several versions of the bill and supporting materials contact Sen. Hardy at [rhardy@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:rhardy@leg.state.vt.us).



## Heads up!

ALL MORNING AND into the afternoon on Tuesday demonstrators stood on the Middlebury town green near the intersection of Main Street and Route 7 to draw attention to members of our community that many would rather not think so much about: people who don't have a roof over their heads. On May 6, Homelessness Awareness Day, the Addison County Housing Coalition reminded us all to do something so everyone could have some hope.

Independent photo/Sean Dougherty

# Panton heads to the polls

By ANDY KIRKALDY

PANTON — Panton residents will head to the polls on Thursday, May 15, to choose two new members for the town's selectboard and also decide whether to approve a proposed amendment to the town's charter that would allow them in the future to file petitions calling for town votes on whether to recall elected officials.

Balloting will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Panton Town Hall on May 15, and early and absentee balloting is available prior to that.

All three candidates re longtime Panton residents. Two candidates filed for one seat apiece; the third filed for both seats.

Family farm owner and former town planning commission and development review board and ANWSD board member Kirsten De La Cruz filed for the available two-year term, and BJ's Farm Supply co-owner Robert DeGraaf, a former farmer, is seeking the available one-year term.

Meanwhile, Debbie Brace, who holds multiple jobs and is a former president of the Vergennes Lions Club and a lifetime member of the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, filed for both seats, throwing a bit of a wrinkle into the race.

If Brace wins both seats, she will be required to resign one of them and the resulting four-person selectboard would appoint a fifth member.

The three candidates responded to questions posed by the *Independent*; see their answers online at [tinyurl.com/PantonCandidates](http://tinyurl.com/PantonCandidates).

There will also be an informational meeting at 7 p.m. on May 14 at Panton Town Hall that candidates are likely to attend.

That informational meeting will also address a proposed charter change that would allow town residents to petition for recall elections for elected town officials. Ultimately the legislature will need to add its approval to the charter change if

(See Panton, Page 3A)

# Bristol holds off on reopening Briggs Hill

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Bristol officials have decided they will keep Briggs Hill Road closed indefinitely and turn back Federal Emergency Management Agency funding designated for repairs to the road.

Those repairs were expected to cost more than \$2 million. While the town would've only been on the hook for a portion of that cost, Bristol officials at an April 14 selectboard meeting noted the town would've needed to have at least some of the money upfront due to the reimbursement nature of the FEMA grant, which would be challenging given other ongoing projects in Bristol.

Selectboard members on April 14 talked about how to move forward and options for addressing damage to the road. Ultimately they decided not to pursue the \$2 million project submitted to FEMA.

"Going up there today, I don't see that there's any way we can open it in the near future," Selectboard member Ian Albinson said of Briggs Hill. "And any kind of work that we do would have to be planned and have to be budgeted for, and

(Town Clerk and Treasurer Sharon Lucia and Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Treasurer Kris Perlee) and I looked at the projects that we're looking at, and it just doesn't seem like we have the funding available to begin to tackle a project of this size, with this direction."

## DAMAGE SUSTAINED

What to do about Briggs Hill Road has been a reoccurring topic for the selectboard in recent years, as the road was badly damaged by heavy storms over the past two summers and continues to deteriorate.

The road, which branches off Lincoln Road heading uphill into Lincoln, is supported by a slope that runs between Briggs Hill and Lincoln Road. A portion of that slope failed during storms in July 2023, undermining the shoulder and pavement on a section of Briggs Hill Road and leaving two sections of the road vulnerable to further undermining.

The town installed concrete blocks to temporarily stabilize the upper section of the slope, though Albinson noted at the April 14 meeting that those emergency measures have become undermined. Town officials last year said damage had altered the stormwater drainage pattern and heavy rains in summer 2024 caused more erosion. Bristol officials this past October decided to close the west end of the road over the winter, as it was deemed unsafe for plowing.

At last week's meeting, Albinson explained that the selectboard was picking up discussion of Briggs Hill as the road had sustained additional damage and FEMA was asking for confirmation that Bristol planned to commit to the project.

## OPTIONS EXPLORED

The town previously contracted with Dubois & King to conduct subsurface and engineering studies of the area and identify long-term, cost-effective solutions for the road. The engineering firm last July presented its recommendations for repairs estimated to cost over \$2 million. Those recommendations included installing a concrete block retaining wall and replacing existing culverts with versions that have a catch-

basin placed at the inlet.

"The last meeting that we had with FEMA talked about the project coming in around \$2.1 million. That's with the engineering that was done by Dubois & King that we previously looked at, and that includes the \$150,000 that we've spent on that engineering," Albinson explained. It's likely to cost more and is at least a year off, he said.

Albinson added that if the town borrowed money for the project, the interest incurred would not be reimbursable. Selectboard member Jessica Teets also noted FEMA might not exist in its current form in the future. President Donald Trump and his administration have made cuts to the agency and has talked about eliminating it.

"There's a lot up in the air to commit to this," Albinson said.

FEMA funding would cover 90% of the project, leaving the town to pay for an estimated around \$251,000 — and potentially half of that cost could be covered by the state. Though, the town would need to pay for the project before receiving reimbursement from FEMA.

Bristol

*"There's like eight houses in Bristol, but it affects all the people up in Lincoln that come down that way ... It's a busy road."*

— Selectboard Chair John "Peeker" Heffernan

including the replacement of aging waterlines and a multi-year project tackling safety and stormwater drainage improvements on Basin Street.

"We were always very excited about doing grants because it allows us to do these projects, but so much of them or almost all of them are

reimbursement," he said. "While we like grants when you have a stack of them, the amount of money looking ahead for the next five years, we need (\$2 million-\$3 million) in the bank to do just the few projects that we're doing."

Town officials discussed the impact of keeping Briggs Hill closed.

"It depends on how you look at it," Selectboard Chair John "Peeker" Heffernan said. "There's like eight houses in Bristol, but it affects all the people up in Lincoln that come down that way ... It's a busy

road." "When it's open, yeah, there's quite a bit of traffic that actually uses that road," Bristol Public Works Department Foreman Eric Cota said.

Bristol officials have been encouraged by Lincoln residents not to close the road permanently, as Briggs Hill provides key access to and from Lincoln when Lincoln Road is closed. For example, Briggs Hill Road last year served as a detour during a month-long riverbank repair project on Lincoln Road (which becomes West River Road in Lincoln).

## 'HURTS TO WALK AWAY'

Albinson noted that while the road serves some Bristol households, there are other options for exiting the road. He suggested looking at the town's portion of Lincoln Road and ensuring it won't fail anytime soon.

"Obviously big storms are a big worry, and they can cause disasters that we can't foresee," he said. "But if we manage it as best we can, I think we will get a very good amount of time out of that road, especially with the repairs that we're doing."

Town officials discussed potential options for the future of the Briggs Hill and ways to prevent further deterioration. It was noted that the town could explore alternatives for the road and other funding options in the future.

"It doesn't have to be forever," Albinson said. "It could be something where we pause this particular project; we don't commit to the FEMA direction."

(See Briggs Hill, Page 3A)

# VERMONT Sun

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# Budget cuts prompt a college faculty walk-out

MIDDLEBURY — Faculty at Middlebury College on Thursday will hold a protest and “Walkout to defend Middlebury.” The move comes about a month after college officials announced new limits on employee benefits and other steps the institution will take to address an anticipated \$14.1 million deficit this fiscal year.

The planned Thursday protest brings a crescendo to efforts by Middlebury faculty over the past month to push back against the changes in employee benefits.

Those measures were detailed in an April 2 letter to the college community signed by Interim President Steve Snyder, Executive Vice President and Provost Michelle McCauley and Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer David Provost.

Administrators in the letter offered some context on the deficit and progress that’s been made with the budget gap. They also outlined five measures the college will take as the start of its “plan for financial viability,” which were aimed at helping bring expenses in line with revenues and expected to achieve over \$10 million in savings.

Those measures were offering a retirement incentive for staff in Vermont; reducing rental properties; growing undergraduate enrollment; evaluating health insurance options; and capping the college’s retirement match at 11%.

Like many employers, the college

matches employee contributions into the retirement savings up to a certain level. Starting next January the highest the college contribution will be an 11% match for retirement, down from a top level of 15%, the letter states.

Middlebury College is the largest employer in Addison County. The institution has around 2,000 employees, including faculty and staff, as well as another 5,000 part-time, short-term student employees and adjuncts, according to Associate Vice President for Public Affairs Julia Ferrante.

Incoming Middlebury College President Ian Baucom recently voiced his support for the new measures in April 23 remarks delivered at the Monterey campus of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and a subsequent letter sent to the college community.

“As members of our Middlebury community have expressed, their cost is real, they affect real lives, but I firmly believe that they come from a deep loyalty to the institution, a sincere desire to avoid the greater human pain of significant layoffs, stabilize a budget in structural deficit, safeguard us as best as possible from the financial threats of this moment, and secure a route to our future,” Baucom said.

The college’s Faculty Council and Middlebury’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) last month

cosponsored a Sense of the Faculty Motion demanding college officials reverse the compensation cuts and enrollment increase announced on April 2, *The Middlebury Campus* reported.

A reported 94% of around 200 faculty members at an April 18 plenary faculty meeting voted to pass the motion, according to *The Campus*.

Twelve senior members of the Middlebury College Economics Department have started a petition to preserve faculty and staff benefits. In an April 17 opinion piece in *The Campus*, the group pledged not to participate in college-wide events (including commencement) “until the decision has been reversed or a plan to mitigate the damage has been implemented.”

“This is a watershed moment in the college’s history, as it now faces a major crisis of morale of its own doing at the same time that we face external threats to higher education,” they wrote. “If this decision is allowed to stand, and the college does not act swiftly to ‘make whole’ the affected employees and repair the breach of trust, we will not only lose staff and faculty to other employers, but also the hearts of those who stay. Both of these outcomes will have a devastating impact on our students and the entire college community.”

Now, college faculty are organizing a walkout and protest slated for Thursday at 10:30 a.m. on

the Old Chapel Quad — the lawn in between Old Chapel (where the president has their office) and the Davis Family Library. One faculty member noted the protest and walkout are to urge college officials to take responsibility for what they believe has been poor fiscal oversight over the past two decades.

They framed recent measures in the larger context of losses experienced since the institution acquired the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey and other impactful financial decisions made over the past 20 years. Those include a workforce planning process that began in 2018 and larger student enrollments in recent years.

Faculty members are expected to deliver the latest faculty motion and the recent petition to Old Chapel at Thursday’s walkout, according to *The Campus*.

# Panton

(Continued from Page 2A)

Panton residents back it.

The proposed change reads: “The officer shall be removed only if at least as many registered voters of the Town vote to approve the petition as voted to elect said officer in the most recent election wherein the officer was elected, or at least one-third of the registered voters of the Town vote, whichever is fewer.”

The change also says only one recall petition can be filed

against an elected Panton officer in a 12-month span, and that at least 15% of the town’s checklist would have to sign a petition to trigger a recall vote.

If residents vote to change the town’s charter to create the recall process, like any Vermont community’s charter change it would have to pass legal muster with the Secretary of State’s office and then win approval from the Vermont Legislature, before taking effect.

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AN ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING shows the proposed result of the Jerusalem Community Center and Fire Station Project.

## \$1.1M Starksboro bond passes

By MARIN HOWELL

STARKSBORO — Starksboro voters on Tuesday agreed to bond for up to \$1.1 million to support the Jerusalem Community Center and Fire Station Project. Residents approved the bond, 185-25.

The project, which is estimated to cost \$1.3 million, has been in

the works for several years and is aimed at renovating the historic Jerusalem Schoolhouse into a year-round, fully accessible community center. The bond will also cover expenses to rebuild the deteriorating Starksboro Fire Station #2 located on the same property.

Plans call for leaving the historic

part of the schoolhouse (built in 1874) largely untouched, while demolishing the 1930s addition to allow for a new, well-insulated addition that would contain bathrooms and a kitchen. The heating and plumbing will also be updated. Renovations to the main (See *Starksboro*, Page 7A)

## Briggs Hill

(Continued from Page 2A)

He noted the engineering work conducted has been valuable, a sentiment Heffernan agreed with.

“We know that the ground is stable; we know that there’s not water running through it. We have that information. We also have the realignment of the road, up above and taking a little out of the bank,” Heffernan said. “I think, like (Albinson) said, there’s a lot of valuable information there that we can use, we’re just not ready to do it.”

Bristol officials in support of

passing on the FEMA project acknowledged the difficulty in doing so.

“This hurts me because I hate to turn away money,” Teets said.

Powers shared a similar sentiment.

“It hurts to walk away from FEMA because it’s such a rare opportunity; how often do the feds come to town and say, ‘We’ll help you pay for this.’ It never happens, right?” Powers said. “I would say, as difficult as it is to walk away from FEMA, it might be the right thing to do in this particular case, just

because the project is so big, and it doesn’t sound like it’s justifiable by the use of the road.”

Powers added that it’s been said the road wouldn’t meet current standards if it was built today, and that the potential of another portion of the road giving out after repairs are made could leave the town in a similar situation in the future.

The board ultimately voted 3-1 in favor of keeping the road closed indefinitely and turning back the FEMA funding designated for repairs, with selectboard member Joel Bouvier opposing.

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# Editorial

## Standing up for free speech, individual rights

As Paramount Global Chair Shari Redstone ponders whether to sign a devil's pact with President Trump over his bogus lawsuit against CBS News, it's clearer than ever that large corporations that don't have solid journalistic principles are not worthy owners of newspapers or other media that's vital to the public's understanding of domestic or world news.

That realization comes after several national media outlets compromised their integrity in deference to Trump's potential influence over other far more lucrative aspects of their businesses. To wit: Amazon's Jeff Bezos, owner of the *Washington Post*, and Patrick Soon-Shiong, owner of the *Los Angeles Times*, sold out the credibility of those two newspapers' editorial pages in deference to Trump's potential influence over other aspects of their business empires; ABC News, owned by Disney, needlessly conceded a \$15 million settlement (a donation to Trump's future presidential library) over a defamation suit that legal experts said was easily winnable; Facebook owner META made a \$22 million check out to Trump's future presidential library, plus \$3 million in legal fees, all because the company locked his Facebook and Instagram accounts for promoting violence during the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol. Even though Meta restored his accounts in early 2023, the lawsuit continued, and META settled in a matter of a few days after the inauguration.

Paramount's discussions with Trump reportedly began soon after he sued CBS News and *60 Minutes* at the end of October 2024. At the time, Trump alleged the news program had engaged in "election interference" by deceptively editing clips of its interview with Democratic presidential candidate and Vice President Kamala Harris. Legal experts said Trump's claims have no basis in fact. CBS even released the transcript and interview to prove their case but talks continued. Why? Because Paramount's Redstone is seeking federal approval for a proposed merger with Skydance Media, a deal that could earn Redstone and her family billions of dollars if completed. The FCC has control over the merger.

In short, none of the cases against these media outlets have a winnable argument, but they're settling because Trump could wield the powers of the federal government against the owners in other ways that are far more costly to them than the settlement price. It's blackmail, and it works for those whose principles aren't wedded to journalistic integrity.

The news media, writ large, is the loser.

That's because the public trust in media is diminished when it needlessly bows to political pressure, and because it gives Trump supporters justification to believe these outlets wronged the president.

Vermont's Sen. Bernie Sanders and Sen. Peter Welch joined seven other prominent Democratic senators in urging Paramount's Redstone not to capitulate to Trump's demands in a statement that lays out what's at stake.

"This lawsuit is an attack on the United States Constitution and the First Amendment. It has absolutely no merit... In the United States of America, presidents do not get to punish or censor the media for criticizing them. Freedom of the press is what sets us apart from tin pot dictatorships and authoritarian regimes."

According to the senators, Redstone had also asked the CEO of CBS to "delay sensitive stories about Trump" until after the Skydance merger was completed.

In a story in *Vanity Fair*, reporter Paul Farhi summed up his piece on these corporate media titans capitulating to Trump with a comment by Sonja West, a University of Georgia law professor who specializes in First Amendment issues. For decades, West said, confident and well-funded news organizations fought off legal battles to defend their reporting and protect their First Amendment rights. "What we're seeing today is a concerning shift in that dynamic. Our democracy depends on the press to serve as a check on powerful people, not just to cut them checks for millions of dollars."

The fact is, taking the powerful to account is not likely to happen when the owners of news media have billions at stake in other non-related businesses that a rogue president like Trump can influence.

\*\*\*\*\*

In a parallel argument, the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled this Wednesday that the Trump administration must comply with a Vermont judge's ruling to transfer Tuft graduate student Rümeyssa Öztürk from a prison facility in Louisiana to Vermont where she would await trial. The foreign-born graduate student, who was in America legally with a Green Card, was nabbed off the street of her hometown in Massachusetts by masked and plainclothes police and whisked off to Vermont then Louisiana without any charges filed against her and without any ability to defend herself in court. Such a total abdication of due process violates every citizen's right to habeas corpus — a key provision of America's rule by law. Öztürk's arrest appears to have been prompted by an opinion piece she wrote in the student newspaper at Tufts in which she criticized Israel's war on Gaza. The government has yet to file charges against her.

"No one should be arrested and locked up for their political views," said a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union who is representing her. Fortunately, the court system (when it can) has rejected Trump's effort to deport her and others. It's an outrage to all Americans who believe in the freedom of speech, and the right to due process.

\*\*\*\*\*

The solution calls for a reasonable Congress (after 2026, we hope) to grant stronger measures to protect the media's and the public's First Amendment rights, and, if anything, strengthen the individual's right to due process, and allocate *more* public funding to public media like PBS and NPR, not less.

Once again, Trump is doing what he can to destroy our democracy and to reshape America into a land of citizens who toe the line (like in Russia) — but definitely not a nation free to speak its mind without fear of retribution.

Angelo Lynn

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### High style

A TECHNICIAN HIGH over Main Street puts the finishing touches on the stylish new marquee at Middlebury's Marquis Theater recently. The Art Deco sign adds a touch of panache to the 100-year-old building

Independent photo/Steve James

## Learning from Holocaust survivors

Life is challenging right now. And I don't mean just the price of eggs. Every day the news is filled with stories we never thought could happen outside a history book or a dystopian novel. We veer between anger and depression, between wanting to protest and wanting to hide in bed. I take heart when I think about Regina and Adek and their friends.

Eve and I met when we were fourteen years old, fifty-five years ago. We've shared weddings, break-ups, and births, the illness, old age and death of our parents and all the events in between.

Part of our connection is that we are both the children of holocaust survivors, with all the guilt and generational trauma that experience carries. My parents came from Belgium, and though they had to flee Europe, they didn't end up in a ghetto or concentration camp.

Eve's parents met and married in the ghetto in Lodz, Poland. Her father, Adek, was a streetcar driver. Her mother, Regina, had an older brother, three older sisters, and a younger brother. The two brothers were deported to concentration camps. The younger one survived the war after five years in Auschwitz. The sisters, along with their families, died, as did Regina's parents.

As the war ground to an end, Regina and Adek went into hiding until the remaining Jewish inhabitants of Lodz were liberated by the Red Army. They ended up

in a Displaced Persons camp in Germany, with many other homeless and devastated refugees. Eve's brother was born there. He was one of a number of children born in that camp — as many survivors began to create families in defiance of the destruction they had experienced. They said, "We're going to start living right away — not replace the lost ones, but continue."

To me, Regina was a heroine, a woman I admire more than anyone else I've met. She had typhus and tuberculosis and spent a stint in a sanatorium. She had breast cancer and a mastectomy when Eve was only five years old. When I knew her, Regina could barely go outside in the winter; with her compromised lungs she easily caught bronchitis. Her arthritis made walking even small distances painful and laborious.

But she was the most positive person I've known. She always saw the good in other people, and looked forward to the future. "My sisters died because they gave up," she told me once. I couldn't imagine her giving up. Regina took great joy in her marriage, her children and grandchildren, and her friends. And what friends!

Along the journey from Lodz to Germany to Chicago to Long Island, Regina and Adek had gathered a community of other Polish Jewish survivors. Some were pre-war friends. Some were from other Polish (See *Ways of Seeing*, Page 5A)

### Ways of Seeing

By Michele Lowy



## Seeds of hope sprout in Vermont

Like many Americans, I've been alarmed by the deterioration of due process and the rule of law in the U.S. over the past few months. But this past week, something hopeful for democracy happened, right here in Vermont. And it happened because, at this moment when so much senseless ugliness and cruelty is emanating from Washington, D.C., Vermonters still care about upholding two things that truly do make America great: our Constitution, and our sense of community.

About three weeks ago, our neighbor Kate mentioned that there was going to be a Monday morning rally outside the Burlington federal courthouse for Rümeyssa Öztürk, the Tufts PhD student recently ambushed outside her Massachusetts apartment by masked ICE agents and spirited through the night to Vermont en route to a Louisiana prison, all for the "crime" of co-authoring an opinion piece in her college newspaper.

I had a busy workday ahead, but the prospect of directly voicing my distress on a case with national free speech implications suddenly felt more important. So on a last-minute whim, I hopped the 7:15 a.m. Tri-Valley Transit bus to Burlington, scribbled an improvised "Defend the First Amendment" sign, and joined the protestors outside Rümeyssa's court hearing. Learning that the judge in her case is one of our Addison County neighbors made it all feel just a bit more personal.

Shortly after the Rümeyssa rally, I learned that Vermont resident Mohsen Mahdawi had just been similarly abducted — again, without charges, and apparently for

### Community Forum

This week's writer is Gregor Clark, a Middlebury resident who has lived in Vermont for more than 25 years and worked overseas where he has gained perspective on how people in other countries see the United States.

no offense other than free speech. Mohsen had been lured to what was supposed to be a routine citizenship interview in Colchester. Instead, hooded federal agents burst in, police-state style, refusing to show their IDs and whisking him off in a convoy of unmarked vehicles to the Burlington airport. The feds wanted to fly him to Louisiana, whose judiciary is seen as more favorable to the Trump administration's twisted interpretation of Constitutional rights — but lawyers intervened to keep him in Vermont. So Mohsen was instead locked up in St. Albans.

For the next two weeks I felt especially engaged with Mohsen's case. It's hard enough reading in the news about Trump's random, relentless assault on people's First Amendment rights; it's even worse seeing it happen in your own backyard, to one of your neighbors.

Mohsen was born in the West Bank but has lived in a cabin near White River Junction for the past 10 years and set down deep roots in his Vermont community. He's a practicing Buddhist who has spoken out against the trauma of war, especially as it affects children, and who has peacefully advocated for an end to the violence in Palestine — which is apparently enough to get him branded as an enemy of the state by Marco Rubio.

On Friday of the week Mohsen was detained, I learned that his local community had organized a gathering in his support at the Unitarian church in Hartland Four Corners. The organizers had expected 50 people; they got more than 300. Two separate overflow spaces had to (See *Clark*, Page 5A)

## Letters to the Editor

### Heffernan vote lacked kindness

Out of the entire Vermont State Senate, only five senators declined to vote "yes" on the resolution condemning the use of masked agents to kidnap students like Mohsen Mahdawi. Among those who failed to take a stand against these Gestapo-like tactics was Addison County's own Senator Steve Heffernan.

This failure to condemn such blatant violations of civil liberties reflects a disturbing disregard for basic morality and ethical responsibility. What disturbs us the most is the profound lack of kindness displayed by Sen. Heffernan's vote.

Joanna and Winslow Colwell Ripton

Amy and Brian Mason Weybridge

Emily and James Landenberger Weybridge

### Please protect red pandas

I'm Loretta. I'm nine and I stand with the animals.

Red Pandas are really cute. I know that everybody would like to pet a fluffy newborn Red Panda, but people illegally keep Red Pandas as pets. Because of that, the species has gone at risk. What you can do to help these wonderful fluffy animals is to not watch videos of Red Pandas unless they're from a trustworthy company such as National Geographic.

I hope that working together we can help save these cute animals.

Loretta New Haven

### Support Friends Peace Teams

Every morning before I eat my breakfast, I bless my food and "visit" some situations in our world and express gratitude for those doing their work. I call this ritual "my daily morning prayers."

I greet Olha Lychko-Parubocha. Olha lives in Ukraine. Olha works with those who have been traumatized by the war. She also wants to run a workshop to teach other colleagues about ways of working with traumatized people. Olha works with Friends Peace Teams.

I first hope that Olha and colleagues and their families are safe and well. Then I thank them for their precious meaningful work. "Thank you for communicating the transformation of fear, the transformation of hatred, and the development of forgiveness. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."

If you are so moved, go to the [friendspeaceteams.org](http://friendspeaceteams.org) and make a donation, online. After you enter the amount you want to donate, you can specify a country you want to send it to. Write Ukraine.

If you want to write a check, make it out to Friends Peace Teams. Write on the memo, Training in Ukraine. Mail it to Friends Peace Teams, 1001 Park Ave., Saint Louis, MO, 63104. Whatever you choose to do, thank you for reading and having an open mind and heart.

Patricia Heather-Lea Bristol

### Heffernan voted against rights

On Tuesday, April 29th, the Vermont Senate voted on a resolution about the apprehension and detention of Mohsen Mahdawi. The resolution, S.R. 13, advocated that Mr. Mahdawi, a resident of White River Junction, Vermont, who has been a legal permanent resident of the United States for the past decade, "be afforded due process under the law."

Regardless of his specific immigration status, Mr. Mahdawi, and *any person* for that matter, is afforded due process protections by the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. While (See *Phair* letter, Page 5A)

# Letters to the Editor

## What Vermont risks losing if we cut education

I was born and raised in Vermont. Like many Vermonters, I left home for college and spent time exploring life elsewhere. But when it came time for my wife and me to decide where to plant our roots and raise a family, the choice was clear — we came home.

We didn't return just for the hiking trails, skiing or postcard views — though those were part of the attraction. We came back because Vermont offered something we hadn't found elsewhere: a culture of care. A place where neighbors still show up, where local farms feed communities, and where we protect the land out of reverence. We believed in the Vermont way of life — and we wanted that for our kids.

We now live in Weybridge, where both of our children will attend Weybridge Elementary in the fall — the same school I attended as a child. It's a small, magical place with multi-age classrooms and a warm, welcoming culture. Everyone knows our kids — their strengths, struggles and dreams. The teachers, staff and families — we all feel like we're in this together. It's not just a school. It's a community.

We've been embraced here. And we're not alone. Many of our friends moved to small towns like this one for the same reasons. They were looking for connection. They were looking for Vermont.

But after more than 15 years here as an adult, I can say honestly: this Vermont lifestyle — this ideal we talk about — doesn't come without serious challenges.

The biggest, by far, is housing. It's incredibly difficult for young people to find a place to live, let alone afford a house. And without young people, everything else starts to unravel. Our population is aging. The tax base is shrinking. The workforce is thinning. And families who want to move here often can't.

Even for those who find housing, another wall stands in the way: childcare. There aren't

enough providers, and the cost is staggering. Many families are forced to make impossible choices — one parent staying home, delaying or giving up careers — just to make it work.

Then there's healthcare. As our population ages, the system faces increasing pressure. Older Vermonters naturally need more care. But with fewer young people to offset those costs, premiums rise — and that strain extends beyond families. Soaring healthcare costs are now one of the biggest drivers of rising education spending, as schools struggle to cover insurance for staff. It's all connected.

These challenges point to a core truth: Vermont needs more young people. More families. More working-age adults to power our economy and invest in our communities.

Which is why it's baffling that we're considering cost-cutting measures that threaten the very things that draw families here. Montpelier — the governor and the Legislature — need to sit up and listen here. We're at a crucial inflection, and the future of Vermont will turn on decisions they make this year.

From where I stand, the problem isn't that change is happening — it's *how* it's happening. In the push to address rising property taxes, it feels like we're rushing toward solutions without fully considering the long-term consequences for our education system. According to the Rural School Community Alliance, H.454 — the education bill currently moving through the Vermont Legislature — “eliminates closure articles of agreement in the formation of new, larger districts and does not establish a clear process for school closures, creating uncertainty for rural communities.” To many of us, this approach feels rushed and disconnected from the realities on the ground. And when change happens without listening, without care, and without collaboration, it leaves real holes in our communities. The ones who fall through those holes?

Oliver Parini  
Weybridge

Often, it's young families — like mine.

Education isn't just another budget line. It's our most powerful tool for attracting — and keeping — young families. When people consider where to live, they look at the schools. They ask: Will my child be known here? Will they thrive? Will they feel safe, supported, and challenged?

If we slash budgets, close small schools, and consolidate into larger, impersonal institutions, we send the wrong message. This is like telling families: we don't have your back, so look for somewhere else to live.

We can't treat education like a fulfillment center — where efficiency and cost-cutting come before community. It may save dollars on paper, but it erodes the very fabric that draws people here.

Let's think differently. Let's be the state that invests boldly in children. The state where families move here *because* of the schools. Where teachers are valued, classrooms vibrant and small-town schools essential — not expendable.

Let's build affordable housing. Expand access to quality childcare. Improve healthcare sustainably. And let's recognize that strong schools are at the heart of every thriving community.

Let's do this hard work thoughtfully. Let's center on kids and young families, providing them not just with services but with real support and a sense of belonging.

We're at a crossroads. This is our opportunity — not just to avoid decline, but to grow, adapt and lead. Let's show the next generation that Vermont isn't just a great place to raise a family — it's the best place.

If we want a thriving Vermont tomorrow, we have to start building it — with intention — today. And make the right choices in Montpelier, ones that put families and schools first.

Oliver Parini  
Weybridge

# Clark

(Continued from Page 4A)  
be hastily improvised, but I ended up snagging a spot in the first pew beside one of Mohsen's long-time friends from New Hampshire. For the next hour and a half, a steady procession of his Vermont neighbors came forward to talk about what a loving, generous and peaceful person he was, and how they simply couldn't believe the government had him in their crosshairs as a national security threat. My experience that evening hit especially hard, and I left the church with a couple of “Free Mohsen” posters and a sense of commitment to do whatever I could to help get him out of jail.

I subsequently attended two more rallies outside that same Burlington courthouse. At the first

one, on April 23, the presiding judge made it clear to the government lawyers that they had five days in which to present evidence to justify Mohsen's continued detention. He also noted that the 90-plus letters he had received from community members on Mohsen's behalf were unprecedented in his judicial career.

Others were noticing as well. U.S. Sen. Peter Welch visited the St. Albans prison, offering the general public a chance to hear Mohsen's story in his own words, and Asma Khalid of NPR broadcast her own interview with Mohsen as the top story on Morning Edition — reminders of the critical importance of community engagement, good representation and good journalism at a moment like this.

Meanwhile, the judge had set a new hearing date of April 30. So my wife and I went back up to Burlington and again joined the crowds outside the courthouse. Around 10 a.m., the judge, having seen absolutely no new evidence from the federal attorneys, set Mohsen free.

As long as the current administration remains in power, a small victory like this only goes so far, and I know we're likely to hear plenty more horror stories over the next four years. But this whole experience makes me feel that when people speak out and come together in support of America's higher ideals, that sometimes it can actually make a difference. That gives me hope and makes me grateful to live in this brave little state.

# Phair letter

(Continued from Page 4A)  
certain Constitutional rights and protections may be under attack at the national level, it is reassuring to see the Vermont Senate affirm this protection, passing S.R. 13. Our own Senator Ruth Hardy joined Democratic and Republican colleagues in sponsoring this

resolution, standing up for the Constitution.

However, the vote was not unanimous. Our other senator, Steve Heffernan, was one of only five senators to oppose this resolution. Protecting our Constitutional rights should not be a controversial or partisan issue;

six of Heffernan's Republican caucus members *sponsored* this resolution.

We need Senator Heffernan to stand up for the rights and protections of the Constitution.

Bastiaan Phair  
Cornwall

## Elderly Services, Inc.

### Spring 2025 Community Education Series

<p><b>May 15:</b> <i>You're not alone—Caring for your elderly loved one</i> Are you worried about an aging relative? Wondering whether to intervene or how to help? We'll discuss these questions and address family roles, paid services, resistance to help, and concepts of safety and negotiated risk. <b>Presented by:</b> Joanne Corbett Social Worker/Center for Positive Aging at Elderly Services, Inc. <b>May 15 at 4:00 p.m.</b> at Middlebury Congregational Church</p>	<p><b>June 5:</b> <i>Managing diabetes in older age</i> In the US, 14.7% of adults aged 18 years or older have type 2 diabetes. For those 65 years and older the percentage is 29.2%. More than 55,000 Vermonters have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, and one out of four Vermonters do not yet know that they have diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is not inevitable. You can manage the disease to prevent further health complications, and take steps to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. Learn about lifestyle changes proven to help improve the condition as well as delay or prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes. <b>Presented by:</b> Margaret Young, MPH, RDN, LD Diabetes Educator, UVMHNP/Porter Medical Center <b>June 5 at 4:00 p.m.</b> at Middlebury Congregational Church</p>
<p><b>May 29:</b> <i>Dementia and home safety: Helping older Vermonters create a safer environment</i> This session will cover essential fall prevention strategies, ways to reduce the risk of wandering, and key considerations for kitchen safety, medication management, and personal emergency response systems like Lifeline. Whether you're living with dementia or caring for someone who is, this presentation will offer practical tools and strategies to enhance safety and support independence at home. <b>Presented by:</b> Rachel Wiley, MS, Occupational Therapist, The Dementia Collaborative <b>May 29 at 4:00 p.m.</b> at Middlebury Congregational Church</p>	<p><b>June 12:</b> <i>Driving and aging—challenges and strategies</i> Have you thought about what happens if you or a loved one can no longer drive? Join us for an informative session on the challenges older drivers face in Vermont. Learn about the Yellow Dot Program, a statewide initiative that gives first responders quick access to important medical information during a crash or emergency. Discover helpful tips on staying independent, safe, and mobile behind the wheel.  We'll also cover how to approach the difficult conversation about driving retirement and start planning for the future. Don't miss this chance to plan ahead and stay prepared! <b>Presented by:</b> Andrea Spinale, Vermont Department of Health <b>June 12 at 4:00 p.m.</b> at Middlebury Congregational Church</p>



**ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

To RSVP or learn more, call Susan Bruce at Elderly Services:  
802-388-3983 • www.elderlyservices.org

# Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)  
towns and had been herded by the Germans into the Lodz ghetto. Others were friends they had met as refugees in Germany, and still others they met here in the United States. They could speak Polish together, cook and eat familiar foods, and not have to explain themselves. And party.

These people, who had seen and experienced the worst horrors of the twentieth century, loved to party. They would dance, eat, drink and have a great time, on the smallest pretext. In between get-togethers I'm sure there were serious bouts of depression, and the health problems that stemmed from wartime deprivations.

But I'll never forget Eve's father Adek, standing on a table at her wedding, a huge grin on his face, waving a bottle of vodka. One of Regina's best friends, Saba, told Eve the reason for the parties and celebrations. “After what happened, our revenge is to have the best life possible. This is how we screw Hitler.”

Now I'm not comparing our present troubles to World War II, but many of us are struggling with feelings of anxiety, depression and anger as we see what is happening in our country, and in the world. But we need to learn from Regina, Adek, Saba and their friends. As long as we can get together with loving friends, and find joy, all is

not lost. We will do what we need to do to take care of and protect our families and communities. We will protest and stand up for what we believe is right. We will be caring and vigilant on behalf of the vulnerable. We will repair and safeguard the institutions that made this country what we need and love.

And we'll party — because joy and love are resistance against those who would make us fearful, confused, and powerless. Joy is power.

Michele Lowy is a retired teacher living in Middlebury. She published her first novel, “A Small Door,” in 2023 and is working on a second one.

**DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION?**

Email your Letter to the Editor to: [news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com)



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of Addison County, VT

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**ADDISON COUNTY**

# Obituaries

## Bernice L. Titus, 88, of Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — Bernice L. Titus, age 88, of Charlotte, Vt., passed away peacefully at the Colchester Respite House with her daughter by her side.

She was a homemaker for many years. She also worked for several years at UVM Medical Center as a patient transporter. She was a loving mother and worked hard to provide for her family along with her husband on their family farm.

Bernice was born Aug. 3, 1938, in Eureka, S.D., to Christ and Lydia Leicht. She is survived by her daughter Laurie and husband Peter Curler; grandson Robert and his wife Genia, and great-grandchildren Colbie and Levi; grandson Bradley and wife Kari and great-grandchildren Remi, Reese, Emerson, Wylie, Leland and Capri; daughter-in-law Lorraine Titus, grandson Ryan and his wife Jen of S.C.; her sister Shirley and Husband Mike Puciani; and several nieces and nephews.

Bernice was predeceased by her



**BERNICE L. TITUS**

parents, Christ and Lydia Leicht; husband Robert Titus; their infant daughter Diane and son Jeffrey Titus; brothers Edwin, Marvin, Milton, Delbert and Howard Leicht along with her sisters Ida, Elise and Ardella.

Bernice enjoyed traveling and took many trips across the country to see her family in

the west. She enjoyed reading, watching the birds at the feeder, loved a good movie or play at the theater and enjoyed watching her great-grandchildren participate in sporting events. She also had a great passion for history. After she retired, she enjoyed many bus trips with her husband. She dearly missed her husband and their many years together, filled with the love of family and shared gatherings.

Many thanks to the UVM Hospice team and the folks at McClure Miller Respite House. Though her stay was short, she received excellent care, which was greatly appreciated. A special thanks to those who visited her at home, it really helped to make her days a little brighter.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 7, 2025, at the North Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church at 11 a.m.

Donations may be made to McClure Miller Respite House, 3113 Roosevelt Hwy., Colchester, VT 05446 ☐

## Edward 'Eddie' Everett Place Jr., 78, of Addison

ADDISON — Edward "Eddie" Everett Place Jr., age 78, of Addison, Vt., died Friday, April 11, 2025, surrounded by his family. Edward was born in Middleborough, Mass. He is the son of Marjorie and Edward Place Sr., and he married Carol Hopkins in New York on May 31, 1975.

Edward was predeceased by his wife, Carol Place; his parents, Edward and Marjorie Place; and his brother Doug Place. He is survived by his two children, Jeff Place (Jinnapat) and Carrie Cowan (Brandon); his brother Mike Place; and his grandchildren, Aria, Forrest and Everett, as well as several nephews.

Edward was an electrical engineer and had a long career at Simmonds Precision, working on many fixed and rotary-winged commercial and military aircraft, most notably the B-2 bomber. He spent much of his free time gardening with his



**EDWARD 'EDDIE' EVERETT PLACE JR.**

wife Carol and working on projects around the house. Kayaking and canoeing trips were frequent summer-time activities that he enjoyed immensely. In retirement, he became an avid Adirondack hiker, proudly becoming an Adirondack 46er at the age of 67.

He also took his love of hiking and the outdoors abroad, where he hiked the Dolomites in Northeastern Italy, and the Patagonia Mountains in South America with some of his closest friends.

Arguably, some of his best days in the last 11 years have been spent as "Papa" to his three grandkids. He was present for all three of their births and spent much of his later years with them in Tennessee and Oregon.

Calling hours will be held at Brown-McClay Funeral home on Wednesday, May 28 from 5-7 p.m., and funeral services on May 29 at 1 p.m. at the Vergennes Congregational Church. Flower donations welcome (Diddle and Zen 802-877-6663) or in lieu of flowers a memorial donation to Natural Heritage Trust - Adirondack Region (<https://www.naturalheritagetrust.org/donate-to-adirondack>) are happily accepted. ☐

## Gayl Alan Utley, 80, of Mesa, Ariz.

MESA, Ariz. — Gayl Alan Utley died peacefully on Jan. 10, 2025, at the age of 80. Devoted husband of 57 years to Patricia "Terry" Lathrop Utley and father to Ellen and Sara, Gayl was born in Redmond, Ore., on Nov. 24, 1944, to Cecil and Laura Utley.

He grew up in Montpelier, Vt., before attending Johnson State College, where he met and married the love of his life, Terry. He lived in Johnson for 21 years, where he raised a family and later resided in St. Albans, Vt., for many years before settling in the warm temperatures of Mesa, Ariz. Gayl graduated from Johnson State College in 1967 with a degree in Education and went on to earn a master's degree.

A lifelong educator, Gayl began as an elementary school teacher in Johnson before becoming principal in Wolcott and Hardwick before eventually becoming Superintendent of Lamoille Union School District.

Upon retiring from education,



**GAYL ALAN UTLEY**

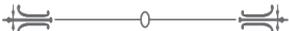
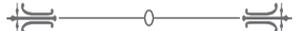
Gayl used the skills he learned as a young man and worked meticulously as a finish carpenter. Gayl had many hobbies and was a talented craftsman, carving beautiful wooden decoys and hand turned wooden bowls. Gayl enjoyed fishing and spent nearly 40 years summering on Butler Island, a place he truly loved

and where he built cherished friendships and a legacy that will last for generations to come.

Gayl is predeceased by his mother and father, Cecil and Laura Utley, and his brother, Ron Utley.

He is survived by his wife, Terry; his daughter Sara, and his daughter Ellen and her husband, Jack. Gayl was a nurturing grandfather and life teacher to Megan, Ryan, Lauren and Kyle.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 16, at 11 a.m., at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Bristol, followed by burial services at Greenwood Cemetery in Bristol, Vt. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to GMTCC (Green Mountain Technical and Career Center) at Lamoille Union High School. The Program is called "Tools for the Trade," which assists students entering the construction/woodworking field in purchasing tools for work. The address is 738 Rt.15 West Hyde Park Vermont 05655 Attention Karen Collier. ☐



## Gloria E. Charbonneau, 94, of Lincoln

LINCOLN — Gloria E. Charbonneau, 94, passed away Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at Helen Porter Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center in Middlebury.

She was born Sept. 5, 1931, in Bellow Falls, Vt., the daughter of Clarence I. Simonds and Gladys M. (Avery) Simonds.

She enjoyed bird watching, baking, TV Shows such as "Price is Right", and going to the ocean and picking up shells.

Gloria is survived by her children Jean (Joe) Charbonneau of Mineville, N.Y., Roy Charbonneau Jr. (Carol) of Lincoln, and Kevin Charbonneau (Paula) of Tennessee; her loving grandchildren, Darrell LaFlam, Faith Cram, Becky Paliling, Jenna Haskins, and Christi Palmer; and many great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her daughter Jacqueline Charbonneau. A graveside service will be held



**GLORIA E. CHARBONNEAU**

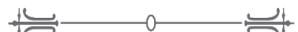
at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 7, at Maple Cemetery in Lincoln. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Helen Porter Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center, 30 Porter Drive, Middlebury, VT 05753. To send online condolences to her family please visit [www.brownmccclayfuneralhomes.com](http://www.brownmccclayfuneralhomes.com). ☐



**DIANE CUSHMAN**

## Diane Cushman celebration of life

LINCOLN — Please join us in honoring the life of Diane Cushman, who died Jan. 25, 2025, on Saturday, May 17, beginning at 1 p.m., at the United Church of Lincoln. Following the service, we will gather for food, fellowship, cash bar, and live music at Burnham Hall until 4 p.m. We will celebrate Diane's zeal for life and the joy she brought to all who knew her. All are welcome to attend and share in this special remembrance. ☐



## Lynn Bull memorial service

BRISTOL — Lynn Marie Wendel Bull, 73, of Bristol, Vt., passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at University of Vermont Medical Center, surrounded by her family.

A graveside service will be held 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 10, at Greenwood Cemetery in Bristol.

## Joseph Mario Cassarino visiting hours and funeral

MONKTON — Joseph Mario Cassarino of Monkton, Vt., died peacefully at Green Mountain Rehabilitation and Nursing in Colchester on March 14, 2025.

Visiting hours will be on Wednesday, May 21, at Brown/McClay Funeral Home in Bristol, Vt., from 5-7 p.m. A Catholic Rite of Committal will take place on Thursday, May 22, at St. Joseph Cemetery in Bristol at 11 a.m. To read the obituary or send online condolence to his family please visit [www.brownmccclayfuneralhomes.com](http://www.brownmccclayfuneralhomes.com). ☐



**JOSEPH MARIO CASSARINO**

## Frederick W. Noonan Jr. memorial service

VERGENNES — A memorial service for Frederick W. Noonan Jr., who died Jan. 15, 2025, will be held on Saturday, May 17, at 11 a.m., at the Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 South Water Street. A reception will follow at the church.

### Obituary Guidelines

The Independent will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Independent offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to [obits@addisonindependent.com](mailto:obits@addisonindependent.com).

Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Wednesday for publication in the Thursday paper. Email [obits@addisonindependent.com](mailto:obits@addisonindependent.com) or call 802-388-4944 for more information.

## Irene Ruth Piper, 83, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Irene Ruth Piper, age 83, passed peacefully on April 28, 2025, at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington.

Irene was born in East Middlebury on May 17, 1941. She was the daughter of Shirley and Beatrice (Dutton) Ovitt. She grew up in Middlebury, where she received her education. She cooked for many years at Palmer's Dairy Bar (now known as Rosie's) and later served as the Shipping Manager for Beau Ties Ltd. in Middlebury until her retirement in 2006.



**IRENE RUTH PIPER**

She is survived by two sons, Randy Piper (Lori) of Leicester and Clifford "Chip" Piper III (Patty) of Salisbury; two daughters, Wanda Bishop of Middlebury and

Lynn Hansen (Kirk) of Leicester; a half-sister, Kathy Hulbert of Salisbury; grandchildren, Bryon, Tyler, Michael, Adam, Andrew, Amanda and Matthew; and great-grandchildren, Conner, Koda, Lucas, Hudson, Berkeley, Alayna and Kyha. Several nieces, nephews and cousins also survive her.

She was predeceased by her husband, Clifford Piper Sr.; a son, Clifford Piper II; a brother, Herbert Ovitt; two sisters, Barbara Piper and Kathy Hurlburt; and a grandson, Michael Piper.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place, at a later date in Prospect Cemetery in East Middlebury. In lieu of flowers or cards, we kindly ask that you consider donating to the following nonprofit: Checks payable to TR4R Health & Wellness Corp., PO Box 193, Salisbury, VT 05769, donations online, go to website [www.tr4rrecovery.com](http://www.tr4rrecovery.com); or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ☐

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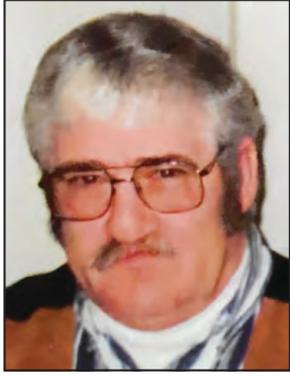
## Michael R. 'Spike' Booska, 72, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Michael R. Booska, affectionately known as "Spike," passed away peacefully at his home on April 28, 2025, at the age of 72 years young.

Born on June 18, 1952, in Bridgeport, Conn., Mike was the son of Robert A. Booska and Betty Lou Fisk. He was raised on the Fisk family farm in Ferrisburgh, Vt., surrounded by his cousins, where his love for the outdoors began.

Mike proudly served his country in the U.S. Army for six years and was honorably discharged. After his military service, he dedicated over four decades to the trucking industry. He worked with TCM Transportation, Middlebury Packing Company, ECI Construction, Bradford Trucking, and Burt White and Steady Transport before becoming an owner-operator. Later, he founded and operated M.R. Booska Trucking, a business he ran until his retirement.

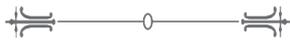
A true outdoorsman at heart, Mike found joy in hunting, riding motorcycles, tractor pulling, dirt track racing, snowmobiling, and



MICHAEL R. 'SPIKE' BOOSKA

mowing the lawn — but nothing brought him more happiness than fishing with his boys. He also enjoyed relaxing with a good game of solitaire and spending time with family and friends.

Mike is survived by his loving wife and partner of 33 years, Tammie Booska; his sons, Kyle, Caleb, and Cole; stepchildren Charlie Gebo, Rebekah Gebo, and



## Donna Baldwin, 66, of Brandon

BRANDON — Donna Baldwin, 66, died on March 31, 2025.

She was born in Hyannis and raised in Cotuit, Barnstable, Mass. She loved to spend time at the Loop Beach and on the trails around town, riding her horse. She attended Barnstable High School, the Sterling School in Craftsboro Common, Vt., and the Potomac Horse Center in North Potomac, Md. After managing Maushop Stables in Mashpee, Mass., she achieved her dream of owning her own farm, in Ferrisburgh, Vt., and of starting a family.

Donna's passion was animals. She taught hundreds of students how to ride and care for horses. On her farm she nurtured sheep, chickens, donkeys, pigs, dogs, cats and, of course, horses of all kinds and temperaments. Farm work is



DONNA BALDWIN

never done; Donna never missed a morning of chores, summer or winter. She owned an equestrian shop and served the Town of

Ferrisburgh for several years as Animal Control Officer. She later moved to Brandon, where she provided homelcare to elderly members of her community and enjoyed playing tennis and pickleball with her friends.

She is survived by her three sons — Elias of Los Angeles, Calif., Ethan of Milton, Vt., and Levi of Pittsburgh, Pa.; their father, Bruce Baldwin of North Ferrisburgh; and by her brother, Gil Newton, and her sister, Diana Parker, both of Cotuit, Mass. She was predeceased by her brother Donald and by her parents, John and Hazel Newton.

There will be no public services. Remember Donna by spreading kindness to animals in need, and please consider a donation to Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society. ◊

Angela Patnode; his cherished niece, Carrie Tracy; his brother Larry Booska and wife Cathy of Connecticut; mother-in-law Sylvia Hallock; brother-in-law Gary Hallock and wife Bethany; sister-in-law Tiffanie Booska; stepmother Noreen Booska; stepsister Lynne Keyes; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He also leaves behind close friends whose company he deeply valued, including Darin Gallison, Andy Tracy, Tom Jerome, Victor Lavoie, JT Frazier, Mike Bordeleau, Chase Atkins, and many more.

Mike was predeceased by his parents; his sister, Nancy Ann Stearns; and his brother, Chuck Booska.

A wake will be held on Saturday, May 10, at 10 a.m., at Brown McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes, Vt., with a service to follow at 11 a.m. A reception will be held afterward downstairs at the American Legion in Vergennes.

Mike will be remembered for his strength, loyalty, humor, and the deep love he had for his family, friends, and the great outdoors. ◊

SHOREHAM — Robert Joseph Quesnel, age 93, passed away on May 5 at his home that he loved with his son, Dave, by his side.

Bob was born on May 20, 1931, in Orwell, the eldest child to the late Xavier and Elsie (Senecal) Quesnel. He graduated from Brandon High School in Brandon in 1949. Bob grew up on the family farm on the Orwell/Whiting line. Bob was proud of his farming years and loved to share stories of his days on the farm.

In his late teens, Bob learned how to fly a biplane and would laugh talking about swooping down on his father and hired hand on the farm, scaring them. On Aug. 2, 1953, he married the love of his life, Marjorie (Desjadon), whom he was married to for 67 years and is now reunited with.

Bob worked various jobs until he became an insurance agent for Farmers and Traders. He eventually started The Quesnel Agency in Shoreham, which was run with his wife by his side. They sold the business and retired in 2010. After retiring, he and Marge traveled across the U.S. and into British Columbia, with a visit to the city

of Charleston, S.C.; Diane of Newington, Conn.; Suzie (Chris) of Asheville, N.C. and Brock (Sara) of Orwell, Vt. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Katie, Josh, Matt, Travis, Xavier, Zack, Nate, and TJ, and seven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters, Betty Gagnon and Marge Redding, several cousins and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Marge; granddaughter, Brenna; son-in-law, Everett Croxton (Debbie); David's partner, Kathy Tenyek; and his brothers, Jerry and Edward.

A graveside committal service and burial will be held on Tuesday, June 3, at 1 p.m., at St. Genevieve Cemetery, in Shoreham. Rev. Brandon Schneider of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Middlebury will officiate. The family would like to thank Mike, Evie, Chessy, Lindsay, Autumn, and Phyllis who helped our father on his final journey.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Project Independence, PO Box 581, Middlebury, VT 05753.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◊



ROBERT JOSEPH QUESNEL

Bob had a good sense of humor, loved music, Wheel of Fortune, enjoyed camping, Sunday drives, animals, both domestic and wild — including a pet porcupine, and water dowsing. Bob found water sources for some of the locals to drill their wells. On April 25, 1988, Bob was front page news in the Addison Independent for his "water witching" skills.

Bob is survived by his children, David of Punta Gorda, Fla.; Linda (Tom) of Holyoke, Mass.; Debbie

when he sang of you and me. A stadium of strangers. Our history together. In the bleachers. In the days of benches.

No seats. Having the best chance in the world. To have our shoulders meet. Arms then. And then our hands. Reaching out.

No matter how sentimental this still sounds. Isn't that what our love is for? Naming the closing space. Cheering the disappearing

ball. Over everything. Deep into Landsdowne Street. Behind the wall. Its logo of little Jimmy and his fund. If you lived here you'd know

who he was, too. And reach as far as you could into your pockets, your purse. For bills. For coins. For all your good wishes. Prayers. For the children living on their drips. For the research

doing its work in all those labs and hospitals. MGH and Deaconess. New England Baptist. Beth Israel and Peter Bent. This city's known for. Even when

their signs have changed. In these times. In the late innings. When I want to give my name to you. Write it down somewhere you won't forget.

Gary Margolis  
Cornwall

## In changing times, Fenway Park mystique remains

### Sweet Caroline

Never thought you'd sing her name. A girl you never knew. Swaying with a stadium of strangers.

In between innings. Its words. Touching all the bases Inside your head. No place better. On a Sunday afternoon. The breeze blowing out to right.

The harbor's memories. The line on Boylston street. Blue and yellow.

Two stripes for Boston's strong survivors. The dead who never finished. Their Fenway song.

The wave suggests the girl on the mound before the game throwing out her pitch was the first Caroline. Neil Diamond had in mind

when he sang of you and me. A stadium of strangers. Our history together. In the bleachers. In the days of benches.

No seats. Having the best chance in the world. To have our shoulders meet. Arms then. And then our hands. Reaching out.

No matter how sentimental this still sounds. Isn't that what our love is for? Naming the closing space. Cheering the disappearing

ball. Over everything. Deep into Landsdowne Street. Behind the wall. Its logo of little Jimmy and his fund. If you lived here you'd know

who he was, too. And reach

## Letters to the Editor

### Harmlessness of beavers is a matter of perspective

Regarding Edith Bunning's claim that beavers are quite harmless, (April 17 Letters), I will relate some reality which is happening in Connecticut after the state allowed beavers to outgrow their environment. A close friend I have known since 1959 has a beautiful piece of forest land behind his house, bordered by a stream where beavers raised havoc. That land along with his backyard had been flooded until a trapper eliminated them with box traps and a downstream neighbor shot many of them with the aid of a night-vision rifle scope.

There is an access road running through the land which the flood made totally impassible for maintenance crews. There was really no other choice but to dispense with the critters, who also do major damage by destroying valuable timber trees.

Worse yet, across the road is a piece of town and state park, which comprised much of my mother's family's farm. It is now called, "Great Cedars Conservation Area," referring to a rare white cedar swamp which was one of the most magical places on the farm. When young, I spent many hours wistfully looking up the trunks of those towering, dead strait, beautiful trees. When I was down there about two years ago the area was so badly flooded that it required high boots I did not have to access or see the cedars. I do know that all the younger cedars in an adjacent, largely open area have drowned due to the high water. It is highly likely that the big cedars are also dead.

When I was living on the farm, I managed a good deal of it quite well, especially the wetlands. The state and town have not been good stewards and I am unable to get anyone down there to check on the large cedars or to get the water level down. If the giant cedars are dead, it amounts to a huge loss to all concerned.

In earlier days, when there were copious predators who found rodents to be very tasty fare, these great spikes in beaver population didn't happen. However, farmers

tended to eliminate the predators due to occasional predation on farm animals and, once in a while, on pets and children — hence the "big, bad wolf" stories.

The beaver population was kept largely in check with the fur trade and the desirability of beaver meat for those living off the land. In more recent years, many people feel it is cruel to hunt or trap. I say that is much crueler for canids to run down deer, hamstringing them and disembowel them alive. Nature is full of cruelty.

My brother and I moved to Vermont partly because we were very tired of having our crops decimated by deer. A representative from the state Fish and Game Department, inspecting a bean crop told us that the legislature had shut down deer hunting to the point that he could do nothing to help us. It was due to one man from the richest corner of the state getting funding from "animal welfare" advocates

to lobby the legislature. The vast majority of it went into his own pockets.

When I went down there in succeeding years, people who wanted to grow things in their yards had erected 10-foot-high woven wire fences with electric fencing outside of it. Many of the contributors to "Friends of Animals" wanted to murder every deer who came into sight. Such overpopulations often endangered or threatened plants and animals, whose environments are severely impacted.

When will we ever learn?  
Joe Gleason  
Bridport

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## Starksboro

(Continued from Page 3A)  
building would enable year-round use and make the structure ADA compliant.

As for the fire station, a new stand-alone, two-bay facility would be constructed to better meet the needs of the department and residents while allowing for potential future expansion.

Funds from former President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan Act and a Municipal Energy Resilience Program will help support the improvements. Starksboro Town Administrator Amanda Vincent previously noted in an FPF post that town officials are carefully evaluating different funding options

for the project, each with its own tradeoffs.

Details on the potential funding sources being explored can be found on the town's website at tinyurl.com/starksboro.

Vincent noted the "approximate annual tax burden per \$100,000 of Grand List value is anywhere from \$18.31 to \$53.59, depending on the loan length and interest rate."

So, for a home appraised at \$300,000, that would mean additional yearly property taxes ranging between \$54.93 and \$160.77, under the current scenarios.

She added that in addition to considering loan options, the town has applied for \$1 million in Congressionally Directed Spending and is pursuing other grant

opportunities to reduce the cost of the project and eliminate the need for borrowing.

A project history and description on the town's website offers more details on plans for the project, highlighting how both the schoolhouse and the fire station attached to the building need improvements.

Selectboard member Carin McCarthy previously told the Independent it will be a few months before the town hears about additional grants and approval for funding options, but that if the bond vote passed, town officials hoped to put the projects to bid in the fall.

The selectboard was expected to begin discussing next steps for the project at its meeting on Wednesday.

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Visit [achhh.org](http://achhh.org) to make a secure donation and we will send a beautiful card acknowledging your generosity to your honoree. No need to drag her out of the house for yet another event — this year show your mom, grandma, or other important woman in your life how much you love her by giving just what she'd give to another!

**100% of donations will go to supporting our services**

# Letters to the Editor

## Mary Hogan students offer path to healthy eating

We are 5th graders from Mary Hogan School. We are writing to inform you about our research project on fast food and to encourage you to eat healthier. In 1950 the obesity rate was 10%, and since fast food became popular, in 2025 the obesity rate is now 42.9%. We encourage you to eat less fast food to be healthier.

Some alternatives to unhealthy fast food are:

- Make homemade food because using fresh ingredients can lower cholesterol and the other negative impacts of fast food.
- Start your own garden or grow produce in pots. Gardening can help allow people to make better food choices and they get better

nutrients.

- Buy healthier options on fast food menus like salads and fruit.
- Set limits for how much you'll eat fast food.
- Shop at local markets.

We hope you take these into consideration

**Evan Hill and Emelia Ploof**  
Middlebury

## Anti-democratic Project 2025 becoming a reality

Do you remember the buzz around Project 2025 throughout the election campaign? I recall it being part of the political background noise and thinking that such an anti-American plan was just an extremist pipe dream. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump denied he had any interest in P25 during the presidential debate with Vice-President Harris, "I have nothing to do with Project 2025. I haven't read it. I don't want to read it purposely. I'm not going to read it." Well, Project 2025 is no longer just a plan. It's this administration's playbook, and we're living it!

After attending a webinar to shed light on the reality of Project 2025, featuring Heather Cox Richardson and Representative Jasmine Crockett, I feel I have been living under a rock these past few months! According to the webinar host's Red Wine and Blue Project 25 tracker, these are just a few examples of how the administration's actions dovetail with Project 2025 goals (for a complete list go to <https://redwine.blue>).

- P25 Goal: Take Away our Reproductive Rights: Withheld federal funding for birth control, STD testing, cancer screenings and other reproductive health services; set the stage for instituting a national abortion ban; banned the word "abortion" from government websites and documents.

- P25 Goal: End Public Education: Cut funding and fired 50% of the Department of Education's (DOE) employees with the goal of eliminating it; blocked funding for Head Start programs; removed funding from schools that have Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs; ended DOE guidance related to fighting book bans.

- P25 Goal: Help The Super Rich While Financially Harming Average Americans: Proposed tax changes that will lead to a tax increase for 95% of Americans; announced policy changes/ executive orders on tariffs, which will hurt American businesses and increase prices on goods for average Americans; eliminated

consumer protections from financial products like mortgages and credit cards; fired hundreds of employees at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the agency responsible for ensuring the safety and stability of the money Americans have in banks.

- P25 Goal: Encourage Racial Discrimination: Ended all DEI programs in the federal government; rescinded past DEI initiatives; ended DEI programs in the military and Dept. of Homeland Security; placed all federal employees in DEI roles on leave; removed efforts to protect federal job applicants from race or gender discrimination; closed EPA environmental justice offices.

- P25 Goal: Insert Christian Nationalist Political Ideology Into the Mainstream: Established the White House Faith Office led by a conservative evangelical pastor.

- P25 Goal: End Programs That Address Climate Change: Conducted massive EPA layoffs; pulled U.S. from the Paris Agreement and other similar commitments; reversed federal actions and programs that protect environment and fight climate change.

- P25 Goal: Reduce Healthcare Access And Increase Costs: Reversed policies aimed at reducing prescription drug prices; cut grants to National Institutes of Health (NIH) that fund medical research.

- P25 Goal: Give Unchecked Power To The President: Prevented any federal employee or agency from combatting disinformation or misinformation, including the FBI; created a centralized payment system giving unelected employees of Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) power to review, approve or reject federal payments — power that the constitution grants to Congress; gave the president control over independent regulatory agencies which oversee product safety, consumer safety, and financial stability in markets and banks; reclassified federal workers making them easier to fire; ordered massive federal layoffs; directed the Office of Personnel Management and

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to review all Career Senior Executive Service officials to make sure they are aligned with the president's agenda; instructed DOJ and the Attorney General to investigate and punish federal departments for work done under the Biden administration that the president dislikes; investigating and punishing federal employees involved in past investigations into the president himself and the Jan 6th insurrection; instructed cabinet members and departments to inspect voting equipment and investigate voters, among other actions; outlined new requirements for voter registration making it more difficult for tens of millions of Americans to vote. The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act would make these voting restrictions the law.

Even the DOGE obsession with the closing of USAID — an organization that receives less than 32 cents of every \$100 spent by the federal government — has its origins in the P25 playbook.

Not only is this president using his power to further P25 goals, he's also surrounding himself with major P25 authors and supporters. It's clear these guys found a power-hungry puppet to do their bidding, got him elected, and are now pulling his strings. The architects of P25 intend to control all aspects of American life at home and abroad.

My grandparents emigrated from countries where kings and royalty told them they and their future generations would be poor farmers all their lives and that they had to live by the rules imposed on them, including practicing the official state religion. They came to the U.S. to escape this system. Now, 125 years later, this administration is working hard to re-create such a system. This is NOT America!

Only 4% of the U.S. voters approve of Project 2025, yet it's driving federal government actions! For clear and simple tracking of the implementation of Project 2025 by this administration and how to fight back go to: <https://redwine.blue>. Get informed and spread the word!

**Mary Saudade**  
Addison

## Bristol Rep should explain vote against civil rights

On a recent vote in the Vermont Senate, Addison County's newly elected Senator Heffernan could not join his peers in condemning the entrapment, arrest, and detention of Vermont resident Mohsen Mahdawi. Mr. Mahdawi's wrongdoings, as I understand it, were being a legal resident of the U.S., but just shy of full citizenship, and speaking out against the excessive deaths of

Palestinian people. Regardless of one's position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Senator Heffernan's refusal to protect the rights of Vermont residents should be a concern to us all.

Senator Heffernan owes Addison County residents a full and complete explanation for his vote on this matter. Is he aware of other specific acts by Mr. Mahdawi that warranted his detention? Does

he see any distinctions from this case and how Vermont's migrant workers may be treated by federal authorities? I fully acknowledge the policy and legislative shifts that led Addison County voters to elect Senator Heffernan. I doubt, however, that standing down while our civil rights are threatened was one of them.

**Scott Darling**  
Bridport

# Session seeing mixed results

With leaves springing, we are on the homestretch of the 2025 legislative season. With a bit more balance in the legislature, we accomplished some good but need to do more to improve affordability and public safety.

So far, 13 bills were passed by the legislature and signed by Gov. Scott. Highlights include H.2, which delays "raise the age" for two years thus preventing Vermont from being the only state to treat 19-year-olds as minors in criminal proceedings. H.35 will reduce insurance premiums on small businesses, and H.80 provides advocates to help folks navigate the labyrinthian healthcare system. However, the Budget Adjustment Act was twice vetoed by the Governor because of the majority's attempted hotel/motel policy changes. With the minority party representing

slightly more than one third of House members, an override has been prevented.

The fight continues to repeal or curtail the Clean Heat Standard (CHS), electric cars and trucks mandates, and the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). Several attempts have been blocked by the majority party in both chambers, and the repeal bills remain stuck in the House Energy Committee. My attempt to repeal the Clean Heat Standard as an amendment to a Solar Power bill was declared "not germane." Rep. Jim Harrison's attempt to amend the same bill by changing the Renewable Energy Standard into the Clean Energy Standard, which would allow more hydro and nuclear electric power to be considered, was also declared "not germane." Senator Scott Beck's attempted

amendments to the Budget Bill for repealing the CHS and reducing the GWSA mandates to goals was brought to a roll call vote in the Senate but lost along party lines.

Bill H.43, which would eliminate VT state tax on all military retiree pensions, remains stuck in the Ways and Means committee. There is hope that a slimmed down version may be palatable to the majority leadership.

Lastly, the biggest remaining battle is Education and Property Tax reform. The House completely revamped the Governor's proposal and passed that to the Senate. The Senate completely revamped the House version to be closer to the Governor's proposal, and on Friday passed that back to the House for consideration. I will review the newest proposal to determine its effects on the State and our Addison County schools.

My colleagues and I continue to fight for you and the reasons you sent us to Montpelier.



**Legislative Review**  
by Rep. Rob North,  
R-Ferrisburgh

## Congressional voting bill would suppress turnout

There's a Bill in Congress to Make Voting Harder for everyone!

Under current U.S. law, it is illegal for non-citizens to register and vote in federal or state elections. Additionally, we have robust processes to ensure that only eligible voters are casting ballots. However, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act is a bill that requires all eligible voters to provide citizenship documentation to register to vote. The SAVE Act has passed the House, and it's now in the Senate. It must be stopped!

If the SAVE Act becomes law, every single American citizen would have to show very specific documents, like a passport or an original birth certificate, in person when registering to vote and anytime they update their voter registration.

You may be among the millions of eligible voters who do not have the documentation required by the SAVE Act to prove your citizenship. The requirements of the potential law would unnecessarily burden many communities of eligible voters.

According to U.S. Census Bureau data for 2023, Vermont has 523,322 citizens of voting age, all of whom would likely be impacted by this law at some

point in their lives.

Vermont has many military service members. If the SAVE Act becomes law, military voters would be required to present documentation every time they re-register to vote when their family moves. Military service members would not be able to use their military ID alone to prove citizenship — they would still need additional documentation to show their birthplace or naturalization status.

In 2024, about 4,000 Vermont homes were destroyed by flooding. Many of these families may have lost important documentation and, if the SAVE Act becomes law, would be required to replace these documents to register to vote while also going through the traumatic process of rebuilding their lives.

In Vermont, we have over 200,000 married women, many of whom changed their last name. If the SAVE Act becomes law, Americans who have changed their name would also be required to secure updated documentation to register to vote. Surveys show that eight in ten married women have changed their surname, meaning they do not possess a birth certificate that matches their current legal name and, therefore,

could not present it as valid proof of citizenship.

According to 2023 U.S. Census data, about 40,000 Vermonters moved to a new residence within the state, and about 27,000 people moved into Vermont. Every time a voter moves, they must re-register to vote. If the SAVE Act becomes law, voters must show citizenship documentation every time they register, including after a move.

Citizens have a constitutional right to vote. However, there are many laws that are shaving down that right by creating barriers. The SAVE Act, if passed by the Senate and signed into law, will create major barriers to voting for many people in Vermont and nationwide, affecting the outcome of elections.

We must protect our elections. We must protect our right to vote.

Call your U.S. Senators and urge them to vote *against* the SAVE Act.

Contact all of your family members and friends who live in other states and urge them to contact their U.S. Senators to vote against the SAVE Act.

We cannot afford more attacks on our democracy!  
**Christina Wadsworth**  
Weybridge

## Midd industrial park could also include housing

The recent article on preparations to market land in Middlebury's industrial park rightly notes the opportunity ahead. But as the town readies nearly 200 acres for commercial development, the time is ripe to think bigger — and more holistically — about the future of this area.

Vermont is in the midst of a housing crisis. Recruiting new businesses will be difficult if there's nowhere nearby for workers to live. This parcel offers a rare combination of scale and infrastructure: access to municipal water and sewer. In Vermont, that's a precious resource, and one we

can't afford to underutilize.

While the land is not currently zoned for residential development, Middlebury is about to begin updating its town plan — a process that sets the stage for future zoning changes. That makes now the right time to explore a mixed-use vision that includes housing as well as jobs.

Thoughtful planning can create a neighborhood that welcomes light industry, food and beverage businesses, and apartments side by side. We've seen this work in developments from the Pine Street corridor in Burlington to Taft Corners in Williston.

And we don't have to look far for a local example. Bristol's Stoney Hill development brought housing and jobs together in a walkable, modern neighborhood. Multifamily affordable homes at Firehouse Apartments sit comfortably across from NRG Systems, a solar technology company, with no adverse impacts — just smart land use.

Middlebury has the opportunity to shape a future that supports both economic growth and the critical need for more homes. Let's not miss the chance to plan boldly.

**Elise Shanbacker**  
Vergennes

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# Vergennes

(Continued from Page 1A)

29 is a "Facility Use Agreement." It is essentially a lease for the city to occupy the 3,400-square-foot, one-story building on 1.87 acres through March 3, 2026.

The other is a "Facilities Study Agreement" that gives the city at least the rest of 2025 to study additional uses of the building and their feasibility.

The Facility Use Agreement will allow the Vergennes Parks & Recreation Department and its coordinator, Martha DeGraaf, to continue to offer at 20 Armory Lane its afterschool youth program called the Commodore Club.

DeGraaf has confirmed the Commodore Club, which filled the afterschool void left by the Boys & Girls Club when it shut down in mid-April due to struggling finances, will operate at 20 Armory Lane through the end of the school year and could reopen there in the fall, assuming successful fundraising.

A second provision of the Facilities Use Agreement would allow the city's municipal offices to set up shop on Armory Lane this summer. That move had been planned to occur while the Vergennes Opera House's All Access Project is in full swing and could disrupt normal city business. Those major renovations are set to begin next week and probably last through January.

But this past Friday Vergennes City Manager Ron Redmond said he had consulted with the All Access Project's manager and was told construction should not interfere with city hall operations. Thus, Redmond said, plans for that temporary move have been shelved. "We're going to stay," he said. "We will keep city offices here."

The facilities use agreement also requires the city "to pay for the costs of utilities, maintenance and any critical repairs entirely through private donations, using the city's Parks & Recreation Fund, through March 31, 2026."

Mayor Chris Bearor is confident on the fundraising for the concept — which could include expanded uses onsite as well as the afterschool program — given what he called an outpouring of support for making the building a recreation hub. But he acknowledged funding is a key to making it all work.

"We're going to have to look at that pretty hard in the feasibility study. But from what I've heard from Martha (DeGraaf) is there are a lot of people talking to her that would like to help out," Bearor said.

The second proposal the council signed off on last week is

a "Facilities Study Agreement" focusing on 20 Armory Lane. That document is a template for the city to do a feasibility study before possibly taking over the building permanently as a youth center and more — with a \$1 price tag.

The agreement's purpose is a study of the "acquisition of the Facility at 20 Armory Lane (that) would allow the city to continue and grow the services historically provided by the Boys & Girls Club, while also establishing a permanent community center to serve as a hub for recreation, afterschool activities, cultural events, public meetings, and community partnerships."

Such a transfer would only occur after a citywide vote, projected to be held on Town Meeting Day in March 2026, in which residents would have to approve the sale if it were to move forward.

Redmond said as of this past Friday that the city had an agreement in principle with the Boys & Girls Club board, but the board had yet to meet to sign the two documents. Board Co-Chair John Coburn on May 2 said board members still had to gather to take a final look at and sign the documents, but he expected they would do so this week.

Coburn said upon ending as a board that operates an official Boys & Girls Club, its bylaws state it must find a like-minded organization, including possibly the city, to accomplish its mission.

"This is definitely something we'd be interested in. Everybody who is on the board obviously got on the board because they believe in the Boys & Girls Club mission of serving youth," Coburn said in an April interview. "So what Martha's doing is pretty much exactly what community members wanted to see when they got on the board."

DeGraaf said the Commodore Club has been open from the end of the school day until 6 p.m. and has drawn between a low of a half-dozen and a high of two-dozen attendees a day, with numbers depending on whether there are activities like sports practices happening at the same time. The average is close to 15, and most making the short walk to 20 Armory Lane are middle school students.

### STUDY AGREEMENT

The Facilities Study Agreement states the "acquisition of the Facility at 20 Armory Lane would allow the city to continue and grow the services historically provided by the Boys & Girls Club, while also establishing a permanent community center to serve as a hub for recreation, afterschool activities, cultural events, public meetings, and community partnerships."

Meanwhile, city officials will

conduct the feasibility study, including a cost-benefit analysis, building condition assessment, including estimates and of ongoing costs and any necessary repairs and upgrades, and the issue of property management responsibility.

The study will also look at potential uses of the property, including whether the property could serve "as a multi-generational community center; for fire and emergency services, recreation programs, meeting/event space, municipal offices, and other potential municipal uses," as well as "a hub for youth."

The decision-making process will include public input, which according to the document could include community forums, surveys and listening sessions.

Funding remains a key, Bearor said, adding things have developed quickly in the past two months.

"Now since it's here, I know that Ron (Redmond) and everybody will start looking into all of this and seeing what the plan is going forward and what we can get for donations," Bearor said. "And maybe we can talk to some of the towns and see if they'll help out just a little bit, too."

Bearor also noted the city has donated \$5,000 annually to the Boys & Girls Club that can be repurposed for the new club, and it also appears the Commodore Club will be less expensive to run than the Boys & Girls Club.

Coburn, for example, said the local branch of the club had to fund an annual audit and buy board insurance, and was required to hire a CEO and send \$5,000 a year to the national organization.

Redmond summed up the worst-case scenario.

"If it turns out the city can't afford it, and/or if the voters say no, we would have to turn it back to somebody," he said.

And Redmond summed up the process, which he framed as occurring during an outpouring of support that "has been such from the community and different groups that we believe we can fund the operations of the building" through donations.

"We'll inspect the building. We'll get all the possibilities for the building and the land," he said. "Ultimately we could get this, the building and the 1.9 acres, for a dollar. However, I'm concerned, and the council is concerned, that we don't want to take on something that we can't afford. So we would ultimately come up with a plan that we would show voters, and we would vote on it in the March Town Meeting."

## T-Rex of a protester

LOCAL CITIZENS GATHERED around the region on Thursday, May 1, as part of May Day protests across the country. Folks in Brandon's Central Park, including this intrepid dinosaur, were out in support of workers and immigrant rights.

Independent photo/Sarah Pope



## Police receive report of sexual assault

VERGENNES — Vergennes police just after 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 4, received a report of a sexual assault that allegedly occurred at a local business.

According to the city agency's weekly report, the allegation is under investigation.

In other actions between April 28 and May 4, Vergennes police also conducted five traffic stops and seven cruiser patrols, responded to a false alarm, and:

On April 28:

- Following a traffic stop on Main Street cited Brittany Aunchman, 30, of Monkton for driving under the influence of drugs. Police said they also issued Aunchman several civil violation tickets.

- Were asked by Vermont State Police to check the welfare of a person staying at a Panton campground after a neighbor reported concerns about an individual's behavior. City police did not respond when the neighbor called back to say that the situation had calmed and requested no police action.

- Took a missing person report from Albany, N.Y., police for a man last seen walking from a residence in Vergennes. The man was found in Middlebury on the evening of April 30, and after asking for help from Middlebury police he was taken to Porter Hospital.

On April 29 were told by a Monkton Road resident that she was followed up her driveway by a man who asked for money. Police were unable to find him.

On May 1 took an information report from a Hillside Acres resident with known mental health issues.

On May 2:

- Took a report of an argument in a parking lot between a juvenile and his mother. The juvenile told police that his mother confronted him at his vehicle and made aggressive and vulgar statements. He also reported being followed closely by her vehicle with high beams on after leaving the parking lot. Police took his sworn statement, and they

noted an active court order between the juvenile's parents. Police are continuing to investigate and have asked for store video footage.

- Looked around the city green downtown after hearing that a large red truck was creating a smoke show, but didn't find any vehicles doing so.

- Investigated a potential violation of a Relief from Abuse Order following an interaction between parties at Champlain Farms. A video provided by the reporting party shows a man walking through the parking lot with a child before being confronted from a nearby vehicle about maintaining court-ordered distance. Police said the man then "changed direction and stepped aside with the child without responding." Police said they learned both parties had left a custody exchange moments earlier and then both ended up at Champlain Farms. City police referred the case to the Addison County State's Attorney's Office for review.

- Assisted Colchester police by serving a no-trespass notice on a person on Walker Avenue.

- Calmed an argument between Walker Avenue neighbors that police said began when one neighbor allegedly allowed a dog to run off leash. Police told the dog's owner to keep the dog leashed, and suggested the neighbors keep their distance from each other.

- Referred an online report about a car accident to state police because it occurred in Ferrisburgh.

- Responded to a 911 hangup call at the high school and called the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad because it proved to be a medical issue.

On May 3:

- Went to Falls Park when told a woman there was talking to herself, dancing and had urinated publicly. Police spoke to her, and after she admitted to drinking told her she needed to go home. She declined a ride and left on foot.

- Checked the welfare of School

## Vergennes Police Log

Street residents, who were OK.

- Responded to a Burlington resident who had filed an online police report about being threatened online by a Vergennes resident. Vergennes police told the Burlington resident that the complaint should be filed with Burlington police.

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Thank you for being the heart of our kind, collaborative, and creative community. Your dedication helps nurture a diverse and accessible learning environment where students flourish as critical thinkers, resilient individuals, and productive citizens. We are deeply grateful for all you do to bring our shared vision to life every day.

—ANWSD Administration & Board



THE BOYS & GIRLS Club of Greater Vergennes moved into this Armory Lane building a few years ago, but as the club has fallen on hard times the city is looking at the potential of taking it over to operate as a recreation hub.

Independent photo/Steve James

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# AmeriCorps

(Continued from Page 1A)  
U.S. to fill niches that otherwise might not get done. Last year, AmeriCorps members worked at more than 300 locations across Vermont, including schools, food banks, homeless shelters, health clinics, youth centers, veterans facilities, and other nonprofit and faith-based organizations.

Trump's effort called the Department of Government Efficiency put 85% of AmeriCorps staff on leave and killed \$400 million in the organization's grants. Attorneys General from at least 20 states, including Vermont, sued the Executive Branch saying it didn't have the authority to do so.

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, which oversees the ECO AmeriCorps Program in the Green Mountain State, placed several AmeriCorps members in Addison County organizations: Willowell Foundation, Middlebury Area Land

Trust (MALT), Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Addison County Solid Waste District, Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County, ACORN (Addison County Relocation Network) and CVOEO (Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity). Many of these organizations have been partnered with ECO AmeriCorps for years.

"Losing these services is a vital blow to the health of the Addison County community, pulling the rug out on the projects that improve quality of life and safety for many residents who may not even realize it," said ECO AmeriCorps Supervisory Dustin Bowman.

He described places that employ AmeriCorps members as places "where generations collide to work together in hope for a better future, and young people are taught to develop a lifelong curiosity only overshadowed by their desire to pursue excellence in everything

they do."

One of those AmeriCorps members is Alicia Hughart, who was spending 20 hours a week working as ACORN's Food Hub coordinator and 20 hours with CVOEO's Feeding Champlain Valley program. In this role, her supervisor said she provided incredible value regarding warehouse logistics, inventory management and delivery for the Food Hub.

"She helped improve our warehouse's Standard Operating Procedures, and streamlined the movement of food ordered from our online market, as well as with our Pharmacy: Food is Medicine program," said Lindsey Berk, ACORN's executive director.

"Alicia comes from a grocery background, so has a wealth of knowledge around food safety, and is forklift certified. She really complements our team well and her role has emerged as essential to our weekly workflow.

"Without Alicia, we are down

# Cuts will deeply affect MALT funding

By CELI BYER

I am an AmeriCorps member working for the Middlebury Area Land Trust. On April 28 we received notice that all five Vermont AmeriCorps grants were terminated by the Trump Administration, effective immediately, and that members should pause service activities. When this email came,

I was in North Wright Park installing curbing with John Derick, a long-time MALT volunteer, and Madelyn Clem, MALT's ECO AmeriCorps member. I felt devastated, humiliated, and outraged on behalf of all active AmeriCorps members and alumni. We committed ourselves to service, only to be told that our

service was a waste.

I have been MALT's Community Engagement Coordinator and VHCBA AmeriCorps member for eight months. In that time, my sense of purpose has become synonymous with MALT's: to serve Addison County by "connecting people with the lands we protect." I taught 75+ youth in nature camps and afterschool programs, helped maintain 18+ miles of trails, and coordinated public environmental education events. I have had the opportunity to get my boots muddy and serve side by side with some of the kindest, most compassionate, and dedicated people I have ever met.

I moved to Middlebury for this position straight out

of college, and nothing will make me regret that choice. It is a chaotic and confusing time; the situation is constantly evolving.

On April 29, Vermont joined a multistate coalition in filing a lawsuit, challenging the termination of AmeriCorps grants. Across the nation, people are organizing protests, calling their representatives, and sharing their AmeriCorps stories and outrage. I hold hope for the immediate and long-term future of AmeriCorps.

After Madelyn and I read that email in Wright Park, well... What else could we do but pick our shovels back up? We finished the job. That's what AmeriCorps members do: We get things done.

a core team member for our distribution days, so we will dip into reserve funding to hire a part-time employee," Berk continued. "This adds stress to what is already proving to be a challenging year with federal grant cuts and general uncertainty all around."

Hughart is navigating her options now. "The work is important and I'm proud to be a part of that," she said. "I think that's how we are all feeling right now. This important work that makes a difference, makes an impact on those in our community, is being taken away."

Willowell provides a lot of education through its two AmeriCorps members. Administrative Director Tasha Ball catalogs their work with the Bristol organization's Wren's Nest preschool, elementary, and Walden high school programs, as well as Pond Brook middle school, summer camps, and in the Willowell community garden. She said the loss of AmeriCorps will be a blow to Willowell's mission.

"The AmeriCorps members were so much more than the functions they served," Ball said. "They are about energy, vision, and passion for the work, and over 50% of the members we've had in the past two decades have stayed on to join our full-time staff, served on our board, or integrated into a career in education in Vermont after their service term ended."

Members, who are usually in their

early 20s, are called "volunteers" because they work for very low pay in exchange for the chance to build real-world skills that will help them later in their careers. They spend their stipends on rent, food and other necessities, which adds to the local economy.

But that pay is not huge. Erica Harris, interim director of MALT, remembers that she had to use federal food assistance — food stamps — when she was an AmeriCorps member back in 2011. "It definitely doesn't pay better" than a private-sector job, she said.

The state's ECO AmeriCorps Program pays its young participants a living stipend that is slightly above the state's minimum wage.

"They rely on public assistance programs such as SNAP and LIHEAP and subsidized housing because the cost of living in Vermont makes committing to these opportunities otherwise unattainable for working class families where the vast majority of our members come," according to Bowman.

And those AmeriCorps member get more out of the program than just the stipend.

Madelyn Clem is a 20-year-old Middlebury College sophomore who was wrapping up a part-time AmeriCorps opportunity at MALT. She's liked learning by doing trail maintenance, program development and community engagement.

"It would not only help me get out of the college's 'bubble' but

also allow me to get my foot in the door for conservation practices in local communities which is what I am interested in as a future career," she said.

While the money is being pulled at the federal level, Bowman said the state is trying to find money to pay some of his ECO AmeriCorps members until the end of their terms this summer.

And MALT's Harris wanted to reassure people that the organization's summer camps and afterschool programs are still going to happen, as she hires two addition summer camp employees to make up for the AmeriCorps loss. Things have changed so fast that she's not sure where she will find the money, but she's hopeful that she will.

"If there's anything Vermonters could get behind, it would be supporting young people who can help their community and bringing people to Vermont," she said.

Typically in the spring, ECO AmeriCorps is deeply involved in recruiting young people for next year. Not so this May.

"That means that kind, talented, compassionate, curious emerging leaders found in our backyard and across the country are not being considered for roles protecting Vermont's environment in ways that strengthens our communities," Bowman said.

"We need a bumper sticker that says, 'Service is What Makes America Great!'"



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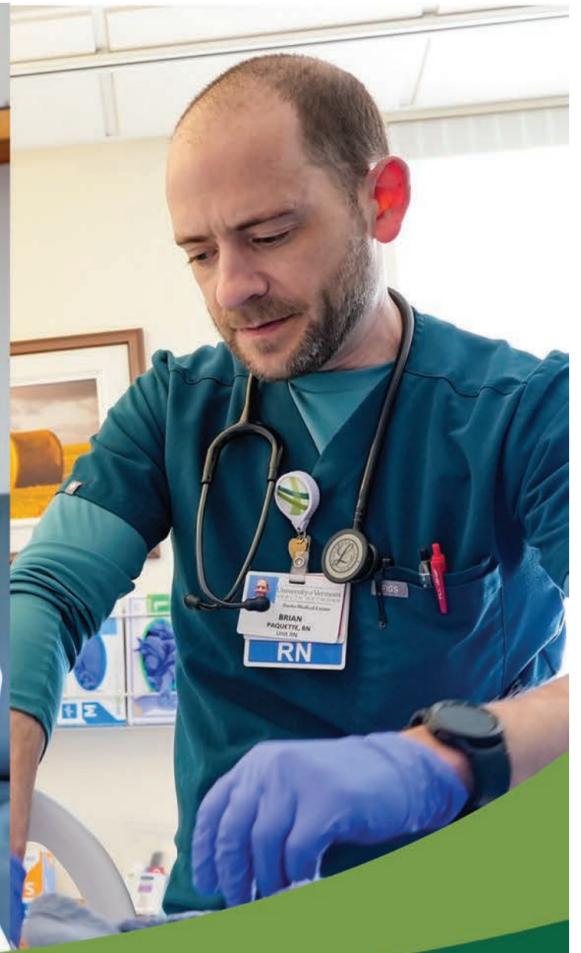


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# MAUSD program secures grants to support, grow Bristol

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District's Expanded Learning Program is growing.

The ELP, as it's known, was recently awarded two grants totaling \$2.4 million that will help fund and expand its work in the coming years. One of those grants will also enable the program to extend its offerings to 9th- to 12th-graders, including through a new civics internship program (see related story on Page 1A).

ELP provides "comprehensive afterschool and summer programs" for elementary and middle schoolers in the Bristol area. Those offerings include workshops, clubs and a traveling maker space bus named MILO—short for My Innovative Learning Opportunities.

"We are incredibly honed in on the data. How is Mount Abe holding up against other schools around Vermont?" ELP Co-Director Mandy Chesley-Park said of the program's work. "Where we see areas for improvement, we work with the superintendent and the assistant superintendent to develop really energizing, creative programs that feel and look different than school day execution of learning. So, when students come for more, it doesn't feel like more, and they're maybe not struggling in the same way they might've during the school day."

The ELP team learned last month that it had been awarded five more years of funding through Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers, a federal grant program that's helped fund ELP for 10 years. ELP was one of two programs in Vermont to receive funding this grant cycle and was awarded about \$1.9 million to support its K-8 programming.

The program was also awarded around \$500,000 through the Agency of Education Center Track State Afterschool Grant, which will allow ELP to develop an expanded learning program for high schoolers.

Chesley-Park noted that the majority of ELP's funding comes from grants and subsidies for qualifying families, with the MAUSD supporting about 10% of the program's overall budget.

"Of course, grants are always tenuous. There's always that feeling that they could go away, especially right now, but we've got a 12-year record of being able to competitively receive these grants, to stand out in the state as a really high-quality program," she said.

This year's grants mark a new chapter for ELP, which will now operate as a K-12 program for the first time. Chesley-Park noted that many of the students ELP has served since kindergarten are now entering high school, and the program had previously looked for ways to continue engaging with those pupils.

"We've hired a lot of our high schoolers through the years, and we've had a counselor-in-training program, so we've been trying to find ways to support these students prior to this grant and to think around leadership and training, development in a lot of program work that they do," she said.

Now, ELP will be able to provide a variety of programs for high schoolers. Chesley-Park said new offerings could include a high school robotics league, ski club and theater programs, all of which have been popular at the middle school level. ELP's 7- to 12th-grade program is free for students.

"It's more like the students are driving (programming) as they're moving to the next level of their

education, and they know us well enough where they really come out advocating in a familiar, family-style way," Chesley-Park said.

*"Of course, grants are always tenuous. There's always that feeling that they could go away, especially right now, but we've got a 12-year record of being able to competitively receive these grants, to stand out in the state as a really high-quality program."*

— ELP Co-Director Mandy Chesley-Park

She noted ELP has partnerships with the Bristol Recreation Department and the Hub Teen Center & Skate Park on Airport Drive. Around 20 other organizations in and outside of Bristol are listed as partners on ELP's website.

Chesley-Park added that ELP is working on new collaborations with local partners like New Leaf Organics and the Bristol Collaborative Campus. The program is also exploring how it could work with the Willowell Foundation.

Over the next five years, the ELP team is looking to build on its work with local youth in other ways, such as by enhancing academic tutoring and homework support and expanding staff development efforts.

"We have a ton on the horizon," Chesley-Park said.

(Continued from Page 1A) community sustainability. At that April 28 meeting, Bristol selectboard members voted unanimously to partner with ELP on the effort.

MAUSD's Expanded Learning Program offers afterschool and summer programs for elementary and middle schoolers in the Bristol-area school district. Those offerings include sensory spaces, homework clubs and a popular middle school musical.

ELP recently received \$2.4 million in grants that will support and help expand its work over the next several years (see related story on this page). One of those grants will allow ELP to serve high school students for the first time, including through the new internship program.

### SENSE OF BELONGING

Chesley-Park noted that a lot of ELP's work centers around encouraging a sense of belonging in youth. The ELP team keeps a close eye on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, a biannual study that collects data on health behaviors and experiences of Vermont middle and high schoolers.

Chesley-Park said the team was somewhat startled to see that about half of students across several grade levels reported they don't feel like they matter. Statewide, only 54% of high school students and 56% of middle school pupils

surveyed in 2023 said they feel they matter to the people in their community.

"A lot of what we're doing is trying to provide opportunities to connect with (the) community," Chesley-Park said. "If we can have our students connect to the community, if we can introduce them to community members and businesses, we're providing the opportunity to strengthen the sense of belonging."

Doing so can help retain students in their communities after high school, lower risky behavior and lead to academic gains, she added.

Helping students feel like they belong in their community is one goal of the new civic internships program. The initiative will provide opportunities for students to connect with essential services in town and work with leaders in those areas.

Chesley-Park and LaRose began talking about how the Bristol Fire Department could fit into such a program, eventually looking at other roles students could help fill around town.

"Could we have these 9th to 12th grade students working in the town office? Could we have them archiving material?" Chesley-Park recalled asking. "Basically, anyone and everyone within the community who would like to join forces with us and benefit from this opportunity, we're really entertaining the idea."

Ideas for potential internships include working on trail maintenance and local conservation efforts, helping distribute food with the local food shelf, and providing administrative support in the town office.

### YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY

Participating town entities would provide a site supervisor, who would be paid and vetted through ELP. The ELP team would monitor all other aspects of the collaboration, Chesley-Park said.

"It's potentially a great opportunity for the youth of the community, but also for the fire department and anybody who wants to get involved," LaRose told selectboard members on April 28.

At that meeting, the selectboard approved a separate request from LaRose to update the Bristol Fire Department Policy regarding its cadet program. Those changes were prompted by the new ELP initiative and included lowering the age for participation to 15 years old.

LaRose noted that Bristol hasn't had a cadet since before the pandemic. He said the fire department currently has one prospective candidate, and that the internship program could open the door for more interested youth.

"We are no different than any other small-town fire department across this country; we are an

aging department," LaRose said. "I think I have two firefighters in their 20s."

The internship program is expected to get underway this fall, though ELP will begin laying the groundwork for the initiative sooner. Chesley-Park said ELP has hired 20 students to help out with this year's summer programming. The plan is to offer leadership training and community-building activities for that group over the summer.

Chesley-Park said the ELP team is working with Mount Abe officials and exploring opportunities for students to earn school credit through the program.

"We anticipate looking and being able to determine who participates and how we can get as many students who want to participate to join as we can," she said.

Chesley-Park noted that ELP serves around 60% of youth in the school district and employs about 60 people throughout the summer and 50 during the school year. She acknowledged ELP has a lot of buy-in in the community and said the team feels optimistic that this new initiative will flourish just as past programs have.

"We really believe that this will be a big deal for this community. It'll be a big deal for the young people, and I think we'll see some really important gains," she said.

# Celebrating Nurses Week

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### May 6 - 12, 2025

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# Ferrisburgh

(Continued from Page 1A)

year, Soule confirmed. On May 1, Soule announced in a district-wide email that Vergennes Union Elementary School Assistant Principal Beth Bearor had agreed to serve as the FCS interim principal for the 2025-2026 school year.

Bearor is a Vergennes Union High School graduate who began working at Addison Northwest in 2007 as a paraeducator. In 2015, Bearor started teaching kindergarten at VUES, doing so until 2023, when she became the school's assistant principal.

Soule wrote in her email the district was pleased Bearor will be stepping into the new role within ANWSD.

"Beth embodies all the traits we value in an elementary school leader — she is warm, grounded, student-centered, and deeply committed to fostering strong relationships with families and staff. She brings a clear understanding of early childhood education, a calm and collaborative presence, and a deep knowledge of our communities," Soule wrote.

Soule added Bearor's familiarity with her district co-workers at FCS and many Ferrisburgh residents should help in her new role.

"Beth already has strong working relationships with many members of the FCS staff and administration, and she knows many Ferrisburgh families," Soule wrote. "While she will finish out the school year in her current role at VUES, we're working to build in opportunities for her to begin connecting with the FCS community this spring."



BETH BEAROR

Those opportunities will include coming to FCS for the May 14 Community Morning. Soule said Bearor will also spend May 15 and 16 as the school's "guest principal," and "Additional opportunities to meet and get to know Beth will be shared in the coming weeks and throughout the summer."

Soule said that if Bearor is interested in the permanent position, she will absolutely be considered.

Donovan, who was 39 when she took over as FCS principal in the fall of 1991, fell about two months short of working four full academic years at the school. While not commenting on the circumstances of her departure, Donovan said she felt she had a good experience at FCS.

"I can genuinely say I love and appreciate everything about Ferrisburgh Central School, and loved my time there and appreciated my colleagues and the incredible students, and feel really grateful for the opportunity

to work in such a special place," Donovan said.

She added, "I have so much love for the school and the school community, and feel like we made such wonderful strides in terms of being able to meet the ever-changing complexities of student needs ... and building strong relationships internally and with the community. And I really felt proud of our team and really excited for the work that we were doing."

Donovan brought a diverse résumé to FCS, one that includes special education, English and Humanities teaching jobs in Africa, Brooklyn, New Orleans and Guatemala as well as locally. She also earned a law degree while tutoring on the side, was the director of special education at a Texas charter school and a Shelburne residential program for troubled teens.

The Ferrisburgh resident and mother of two daughters had before accepting the FCS position worked locally as a special educator at Middlebury Union Middle School and as the Mount Abraham Unified School District's Social and Emotional Learning Coordinator.

Donovan has no specific plans, but said she will look for a future in the education sector, as she has for the past two decades.

"I really just love supporting meaningful learning activities and meaningful learning opportunities," Donovan said. "And also working in a building inside of really healthy and positive communities. It's really beautiful and, of course, complex work to do that."

# By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

clinical social worker and an alcohol and drug counselor. The clinician can also train staff on topics vital to JGHS clients, including cultural competency, trauma-informed care, and motivational interviewing. Without the Blair Fund, shelter clients face barriers to accessing mental health support, especially elderly guests and those with mobility issues. Affordability is another issue for shelter guests.

The bottom line is the John Graham Shelter needs to raise \$26,400 in 2025 to support the cost of the program. The shelter is seeking donations to reach that goal. Find out more at [johngrahamshelter.org](http://johngrahamshelter.org).

Want to learn more about what is being done to create affordable housing in Addison County? A May 18 "Conversation on Housing" will be held at 4 p.m. in the Community Room of the Firehouse Apartments at 75 Firehouse Drive in Bristol. The conversation will focus on three initiatives: HomeShare VT, Small/Tiny Homes, and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). The event will offer an opportunity to meet individuals who are sharing their homes with others, building a tiny home, and turning existing space on a property into an ADU. All are welcome to an event sponsored by The Interfaith Affordable Housing Alliance. Email Mike at [mike802vt@comcast.net](mailto:mike802vt@comcast.net) with any questions.

April was a big month for demolition on the Ilsley Library site on Main Street in Middlebury, according to Library Director Dana Hart. Both the 1988 and 1977 addition have been removed from the historic 1924 building. Hart said many of the old building materials can be re-used. For

example, the marble cladding from the 1977 addition will become the treads and risers on the staircase in the new library expansion. She added the demolition contractor, Earth Waste & Metal of Castleton, is recycling much of the materials being removed. To do so, the company is segregating materials on site as much as possible, and then taking them to an offsite location for further processing, typically to Rutland or to the former A. Johnson Lumber Company site in Bristol. Materials are further distributed from there.

The next steps in May will primarily be site work. The retaining wall between the upper and lower parking lots will be reconstructed, and the upper parking lot will be back-filled. Updates can be found at [www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org](http://www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org), and those interested may also sign up to receive updates. Those with specific questions about the project and its progress may reach out to Hart at [dana.hart@ilsleypubliclibrary.org](mailto:dana.hart@ilsleypubliclibrary.org).

The Department of Vermont Health Access is looking for current and former Medicaid members, or family members and caregivers of members, to join the Beneficiary Advisory Committee (BAC). Anyone enrolled in Vermont Medicaid, or previously enrolled in Vermont Medicaid, and their family members or caregivers is eligible to apply. The BAC is a new advisory body made up entirely of people with direct Medicaid experience. It will meet at least four times a year, and committee members will be paid \$50 for each meeting they attend.

The BAC aims to help identify gaps and barriers to coverage and access to Medicaid care. This committee will advise Vermont Medicaid leaders on these

issues. It is a dedicated space for Medicaid beneficiaries to provide feedback based on their lived experience in the program and come up with ideas on how to improve Medicaid. The BAC will work with the Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee, which also advises Medicaid leaders. More information about the BAC is available at [tinyurl.com/227un8z8](http://tinyurl.com/227un8z8).

The state's revenue collection for the month of March just missed its target. Vermont's General, Transportation, and Education funds' receipts were a combined \$255.3 million, which was \$600,000, or 0.02%, short of the target. General Fund revenues for March fared best. They were \$175.2 million, which was \$4.1 million, or 2.4%, higher than the consensus cash flow target. Transportation Fund receipts were \$3.1 million short of the March consensus target, coming in at \$24.4 million. Education Fund revenues of \$55.7 million were \$1.5 million, or 2.6%, less than their target.

Secretary of Administration Sarah Clark said, "As Vermont enters the last fiscal quarter the administration believes the General Fund will meet or exceed target expectations. The Education Fund remains marginally above its cumulative target for the year, but is still at risk of underperforming should the economy slow. The Transportation Fund is lagging its cumulative target for the year, but still has time to recover. Many variables will determine the State's year-end financial outcome, but the potential impact of federal tariffs on Vermont's tourism industry could be a factor on whether the Education Fund and Transportation Fund end the year above or below target."

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# Hoop unifies VUHS

VUHS HOSTED MUHS in a Unified Basketball game on May 1. Right, Commodore Thomas Mentzer is pumped up. Clockwise from above, Hazel Rakowski handles the ball; Coach Jeremy Brooks outlines a play for Mentzer and Rakowski; Tiger Tyreese Tucker is introduced to the crowd; Mentzer dribbles; Kaymin Karshagen defends a Tiger; the VUHS crowd cheers their team. Students were released early to attend that afternoon, and many said they enjoyed the sense of community.

Independent photos/Steve James





**ALICE PERINE HAD a 26-year career as an educator, more than half of that spent at Middlebury Union High School, where she also became a teachers union leader.**

Photos courtesy of the Perine family

## Alice Perine

(Continued from Page 1A)

In Europe, 1925 brought early portends of the next world war: Benito Mussolini dissolved the Italian parliament and declared himself dictator, while a jailed Adolf Hitler penned and released his autobiography and political manifesto, "Mein Kampf."

Charlie Chaplin and Rudolph Valentino were kings of the silver screen, an ounce of gold was valued at \$20.67, and F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" was the must-read new book.

Alice's dad was a surgeon and gynecologist at Misericordia and Lenox Hill hospitals in New York City.

Looking back at her childhood, Alice remembers how people were affected by the Great Depression of 1930s. Her father greatly tempered his compensation expectations during that financially perilous period.

"My dad was (paid) with farm goods and so on to pay the bills," Alice recalled of how some patients needed to barter at a time when so

many folks were cash-poor and the national jobless rate was 25%.

Alice became an eager and accomplished student, attending schools in Scarsdale, N.Y.

"It was a wonderful school; we had great teachers," she recalled. "I (have often) looked back on my school education for information, and it was all loud and clear."

She was active inside the classroom and out. Alice was a sports enthusiast, playing on her school's field hockey, basketball, softball and lacrosse teams.

High School diploma in hand, Alice — who had an interest in science and biology — was ready to take the next step. And she chose Middlebury College, entering in 1943, as World War II raged.

"There were only around 42 (male students) in the college," she recalled of the war's draw on the student body.

Alice didn't know it at the time, but among those in harm's way was her future husband (and fellow Middlebury College student) Gordie Perine, assigned to the



**MANY OF ALICE Perine's grandchildren and great-grandchildren late last month joined in her birthday party held at Eastview at Middlebury when Perine turned 100 years old.**

U.S. Marine Corp's 4th Division battling its way through the Pacific. She would meet Gordie during her junior year, in 1946, after he had returned to campus.

"I'm glad I didn't know him during the war," she said of the worry his service in places like Iwo Jima would have caused her.

In addition to finding love, Alice made a big decision about her scholastic focus. She decided to shift away from biology, because the lengthy labs were impeding her ability to work her way through college. Alice gravitated toward teaching, a profession at which she would excel for around 26 years — fourteen of them spent at Middlebury Union High School.

But first things first; Alice graduated from Middlebury College in 1947. She and Gordie

married in Scarsdale in 1948 and returned to the college in 1949, for Gordie to finish his senior year. They lived in Gifford Hall.

Then in 1950, both with college degrees in hand, the couple moved to the Bronxville, N.Y., area; Gordie started a job at retailer Lord & Taylor.

### BACK TO MIDDLEBURY

But the pull back to Middlebury was strong. They resettled to a home here at 123 South Main St. after Gordie was hired to a post in the college's admissions office. By 1959, the Perines and their growing brood made their way to a larger home, at 22 South St., where Alice lived until 2021. That's when she moved into the EastView at Middlebury retirement community.

Alice, during the early years of a 54-year marriage with Gordie, was primarily super-mom. But her teaching years were bountiful and successful.

"I still have people tell me I was their favorite teacher," Alice said proudly.

She got her first taste soon after graduating from college.

"My first year was in Fair Haven, at the old high school," Alice recounted. "I was running back and forth in an old Chevrolet jalopy, with a rumble seat."

Her true entrée into teaching came in 1960, after her youngest (Ronald) was born. Her years were mainly spent at MUHS, and Alice also did some teaching at Vergennes Union High School. Her areas of expertise included English, language arts and civics.

All four of the Perine kids had their mom as a teacher during their MUHS careers.

Alice was committed to improving working conditions for her present and future peers.

She took a sabbatical from teaching in 1977 to serve as the first fulltime president of the Vermont division of the National Education Association.

Alice was one of three women



**GORDIE AND ALICE Perine met at Middlebury College and were married in 1948, and afterwards enjoyed each other's company for another 54 years. Here they are wearing metals celebrating the college's bicentennial.**

to be asked to sit on the Blue Shield Board of Vermont, at a time when educators were seeking more competitive wages and health insurance coverage as a work benefit. She was among those staffing the picket lines, and she remembers opposition to union efforts.

"I discovered, for the first time, what it was like to be thumbed-at," she said.

"We were just wanting a living wage."

Indeed, Alice has never backed away from a fight. She's a two-time breast cancer survivor.

Asked what's contributed to her longevity, Alice said, "I think it's keeping busy. I loved teaching and being with people."

When she retired from teaching in 1988, Alice remained an active community volunteer, in particular with Porter Hospital and the Sheldon Museum of Vermont History.

Through it all, her family has been a constant — though she was dealt a big blow when Gordie passed in 2002.

"He was very sociable, and a very helpful husband. He helped

with dishes at night, helped with the children, and did the grocery shopping," Alice said, adding this about her late husband's gregarious nature: "He did a lot of his correspondence in the grocery story."

The couple had an active social life, visiting with friends often.

Alice has no secret lifestyle tips for longevity. She never smoked, but she and Gordie would have a cocktail before dinner. Gordie liked his martinis. For Alice, it was scotch during the winter and gin & tonics during the summers.

She's always pretty much eaten what she's wanted, with steak, twice-baked potato and lemon pie among her favorites.

Alice recently attended the 75th reunion of the Middlebury College class of 1947. She spends her days reading, doing crosswords and occasionally watching Hallmark and tennis on TV.

And if you see her, there are at least 100 reasons to wish her a happy birthday.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

# Bristol's Dunshee Block enters next chapter

**By MARIN HOWELL**  
 BRISTOL — Bristol's Dunshee Block has gone through several chapters over the past 154 years. The historic three-story building at 19-21 Main St. was constructed by Noble F. Dunshee in the early 1870s. It initially housed Dunshee's dry goods store and another business, a meeting hall, and apartments. Throughout the years, it's been home to businesses like Peggy's Beauty Shop, Bristol Cliff's Music Center, several clothing stores and a general store.

The Dunshee Block entered yet another chapter this winter, when Justin Sandherr purchased the property — and resident businesses Bristol Suites and the Vermont Marketplace — from longtime owners Carol and Tom Wells in February.

Sandherr plans to keep business running as usual for the most part, though he and staff are looking to make some slight updates and continue collaborating with the surrounding community.

"The thing that I've been most excited about, it's getting to meet Sheila, who runs a small business (Your Home) down the street; it's getting to meet (Recycled Reading owner Melissa Hernandez), or Drew, who owns and operates Cubbers," Sandherr said during a recent interview. "These are people who have poured their lives and their passions into this community, and so I'm excited to continue to get to know the community, understand who they are and what they're doing, and then ultimately try to fit in and supplement the beauty that's taking place in Bristol."

Sandherr and his family relocated to Vermont from Pittsburgh about two years ago.

"Over the past six to eight years, I've been looking for an opportunity to simultaneously own a small business, but do it in a way that is collaborative in nature and in unison with the surrounding community, the other small businesses, and ultimately the citizens of the town," he told the *Independent*. "When this opportunity came up, I put it out to the universe that I would pursue it until I received any pushback. Fortunately, everything came together."

The Wells announced the change in ownership in a March 1 social media post. In the post, the couple noted that the Dunshee Block was in disrepair by the late 1990s. In 2000, Tom organized a group of 17 concerned Bristol-area residents who bought the building and tackled repairs and updates.

The investor-partners were paid off in 2010, after which the Wells took over the building and took on a new phase of development. They converted the apartments into a



**JUSTIN SANDHERR, LEFT, purchased Bristol's Dunshee Block — and resident businesses Bristol Suites and the Vermont Marketplace — from Carol and Tom Wells in February. He's now working with innkeepers Niko Pruesse and Mark Adams and fellow staff to make slight updates to the business and continue collaborating with the community.**

10-room country inn called Bristol Suites, which for the past six years has included a lobby store known as Vermont Marketplace.

### NEXT CHAPTER

Sandherr noted the business has a dedicated team of employees and is well-received by the community and guests. He added that the Dunshee Block has benefited from the Wellses' care and restoration work over the years.

"From this point forward, we're looking to figure out how to make small but meaningful adjustments and improvements to improve what's existing," he said.

*"When this opportunity came up, I put it out to the universe that I would pursue it until I received any pushback. Fortunately, everything smoothly came together."*

— Justin Sandherr

Those planned improvements include updates to the inn's suites. "Fresh coats of paint, updating appliances, updating amenities within the rooms, updating beds, linens, really just refreshing the entire space," Sandherr explained.

He said the multi-phase effort will unfold over the next two to three years. Earlier this month, the team was working on updates to the three units on the third floor.

The team is also looking to make some adjustments and improvements to the systems it uses, Sandherr said.

Other than that, daily operations will remain largely unchanged at the Dunshee Block. Current innkeepers Niko Pruesse and Mark Adams, and storekeepers Lily Hinrichsen and Sarah Jean Luke, are staying on under Sandherr, along with the housekeeping and maintenance staff.

"The team that we have here has been remarkable," Sandherr said. "I think as we go through this change, it's going to be important that we incorporate them into the change process. That in and of itself will be a phase of development, in

terms of just working with the team here to ensure that everybody feels comfortable and excited about the changes that are taking place."

Pruesse noted that relationship is reciprocal.

"Justin's coming in here and he's bringing a lot of positive energy, some great vision, and is really letting us show up and shine and pulling on our best strengths and bringing his into play," she said.

### WORKING WITH COMMUNITY

Adams said the business will continue to collaborate with Bristol CORE, the nonprofit committed to maintaining the economic vitality of Bristol's downtown.

"(Bristol CORE) has been a significant driver in keeping the community really motivated to share our combined resources, I would say, and just be a part of this town," he explained.

Sandherr underscored the business's focus on working with the surrounding community.

"How do we help supplement the other small businesses that are here, weddings that are taking place, people that have family and friends that are coming to town and need a really comfortable and clean place to stay," he said. "It's an exciting part, to be the connector in some ways with Bristol CORE and the other small businesses that are so phenomenal in the area."

The team is also looking forward to expanding the business's reach, bringing more people to Bristol and Addison County, as well as enlivening the building's façade to reflect what's inside.

"People are always surprised that this is an inn, so I'm excited to broadcast that message in a (way that's) creative, vibrant, exciting, but respectful to the building and the town," Adams explained. "I think we're very close to cracking that nut, but it's still a work in progress."

Sandherr expressed gratitude for

Independent photo/Marin Howell

the people and organizations that have supported the effort, including his wife and three children, the National Bank of Middlebury, Vermont Economic Development Authority, real estate agent Kate Earley, attorney David Venman and ES Craftsman.

The team will host a grand re-opening for Bristol Suites and the Vermont Marketplace on Saturday, June 28, from 1-4 p.m.

## Monkton

Have a news tip?  
 Contact Liz Pecor at  
 rascal0406@gmavt.net

### NEWS

MONKTON — The Friends Methodist Church will be at the Recycling Center on Saturday, May 10, to offer you a chance to recycle your nursery plant pots. This will include the black plastic containers which usually are not allowed to be recycled. The Recycling Center is open from 9 a.m. until noon. You will also be able to recycle these containers at the Friends Methodist Church at their annual plant sale on Saturday, May 24. When they will be accepting number 2 and number 5 nursery containers.

If you are cleaning out your garden and have excess, the church would greatly appreciate any donations of plants in preparation for their plant sale. If you need help digging plants up, there are people who would be willing to

help you! Contact Marilyn Cargill at 453-5192 if you have questions or need help. As always, thank you for your support!

The Russell Memorial Library will host an Art Free For All on Tuesday, May 13, 6 to 8 p.m. Julie McGowan, a local Monkton artist, will provide an evening of creativity for adults in a low stress environment. You can bring your favorite art supplies or the library will have the basics in supply. This program will continue on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

The Russell Memorial Library will also host 5 Town Friends of the Arts Musical Library tour on Thursday, May 15, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. William Lee Ellis will be playing in the Community (See Monkton, Page 16A)

## Lincoln

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

### NEWS

LINCOLN — There will be a kids afternoon craft session featuring weaving at the library on Wednesday, May 14, from 3 to 5 p.m. Crafters will decorate a cup, bowl or cardboard template with woven yarns. All ages are welcome. Have fun, be creative and enjoy a quick snack.

The library will be offering an Estate Planning Seminar on Thursday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m. Join local attorney and Addison County native Sarah Bouvier Haselton and senior paralegal Katie Reen from Maple Haven Law PLLC for a free estate planning seminar where they will explain estate planning in a way that is simple, clear, and even fun.

Learn why preparing in advance

is the key to protecting your loved ones. Common misconceptions will be discussed and explained. Learn how to distribute your assets smoothly and keep your family and beneficiaries out of court.

Space is limited, so reserve your spot today. Sign up at the library, email lincolnlibraryvt@gmail.com or katie@maplehavenlaw.com.

As part of the Town-Wide Yard Sale, the library will be holding their plant and book extravaganza (See Lincoln, Page 16A)

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# Efforts promote food justice, sovereignty

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — From helping distribute free food to preparing home cooked meals, there are several ways Addison County residents are working to ensure their neighbors have access to the food they need and that's familiar to them.

Middlebury College students got a chance to hear more about those efforts this past Monday during a panel discussion highlighting how people in Addison County are promoting food justice and sovereignty. Panelists were invited to talk about their work as part of Middlebury College Professor Molly Anderson's course on Food Power & Justice.

What are food justice and food sovereignty?

"For me, the easiest way to define food justice and food sovereignty is to think about what their opposites look like," Samantha Langevin, Director of Partnerships & Community for Liberation Ecosystem, explained. "What does food injustice look like? Typically, I think, it looks like a lack of choice, not being able to afford food, not having access easily to food. It also means not having access to food that came from nearby or that you know where it came from, and I think it also means not having access to food that's familiar to you."

*"Food sovereignty means that you have some power to determine all of those things for yourself," she said. "It also means having some power to influence the larger food system that you're a part of."*

— Samantha Langevin

Food sovereignty is similar to the idea of food justice but zoomed out a bit, Langevin added.

"Food sovereignty means that you have some power to determine all of those things for yourself," she said. "It also means having some power to influence the larger food system that you're a part of."

Langevin was one of five panelists to take part in Monday's discussion. She shared some of the work of Liberation Ecosystem, which she described as a member-driven nonprofit that works statewide to promote Vermonters of color within the areas of agriculture, land, environment and food.

Langevin said the organization is working on food justice and food sovereignty in a couple ways, such as by offering workshops and skill shares. Such offerings include an agroecology and soil health class and spring foraging workshop offered this past weekend.

"This is a small example of year-round programming that we do to give people access to knowledge and skills to determine their own food choices and to affect the food they have access to," she said.

Langevin noted a significant part of the nonprofit's work is done through community building, "providing opportunities for people who are marginalized or hold multiple marginalized identities to form strong community connections that also greatly affects their food security."

She pointed to a couple of examples, such as farmers looking to form a worker-owned collaborative to increase their access to grazing land and

markets for goats and members developing a "Spud Club," where people with time and others with land can come together to grow potatoes.

"The idea being that maybe you have land, but you can't always water it; maybe you can't always do weeding, or you don't have access to water," Langevin said. "But by looking at this as a community effort, the goal for them, this informal group of people, is to grow enough potatoes so they don't have to buy potatoes."

## ABOLITION KITCHEN

Attendees also heard from Joanna Colwell about the work of Abolition Kitchen, a food project through which white volunteers cook meals for Black community members and families in the Middlebury and Rutland areas.

Colwell said the effort began five years ago after George Floyd was killed in May 2020. Around that time, leaders of the Rutland Area NAACP were asked to speak at demonstrations and take on organizing work in addition to their full time jobs and caring for their families, Colwell recalled.

"We were just seeing the level of overwhelm, and we did what you do when your friends are overwhelmed, you want to cook them a meal," she said.

Colwell said her friend Caitlin Gildrien initially had the idea to start cooking meals for the former president of the Rutland Area NAACP during busy periods. Overtime the effort expanded to cooking for more NAACP leaders, then grew to delivering meals to four families in Rutland every Friday night. It later extended to reach residents in the Addison County area.

"We started recruiting just friends who wanted to participate. (Gildrien) created a spreadsheet and people could sign up to make brownies for everybody for that week, they could sign up to make an entrée, they could sign up to just cook a full meal for one family," Colwell explained.

Abolition Kitchen now makes and delivers meals once a month.

"The idea was, and is, to make a concrete, useful gesture of care. To say in action, 'I see your labor and your pain,' and to make one small thing easier," Gildrien wrote about the project. "Think of it as the opposite of a micro aggression... it's a micro compassion, it's a micro solidarity. It's a small thing, regularly, to say, 'You are valued. You are seen. You belong.' Food is love."

## ADDISON ALLIES

Monday's panel also featured two representatives from the Addison Allies Network, a nonprofit organization that's run by migrant leadership and dedicated to supporting the county's migrant community. One representative said there are more than 600 members of the migrant community living and working in Addison County, and that Addison Allies is one of

several organizations supporting the migrant community.

The representatives highlighted a few different organizations that support food access for the migrant community, including Bristol's Have a Heart Food Shelf and Middlebury nonprofit Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE).

Another program is run through the Vergennes Community Food Shelf. That initiative has been organized around migrant input and initially met with members of the migrant community to hear what they wanted to see in the food program.

"It's something that brings a lot of joy to the community because they can access food, specifically the things that they would ask for," one representative said. "It's important when we seek to aid (the migrant community) that we should ask them first what (they) need and what (they) like."

The monthly food delivery program currently serves 27 families. One representative noted the program is not meeting the full need, and volunteers are exploring ways to roll the model into other food programs.

Lindsey Berk, the Executive Director of the Addison County Relocalization Network, shared how ACORN is working to promote food justice and sovereignty through initiatives like the Food Hub and the Pharmacy: Food is Medicine program. Thought that program community members receive prescriptions from their healthcare providers or other referrals to receive free shares of fruits and vegetables.

Other efforts include ACORN's Farmer Climate Network. The network hosts events like farmer wellness days and organizes Working Bees, which assemble local growers and volunteers to tackle projects on area farms.

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The panelists also highlighted some of the difficulties that come with promoting food justice and food sovereignty.

"Challenges inherent in our agricultural and food system in this country are based on the erasure of the labor of people of color. This is not something that happened in the past, this is continuously happening right now; Vermont dairy would not exist without migrant laborers," Langevin said. "It's one of the biggest challenges that our food system faces and that our organization is trying directly to change the face of."

Other challenges include changing culture and values around the price of food and paying for the full price of food, as well as increasing local demand.

Panelists also shared how community members can support this work, such as by getting involved in local efforts, financially supporting programs and helping facilitate connections and collaboration.

"We think of ourselves not as in competition with the people around us but in an ecosystem where our success requires their success, and so we are always interested in collaborations," Langevin said.



## Civic pride

CONSTRUCTION OF A new gazebo in place of the old one on the Orwell town green was well underway on Monday. Just so happens that painters had started sprucing up the clocktower. The hope is to finish the work for the Memorial Day Weekend parade.

## Monkton

(Continued from Page 15A)

Room. This event is free and open to the public. For questions or more information call 802-453-4471.

Don't forget to join in the fun on Saturday, May 17, for Community BBQ & Game Day at the Monkton Town Hall community room and patio space from noon to 3 p.m.. You can park at the Town Hall and in the church parking lot. All

Monkton residents are invited of any age! There will be food, games, contests, prizes, a bake sale, raffle and more. It's a great way for our community to get together for a relaxing, fun day. This event will happen rain or shine and is free to attend. The BBQ meal will cost \$10. The Morse Park Hardcourt Committee is sponsoring this event to benefit the hardcourt project

to construct a full size basketball court and two pickleball courts at Morse Park. To give the committee an idea of how much food will be needed please contact Teri at tgf417@gmail.com or call 802-989-2276.

A big "Thank You" to all who participated in Green-up Day. You've made Monkton a brighter and prettier place to live!

## Lincoln

(Continued from Page 15A)

on Saturday, May 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come pick up plants for your garden. They will have perennials, annual flower and veggie starts, and houseplants. There will also be garden-focused kid activities, live music, baked goods, and information hubs on native pollinators, the mental health benefits of gardening and preventing the spread of jumping

worms. The library will be accepting donations for both plants and books during the second half of May. For plant donations, please contact Jenny at jennylawson23@gmail.com. They can come to your location to help split, dig and re-pot them for you. Two boxes of books per family will be accepted. Textbooks, medical books and encyclopedias will not be accepted.

All books should be clean and odor free.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Lincoln Historical Museum and Barn will reopen on Sunday, June 8.

Until next time ... If You Don't Like The Road You're Walking, Start Paving Another One. In The Silence Of Your Soul Lies The Answers You Seek.

# Voting is now open for the 2025

## Pet PHOTO CONTEST

We've got categories for every type of pet personality:

<p>Funny Face</p> <p>Best Pals</p> <p>Action Shot</p>	<p>Couch Potato</p> <p>Model Shot</p> <p>Work Companions</p>
---	--

How to vote:

Visit each of the 6 contest category albums on the Addison Independent's Facebook page and "like" your favorite photos.

You're welcome to vote for multiple pets. Winners will be announced in the **May 15th edition of the Addison Independent.**

The top winner from each category will receive a prize from **Middlebury Agway.**

Voting ends Sunday, May 11th at 11:59PM!

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Each category winner will receive a gift certificate from Agway

# Tributes to our moms...

Dear Mom,  
Happy Mother's Day!  
Today, we celebrate you and the incredible light you bring into our lives. You are the heart of our family, always seeing the silver lining and reminding us to cherish every moment. Your warmth, kindness, and amazing memory make each of us feel so loved and



valued.  
Thank you for always finding time for us, no matter how busy life gets. We are truly grateful for everything you do. We love you endlessly!  
With all our love,  
Bruce and Brian Senecal



In a world of great mothers, I am lucky to have one who is also a friend.  
Happy Mother's Day to Kira, the best friendmom ever known.



Happy Mother's Day to this amazing woman!  
Love, Emily Rose

### In Loving Memory

If roses grow in Heaven Lord, please pick a bunch for us.  
Place them in our Mother's arms and tell her they're from us.

Tell her that we love her and miss her, and when she turns to smile, place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while.

Because remembering her is easy, we do it every day, but there's an ache within

our heart for we are missing her today.

Happy Mother's Day, Mother!  
We miss you!  
Love, Cheryl

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Sheila Sullivan Lathrop (of Bristol)—I could not be prouder to be your daughter. I am eternally grateful for your loving & humble example of how to walk through life leading with kindness and compassion. You mean the world to me, Mom, and I love you with all of my heart.  
Sarah

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# SPORTS

ALSO IN THIS SECTION:

- School News
- Legal Notices
- Classifieds
- Police Logs



TIGER SOPHOMORE GOALKEEPER Ida Blackwell makes a save on Essex attacker Becca Hirschman in Middlebury on Saturday. It was one of her 10 saves in the Tiger lacrosse victory over the Hornets.

Independent photo/Steve James



MUHS JUNIOR MIDDIE Quinn Doria goes airborne to fire home one of her two first-quarter goals during the Tiger girls' lacrosse team's Saturday home win over the Hornets. Doria also scooped a team-high nine ground balls.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Tiger girls' lacrosse defeats defending D-I champion Essex

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School girls' lacrosse team on Saturday relied on sturdy defense and balanced scoring to knock off visiting defending Division I champion Essex, 9-5.

The Tigers were coming off a tough — but still encouraging — loss on the previous Wednesday, when host South Burlington rallied in the final 11 minutes from a three-goal hole to edge the Tigers, 8-7. The Wolves, a perennial title contender, improved to 5-1 with that result.

The Tigers followed Saturday's victory by cresting .500 with a 19-14 victory over Mount Mansfield in a game played at Mount Abraham due to poor field conditions at both competing schools.

On Saturday MUHS moved to 2-2 in a schedule limited by rainouts. Essex dropped to 5-2 with the setback.

The Tigers were happy on Saturday to reach .500 and to knock off the 2024 champions, according to senior team captain Ada Weaber. "It feels good to take down the defending state champs, really," Weaber said.

A big factor was that Weaber helped the Tigers control 12 of 19 draws, with junior middle Quinn Doria scooping up several that Weaber didn't control herself, including one Doria converted into a fast-break goal for the first Tiger score.

## Score BOARD

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Baseball	
5/1 St. Albans vs MUHS	22-14
5/1 Mt Abe vs OV	7-6
5/1 VUHS vs Peoples	6-5
5/3 VUHS vs Randolph	4-2
5/3 Montpelier at MUHS	Suspended
5/3 Mt Abe at Rutland	Postponed
5/5 Springfield at OV	Postponed
5/5 Fair Haven at MUHS	Postponed
5/6 Fairfax at Mt Abe	Postponed
Softball	
5/1 Mt Abe vs OV	19-7
5/1 St Albans vs MUHS	7-3
5/2 OV vs Burr & Burton	9-3
5/3 VUHS at MUHS	Postponed
5/3 Mt Abe at Rutland	Postponed
5/5 MUHS vs Mt Mansfield	13-2
5/6 VUHS vs Caledonia United	16-3
5/6 OV at White River	Postponed
Girls' Lacrosse	
4/30 South Burlington vs MUHS	8-7
5/1 MAV vs Stowe	17-6
5/2 MAV vs Lyndon	20-1
5/3 MUHS vs Essex	9-5
5/5 GMVS vs MAV	18-9
5/6 MUHS vs Mt Mansfield	19-14
5/7 MAV at Burlington	Late
Boys' Lacrosse	
4/30 MUHS vs South Burlington	9-8
5/2 MAV at Lyndon	Postponed
5/3 MUHS vs Essex	9-5
5/6 MUHS vs Mt Mansfield	9-8
Boys' Tennis	
4/30 MUHS vs Rice	5-2
5/2 MUHS at Burlington	Postponed
5/5 Essex at MUHS	Postponed
5/7 CVU at MUHS	Late
Girls' Tennis	
4/30 Rice vs MUHS	5-2
5/2 MUHS at U-32	Postponed
5/5 MUHS at Montpelier	Postponed
5/7 MUHS at N Country	Late
COLLEGE SPORTS	
Women's Lacrosse	
NESCAC Playoffs	
Final Four at Midd	
5/3 Wesleyan vs Midd	13-10
5/3 Tufts vs Colby	19-9
5/4 Tufts vs Wesleyan	13-7
Men's Lacrosse	
NESCAC Playoffs	
Final Four at Tufts	
5/3 #1 Tufts vs #4 Midd	23-10
Baseball	
NESCAC Playoffs at Midd	
Quarterfinal Best of Three	
5/3 Midd vs Tufts	5-3
5/3 Tufts vs Midd	6-2
5/4 Midd vs Tufts	9-5
Softball	
5/1 Midd vs Keene	4-2
5/1 Midd vs Keene	5-0
5/3 Wesleyan vs Midd	10-0
5/3 Wesleyan vs Midd	5-3

## The (E)motion Offense Unites the Generations



DYLAN HICKS, AN 11-year-old fifth-grader at Monkton Central School, drives by his Uncle Peter to the hoop in a game of one-on-one on the driveway court at the Lindholm A.C. in Cornwall.

Photo courtesy of Peter Lindholm

Editor's note: Columnist Karl Lindholm is taking it easy this week and, for the third time, his son Peter is picking up the slack for his dad.

By PETER LINDHOLM

A common style of offense in basketball is the "motion" offense. Like much of life, it is defined by an oxymoron: constant change. Players cut, screen, and pass over and over again until an option emerges. A player cuts to open space and is replaced by another player, a person grows older and is replaced by a younger person, a leaf falls from a tree and is replaced by a green one in the spring.

Motion. In pickup basketball, motion offense becomes a universal language, unspoken but understood. When there are no coaches to call out set plays or practices to get to know your teammates, everyone knows to cut, screen, and pass, never standing in one place for too long. Like any language, it is maintained through generations, passed down through traditions and ceremonies. Here are the stories of two:

.....

The Lindholm family was eight days into a cross country jaunt in the summer of 2008, and the wires were starting to fray. My younger sister and I sat in the back seat, arms crossed like knives after being scolded for yet another

argument over what to watch on the portable DVD player ("White Men Can't Jump" versus "The Cheetah Girls.")

At her wit's end, my mom pulled off at a public park somewhere in Michigan, hoping for an early lunch and some peace and quiet. Across from the picnic tables was what my dad and I had secretly been hoping for: a concrete basketball court. Double rims, a net missing a loop, and no three-point line. Nothing fancy, but pretty good. Just how we liked it.

My dad and I were already well-versed in unspoken language. "Did you read the *Globe* yet?" meant "I love you." A contented silence with the Celtics game on the background meant "I cherish our time together." "Clean your room or no TV" meant "clean your room or no TV — except for the Red Sox game." Sports gave us a filter for our emotions, a glossary of terms for the feelings we had trouble stating plainly.

We ambled over to the court and started shooting around. From the other end of the court, two players, probably 15 or 16 years old, came over, along with their dad. They challenged us to a game of two on two. I was nervous about it. At 13 and 63, my dad and I had age mismatches on both ends of the spectrum. My dad and I had never played together before. We



Sports (Mostly) PETER LINDHOLM

## Mixed results for high school baseball teams

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
ADDISON COUNTY — In county high school baseball action in the past week, Mount Abe held on for a one-run victory over Otter Valley, Vergennes won two nailbiters, and Middlebury lost a slugfest in its only outing that wasn't rained out.

The Eagles also hosted Fairfax on Tuesday; see story on Page 1A.

**EAGLES**  
On May 1 the Eagles dealt visiting Otter Valley its first loss, 7-6. The Eagles carried a 7-1 lead into the seventh inning and had to stave off a five-run Otter rally. OV (4-1) took its first loss by making six errors behind hard-luck loser Jackson Howe, who went six innings and allowed four hits and three earned runs.

He was outdueled for six

(See Baseball, Page 4B)

## Panther men chosen for NCAA lax tournament

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
MEDFORD, Mass. — The Middlebury College men's lacrosse team received an at-large bid to the NCAA Division III tournament on Sunday night and will play a familiar foe, and possibly two, this weekend at a four-team regional hosted by defending NESCAC and NCAA champion Tufts.

On Saturday the 9-8 Panthers will square off at 3 p.m. against St. Lawrence (11-6). The teams met during an April 8 snowstorm at St. Lawrence, with the Saints prevailing, 7-6.

The winner of that game will almost certainly play top-ranked Tufts (18-0) on Sunday. The Jumbos at noon on Saturday will face the winner of a Wednesday happy-to-here game between Rhodes College of Memphis (13-4) and Transylvania University of Lexington, Ky., (11-5). The Jumbos defeated the Panthers in the 2024 quarterfinal and twice this season in Medford, 16-11 in the regular season and 23-10 in this past Saturday's NESCAC semifinal.

## Softball teams earn victories despite weather

Rain cancellations limit play; local teams carve out wins when in action

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
MIDDLEBURY — In a week of local high school softball action curtailed by rainy weather, Mount Abraham picked up a win by defeating Otter Valley in the Eagles' only outing, Middlebury split two games, and Vergennes picked up its first victory.

**EAGLES**  
On May 1 the Eagles slugged their way to a 19-7 victory over visiting OV in five innings. Gen Forand homered, doubled, singled twice and drove in six runs to lead the Mount Abe attack. Nora Hurlburt homered and drove in four runs; Emmali

Rougier tripled, singled and drove in two runs, and winning pitcher Gretchen Toy chipped in four hits. Toy allowed four runs, one earned, on five hits while fanning four.

Sophia Parker took the pitching loss, surrendering 19 runs, 12 earned, in 4.1 innings; she allowed 19 hits and struck out six. On offense for OV Parker had two hits, Kaylee Maloy drove in two runs with a pair of hits, and Leann Thomas had a hit and two RBI as the Otters dropped to 3-3.

Rain wiped out the Eagles' scheduled Saturday game at Rutland.

The 4-0 Eagles were set to visit

Rice on Wednesday after deadline for the *Independent's* print edition.

**MUHS**  
Rain postponed the Saturday game at MUHS between the Tigers and Commodores.

On May 1 visiting Division I contender St. Albans bested the Tigers, 7-3. McKenna Whitney took the pitching loss, allowing five hits and striking out two, and Lily Dame stroked four hits, including a triple.

On Monday the Tigers banged out 10 hits in a 13-2 victory at Mount Mansfield. Lexi Whitney earned the pitching win, allowing five hits and three walks and one

earned run while striking out seven. Skyler Choiniere knocked out three hits, and McKenna Whitney and Meredith Cameron (double) each drove in two runs.

The Tigers (2-3) were scheduled to host Enosburg on Wednesday after deadline.

**VUHS**  
On Tuesday the Commodores defeated visiting Caledonia United, 16-3. Details of the victory were not reported before Wednesday morning's deadline, but the *Independent* hopes to have information in the online version by Thursday afternoon. VUHS improved to 1-3.



THE TIGER BACK line played well in a win Saturday over visiting Essex. Here, from left, senior defender Juliette Hunsdorfer, junior middle Quinn Doria, and senior defender Addison Schnoor break up a Hornet possession.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Girls' lax

(Continued from Page 1B)

defensemen today, so it shows how much depth we have."

Co-Coach Caroline Wood, a MUMS science teacher and former NCAA Division II defender, is working primarily with the defense, which despite missing two starters got good work from seniors Addison Schnoor, Georgie Kiel and Juliette Hunsdorfer and sophomore Hayden Dunakin, with solid support from the Tiger midfielders. Sophomore

goalie Ada Blackwell had a strong game behind them with 10 saves.

"They stepped up and played really well," Wood said of the back line. "They're very receptive to feedback. They'll do what's asked of them and continue to apply it."

The game started with two goals in the first minute. Hornet Jillian Goulette bolted in from the right side and finished low 31 seconds after the opening draw. Doria answered 1:11 later, winning a

battle for a ground ball after the next draw and then racing down the right side and whistling a bullet into the net's left side from about 10 yards out.

The Tigers earned two free position shots over the next few minutes, but did not convert — Weaber hit the left post with one. Hornet Zoe Papiseraphim also fired a free position bid wide before the Tigers took the lead with 3:23 left in the period, courtesy of Doria. She again won a ground ball at midfield and bolted in and scored, and it was 2-1 after one period.

The Tigers threatened to pull away early in the second period, when Quinn and Weaber netted free positions 34 seconds apart to make it 4-1 at 8:53.

The teams traded goals over the next five minutes, with Olivia Spooner sweeping in from the left side and firing back into the lower left corner for the Hornets, and Quinn cutting left to right across the goalfront and hitting the right side at 5:05.

Essex surged over the rest of the period despite good saves from Blackwell, one on Goulette out front and back-to-back stops on a Becca Hirschman free position with two minutes to go, one on the initial bid and another on the rebound. But Hornet Addison Stratton also found the net twice while the Hornets were controlling the action, and it was 5-4, Middlebury, at the half.

The Tigers survived being down a player for two minutes to open the second half, but Essex tied the game at 5-5 with 3:52 to go in the third quarter when Stratton converted a nice behind-the-net feed from Spooner.

The Tigers responded in the period's final 1:10. Junior middle Lia Calzini stepped into the attack and whipped a low, 12-foot shot home at 1:10. The Tigers won the



SENIOR MUHS ATTACKER Ada Weaber races into Essex territory with the ball during the Tiger girls' lacrosse team's Saturday home win over the Hornets. Weaber led the offense with two goals and an assist and helped the Tigers control 12 of 19 draws.

Independent photo/Steve James



MUHS SOPHOMORE MIDDLE Isabel Quinn bolts up the field with the ball during the Tiger girls' lacrosse team's Saturday home win over the Hornets. She scored twice for the Tigers and scooped five ground balls.

Independent photo/Steve James

draw and went right back on the attack. The Tigers passed the ball to the goalfront to sophomore attacker Alice Livesay, and Hornet goalie Isabel Cady was whistled for fouling her. That meant Livesay was awarded a free position shot on an empty net, and she buried it at 0:44 to give the Tigers a 7-5 lead.

The Tigers stretched their lead in the fourth quarter when Weaber buried a free position at 8:12, and senior Sara Kent scored on a strong solo move 35 seconds later. The Tigers didn't allow the Hornets many looks on goal the rest of the way, but Blackwell made a pair of saves on Hornet Emily Stempek in the late going to seal the win.

In the setback at South Burlington

the previous Wednesday the last of Elise Smith's four goals proved to be the game-winner for the Wolves. Four of her teammates added a goal apiece, and SB goalie Victoria Bohlmann made 12 saves.

Weaber led the Tigers with four goals, and Livesay, Calzini and Quinn each scored once, while Blackwell made eight saves.

On Monday in Bristol the Tigers prevailed in a game that Coach Weaber in an email called "a slugfest."

Leading the Tigers' offensive outburst were Ada Weaber (four goals, five assists, 25 draw controls), Doria (five goals, assist), Kenyon Connors (five goals), Livesay (goal, three assists), Kent

(goal, two assists), and two players with a goal apiece, Sedona Carrara and Quinn.

For the 5-4 Cougars, Sydney Conk, Ryley Morigeau and Tessa Simson led the way with three goals apiece.

The close loss to the Wolves and the two wins have given the Tigers belief they can contend this year not only because of their own abilities, but also because many other teams that are typically in the title chase find themselves rebuilding.

"This year a lot of other teams have lost seniors," Ada Weaber said. "So I think this is the year we could do well, and I'm really proud of our team."

## Lindholm

(Continued from Page 1B)

didn't have a euphemism yet for embarrassment.

I needn't have worried: we whupped them. As we played, I watched the easeful, practiced movements of my father. He never moved quickly, yet he always ended up in open space. And when I took the space he had just vacated, I found myself in open space too. The motion offense. After the game, the two boys went back to their side of the court. Their father ambled up to us and, chuckling, said, "Hey kid, your grandpa can really play." I silently agreed.

.....

Seventeen years later, my nephew Dylan and I are shooting around at the rec courts at UVM. He is 11 (going on 17), a fifth-grader, tall for his age and with questions beyond the grasp of his peers. In between rebounds, we talk about school, fights with his sister, and the outdoors (our other shared love). Like for my father and me more than 15 years earlier, basketball is the lens through which our connection shines, our language.

Today, however, I have been

selfish. One of my numerous pickup basketball group texts has lit the beacons and will be playing while we are there. I'm hoping that Dylan will be excited by the idea of watching his uncle and five other 30-year-olds struggle against UVM first years.

He is not. When the adults are finished splitting up the teams, there are only nine players. Dylan walks onto the court like LeBron James at the Staples Center. The other players share bemused glances, but the 10th player in a pickup basketball game stuck on nine can be a Civil War reenactor as long as they can guard. Dylan sinks his foul shot (the traditional way to gain entry into the game) and we're off.

On the first play of the game, Dylan is waiting on the right wing. I dribble toward him, imploring him to see the open space by the basket. He does, and fakes out his defender, a skinny first year who wouldn't have looked out of place at the X Games. I lightly drop the ball onto the baseline and Dylan makes smooth right-handed layup. The motion offense strikes again. My nephew and I jog back on

defense, exchanging the traditional high five.

Dylan scores four more baskets over three games. At the end of the last game we sit, drained and sweaty on the sidelines, each chugging a blue Gatorade. I am struck by the power of this moment, Dylan's induction into a new level of connection with basketball and with the world he is entering.

I look over at Dylan, expecting barely contained euphoria. He had just more than held his own in a game in which he was the youngest player by 10 years. Instead, he looks me over appraisingly. "You're pretty good," he says.

Nothing more need be said.

Peter Lindholm grew up in Cornwall, graduating from MUHS in 2013 and from Middlebury College in 2018. He is a behavioral interventionist at Winooski Elementary School and is pursuing a master's in social work at the University of Vermont. He coached the Winooski Elementary fifth-graders and plays a lot of pickup hoop at UVM and elsewhere.



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# Schedule

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

**Baseball**

5/8 Mt Abe at Missisquoi	4:30 PM
5/8 VUHS at Milton	4:30 PM
5/8 Enosburg at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/8 OV at Hartford	6 PM
5/10 Missisquoi at MUHS	11 AM
5/10 Enosburg at VUHS	11 AM
5/12 OV at Leland & Gray	4:30 PM
5/13 MUHS at VUHS	4:30 PM
5/13 Enosburg at Mt Abe	4:30 PM
5/14 Mt Abe at Rutland	5 PM
5/15 MUHS at Mt Abe	4:30 PM
5/15 OV at Green Mt	4:30 PM
5/15 MUHS at Mt Abe	4:30 PM
5/15 VUHS at Missisquoi	4:30 PM
5/17 VUHS at Mt Abe	10 AM
5/17 OV at Brattleboro	11 AM
5/17 MUHS at Milton	11 AM

**Softball**

5/8 VUHS at Milton	4:30 PM
5/8 Mt Abe at Rice	4:30 PM
5/8 Enosburg at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/9 OV at Hartford	5 PM
5/10 MUHS at Rice	11 AM
5/10 Mt Abe at Milton	11 AM
5/10 Enosburg at VUHS	11 AM
5/10 MUHS at Rice	11 AM
5/10 Mt Abe at Milton	11 AM
5/10 Enosburg at VUHS	11 AM
5/13 MUHS at VUHS	4:30 PM
5/13 OV at White River	4:30 PM
5/14 Mt Abe at Rutland	5 PM
5/13 Enosburg at Mt Abe	4:30 PM
5/15 MUHS at Mt Abe	4:30 PM
5/15 OV at Springfield	4:30 PM
5/15 VUHS at Rice	4:30 PM
5/17 VUHS at Mt Abe	10 AM
5/17 Brattleboro at OV	11 AM
5/17 MUHS at Milton	11 AM

**Girls' Lacrosse**

5/8 Colchester at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/9 MUHS at Rutland	4 PM
5/10 MAV vs. Milton (at VUHS)	6 PM
5/13 Harwood at MAV	4:30 PM
5/13 St Albans at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/16 CVU at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/16 Colchester at MAV	4:30 PM

**Boys' Lacrosse**

5/8 Burlington at MAV	4:30 PM
5/9 Burr & Burton at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/10 Milton at MAV	11 AM
5/13 MUHS at St. Albans	4:30 PM
5/14 MAV at Harwood	4:30 PM
5/16 MUHS at CVU	4:30 PM
5/16 MAV at Colchester	4:30 PM

**Boys' Tennis**

5/9 Mt Mansfield at MUHS	4 PM
5/12 MUHS at St. J	3:30 PM
5/14 Stowe at MUHS	4 PM

**Girls' Tennis**

5/9 MUHS at Mt Mansfield	3:30 PM
5/12 Spaulding at MUHS	4 PM
5/14 MUHS at Stowe	3:30 PM
5/16 MUHS at Harwood	4 PM

**Girls' Ultimate**

5/8 CVU at MUHS	4 PM
5/15 MUHS at S Burlington	TBA

**Boys' Ultimate**

5/12 Milton at MUHS	4 PM
5/16 Colchester at MUHS	4 PM

**COLLEGE SPORTS**

**Women's Lacrosse**

**NCAA D-III Games at Midd**

5/10 Oswego St. vs Ithaca	1 PM
5/11 Midd vs. 5/10 Winner	1 PM

**Men's Lacrosse**

**NCAA D-III Regional at Tufts**

5/10 TBD vs Tufts	Noon
5/10 Midd vs St. Lawrence	3 PM
5/11 Final	3 PM

**Baseball**

**NESCAC Final Four at Bowdoin**

**Double Elimination**

5/9 Midd vs Trinity	1:30 PM
5/9 Colby vs Williams	5 PM
5/10 & 11	Games TBD

**Softball**

**NESCAC Tournament at #1 Tufts**

**Double Elimination**

5/9 #5 Midd vs #4 Colby	9:30 AM
5/10 & 11	Games TBD

*Weather and other factors can change schedules, often at the last minute. Fans are advised to check school websites for scheduling information.*

## Tiger boys' lax now 8-0 in D-I

### MUHS defeats Essex, South Burlington and Mt. Mansfield

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys' lacrosse team posted three recent wins to improve to 8-0 and unofficially move into first place in Division I in the Vermont Principals' Association Points standings.

On April 30 the Tigers earned a 9-8 victory over previously undefeated South Burlington. MUHS scored the game's first five goals and then held off an SB rally.

Six Tigers scored in the victory: Ben Debisschop led the way with three goals, and Angus Blackwell

added two. Logan McNulty, Landon Kean, Marshall Eddy, and Cal Boulanger chipped in a goal apiece.

Will Goyette led the Wolves with four goals, and Jack Kelly scored twice. SB remained in second place in D-I at 7-1 as of this Wednesday.

On Saturday the Tigers defeated host Essex, 9-5. McNulty led the way with five goals and an assist, Blackwell racked up a hat trick, and Luke Nuceder scored once. Goalie Levi Nuceder made 10 saves.

Eli Edwards led the 2-6 Hornets with two goals, and

goalie Atticus Benoit made 11 saves.

On Tuesday at Mt. Mansfield, the Tigers outlasted the Cougars, 9-8, as Levi Nuceder made 14 saves. The Tigers took an 8-4 halftime lead and had to stave off a rally from MMU, which sits in third place at 6-2.

McNulty (four goals, assist), Blackwell (four goals) and DeBisschop provided the offense.

For the Cougars Atticus Erwin (four goals) and Finn Heney (three goals) sparked the attack, and goalie Carson Jenvold made seven saves.

## MUHS girls' tennis drops match

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
SOUTH BURLINGTON — The Middlebury Union High School girls' tennis team lost its only recent match, 5-2, to host Rice on April 30. That was the Middlebury team's first setback, as the Tigers dropped to 2-1.

The Tigers' matches on May 2 at U-32 and Monday at Montpelier were rained out. They're scheduled to visit North Country on Wednesday after deadline for this issue.

The individual match results vs. Rice were:

At No. 1 singles, Lily Collins, Rice, defeated Sophia Boise, MUHS, 6-4, 7-5.

At No. 2 singles, Ella

McCormack, Rice, defeated Piper Farnsworth, MUHS, 2-6, 6-4, 11-9.

At No. 3 singles, Tess Nagy, Rice, defeated Anna Wolosinski, MUHS, 6-1, 6-0.

At No. 4 singles, Abby Booth, Rice, defeated Maryam Khan, MUHS, 7-5, 6-2.

At No. 5 singles, Hanna Slanisawski, Rice, defeated Grace Ritter, MUHS, 7-5, 6-1.

At No. 1 doubles, Subia Khan & Clara Chant, MUHS, defeated Kaylee Dye & Reese Billings, Rice, 6-1, 6-1.

At No. 2 doubles, Sophia Nicolai & Grace Ritter, MUHS, defeated Liliana Conoscenti & partner, Rice, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4).

## MAV girls' lax wins two of three

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
VERGENNES — The Mount Abraham-Vergennes cooperative girls' lacrosse team picked up two wins in three recent outings.

The Commodores improved to 3-4 heading into an away game at Burlington on Wednesday night after deadline for the Thursday print edition.

On May 1 the Commodores rolled past host Stowe, 17-6. June Yates-Rusch (seven goals, assist) and Meredith Dufault (five goals, assist) did the most damage for MAV. Also contributing on the attack were, Callie Rule and Thompson Davis, each with a goal and two assists; and Esme Visco-Lyons, Aubrey Coffey and

Ruby Hellier, each with a goal and an assist. In goal for MAV, Kendra Jackson made seven saves.

Elanor Hazard led Stowe with three goals, and Raider goalie Evelyn Song made nine saves.

On Friday, May 2, the Commodores eased by visiting Lyndon, 20-1. Thompson (five goals, two assists), Yates-Rusch (three goals, assist) and Safoura Camara (two goals, assist) led the offense. Rule and Ila Crowley each contributed a goal and two assists, Esme Visco-Lyons and Ruby Hellier chipped in a goal and an assist each, and Maris LaPerle Aubrey Coffey each

scored once. Jackson made four saves.

Bailey Levine scored for the Vikings, and two Lyndon goalies combined for 19 saves.

On Monday host Green Mountain Valley doubled up MAV 18-9. Harper Travis led the Gumbies with seven goals, and Cannon Martin added three goals and three assists. Four other Gumbies added two goals apiece, and GMVS goalie Brooke Combs made six saves.

Dufault led MAV with three goals, Ada Hellier scored two goals and added an assist, Yates-Rusch scored twice, and Visco and Rule added a goal apiece. Jackson made five saves in goal.

## Tiger boys' tennis defeats Rice

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
MIDDLEBURY — In the only match the Middlebury Union High School boys' tennis team played recently, the Tigers defeated host Rice, 5-2, back on April 30. That result was the Tigers' fourth straight victory, and they improved to 4-2.

The Tigers were scheduled on Wednesday this week to host Champlain Valley, a team that defeated them in their season opener. That match was held, weather permitting, after the deadline for this issue of the *Independent*. Next up on the schedule for the boys' tennis team is a 4 p.m. home match on Friday vs. Mount Mansfield.

The Tigers' Friday, May 2, match at Burlington was rained out, as was Monday's home match vs. Essex.

On April 30 against Rice the individual match scores were:

At No. 1 singles, Jackson Murray (MUHS) defeated Jaden Binkhorst (Rice), 6-0, 6-0.

At No. 2 singles, Charles Young (MUHS) defeated Tristan Schreiber (Rice), 6-0, 6-0.

At No. 3 singles, Nate Cook Yoder (MUHS) defeated Inigo Lopez (Rice), 6-3, 6-3.

At No. 4 singles, Baker Nelson

(MUHS) defeated James Waite (Rice), 2-6, 6-0, 1-0 (10-8)

At No. 5 singles, Kaden Hammond (MUHS) defeated Julian Anderson (Rice), 6-1, 6-0.

At No. 1 doubles, Chris Guyette and Alex Binkhorst (Rice) defeated Kirin Biancosino and Paras Biancosino (MUHS), 6-1, 6-1.

At No. 2 doubles, Mattisse Uzunadam and Kamil Pion (Rice) defeated Alex Anderson and Jonathan Carpenter (MUHS), 6-0, 6-1.

## Middlebury women's lax to host NCAA games

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College women's lacrosse team will host first- and second-round NCAA Division III tournament games, with two teams playing on Saturday for the right to play the 16-1 Panthers and advance to a four-team regional the following weekend. The NCAA will announce the site of that regional following this weekend's results.

In Middlebury this weekend, Oswego State (15-2) and Wooster (13-6) will square off at 1 p.m. on Saturday, and the winner of that game will take on the defending champion Panthers on 1 p.m. on Sunday. Middlebury has won the past four NCAA tournaments in which it has competed (2019, 2022, 2023 and 2024), but no tournament was held in 2020 due to COVID 19, and NESCAC teams did not participate in the 2021 tournament for the same reason.

then handily, 15-6, in the season opener.

The women's final four will be played in Salem, Va., on May 23 and 25.

The tournament's other top seeds are Tufts (17-1), Franklin & Marshall (17-2) and Colby (14-3). Wesleyan (13-5) is in the same bracket as Colby, and one

of those two teams could meet the Panthers in the semifinal round on May 23. The Panthers split with Wesleyan this spring and eked out a one-goal win over Colby in Maine. Tufts and the Panthers theoretically could meet in the final on May 25. Middlebury edged Tufts by a goal at home.



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# Baseball

(Continued from Page 1B)

innings by Eagle **Evan Corrigan**, who allowed one earned run on three hits and a walk and struck out eight. **Abe Ready** belted a three-run homer for the Eagles in the fourth. He pitched the seventh and finally subdued the Otters.

For OV, **Wyatt Cone** drove in two runs, and **Howe, Max Potter, Nolan Quenneville** and **Dom Waite** also picked up RBIs.

The Eagles' Saturday game at Rutland was rained out.

The Eagles were scheduled to visit Missisquoi on Wednesday after deadline for this edition of the *Independent*.

## TIGERS

Visiting St. Albans defeated MUHS, 22-14, on May 1. The Bobwhites took the lead with 11 runs in the first inning, but the Tigers fought back to take the lead in the fifth. St. Albans put the game away with a seven-run

seventh. **Tucker Morter** tripled and **Owen Butterworth** doubled to lead the Tiger attack. **Ryan Brouillard** took the pitching loss.

On Saturday the Tigers and visiting Montpelier got a few innings in before the umpires suspended the game with the Solons leading, 3-0. No date was immediately set to complete the game.

The Tigers' Monday home game vs. Fair Haven was washed out.

The Tigers were scheduled to host Enosburg on Wednesday after deadline for this edition of the *Independent*.

## COMMODORES

The VUHS nine picked up two close wins and improved to 3-2 in recent action.

On May 1 the Commodores scored twice in the ninth on two walks, a wild pitch and an error to rally past visiting Peoples,

7-6. The Wolves had scored two runs off reliever **Liam McGuire** in the top of the seventh to take the lead, and McGuire earned the pitching win.

**Ryan Wright** went 5.1 innings on the mound for VUHS, allowing three runs on four hits and three walks. **Gabe Scribner** and **Colton Reed** each had a hit and an RBI for VUHS, **Aiden Fuller** doubled, and **Carter McGuire** scored twice.

On Saturday the Commodores edged host Randolph, 4-2, in a game shortened to five innings by rain. Scribner earned the pitching win, allowing both runs, one earned, on two hits and three walks while striking out six. The Commodores took advantage of 10 walks to score their four runs on one hit, a Reed single. Reed also scored a run. **Reese Paquette**, **Wright** and **Liam McGuire** each walked twice and scored a run.

# Rochester man cited for assault

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police allege that a Rochester man got drunk one day last week, drove to Granville and assaulted a person.

Police report they were called to Post Office Hill in Granville a few minutes before 6 p.m. on April 29. Troopers say they found 56-year-old Charles Jason McLoughlin and he appeared to be impaired, so they screened him. They investigated and determined that McLoughlin acted in a violent or threatening manner, knowingly causing bodily injury to another.

State police cited McLoughlin for driving under the influence, fourth offense; simple assault; and disorderly conduct.

McLoughlin wasn't the only person to be accused by police locally of intoxicated driving.

On May 2 at around 1:21 a.m. state police responded to a car off the road on Green Street near South

Middlebrook Road in Waltham.

Troopers found a vehicle off the northbound shoulder of Green Street and identified the driver as Thomas J. Blaise, 44, of Vergennes. Police report that they found cocaine in Blaise's possession. They cited him for driving under the influence of drugs and possession of cocaine.

Middlebury police assisted state police in this case.

In a separate incident that day, at a little after 11:30 p.m. a trooper stopped a vehicle on Middlebrook Road near Wing Road in Ferrisburgh. The officer cited Keith A. Boucher, 44, of Ferrisburgh for driving under the influence, second offense.

In other activity, state police were called to a fight on Grassano Drive in Starksboro on April 28 at a few minutes before 9 p.m. Police ended up citing Ryan R. Hallett, 28, of Starksboro for

# Vt. State

Police Log

domestic assault and lodged him at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility with bail set at \$500.

Meanwhile, on April 29 state police found a Vergennes man they had been looking for. State police said that on April 19 at 1:20 a.m. they tried to stop a car on Route 7 near Stage Road in North Ferrisburgh. The driver failed to stop and continued to drive north on Route 7; troopers discontinued their chase.

Through investigation, state police identified the driver as Isaac L. Fleming, 45, of Vergennes. On April 29 they found Fleming and cited him for eluding police and driving with a suspended license.

# Suspect in attempted Tractor Supply theft caught

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police on April 30 arrested and cited a Rutland woman for allegedly trying to steal a generator from the Tractor Supply business on Foote Street.

Police responded when told that store employees saw a woman loading a generator into her vehicle, and told police she had fled the scene when they confronted her. Officers found the woman nearby and said they identified her as Meghan Muir, 38 of Rutland.

Police cited Muir into court to answer the charge of retail theft.

In other action between April 28 and May 4, Middlebury police:

- On April 28:
  - Arrested Thomas Hynes, 39, of Bristol on an outstanding warrant for a failure to appear in court. He was released after paying \$50 bail.
  - After a complaint of a vehicle speeding on Route 30 found the vehicle and warned the driver.
  - Helped the dog warden with an aggressive dog in a Valley View Drive apartment.
  - Dealt with a loose dog complaint on Upper Plains Road.
  - Found an unlocked business door downtown while on late-night foot patrol.
- On April 29:
  - Conducted a welfare check in the Court Square area.
  - Provided a courtesy ride to an individual who was found walking in the middle of Quarry Road.
  - Helped a South Village Green resident with a custodial dispute and court paperwork.
  - Cited Stephanie A. Valley, 43, for domestic assault for allegedly assaulting a family member inside a vehicle on Washington Street.
  - Investigated a suspicious circumstance complaint on East Main Street.
  - Assisted with an unwanted person behind a South Pleasant Street property.
  - Helped with a dispute over a cash transaction at a Court Street business.
  - Took a report of a lost phone on Exchange Street for insurance purposes.
  - Conducted a welfare check on Court Street.
- On April 30:
  - Responded to the report of a possible assault at McDonald's Restaurant.
  - Looked for a possibly impaired driver reported on Seymour Street.
  - Took a report of money stolen from an unlocked vehicle on Jackson Lane.
  - Assisted with a juvenile issue on Buttolph Drive.
  - Conducted a welfare check on Washington Street; the person was fine.
  - Helped an out-of-state police department with an investigation.
- On April 30:
  - After employees at a closed Bakery Lane business said they heard someone moving about outside, found someone and asked the individual to move along.
  - Found on Main Street an individual who had been reported as a missing person in New York and took him to Porter Hospital for treatment.
  - After being dispatched to McDonald's to issue a no-trespass order ended up arresting Tyrone D. Meeks, 51, on an active warrant. Meeks was cited to appear in court and held on \$50 bail.
- On May 1:
  - Directed traffic while a stuck coach bus was towed clear at the Courtyard Marriott on Court Street Extension.
  - Provided a courtesy ride to an individual who was discharged from Porter Hospital.
  - Went to a Court Street parking lot to check the welfare of an individual, who was fine.
  - Went to a College Street residence to calm an intoxicated individual who was arguing with the other tenants.
  - Went to Bakery Lane to look for a man reported to be pulling on car doors.
  - Served a relief from abuse order to a Parkline Place resident.
- On May 2:
  - Tried unsuccessfully to stop a vehicle for unsafe driving on Halladay Road.
  - Helped Vermont State Police with an intoxicated male on West Shore Road in Salisbury.
  - Went to Parkline Place to look into a possible violation of a court order, but did not find the subject.
  - Checked out a report of reckless driving on Route 7 South. Police found both vehicles and warned both drivers about unsafe passing.
  - Went to College Street to look into a report of a dog left in a parked

# Middlebury

Police Log

- vehicle.
  - Responded to Case Street to deal with a report of an unwanted man living in a tent on private property.
  - Took a report from Boardman Street of an online scam.
  - Were told of an allegation of fraud from a South Main Street source. Police said an investigation is ongoing.
  - At the station helped state police by evaluation a driver who had been arrested for driving under the influence of drugs.
- On May 3:
  - Attempted to serve a court order on a Parkline Place resident.
  - Helped a resident of East Middlebury who had been receiving threatening phone calls from an unknown number.
  - Responded to a report of an intoxicated male at the A&W restaurant.
  - Helped a driver whose car had gone off the road on North Pleasant Street.
  - Responded to a complaint of people walking in Seminary Street's roadway and causing a traffic hazard.
  - Took a request from a North Pleasant Street source for a no trespass order to be served.
  - Were told a wallet was stolen from a vehicle parked at Porter Hospital.
  - Went to the South Village Green area to a report to a possible overdose. The individual was transported to Porter.
- On May 4:
  - Went to the John Graham Court to investigate a report of a man violating conditions of release.
  - Went to MacIntyre Lane to check out people inside a business after the store was closed.
  - On Route 7 arrested Amy J. Quenneville, 48, of New Haven on an active warrant.
  - Served a protection order on an arrestee.
  - Cited into court Ricardo H. Wright, 32, of Middlebury for two counts of domestic assault.
  - Dealt with a road hazard on Route 7 South.

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# Weybridge to host Eco-fair

WEYBRIDGE — Are you interested in making the switch to an electric vehicle? Thinking about getting electric house and garden tools?

The Weybridge Energy Committee is hosting its 5th annual Eco-Fair Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Weybridge Elementary School, 2790 Weybridge Road, Weybridge. All are invited to explore a variety of EVs, PHEVs, e-bikes, and electric tools and equipment. Discuss the pros and cons of different EV makes and models with their

drivers and tools with neighbors who actually use them.

A sample of EVs may include: Chevrolet Bolt EUV, Ford Mustang Mach-E, Hyundai Ioniq, Hyundai Tuscon, Tesla Model Y, Toyota PHEV, and VW ID.4.

There will be demonstrations of new and not-so-new EV vehicles, electric bicycles, demonstrations of electric household, lawn, and garden equipment, plus information on weatherization, home energy efficiency and composting. Pollinator Pathway

Weybridge (PPWey) will be there with a seed giveaway, a table full of information on protecting our native pollinators, planting native plants, and more. Please do not bring plants.

This event is free — anyone from any town may attend!

For more information, or if you have an EV, PHEV, e-bicycle, or electric lawn and garden equipment that is not on this list and would be willing to bring it to the demo, please email [spencerputnam1@gmail.com](mailto:spencerputnam1@gmail.com).

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# community calendar

## may 8 THURSDAY

**Book donation day in Vergennes.** Thursday, May 8, 3-6 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Read a good book lately? Consider donating it to the book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Bixby. Donations will be received in the back parking lot. Accepting books in good condition published after 2014. If in doubt, just bring it in and we will tell you if it is a good candidate for the sale.

## may 10 SATURDAY

**Monthly Wildlife Walk in Middlebury.** Saturday, May 10, 7-9 a.m., Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help us survey birds and other wildlife. Meet at the parking area of Otter View Park at the intersection of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Road in Middlebury. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. More info call 802-388-6019.

**Used book sale in Vergennes.** Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Enter from the back parking lot. Choose from a large variety of fiction, non-fiction and children's books, some of them freshly donated at our May Donation Day. Proceeds from the sale go to library projects such as the recently purchased fireplace heaters, electronic resources (Hoopla), and the fireplace in the community room.

**Plastic plant pot recycling in Monkton.** Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m.-noon, Monkton Recycling Center, 4047 States Prison Hollow Rd. The Friends Methodist Church will be at the Recycling Center to offer you a chance to recycle your nursery plant pots. This will include the black plastic containers that usually are not allowed to be recycled.

**K-12 Education community forum in Vergennes.** Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m., Vergennes Union High School, Monkton Rd. Sen. Ruth Hardy will be joined by Rep. Peter Conlon, who chairs the House Education Committee; Sen. Steve Heffernan, who is a member of the Senate Education Committee; and Addison Northwest Superintendent Sheila Soule to discuss the education transformation bill, H.454. More details to come.

**Rokey Museum season opening in Ferrisburgh.** Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 4334 Route 7. Rokey opens for the season with half-price admission. Rokey was a nationally recognized stop on the Underground Railroad and home to four generations of the Robinson family for nearly 200 years. Enjoy the main exhibit, "Seeking Freedom: The Underground Railroad and the Legacy of an Abolitionist Family," and the 2025 Seasonal Exhibit, "Inspired by Nature: The Art of the Women of Rokey." More info at rokey.org.

**Prize Bingo in Leicester.** Saturday, May 10, 1 p.m., Senior Center, Leicester Four Corners. Refreshments served and all are welcome.

**Bingo in Vergennes.** Saturday, May 10, 5 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m. A family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. Sponsored by the St. Peter's Historic Preservation Committee to benefit the ongoing restoration efforts for the bell tower and the church.

**Takeout roast pork supper in Vergennes.** Saturday, May 10, 5-6 p.m. Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main St. across from the Opera House. Takeout only. Preorder only. Menu includes roast pork, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetable, applesauce, roll and dessert, all for \$12. To preorder call 802-877-3150 before 7 p.m. Thursday, May 8.

## may 11 SUNDAY

**Fundraising breakfast in Bristol.** Sunday, May 11, 7:30-10 a.m., Libanus Lodge, corner of North and Elm streets. A great opportunity to treat mom to breakfast. Menu: homemade corned beef hash, scrambled eggs (or over easy if you ask us to flip them), bacon, sausage patties, sausage links, home fries, pancakes, blueberry pancakes, French toast, assorted juices and homemade apple bread pudding. All moms that attend will get a coupon good for a free breakfast at a later date. All profits are donated to a person or group in need within the Five Town Area. Adults \$9/children under 12 \$5.

**Breakfast buffet in Vergennes.** Sunday, May 11, 8-10 a.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall. Omelets to order, scrambled eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage, fruit, plain and blueberry pancakes, maple syrup, sausage gravy on biscuits, corn bread, home fries, mini muffins, juice, milk, and coffee. \$13 adults. \$8 children 8 to 12 years. No cap/cost on family cost. Sponsor: Vergennes Council Knights of Columbus.

**Restoring Notre Dame presentation in Ferrisburgh.** Sunday, May 11, 2 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, 3279 Route 7. Timber framer Will Gusakov will join the Ferrisburgh Historical Society to talk about his involvement with the Notre Dame restoration project — from using techniques dating to medieval times to working with other tradespeople from many countries. He will also talk hear about some of his projects closer to home.

## may 13 TUESDAY

**Art Free-For-All in Monkton.** Tuesday, May 13, 6 to 8 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. Join Julie McGowan, a local Monkton artist, for an evening of creativity for adults in a low stress environment. Bring your favorite art supplies or the library will have the basics in supply. This program will continue on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

## may 14 WEDNESDAY

**"Insurance 101: Home Insurance" in Middlebury.** Wednesday, May 14, 5:30 p.m., National Bank of Middlebury, 30 Main St., entrance out back. Join the National Bank of Middlebury and Gretchen Kellogg from the Richards Group for an informative discussion. Gain valuable insights into coverage, exclusions and why policies matter. Free and open to the public.



## A First Nation perspective

THE ADDISON TOWN Historical Society will look at Vermont's 250th anniversary from the perspective of the Abenaki First Peoples. On Sunday, May 18, Chief Don Stevens, Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk - Abenaki Nation, will talk about the Abenaki culture and beliefs, what peoples were in our area, how the area was used, what settlements existed and what they looked like. Objects such as this early grinding stone will also be discussed.

Photo courtesy of Geoff Nelson

## may 15 THURSDAY

**"You're not alone — Caring for your elderly loved one" in Middlebury.** Thursday, May 15, 4 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 3 Main St. Brought to you by Elderly Services, this seminar will be led by Joanne Corbett, a clinical social worker heading up the new ESI Center for Positive Aging. Free and open to entire community.

**Estate Planning seminar in Bristol.** Thursday, May 15, 6:30 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Join local attorney and Addison County native Sarah Bouvier Haselton and senior paralegal Katie Reen from Maple Haven Law PLLC for a free estate planning seminar where they will explain estate planning in a way that is simple, clear and maybe even fun.

**Bristol Historical Society meeting in Bristol.** Thursday, May 15, 7 p.m., Howden Hall, 19 West St. A video recorded in 2007 of the late Gert Bingham recalling "Boarding House living in the '30s and '40s" will be shown. Through the video we are still able to enjoy Gert's knowledge of Bristol and her always enjoyable speaking style. A short membership meeting follows after our speaker. Free, open to the public, and accessible. More info at 802-453-3526 or dear4@gmavt.net.

## may 16 FRIDAY

**Interlude open house in Middlebury.** Friday, May 16, 3 p.m., 99 Maple St. Suite 16. Come by, look around, and connect. We're opening our doors to the community to share what makes Interlude a different kind of crisis support space. Take part in creative activities, and learn about our vision for a more compassionate, human-centered approach to mental health care. Whether you're curious about peer support, passionate about crisis alternatives, or just want to stop by and say hello, we'd love to see you. Free and open to all. Refreshments and pizza included.

## may 17 SATURDAY

**Med47 Garden Shoppe in Bristol.** Begins Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m., 3319 Route 116 South. A wide variety of veggie plants, annuals, perennials, hanging baskets and plantings. You can also browse our shop for a unique selection of garden decor. And check out the white elephant tent. A fundraiser for the Brendon P Cousino Med47 Foundation. Runs daily through June 14.

**Town-wide yard sale in Orwell.** Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m., locations around town. Maps available at Orwell Town website, on Facebook or search events for "Orwell Town Wide Yardsale" and at various locations thru town including the Library and Red Sky Farm. Follow on Facebook for more info or email OrwellRec@gmail.com.

**Eco-Fair in Weybridge.** Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.-noon, Weybridge Elementary School, 2790 Quaker Village Rd. Explore a variety of EVs, PHEVs, e-bikes, and electric tools and equipment. Discuss the pros and cons of different EV makes and models with their drivers and tools with neighbors who actually use them and see demonstrations of new and not-so-new electric vehicles (EVs); electric bicycles; electric household, lawn, and garden equipment; plus information on weatherization, home energy efficiency, weatherization and composting. Pollinator Pathways Weybridge will be there with a seed giveaway, a table full of information on protecting our native pollinators, planting native plants and more. Free and open to all.

**Spring quiche luncheon in Shoreham.** Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Shoreham Congregational Church. For only \$10 you can enjoy a slice of our famous meat, vegetable, or cheese quiche along with salad, beverage and dessert. Please bring a non-perishable item for the food shelf. Raffle tickets will be sold for a hand-knitted blanket, \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be during AppleFest in September.

**Community BBQ and game day in Monkton.** Saturday, May 17, noon to 3 p.m., Monkton Town Hall, 92 Monkton Ridge. Fun games, contests, music, food, prizes, and more. Rain or shine. Its objective is to bring the community together and raise awareness of the hardcourt project. Parking in the Town Hall lot and next door at the Monkton Friends Methodist Church. Free to attend. BBQ available for \$10/per person; also, desserts at the bake sale, raffle; donations for the hardcourts accepted. RSVP to Teri at tfg417@gmail.com or 802-989-2276.

**Spring Fling in Rochester.** Saturday, May 17, 4-6 p.m., Rochester Public Library, 22 S. Main St. Friends of the Rochester Public Library will host this new event. Keynote address by Vermont State Poet Laureate Bianca Stone, and a live

painting happening by multi-media artist Char Gardner. Also featuring a Biblio and Art themed silent auction, Friends membership drive, and complementary refreshments provided. Free and open to all. More info at 802-767-3942.

## may 18 SUNDAY

**SpIN annual meeting and Eco Spirit award presentation in Ripton.** Sunday, May 18, 1:30-4 p.m., Ripton Community House and Spirit In Nature trails, Route 125 and Goshen Rd. Jim Andrews of the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas will receive this year's EcoSpirit award and will give a short presentation at the award ceremony. Preceding the meeting, naturalist Craig Zondag will lead a guided walk on some of the SpIN paths beginning at 1:30 pm. All are welcome. Free.

**Addison Town Historical Society meeting in Addison.** Sunday, May 18, 2 p.m., Addison Fire Station, 44 Route 17 West. As we gear up for the events and celebrations of the 250th we thought it would be interesting and appropriate to look at Vermont's 250th anniversary from the perspective of the Abenaki First Peoples. Chief Don Stevens, Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk - Abenaki Nation, will talk about the Abenaki culture and beliefs, what peoples were in our area, how the area was used, what settlements existed and what they looked like.

**A Conversation on Housing in Bristol.** Sunday, May 18, 4 p.m., Community Room, Firehouse Apartments, 75 Firehouse Dr. Learn about three different initiatives to help with Addison County's housing shortage: HomeShare VT, Small/Tiny Homes, and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). Meet individuals who are sharing their homes with others, building a tiny home and others who are making existing space into an ADU. All are welcome. Questions? Email Mike at mike802vt@comcast.net.

## may 19 MONDAY

**Pizza Night fundraiser in Bristol.** Monday, May 19, beginning at 3 p.m., Cubbers Restaurant, 8 Main St. All the proceeds from the sales of 100 large pizzas to the Bristol 4th of July Committee. You can start calling in orders at 3 p.m. and start picking up your pizzas at 4 p.m. Help cover the costs of over \$20,000 that the Committee needs to put on Bristol's Fabulous 4th.

## may 23 FRIDAY

**Lincoln Cooperative Preschool spring auction in Lincoln.** Friday, May 23, 6 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Live music from Sunday Morning, snacks, a cash bar, and a silent auction to benefit the Lincoln Cooperative Preschool. Suggested donation of \$10/person at the door, but all are welcome regardless of ability to contribute in this way. If you'd like to donate an item or service for the auction, please contact Elizabeth Keenan at ekeenan00@gmail.com by May 1.

## may 24 SATURDAY

**Town-wide yard sale in Lincoln.** Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Weathervane Senior Housing. If you are interested in having a sale, please sign up at the Lincoln General Store. A \$15 donation will get you listed on the map. Spaces are also available on the Weathervane lawn if you would like to sell your items in town. The library will be holding their book and plant sale and the fire department will be cooking all the usual delicious goodies for lunch.

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# Dial a Ride available for county seniors

MIDDLEBURY — The public transportation company Tri-Valley Transit (TVT) is making a significant impact in the lives of many residents, especially those facing transportation challenges, by matching volunteer drivers with people who need rides to essential appointments. This Dial-a-Ride program is helping Addison County Residents access everything from life-saving medical treatments to daily essentials, all while fostering a sense of community and providing social enrichment for both drivers and riders.

The agency's model is simple: recruit, background check, train, and support volunteer drivers who donate their time to provide rides for those who are eligible. The riders, many of whom are seniors or individuals with disabilities, can access free or low-cost transportation to a range of important destinations, including medical appointments, adult day care, grocery shopping, and other vital needs.

## Helping Riders Navigate the System

In addition to matching drivers with riders, the agency also assists those in need by navigating the eligibility requirements for free rides. Riders may qualify for these services if they are age 60 or older, have an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) disability, or receive Medicaid coverage that includes medical transportation. The agency handles all the trip logistics, making it easy for individuals to get where they need to go, when they need to be there.

## A Reliable Team of Volunteers

Volunteer drivers play a central role in this initiative. To become a volunteer, drivers must meet several key criteria: they need at least five years of driving experience, a reliable vehicle with insurance, and the ability to pass a thorough background check. Once accepted, they undergo training to ensure they understand the needs of their riders and can provide safe and reliable service. What is not required is a large amount of time. Even an hour a week of donated time can make a huge difference to a rider in need.

One of the unique aspects of this program is its ability to foster connections between drivers and riders. Many of the volunteer drivers report that one of the most rewarding aspects of their work is the conversations and relationships they build with the people they serve. The social benefits are often mutual, with both the volunteer drivers and riders enjoying meaningful interactions during their trips.

"I love hearing about the lives of the people I drive," one volunteer driver told us. "It's not just about the ride; it's about connecting and making someone's

day a little easier."

## Support for Drivers

While drivers donate their time, they are reimbursed for the mileage they drive at the current federal government rate of 70 cents per mile. This ensures that volunteers are not financially burdened by the costs of fuel and vehicle maintenance. Mileage payments are not taxable income and do not impact drivers' Social Security or disability benefits. Volunteer drivers are also provided with supplemental insurance in case of injuries outside of their vehicle.

"Mileage payments are certainly appreciated, but for many drivers, it's the personal connection and the satisfaction of helping others that keeps them coming back," said the volunteer coordinator Rachel Landry. "It's a beautiful way to make a difference in someone's life, especially when they're going through difficult circumstances."

## A Lifeline for Vulnerable Vermonters

The Dial-a-Ride program is particularly important for individuals who rely on transportation for life-sustaining treatments. This includes trips to chemotherapy, kidney dialysis, opioid addiction recovery programs, and other critical health services. For these riders, many of whom may not have access to their own vehicle or the financial means to afford traditional taxi or rideshare services, the program provides an indispensable lifeline.

One such rider, a senior who uses the service to get to her chemotherapy appointments, said, "Without this service, I don't know how I'd make it to my treatments. It's a blessing to have such kind people offer their time to help. It makes a tough time in my life a little easier to bear."

## Building Stronger Communities

As the program continues to grow, it's clear that these volunteer drivers are not only helping individuals get to important appointments — they are also building a stronger, more connected community. The bonds formed during these rides are powerful, offering a sense of companionship and support that goes beyond transportation.

The agency is actively recruiting more volunteer drivers to meet the growing demand for rides, and it encourages anyone with a reliable car, a desire to help others, and the required qualifications to consider volunteering. For those in need, the agency remains a steady source of support, ensuring that no one has to miss a critical appointment due to lack of transportation. For more information on how to volunteer or qualify for rides, residents can contact TVT by calling 802-388-2287 or emailing [info@trivalleytransit.org](mailto:info@trivalleytransit.org).

This story was provided by Mary-Claire Crogan, community relations manager at Tri-Valley Transit.



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## Reader Comments

**Here's what one reader has to say about us!**

**A subscriber from Middlebury writes:**

**"I've increased our advertising to help support the Addy Indy. It is a very valuable asset for our community."**

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



**ADDISON COUNTY  
INDEPENDENT**



## Walleye season now open in Vermont

MONTPELIER — The Vermont walleye fishing season opens on Saturday, May 3, marking the return of some of the best walleye fishing in New England.

Excellent spring walleye fishing can be found in several Vermont lakes and rivers, including Lake Champlain and its tributaries — the Missisquoi, Lamoille and Winooski rivers and Otter Creek. In the Northeast Kingdom, Salem Lake and Island Pond also have walleye populations that are on the rebound thanks to stocking by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

A trio of additional waters —

Lake Carmi, Chittenden Reservoir and the Connecticut River, also offer quality walleye fishing. Be sure to check regulation exceptions for these waters.

Veteran walleye anglers use a variety of techniques, but one of the simplest and most effective is to slowly troll a nightcrawler harness near the bottom. Most nightcrawler harnesses include a rotating blade ahead of two hooks, where the worm is secured. The blade produces a fish-attracting flash and vibration. Shore-based anglers can catch walleyes on nightcrawlers or live minnows or by casting

crankbaits or hard jerk baits.

As a reminder to anglers, there is no open season on sauger, a close cousin to the walleye. Once abundant in southern Lake Champlain, sauger still appear there rarely. If caught while fishing for other fish, sauger must be immediately released.

Anglers can read about current fishing regulations in the 2025 Vermont Fishing Guide & Regulations booklet available free from Vermont license agents by checking the online version on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website.

## Fish and Game ask you to leave young wildlife alone

MONTPELIER — Watching wildlife is enjoyable, especially when young animals appear in the spring. But it is best to keep your distance. Picking up young wildlife can do more harm than good, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, and it is also against the law.



When people see young animals alone, they often mistakenly assume these animals are helpless or lost, in trouble or needing to be rescued. Bringing young wildlife into a human environment often results in permanent separation from their mothers and a sad ending for the animal.

Handling wildlife could also pose a threat to the people involved. Wild animals can transmit disease and angry wildlife mothers can pose significant dangers.

Fish and Wildlife scientists encourage wildlife watchers to respect the behavior of animals in the spring and early summer, and to resist the urge to assist wildlife

in ways that may be harmful. Here are some helpful tips:

- Deer and moose nurse their young at different times during the day and often leave young alone for long periods of time. These animals are not lost. Their mother knows where they are and will return.
- Young birds on the ground may have left their nest, but their parents will still feed them.
- Young animals such as fox and raccoon will often follow their mother. The mother of a wildlife youngster is usually nearby but just out of sight to a person happening upon it.
- Wild animals can carry rabies, parasites and other diseases that are harmful to humans. Healthy-looking raccoons, foxes, skunks, and bats may also be carriers of the deadly rabies virus — even babies. Rabies cases have been on the rise in Vermont in recent years, and several baby animals tested positive last year. For your safety

and the safety of local wildlife, do not handle them or try to keep them as pets.

• Many wildlife species will not feed or care for their young when people are close by. Obey signs that restrict access to wildlife nesting areas, including hiking trails that may be temporarily closed.

• Keep domestic pets indoors, leashed or fenced in and vaccinate them for rabies. Dogs and cats kill many young animals each year, and pets that roam free are at higher risk for rabies.

• Avoid projects that remove trees, shrubs and dead snags that contain nests during the spring and summer.

For the safety of all wildlife, taking a wild animal into captivity is illegal, even one you suspect is sick, injured or has been abandoned.

For information about what to do when you encounter an animal in the wild, and to discuss questions and concerns about rabies, please call the Vermont Rabies Hotline at 1-800-4RABIES (1-800-472-2437).



MOUNT ABE'S SCHOLARS Bowl team of Sam Schoendorf (left), Cole Putnam, Ada Fisher, Maria Martin Tortosa and Eliza Ruble traveled to Illinois to compete in the Quiz Bowl Small School National Championship Tournament on the weekend of Saturday, April 26. The team was one of 88 teams to compete and made it to the 11th round of competition.

Photo courtesy of Dwight Kidder

## Mt. Abe Scholars Bowl finishes strong

ROSEMONT, Ill. — Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School joined 153 of the top quiz bowl teams from the nation's small public high schools on the weekend of Saturday, April 26, at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago to determine who was the best Quiz Bowl team in the United States.

VT-NEA sponsored the Bristol school's trip to Chicago.

Quiz bowl is a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity for teams of four students. It is the national version of the game that is often locally called Scholars' Bowl. Quiz bowl teams use buzzers to answer questions about science, math, history, literature, mythology, geography, social science, current events, sports and popular culture. The matches feature a blend of individual competition and team collaboration, since no individual player is likely to be an expert in all subject areas. Participation in

quiz bowl both reinforces lessons from the classroom and encourages players to develop new intellectual interests.

The Mount Abe team, in the Traditional Public Schools Division, was captained by Cole Putnam and Sam Schoendorf, who were joined by Ada Fisher, Eliza Ruble and Maria Martin Tortosa. The team was coached by Vicki Bronson and Simone Skerritt. They were the only Vermont team at the national championship.

Mount Abe finished the preliminary rounds with a 5-5 record. There were some tense moments.

"The highlight for me was Round 8 when we were tied at the end, and had to three toss-up questions to break the tie," Bronson said. "We won the first one, then the other team won the second question, and when he started reading the third question and it was a geography question, I felt pretty confident that

we would win, as Cole Putnam is very strong in geography."

The question indicated that the country had a physical feature called the "Mosquito Coast and it has a large freshwater lake that bears the same name as the country.

Putnam ran in before the other team, a school named Brentwood from Missouri, and gave the correct answer: Nicaragua.

Mount Abe defeated Brentwood by the narrow margin of 190-180. The Eagles' shot at the playoffs ended when they lost to Benjamin Logan from Bellefontaine, Ohio, in round 11.

The Traditional Public Schools Division champion was the A team from West Point High School in Cullman, Ala. The Open Division champion was the A team from St. Mark's School of Dallas, Texas.

The 2025 Small School National Championship Tournament field featured 88 teams from 20 states.

## Leicester

Have a news tip? Call the Addison Independent at 388-4944.

### NEWS

LEICESTER — Green Up Day is Saturday, May 3. A free lunch for volunteers will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day, in front of the Meeting House. The trailer to collect Green Up bags will be at the Town Shed all day. Bags are

available at the Town Office. Lunch tickets, that double as raffle tickets, will be available at the trailer, or at the Meeting House. If you want to volunteer, contact Diane Benware at 802-458-7234.

The Leicester Historical Society

is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat., May 10, at the Senior Center, at 1:00 pm. Refreshments served and all are welcome. Monies raised help with maintenance expenses of buildings at the Four Corners.

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Middlebury Union High School

### Sophia Lawton

Sophia Lawton, the daughter of Shane and Karen Lawton, is Middlebury Union High School's latest Student of the Week. Her older brother, Owen, is a sophomore at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. The family resides in Middlebury with their dog, Milo.

When she started at MUHS, Sophia joined a variety of clubs as a way of meeting new people and exploring new things. She is actively involved in Best Buddies and Hope Happens Here, two groups that focus on student-centered activities and wellness. She has also played lacrosse for the Tigers and has been a Peer Leader. Sophia is one of two students to serve on the ACSD School Board; she finds the meetings to be interesting and is glad to be able to share insights of our student body with the board members.

As a junior Sophia enrolled in the Human Services class at the Hannaford Career Center. She thanks her teacher, Ulri Danforth, for the "ages and stages" approach in introducing her to a wide range of settings and opportunities. She has worked with children in kindergarten, second and fourth grade and in the Wellness and Learning Center, all at the Mary Hogan School. In addition, she has spent 150 hours volunteering with young children in our community. Sophia says she loves young children but thinks second grade is her favorite.

She also is involved in Skills USA, a nationwide organization that helps students focus on becoming career-ready community members. Her dedication to her studies has paid off as she has been named to the National Technical Honor Society. Additionally, she has completed four Community College of Vermont courses. She presented a lesson plan she created at Educators Rising and was joined by other students from career centers around Vermont. With a smile, Sophia says, "The Career Center is my place!"

Sophia currently works at the Mary Johnson Children's Center in the afterschool program serving as "Room 6 Leader" and working closely with rising middle schoolers. She will be working there through the summer.

As she looks back on her four years at MUHS, Sophia is grateful for her time at our school. She appreciates her teachers and says her Spanish teacher, Ida Mae Danforth, and her English teacher, Ms. Downer, have both been especially helpful.

After high school, Sophia will enroll at Syracuse University, where she plans to study Psychology. We all wish her well in the future.



Sophia Lawton  
MUHS

## Vergennes Union High School

### Isaac Preston

Isaac Preston of Panton is Vergennes Union High School's latest Student of the Week. He and his parents, Eric and Angie Preston, share the house with two dogs.

Isaac has particularly enjoyed his experience as a student at the Patricia Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, where his favorite classes are in the Diesel Technology program. He says Diesel teacher David Mills has been very influential and makes class fun and interesting. He also appreciates the opportunity to take classes that allow him to go to a farm campus and how the classes he takes at the Career Center will help him move into the workforce. This year Isaac achieved high honors for his efforts.

Isaac is a wrestler, and a good one. He is a two-time State Champion in his weight class and a three-time finalist. He also captained VUHS's wrestling team both his junior and senior years. He works on his wrestling outside of school as well.

When not in school, Isaac works at Allendale Farm in Ferrisburgh, where he does a little bit of everything. He also likes to hunt and fish and work on engines.

He says his experience at VUHS has taught him to advocate for what he wants to do. Isaac has done so and created a senior year schedule that gives him the flexibility to pursue his particular interests. He also recommends taking care of academic requirements in earlier grades. By doing so he created the flexibility he needed to craft his senior year plan.

After graduation, Isaac will be attending welding school at the Advanced Welding Institute in South Burlington. All of us at VUHS wish him well as he pursues his welding career.



Isaac Preston  
VUHS

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Students of the Week from all area high schools are entered into a raffle to win a \$100 gift card to The Vermont Book Shop. The winner will be chosen at the end of the school year. Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration.

Best of luck to all Addison County students!

If you are interested in advertising in Student of the Week contact [advertising@addisonindependent.com](mailto:advertising@addisonindependent.com)

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Open every other Monday 8-4:45  
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# Thursday Business & Service DIRECTORY

auto repair  
auto sales & leasing  
carpentry/contractors  
cleaning services

computers  
construction  
duct work & duct cleaning  
handyman  
lawn care

firewood  
flooring  
landscaping  
masonry

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Factory-Trained Technicians  
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Residential & Agricultural Construction

Old Home Renovations  
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Purchase a quarterly B&S ad package and get one large, full-color ad for only \$200!



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jennah@addisonindependent.com  
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tomvs@addisonindependent.com



Premium Business Showcase ads are 6 inches wide x 6 inches tall.  
Regular open rate is \$250+.

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State Inspections for Cars Trucks and Trailers

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GREAT RATES • FULLY INSURED  
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## FIREWOOD

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Well we've got it all right here in Addison, VT!

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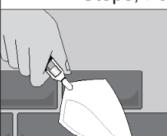
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# Thursday & service Business & service DIRECTORY

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plumbing  
renewable energy  
roof cleaning

roofing  
rubbish & recycling  
siding  
snow removal  
surveying

taxes  
tree service  
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**REFRESH YOUR ROOF LLC**  
Clean, Restore & Prolong the Life of Your Roof  
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• Exterior House Washing • Gutters  
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Property Line Surveys • Topographical Surveys  
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(802) 782-9273 • Philo Surveying LLC • Charlotte, VT  
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Over 30 Years Experience  
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- Tree Removal
- Tree Pruning
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Serving all of Addison County

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Residential Water delivery for Swimming Pools and Wells  
Also offering: Timber Harvesting • Land Clearing  
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Your local source for window treatments from the nation's most popular brands.  
**Free in-home consultations!**  
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802-989-1531 | 3333 Case Street, Middlebury  
vermontwindowtreatments.com



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TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS.

**Advertise your business on these pages for under \$10 per week.**

**Call 802-388-4944 or email advertising@addisonindependent.com for details.**

# CLASSIFIEDS

**Public Meetings**

**AL-ANON OFFERS HELP** and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit [vermontalananonlateen.org](http://vermontalananonlateen.org) for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aaavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS** is a 12 step program offering recovery from compulsive eating and food behaviors. For meeting times and general information please visit [www.oavermont.org](http://www.oavermont.org) or call (802)863.2655.

**THE TURNING POINT CENTER** of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 79 Court St, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

**VERMONT SUPPORT LINE** Are you struggling with a challenging situation? Do you have feelings of sadness, loneliness, isolation, anger, or depression? You don't have to face it alone. Talk with a caring person who understands what you're going through today by calling or texting the free and confidential Pathways Vermont Support Line available 24/7 at (833) VT - TALKS.

**Public Meetings**

**VERGENNES FREE THINKERS** Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting [Vergennesfreethinkers@gmail.com](mailto:vergennefreethinkers@gmail.com) for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

**Services**

**BROWN'S CONSTRUCTION** renovations, interior/exterior painting, drywall, plumbing/electrical services. Fully insured w/ 30+ years of experience covering Northern Addison and Southern Chittenden, references available. Call 802-238-4864

**CONSTRUCTION: ADDITIONS, RENOVATIONS** new construction, drywall, carpentry, painting, flooring, roofing, pressure washing, driveway sealing. All aspects of construction, also property maintenance. Steven Fifield 802-989-0009.

**MELISSA'S QUALITY CLEANING** Services. Residential and commercial. Fully insured. Great rates. Reliable and thorough cleaning. 802-345-6257.

**Services**

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**SPRING PROPERTY CLEAN UPS**, some landscaping, brush cutting, lawn work, weed flower beds, grocery pick up. Call us today, we do other jobs too. low rates. 802-999-2194, John.

**Free**

**DIGITAL ACCESS** View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com). Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

**Garage Sales**

**HUGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE** Garage and Plant sale. Karaoke machine, designer sneakers, huge diverse CD collection, dog beds, Echo gas trimmer with attachments, battery trimmer, electric chainsaw, new Coleman screen house, hedge trimmer, window fan, generator, lots of kids clothes, puzzles and books, and much more. Perennials, native plants, bushes, trees, herbs, veggies, hardware, garden tools and pots. Lots! Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10, 9-5. 91 Seymour St, Middlebury

**For Sale**

**1992 FORD INTERNATIONAL MODEL 999** Former Middlebury ambulance, international diesel. DPA 360, Allison automatic transmission, good tires, inverter for AC power, and aluminum body. **SOLD** 802-771-4444

**For Sale**

**2011 38' CAMPER** needs little work. \$6500, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

**ENCORE WOOD STOVE** porcelain green with glass door. \$1200 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

**For Sale**

**FIREWOOD STOVE** in excellent shape. \$1800 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918

**WINTER TIRES** Nokian Nordman 7 SUV studded winter tires. 225/65 R17. 106T XL. Only used two seasons. \$200 for set. 303-718-4944

**For Rent**

**1000 SQUARE FEET OF RETAIL** available with parking on Bakery Lane in downtown Middlebury. 802-349-8544.

**5,000 SQUARE FEET** available. Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT. 802-349-8544.

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**  
**Town of New Haven Road Crew**

**Full-time road crew position.** Applicants must have a Class B CDL; and be willing to learn dump truck operation and maintenance, along with snowplowing, road building, and small equipment operation. Must be able to get along well with others and be willing to work outdoors in all types of weather. Must pass a drug test and medical exam for CDL drivers prior to employment.

**Good benefits package:** 12 paid holidays, medical insurance, and sick leave; pay based on experience.

**Application and job description available at Town Clerk's Office and [www.newhavenvt.com](http://www.newhavenvt.com).**

Submit applications to Town Office: Town of New Haven, 78 North St., New Haven, Vt. 05472, email [newhavenclerk@gmavt.net](mailto:newhavenclerk@gmavt.net), or call 802-453-3516

**78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472**  
**802-453-3516**

**Van Drivers Needed**

**Looking for part time work?**  
Excellent drivers needed to transport members of our adult day center, Project Independence.

- Work 7:15-9:45, Monday-Friday.
- Additional hours available.
- Friendly and caring work environment.
- No CDL needed.

**Elderly Services Inc.**  
Your partner in eldercare

The mission of Elderly Services, an innovative, award-winning non-profit agency, is to help frail elders continue to live at home, to provide support to family caregivers, and to bring joy and community to elders' lives.

For more information: [elderservices.org/job-opportunities/](http://elderservices.org/job-opportunities/)

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Addison County Parent/Child Center**

**Join the Parent/Child Center Team**  
**CHILDCARE WORKER/PARENT EDUCATOR**

**Childcare Staff Position:** We are seeking a childcare worker who will work with children and parents in our therapeutic program. This is a full-time position with generous benefits. We are a therapeutic childcare program that supports children birth through 5 and their families.

**Strong candidates** must have knowledge of **child development, family systems**, excellent communication skills, and want to work with young families. Flexibility and collaboration are a must. Experience with children and families wanted: a minimum of a Bachelor's degree preferred.

Please send a resume and cover letter, along with 3 references to **Donna Bailey at [dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org](mailto:d Bailey@addisoncountypcc.org)**

**AGWAY**

**Cashier - Customer Service**  
Part-time and Full-time Positions available

*Immediate Openings available.*

**Must be able to work until 6pm.**  
**Days and Weekends a MUST.**  
**Up to 40 hours per week.**

**Wage commensurate with experience.**

Please send Resumes to [info@middleburyagway.com](mailto:info@middleburyagway.com) or Fill out Application at **Middlebury Agway, 338 Exchange St., Middlebury VT.**

*Please no phone calls.*

**All of our positions offer generous, twice a year bonuses and employee discount on all products.**

**Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. - Middlebury, VT.**

**Mountain Community Health Triage Nurse**

Are you a Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) passionate about providing exceptional, patient-centered care? Mountain Community Health, a federally qualified health center, is looking for a dedicated Triage Nurse to join our team and serve our community with dignity, respect, and compassion.

**WHAT YOU'LL DO:**

- Conduct telephone triage by assessing patient symptoms and determining the urgency of care needed.
- Provide medical advice and education to patients based on established protocols and guidelines.
- Coordinate with healthcare providers and facilities to ensure patients receive timely and appropriate care.
- Collect subjective data related to the presenting problem and medical history.
- Document encounters and decision making in EMR in a concise and accurate manner.
- Collaborate with other departments in the scheduling of patients.

**WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:**

- Graduate of an accredited school of nursing.
- Minimum 5 years experience in a primary care setting
- Current LPN or RN licensure in good standing in the state of Vermont
- Evidence of BLS and CPR.
- Strong clinical assessment and decision-making skills.

**WORK SCHEDULE:**

- Full-time position: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- Great benefits and work/life balance:
- No evenings, weekends or holidays shifts

**Help deliver quality healthcare to our community!**

Visit our careers page at [www.mchvt.org](http://www.mchvt.org) and complete an employment application and submit to: [HR@mchvt.org](mailto:HR@mchvt.org)

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Volunteer Drivers Needed**

RSVP of Addison County is searching for volunteer drivers to help Tri-Valley Transit. Flexible schedule to fit a busy life. There are both local and long-distance trips.

**TRI VALLEY TRANSIT**

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver give us a call today at 802-468-7056

**AmeriCorps Seniors**

Addison Independent **CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM**

**ADDISON INDEPENDENT**  
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753  
802-388-4944  
[addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com) • email: [classifieds@addisonindependent.com](mailto:classifieds@addisonindependent.com)

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

**DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.**

**RATES**

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- 50¢ internet listing for up to 4 issues • minimum 2 insertions

• Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notices         | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks  | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personals       | <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Services        | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Trucks             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free**          | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent          | <input type="checkbox"/> SUVs               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent      | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat         | <input type="checkbox"/> Boats              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden   | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities   | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals           | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption        |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals   |

\*\* no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$1

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...**

Number of words: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
# of runs: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spotlight Charge: \_\_\_\_\_  
Internet Listing: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

# Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

## For Rent

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race,

## For Rent

color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper

## For Rent

will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

## Help Wanted

## Help Wanted

### Starksboro VERMONT

#### Zoning Administrator

The Town of Starksboro seeks a part-time **Zoning Administrator** (16 hours/week) to enforce zoning bylaws, assist residents with permits, and support town boards. Strong communication, organizational, and computer skills required. Prior zoning or municipal experience preferred. Hourly pay based on experience.

To apply, send a resume and cover letter to Amanda Vincent at [amanda@starksborovt.org](mailto:amanda@starksborovt.org). Applications accepted until filled. EOE.

### THE RESIDENCE at Otter Creek

**Med Techs and RCAs**  
**\$2,500 sign on bonus**

**FT, PT and Per diem positions also available**

**Ask about our:**  
**PT and FT travel allowance**  
**Free meals**  
**Competitive Benefits**

**Calling all compassionate caregivers!**  
**Are you or someone you know ready to make a meaningful impact in healthcare?**

We have an exciting opportunity that will ignite your passion.

Now offering 12-hour shift opportunities!

Are you looking for work life balance? Need to be home during week and only available on the weekends?

**We have fun!**  
**Feel appreciated and valued!**  
**Visit our website to apply.**

*The Residence at Otter Creek*  
350 Lodge Road, Middlebury, VT 05753  
[www.residenceatottercreek.com](http://www.residenceatottercreek.com)

### THE RESIDENCE at Otter Creek

**RN/LPN**  
**\$10,000 FT sign on bonus**

**Ask about our:**  
**PT and FT travel allowance**  
**Free meals**  
**Competitive Benefits**  
**On call with pay**  
**No uniforms required!**

Are you looking for work life balance? Need to be home during week and only available on the weekends? Just looking for a few hours a week or even a month? We have per diem positions!

**We have fun!**  
**Feel appreciated and valued!**  
**Apply today.**  
**Go to our website to apply**

*The Residence at Otter Creek*  
350 Lodge Road, Middlebury, VT 05753  
[www.residenceatottercreek.com](http://www.residenceatottercreek.com)

**In print or online, find your dream job with help from the Addy Indy.**



[addisonindependent.com/help-wanted](http://addisonindependent.com/help-wanted)  
**ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT**



## MARKET REPORT

### ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT  
Sales for 5/1/25 & 5/5/25

		COST		
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$	
Goodrich	1685	1.60	\$2696.00	
Savello Farm	1785	1.58	\$2820.30	
Iroquois Acres	1995	1.52	\$3032.40	
Bunker Farm	1435	1.52	\$2181.20	
Wilson Farm	1365	1.50	\$2047.50	
A. Brisson	1720	1.45	\$2494.00	
Nop Bros	1025	1.43	\$1465.75	

		COST		
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$	
Barnes Bros	76	15.00	\$1140.00	
Goodrich Farm	79	15.00	\$1185.00	
Correia	93	14.00	\$1302.00	
Vorsteveld	93	14.00	\$1302.00	
A. Brisson	103	13.00	\$1339.00	

**Total Beef - 143 Total Calves - 158**  
We value our faithful customers.  
**Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.**  
call 1-802-388-2661

**COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE** - 3000 sq ft - Middlebury. Loading dock. Tall ceilings. \$2,500.00 p/month. 802-558-6092.

**COURT STREET OFFICE SPACE** for rent - 173 Court Street, Middlebury, VT. Excellent location. One room with shared conference space. Rent includes heat, electricity, air-conditioning, internet, shared coffee station, rubbish, landscaping/snowplowing. On ground floor/handicapped accessible with plenty of parking space. Happy to answer any questions. Call or text 802-349-9837 or email [emilovtrealestate@gmail.com](mailto:emilovtrealestate@gmail.com) for more information.

**MIDDLEBURY SUGARWOOD APARTMENTS** is currently taking waitlist applications for 2, 3, 4 bedroom apartments. Minimum occupancy requirements. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 [www.SummitPMG.com](http://www.SummitPMG.com).

**MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING** available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

**OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE** in historic downtown Middlebury property. Very reasonable rent with utilities included, except internet. Rental also includes off-street parking. To inquire, call Dick at (802)989-8822.

**VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS** is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 [www.SummitPMG.com](http://www.SummitPMG.com).

## Wood Heat

**DRY OR GREEN** firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

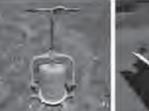
## Att. Farmers

**1ST CUT, SMALL** square, \$3.25. **2nd cut small** square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

**WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK** Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.

**(1663) TRACTORS, TOOLS & ANTIQUES AUCTION**

**Auction Closes: Tuesday, May 20 @ 10AM**  
**Preview: Thurs., May 15 from 11AM-1PM**










**Join us for a diverse and exciting estate auction featuring more than 350 lots of tractors, tools, antiques, collectibles, and MUCH MORE!**  
**Items Located in Swanton, VT - BID NOW ONLINE!**

**THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY**  
**THCAuction.com • 800-634-7653**

**Email your Public Notices to legals@addisonindependent.com and Jenna makes sure it gets in the paper**

**BRISTOL STOR-MOR**  
508 Burpee Rd., Bristol, Vt  
KT Leslie Morse  
16 Arbor Rd., Avon, CT 06001  
Unit #21A, 5'x10'  
Household items  
Minimum bid required  
**Sale Date: Saturday, 05/17 at 9 am**

**TOWN OF SHOREHAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
Wastewater Operator Services for the Town of Shoreham Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Town of Shoreham, Vermont, is seeking proposals for the provision of professional Wastewater Operator services for the operation and maintenance of the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). We invite both companies and qualified individuals to submit proposals. The successful proposer will ensure the plant operates in compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations while ensuring that plant equipment is maintained and optimized.

The selected contractor, whether an individual or company, will be responsible for providing qualified personnel to perform the following services for the Town of Shoreham Wastewater Treatment Plant: (1) WWTP operations; (2) WWTP maintenance; (3) recordkeeping and reporting; (4) compliance. A Grade 1D operator's license is required. The contract term will be two (2) years, with an option to renew.

A detailed scope of work can be found on Shoreham's website at: <https://www.shorehamvt.us/rfps>.  
Direct questions to the Town Office at (802) 897-5841 or [shorehamtown@shorehamvt.us](mailto:shorehamtown@shorehamvt.us).

Proposals will be accepted until Friday, June 6, 2025 at the Shoreham Town Office (297 Main St., Shoreham, VT 05770).

## TOWN OF ADDISON DRB PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Addison Development Review Board will convene a public hearing on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 6:00PM at the former Addison Central School located at VT RTE 22A and VT RTE 17 West, Addison, VT. **Please note the meeting date change.**

- Application DRB (#25-02) Raymond Dykema requesting a Subdivision permit to separate the shop and house. The property is located on Norton Town Road, Addison, VT. Parcel ID# NT 0973. Needs to meet road frontage requirements and a Right of Way that is up to Town Class 3 standards, which also needs to be surveyed. Will warn for the May meeting since he needs to be sure the line changes have been notified and corrected to the correct numbers for presentation on the mylar and maps.
- Application DRB (25-17) Bill Duane, VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Dept. requesting to do a 2-lot subdivision at 815 Gage Road, Addison, ahead of the acquisition of 176 acres of VDFG.
- Application DRB (#25-22) Richard & Joanne Reynold requests to subdivide land in 2 parcels located at 6935 VT RTE 22A, Addison, VT. 05491.

The applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office during normal office hours. Interested parties who wish to appeal or to be heard must attend the hearing or may be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications relating to the application may be filed in writing with the Board either before or during the hearings.

N.B.: Participation in a hearing is necessary to establish status as an "interested party" and the right to appeal a decision rendered in that hearing, according to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 117 S.S.4464 (a) (1) (C), 4465(b) and 4471 (a). Participation consists of offering through oral or written testimony, evidence or a statement of concern directly related to the subject of the hearing.  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Alden Harwood, Chair  
Starr Phillips, Board Secretary  
Daniel Rossignol, Zoning Administrator

# Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 10B and 11B.

Addison (1)	Prospect Cemetery Association (1)
Addison County Courthouse (1)	Shoreham (1)
Bristol (1)	Starksboro (1)
Bristol Stor-Mor (1)	Stewart Construction (1)
Cornwall Central Cemetery (1)	SVUUSD (1)
Cornwall Evergreen Cemetery (1)	Tri-Town Water (1)
Ethan Allen Self Storage (1)	Vergennes (1)
Goshen (1)	West Addison Lakeview Cemetery (1)
Middlebury (1)	

## PROSPECT CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING PUBLIC NOTICE

The Officers and all Persons interested in the Prospect Cemetery Association are hereby warned to meet at the Sarah Partridge Community House in East Middlebury on Monday, 12th of May at 7:30 P.M. for the following purpose:

- To hear the reports of the officers.
- To hold election of officers for the following year.
- To vote on fees for the maintenance of the cemetery grounds.
- To transact any other business that may come before the meeting.

Elaine Newton, Secretary

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION Goshen Municipal Planning Consultation

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) will meet on May 19, 2025 at 7:00PM, for a public hearing with the Town of Goshen's Planning Commission.

The meeting will take place in person at the Goshen Town Hall, 55 Carlisle Hill Road, Goshen, VT 05733.

As per 24 V.S.A. §4350, ACRPC will consult with Goshen in regard to the municipality's planning efforts, ascertain Goshen's planning needs, identify needed assistance from ACRPC, and confirm that the municipality:

- is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan that is consistent with the goals contained in section 4302 of this title;
- is engaged in a process to implement its municipal plan, consistent with the program for implementation required under section 4382 of this title; and
- is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes.

Questions, please call either:  
Adam Lougee, Executive Director or Rebecca Elder, Community Planner  
Addison County Regional Planning Commission  
802-388-3141

Martin Fjeld, Town Clerk or Chad Chamberlain, Planning Commission Chair  
Town of Goshen  
802-247-6455

## TOWN OF STARKSBORO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Kevin Harper & Julie Herr submitted a subdivision application (25DRB06SD) for sketch plan review of a 2-Lot Subdivision located on a 177.73-acre parcel (ID 10340) 579 Frank Orvis Rd. The proposed subdivision is in the FC and LDRC Districts.

The Starksboro Development Review Board will conduct the hearing on **June 12, 2025**, starting at 7p.m. at the Starksboro Town Office with remote access (info below). The application is available to review by request of the Starksboro zoning office.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Access via Zoom: Meeting ID : 896 1741 5124  
Passcode: a3Aeh#7%  
Phone 1-929-436-2866  
Passcode: 83764154

Zoning Administrator Date: May 5, 2025

## PUBLIC NOTICE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

**Tri Town Water District, VT0005001**  
**Levels of Total Haloacetic Acids Above Drinking Water Standards**  
Our water system recently exceeded drinking water standards. Although this is not an emergency, customers have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Test results from the four quarters ending with the **First Quarter 2025** show that our system exceeded the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5).

The standard for TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) is 60 UG/L. The running annual average from the last four quarters of results for TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) was 63 UG/L.

**What should I do?**  
The drinking water standard (MCL) is based on lifetime exposure to TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) which may increase your risk of getting cancer. Continuing to drink the water is a personal decision that you must make for yourself by considering the health risk, cost, and convenience. You may choose to use bottled water or water from an alternate source.

You do not need to boil your water. You can continue to use the water for showering, bathing, washing your food and dishes, brushing your teeth, and other household uses.

If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

**What does this mean?**  
This is not an emergency. Drinking water containing TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) at this concentration will not lead to any short-term effects such as vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach pains.

**Haloacetic acids are organic chemicals that form when chlorine disinfectant reacts with natural organic matter in the water.**

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. In animal studies, some haloacetic acids have been associated with reproductive or developmental effects.

**What happened? What is being done?**  
Tri-Town Water exceeded the maximum contaminant level for Total Haloacetic acids. We are working to minimize the formation of HAA5 while ensuring we maintain an adequate level of disinfectant. We are consulting with the environmental scientist for technical assistance. We will be taking additional steps to change disinfectant levels by increasing the flushing of our water lines.

For more information, please contact Darwin Pratt at 802-758-2202 or Darwin Pratt, PO Box 85, Bridport VT 05734

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.



**More Help Wanted ads can be found on Page 9B.**

# MUHS honor roll

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury Union High School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

## Grade 9

**High Honors:** Killian Barry, Paras Biancosino, Maxwell Breckenridge, Anni Broderson, Annika Bruning, Christopher Bunt, McMillan Caldwell, Jonathan Carpenter, Meredith Carr Perlow, Sadie Chance, Selma Citarella, Raine Evans Nash, Harper Hendy, Willow Heywood, Abrina Ho, Maya Jacobs, Sadie Jette, Henry Kervick, Elle MacIntyre, Fiona Mackey, Eve Menguc, Edie Newhouse-Rigling, Ellie Orten, Louisa Orten, Thea Porter, Adeline Ritter, Sophie Simpson, Adelaide Taylor, and Beatrice Whitmarsh.

**Honors:** Mira Biancosino, Ty Bierman, Bug Bloom, Thea Boglioli, Nova Bojanowski, Havyn Brush, Randy Cameron, Ellie Conklin, Ella Cram, Bea Deering, Carly Delabruere, Connor Desabrais, Finleigh Drake, Ben Dutton, Gabe Duval, Jocelyn Foster, Maverick Gardner-Wacker, Miles Goetz, Abby Hamilton, Fiona Harrington, Jackson Jacobs, Marcus Jenne, Preston Kean, Alayna LaFlam, Marley Lambert, Mary Landwehr and Jackson Lind.

Also Taylen Maynard, Porter McDonnell, Holden McDowell, Ben Napoleon, Maeve Newton, Evan Northrup, Lillian Paquette, Jorgen Pirrung, Case Pitner, Daniel Power, Meredith Prouty, Fallon Ray, Adrian Rhodes, Mckenzie Richard, Ginger Riney, Finn Roark, Becca Seeley, Kiera Sell, Alden Sherry, Maddox Slater, Dean Stevens, Leah Warner, Nora Warren, McKenna Whitney, and Emily Zenteno Sanchez.

**Honorable Mention:** Manoah Alexander, Enzo Blake, George Cammack, Ethan Dodds, Tanner English, Orion Foss, Kendyl Gosselin, Bella Hyjek, Ibis Kin, Cameron Lussier, David Odell, Natayah Paquette, Gage Payne, Kennedy Renninger, Vivian Sanz, Penny Stattel, Lily Swinton, Wesley Terrien, Duncan Wedge and Leah Williams.

## Grade 10

**High Honors:** Abigail Andres, Toby Baker-Rouse, Ida Blackwell, Cora Bliven, Taryn Burns, Julie Connolly, Annan Duquette-Hoffman, Alice Livesay, Henry McDonnell, Maggie Morter, Isabel Quinn, Evelyn Schoelzel, Jason Sperry, Nason Watson, Isla Weaber, Addie Young and Graeham Zieger.

**Honors:** London Allen, Taylor Altemose, Gaby Araujo, Elijah

Aruzza, Max Ayer, Ryan Brouillard, Emilia Bullock, Sedona Carrara, Ezra Choudhury, Nate Cook Yoder, Leah Duguay, Allen Durkee Cram, Truth Fetterolf, Charlotte Gates, Miles Gemignani, Noah Gillespie, James Hellyer, Lila Hescoock, Jack Hoyley, Lucas Huestis, Addie Hyjek, Thea Jackson, Nataly Johnson, Louis Klein, Jase Kozak, Kate Kozak, Timmy Laframboise and Arayla Leggett.

Also Try MacTavish, Rowdy Malcolm, Sawyer Malzac, Reaney McKinley, Julia Morrissey, Cullen Myers, Sophia Nicolai, Levi Nueder, Ellington Patterson, Gabriel Quesnel, Ruby Reed, Charlie Reiderer, Isaiah Robinson, Jordyn Rushton, Ana Sansone, Sam Sherman, Alyssa Smith, Eben Smith, Deionna Sprague, Wylie St Clair, Greta Suter, Logan Taylor, Alexis Whipple, Sophia Wright, Tucker Wright and Charles Young.

**Honorable Mention:** Aiden Benouire, Norah Burrell, Parker Carl, Hayden Dunakin, Vinny Gibbs, Caitlin Gillett, Kayla Haugan, Landon Hunt, Miley Johnson, Brady Lloyd, Adalaide Markowski, Raphael Mitchell, Colton Murray, Gwenn Rheame, Tripp Stone and Es Voorhees.

## Grade 11

**High Honors:** Esra Anzali, Matty Austin, Solstice Binder, Gunnar Boe, Maya Breckenridge, Kenyon Connors, Quinn Doria, Navah Glikman, Max Goodfellow, Kaden Hammond, Avery Hohenschau, Emily Johnson, Grace Ritter, Sawyer Witscher and Anna Wolosinski.

**Honors:** Alex Almeida-Perez, Alyza Bagley, Kirin Biancosino, Hex Bingham, Candace Bloom, Linc Bonner, Cara Bougor, Katelyn Busby, Lia Calzini, Cooper Cannon, Lyle Carey, Skyler Choiniere, Peter Conklin, Spencer Copeland, Levi D'Avignon, Kisung Davis, Ben DeBisschop, Jonathan Deering, Oscar Drake, Logan Edmonds-Beattie, Theodore Fallis, Mckenzie Forbes, Vian Foster, Ivy Gates, Hannah Gendreau, Austin Gero, Claude Godard, Berkeley Graham-Gurland, Gabe Hamel, Ireland Hanley, Mary Harrington and Jaxson Heffernan

Also Ripken Johnson, Jonathan Kafumbe, Jonathan Kehoe, Lola Kimball, Rainie Kuebler Raymond, John Lafountain, Alyssa LaRose, Kendall Leno, Benjamin Longman, Quinn Mackey, Kendra Mahler, Teddy Manning-Lonzcak, Callan McDowell, Sole Pareja, Milla Raley, Callie Rees, Cooke Riney,

Madison Selleck, Maren Shubert, Nathan Stefani, Laila Sunderland, Makyliah Tellier, Molly Thalen, Savannah Tomaszewski, Julian Vukoder, Makayla Warner, Alexix Williams and Nachuan Zhang.

**Honorable Mention:** Wesley Audet, Jason Bishop, Ariel Caron, Noah Drake, Marshall Eddy, Josie Gaiotti, Finch Goetz, Miley Hanson, Mason Harrington, Jordan Hayyat, Barlow McWilliams, Vivian Mott, Emery Richards-Lindeke, Mercedes Sheldrick, Hunter Sunhawk, Cody Warner, Alyssa Warren and Troy White.

## Grade 12

**High Honors:** Eva Andrews, Kayleigh Beane, Sarah Benz, Merisa Bergeron, Keil Broderson, Avery Carl, Aaron Carr-Perlow, Lily Dame, Indy Fetterolf, Lucas Flinner, Natalie Gillett, Ruby Harrison-Irwin, Bea Hooper, Jazmyne Hurley, Sara Kent, Beth McIntosh, Baker Nelson, Haakon Olsen, Margaret Orten, Lucy Poduschnick, Gabe Schmitt, Ethan Spritzer, Nel Stein, Leila Stillman-Utterback and Avery Vant.

**Honors:** Kylie Bean, Matthew Berg, Joseph Bergevin, Michael Betourney, Thomas Bishop, Angus Blackwell, Jessie Bodette, Chase Boudreau, Callan Boulanger, Kassydy Brown, Elsa Burrows, Meredith Cameron, Clara Chant, Grace Charbonneau, Michaela Charbonneau, Peter Chiles, Ollie Choudhury, Quinn Collins, Lila Cook Yoder, Jordan Couture, India Danyow, Grey Dennison, Jillian Dragon, Addison Dunakin, Piper Farnsworth, Ana Fleming, Xavier Fuentes-George, Austin Gendron, Christopher Gile, Avery Hamilton, Anika Heppell, Meredith Horne, and Juliette Hunsdorfer.

Also Dom Jones, Joshua Kafumbe, Subia Khan, Georgie Kiel, Maggie Klingensmith, Dylan Kolesnik, Ella Kozak, Sophia Lawton, Tassilo Luksch, Will Maheu, Jayden Mahoney, Jelde Meyer, Emma Morrissey,



## Promoting self-defense

**MASTER KELLIE THOMAS** of TaeKwonDo KICKS and four students, Tammy Crossman, Rachel Manikian and Stacy Bartlett, as well as Master Sylvie Henley attended the International Partnership of Martial Arts Women Symposium in Windsor, Ontario during the weekend of April 26th. Master Thomas taught a workshop on how to use our voices for self-defense and how crucial it truly is. Advanced ranking women from all styles of martial arts from such places as Canada, New Jersey, Florida and Nevada all came together in this annual event to participate in workshops. Next year, Master Thomas and TaeKwonDo KICKS will be hosting this event.

Photo courtesy of Kellie Thomas

## Public Notices

can be found in this ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 10B and 11B.

### VERGENNES TAP TA19 INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids from pre-qualified contractors shall be accepted until 3:00pm, prevailing time on Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 120 Main Street, P.O. Box 35 Vergennes, Vermont 05491 for construction of the project hereinafter described. Bid opening will occur immediately after the bid submittal deadline. The time of receiving and opening bids may be postponed due to emergencies or unforeseen conditions.

Sealed BIDS shall be marked in the lower left-hand corner: Bid Documents: Vergennes TAP TA19(9).

Each BID must be accompanied by a certified check payable to the City of Vergennes for five percent (5%) of the total amount of the BID. A BID bond may be used in lieu of a certified check.

**PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS:** All bidders on this project shall be on the Agency of Transportation's prequalified list under the category listed below or shall have submitted a complete prequalification application to the Agency of Transportation, Contract Administration, a minimum of 10 working days prior to the bid opening. For information contact Jon Winter at (802) 622-1267.

All bidders shall be on the current VTRANS Contract Administration pre-qualified list "Contractors List of Building Construction Category".

**LOCATION:** Beginning at a point approximately 0.1 Mile North of the intersection of Vermont Route 22A and Canal Street on Canal Street in the City of Vergennes.

**TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION:** Work to be performed under this project includes: site preparation and construction of a 60' Wide x 84' Long (5,040 SQ. FT.) storage shed. The storage shed will consist of a fabric cover overlaying a steel framed structure set on precast concrete block walls atop a bituminous asphalt pad.

**CONTRACT COMPLETION DATE:** The Contract shall be substantially completed on or before October 24, 2025.

**OBTAINING PLANS:** Plans may be obtained from Otter Creek Engineering, Inc. P.O. Box 712, 404 East Main Street, East Middlebury, VT 05740. Phone: 802-382-8522 at a cost of \$100 per set made payable to "Otter Creek Engineering, Inc." Plans are not returnable.

**ENGINEERS ESTIMATE:** For this Proposal the Engineers Estimate falls between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000.

**PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND PROPOSAL MAY BE SEEN AT THE OFFICE OF:**

1. Otter Creek Engineering, Inc., 404 East Main Street, East Middlebury, VT 05740
2. Otter Creek Engineering, Inc., 110 Merchants Row, 4th Floor, Suite 15, Rutland, VT 05701

**PREBID CONFERENCE:** A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held for the project on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 9:00 am local time at the City of Vergennes, P.O. Box 35, 120 Main Street, Vergennes, VT 05491.

**STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS:** This contract is governed by the Vermont Agency of Transportation ("VTrans") 2024 Standard Specifications for Construction.

**QUESTIONS:** During the advertisement phase of this project all questions shall be addressed solely to Brent F. Rakowski, P.E. at Otter Creek Engineering, Inc., P.O. Box 712, 404 East Main Street, East Middlebury, VT 05740. Phone 802-382-8522 ext 205 and Email: rakowski@ottercrk.com.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO) CERTIFICATION:** Certification is required by the Equal Employment Opportunity regulations of the Secretary of labor (41 CFR 60-1.7(b) (1)) and must be submitted by bidders and proposed subcontractors only in connection with contracts and subcontracts which are subject to the equal opportunity clause. Generally only contracts and subcontracts of \$10,000 or under are exempt as set forth in 41 CFR 60-1.5. See Appendix A for Contractors EEO Certification Form (CA-109). This certification form must be signed and submitted with the bid.

**NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT:** All bidders are required to execute a sworn statement, certifying that the bidder has not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion, or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with such contract. See Appendix B for Debarment and Non-Collusion Affidavit (CA-91). This affidavit must be signed and submitted with the bid.

**DEBARMENT AFFIDAVIT:** All bidders are required to execute a sworn statement, certifying that the bidder has not within the last three (3) years been, suspended, debarred, voluntarily excluded or determined ineligible by any Federal or State Agency; does not have a proposed suspension, debarment, voluntary exclusion or ineligibility determination pending; and has not been indicted, convicted or had civil judgment rendered against (it, him, her, them) by a court having jurisdiction in any matter involving fraud or official misconduct within the past three (3) years. See Appendix B for Debarment and Non-Collusion Affidavit (CA-91). This affidavit must be signed and submitted with the bid.

**WORKER CLASSIFICATION COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT FORM (Prime Contractor):** All bidders are required to complete this self-reporting form in its entirety, sign and submit with the bid.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED CONTRACTS:** The City of Vergennes hereby notifies all bidders that it will ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin for an award. This is consistent with the Town's requirement to comply with provisions of Title VI.

**DAVIS BACON WAGE REQUIREMENTS:** Bidders agree to abide by the Davis Bacon Wage Rate Schedule, which are appended to these Contract Documents. **BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS:** Build America, Buy America requirements, as outlined in specification section 107.21 BUY AMERICA PROVISIONS, apply to this project.

### TOWN OF BRISTOL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Bristol Development Review Board will hold the following hearings on May 27, 2025, beginning at 7:00 P.M. The hearings will be held in person at the Town Office, located at 1 South Street. The hearings will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

Permit #24-402: Calihan Butler of South 116 Rd. (Parcel #110141-001) is requesting preliminary plat review for a 3-lot subdivision subject to Bristol Unified Development Regulations to Article IX, Section 932.

Copies of the zoning permit applications and decisions are available for review at the Bristol Town Office during regular business hours.

Remote Access: via Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85786761083> • Passcode: 805823  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87551027651?pwd=ZmJnQmZlM0RmZlU2f0tVotVEE-BidXObjJLl.1> Phone In: +1 646 931 3860

### TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM 116 - LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM TOWN OFFICES - 77 MAIN STREET TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.

Also available via Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81028870664>  
 By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)  
 Webinar ID: 810 2887 0664

For those wishing to watch but not participate: Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV\\_Vermont](https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV_Vermont) and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

#### AGENDA

- 7:00 1. Call to Order
- 7:05 2. \*Approval of Agenda
- 7:10 3. \*Approval of Consent Agenda
  - 3a. \*Approval of the Minutes of the April 22, 2025 Regular Selectboard Meeting
  - 3b. \*Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (if any)
  - 3c. \*Approval of Applications - Renewal of State Licenses/Permits (if any)
  - 3d. Consent Agenda Placeholder
  - 3e. Consent Agenda Placeholder
  - 3f. \*\*Town Manager's Report
- 7:15 4. \*\*Citizen Comments (Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda)
- 7:20 5. \*\*Library Project & EV Infrastructure - Concept Proposal - Selectboard Member F. Dunnington
- 7:30 6. \*Energy Committee - Presentation - Proposed EECBG County Energy Planning Grant - Application
- 7:40 7. \*Fire Department - Door Access Alarm System - Proposed Purchase
- 7:45 8. \*\*Turning Point Center of Addison County - Opiate Settlement - Funds Report - Update
- 7:55 9. \*Additional Board/Committee Application - Energy Committee - Appointment
- 8:00 10. \*Approval of Updated Town Emergency Management Plan
- 8:05 11. \*Police Department - Vehicle Outfitting
- 8:10 12. \*\*BMP - Frog Hollow & Proposed Mural Concept - Presentation/ Discussion
- 8:20 13. Agenda Placeholder
- 8:25 14. \*Approval of Check Warrants
- 15. \*\*Board Member Concerns
- 16. Executive Session - Not Anticipated
- 17. Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
- 8:30 18. \*Adjourn

\*Possible Decision \*\*Discussion

### CORNWALL CENTRAL CEMETERY

Annual Meeting 7pm on Friday, May 9th at the Town Hall. For info call 802-324-9499.

### LAKE VIEW CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NOTICE

The Lakeview Cemetery Association will hold their annual cemetery meeting on Tuesday, May 20, at 7 p.m., at the West Addison Community House.

### REQUEST FOR BIDS

Stewart Construction located in Essex Junction, Vermont is seeking bids from qualified subcontractors for a fast paced, multi-family construction project off Seminary Street Extension in the town of Middlebury, Vermont. The scopes of work available for bids include but are not limited to: Sitework, Concrete, Wood Framing, Mechanical/Plumbing, Electrical, Fire Suppression and Finishes - both interior and exterior. Minority, Women, Small Owned, & Section 3 Businesses are encouraged to respond. Interested subcontractors must not be debarred from receiving State or Federal funding and must be capable of processing certified payroll with Davis Bacon wages. Please reach out to [info@stewart-construction.com](mailto:info@stewart-construction.com) for access to the Townhouse 3 (Lot 9) bid documents; bids will be accepted for the work until May 19th, 2025

### EVERGREEN CEMETERY ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 17 at 7:00 PM Cornwall Town Hall, 2629 Route 30, Cornwall, VT

### ETHAN ALLEN HIGHWAY STORAGE NOTICE OF SALE

Brenda Shores - Units 94 & 349 To be sold at public auction on May 10th at 9:00 AM to the highest bidder. All sales are final. Unit must be broom cleaned.

### FULL PASSPORT SERVICE

The Addison County Clerk located in the Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

#### REGULAR HOURS

Monday - 8:30am to 4:00pm  
 Tuesday - 9:00am to 12:30pm  
 Wednesday - Closed  
 Thursday - 12:30pm to 4:00pm  
 Friday - 9:00am to 12:30pm

#### APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

For appointment, go to [www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com](http://www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com) or call 802-388-1966.

### SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE POLICY WARNING

The Slate Valley Unified Union School District Board will conduct a public hearing at their meeting on May 19, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. and take action on the following policy:

To Adopt: F23 Capitalization of Assets

Copies of the policy are available on the district website at [slatevalleyunified.org](http://slatevalleyunified.org).

Brooke Olsen-Farrell Superintendent of Schools

# 100+ Women Who Care donate to non-profits

NEW HAVEN — 100+ Women Who Care Addison County held their second-quarter meeting of 2025 at Tourterelle Restaurant in New Haven, giving \$16,825.00 to local non-profits. The three finalists for this quarter were: the Bristol Hub Teen Center & Skatepark for a newly upgraded skatepark; Common Ground Center for transportation of locals to their summer camps; and Green Mountain Club to build a new shelter on a local section of trail. Bristol Hub was the top vote recipient, receiving 70% of the available funds. The runners-up both received 15% of the available funds.

100+ Women Who Care, Addison County is a charitable giving circle gathering quarterly to choose three non-profits to receive our collective donations. Every quarter, each member contributes one hundred dollars, the full sum accumulated going toward the local organizations. Members suggest a non-profit and two weeks before the meeting, three of those suggested are randomly selected (via online spinning wheel) to make a 5-minute presentation at the meeting. A vote is held after the presentations to choose who receives 70%.

100+ Women Who Care Addison County has gifted \$200,000 to Addison County charities in



TAYLOR WELCH-PLANTE, representing the Bristol Hub Teen Center, recently received a donation from 100+ Women Who Care of Addison County at their quarterly meeting.

Photos courtesy of Judy Kowalczyk



CHRISTA FINNERN, COMMON GROUND CENTER



MIKE DEBONIS, GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

its two years. It is their hope to grow membership and welcome more members who share the commitment to supporting each

other and our community. Find them at [www.100wacvt.org](http://www.100wacvt.org) to learn more. Our next meeting will be in July 2025.

# CERF grants applications are available

ADDISON COUNTY — Funding is now available to nonprofits and municipal organizations through the Walter Cerf Community Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation. The fund makes grants to address charitable needs in Vermont with priority interests in the arts, education, historic preservation, and social services. Within these issue areas, there is a strong desire to support work that addresses the needs of underserved populations.

Grants are made to organizations

that either have a statewide reach and make a unique contribution to Vermont or are located in or serve Addison County or Brandon. Approximately 70% of funds available will be awarded to programs and projects in and/or serving the Addison County or Brandon area; the remaining 30% will support programs and projects with a statewide reach. For grants to statewide programs or projects, priority will be given to those that include services to Addison County and Brandon.

The fund will consider small (\$500-\$5,000) and large (up to \$25,000) grant requests. Organizations applying for a small grant may request program or project support or general operating support. Large grant requests must be from organizations serving Addison County or Brandon and be program or project specific.

Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24, 2025.

Visit [vermontcf.org/cerf](http://vermontcf.org/cerf) to learn more and apply.

# Man cited for driving without a license

BRISTOL — Bristol police on May 1 cited Eric Berry, 38, of Concord, Vt., for driving with a criminally suspended license following a traffic stop on West Street.

## Bristol

### Police Log

Between April 20 and May 3 Bristol police completed 23 foot patrols and three car patrols, conducted 57 traffic stops, and checked security at Mount Abraham Union High School 13 times, at Bristol Elementary School 15 times and at local businesses 12 times.

Police also processed 13 fingerprint requests, helped one person get into their locked vehicle, conducted one welfare check and verified one vehicle identification number.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On April 21 received a report of a weapons violation. An investigation is ongoing.
- On April 21 responded with Bristol's Community Resource Specialist to a landlord/tenant dispute on East Street and assisted with a temporary resolution.
- On April 22 investigated damage to a vehicle on Prince Lane.
- On April 22 issued a parking violation for a vehicle parked on a Mountain Street sidewalk.
- On April 22 responded to a suspicious vehicle that was blocking a driveway on Church Street. Police reported the vehicle was moved without issue.
- On April 22 helped someone

on Firehouse Drive with getting resources.

• On April 24 responded to a dog loose on Liberty Street. Police said the dog was found arriving at home, and the owner was expected to repair the fence.

• On April 24 completed an untimely death investigation.

• On April 24 deployed a traffic cone to alert drivers of a hazard at the edge of the roadway on Mountain Street.

• On April 24 received a dog bite report on Ledge Lane.

• On April 24 responded to Plank Road for a suicide check and connected the individual with resources. Bristol police were assisted by Vermont State Police.

• On April 25 responded to a dispute on West Street. Police determined no action rose to the level of an offense and assisted an individual with property retrieval.

• On April 25 helped a business with a notice against trespass on Prince Lane.

• On April 25 checked Sycamore Park for a complaint of overnight camping.

• On April 25 responded to Prince Lane for a two-vehicle minor crash.

• On April 26 assisted someone on Spring Street. Police determined the matter was a civil issue and referred the individual to the appropriate agency.

• On April 28 assisted Mount Abraham Union Middle/High

School with a truancy concern.

• On April 28 helped someone get assistance for a postal issue.

• On April 29 issued diversion paperwork to someone under 21 years old in possession of marijuana.

• On April 29 completed a report for someone who discovered damage to their vehicle.

• On April 29 received a report of the theft of a dog. Police said the dog was soon located, and there was no evidence of a crime.

• On April 30 Bristol's Community Resource Specialist helped someone get food and connect with resources for continued support.

• On April 30 helped locate a juvenile who had left their Firehouse Drive residence without parental permission.

• On May 1 received a report of an injured animal on S 116 Road. The animal was moved from the roadway.

• On May 1 checked Mountain Street and the surrounding area for a suspicious person. Police were unable to locate the individual.

• On May 1 responded to Liberty Street for suspicious activity but didn't observe anyone in the area.

• On May 2 received a report of possible construction fraud on S 116 Road in Bristol. An investigation is ongoing.

• On May 2 responded to Sycamore Park for reported overnight camping. Police informed the person that there was no overnight camping in the park, and the individual left the area.

# Sheriff's Log

ADDISON COUNTY — Sheriff Michael Elmore and three deputies on May 3 participated in "Tip-A-Cop" at Applebee's restaurant in Rutland to raise money for Special Olympics.

In other recent activity, deputies completed patrols in multiple towns and stopped 93 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations, fingerprinted 20 people for background checks and assisted the Bennington County Sheriff's Department with prisoner transports on April 30.

The sheriff and his deputies also:

prisoners to hearings at the courthouse.

• On April 28 received a complaint of a bad check that was passed in New Haven in 2024. The department contacted the issuer who set up a plan to pay the amount back.

• On April 28 collected bail for a person arrested on a warrant by Middlebury police.

• On April 29 provided an escort for an oversized load from the New York State line to the New Hampshire State line.

• On May 1 responded to a crash with minor injury on Bristol Road

in Monkton. Officers determined that an 18-year-old Monkton man had fallen asleep while driving and gone off the road.

• On May 1 received a report of trash dumped on the side of Pond Road in Monkton. After looking through the items, the deputy was unable to determine who the trash belonged to and the town was notified to pick it up.

• On May 2 transported a person to jail who had been arrested on a warrant by Middlebury police.

• On My 2 assisted with an eviction in Orwell.

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# ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

May 8, 2025



## A NEW SINGLE BY MELISSA D

*BLENDS HUMOR AND HEART IN FOLK-POP SONG ABOUT HEAVEN*

Melissa D is releasing a new single "Will I Be Bored in Heaven?" on May 16. See the East Middlebury folk-pop musician perform at Brandon's Kennedy Park Summer Series on June 7, and then again at the Middlebury Farmers Market on July 19.

PHOTO / ARIELLE THOMAS

**N**eed to lighten up a little? Take a "hiatus from the hustle and bustle... with a side of silliness" and listen to East Middlebury folk-pop-musician Melissa D's newest single "Will I Be Bored in Heaven?"

BY **ELSIE**

LYNN PARINI

Blending playful storytelling with spiritual curiosity, "Will I Be Bored in Heaven?" invites listeners to rethink the afterlife with laughter instead of fear. With a sound that's been described as "John Prine meets Karen Carpenter," Melissa D wraps honest questions about death in a warm, melodic hug —

acoustic-driven, heartfelt and just cheeky enough to make you smirk between verses.

"I was exploring, wondering and questioning a lot about the afterlife," shared Melissa Durkee Moorhouse (her "real" name) on Tuesday during an interview about this song. "Especially with everything going on in the world right now... I'm feeling called to bring energy and light to my music."

The idea for the song came to her mid-chaos while packing for a road trip in the spring of 2021 with her husband, Alan — who co-wrote several of the song's standout lines, including the crowd-favorite: "Will I have to try out for

the choir?" The couple wrote and laughed as they cruised Vermont's backroads, capturing the spirit of a song that would soon become one of her most requested at live shows.

"People kept asking, 'Play the heaven song!'" said Moorhouse, recalling audience requests at live performances. "That's when I knew it was time to get it properly recorded so folks could enjoy it anytime."

Moorhouse worked with Vermont producer Colin McCaffrey to put the single together.

"Colin is an incredible producer and multi-

SEE HEAVEN ON PAGE 3

# UPCOMING MUSIC

## The Almendros to play for Migrant Justice

The popular Addison County band The Almendros will rock the Marquis Theater in Middlebury on Wednesday, May 14, from 7-9 p.m., in a benefit for the Vermont nonprofit Migrant Justice.

The Almendros are an eight-piece multinational group whose repertoire ranges from rock, soul, hip-hop and blues to reggae, ska, calypso and West African styles. They are preparing to release their second album,

"Destination Unknown," and they'll preview it at the Marquis.

Migrant Justice works build the voice and capacity of Vermont's 1,200 immigrant farmworkers, helping them organize for economic justice and human rights.

With a \$10 cash admission at the door, the evening will include the Marquis Theater's Mexican cantina and bar.



Members of The Almendros, pictured from left, Mark Pelletier, Pete Ryan, Naunau Beloha, Liz Cleveland, John Wallace, Addison Tate, Doug Wilhelm, Kemi Fuentes-George, will play for Migrant Justice on Wednesday, May 14, from 7-9 p.m. The eight-piece, multinational Addison County band brings a wide-ranging repertoire, from rock and soul to reggae, calypso and West African songs. Admission is \$10 cash at the door. COURTESY PHOTOS

## Four fabulous musicians perform a Dedication Concert for St. Stephen's Steinway piano

St. Stephen's Church in downtown Middlebury, is the proud recipient of a beautiful 1940 Steinway Model AIII parlor grand, given to the church in memory of Charles Kreiser. So what do you do when you have an instrument of this quality? Host a concert of course!

Four noted Middlebury musicians will perform a free concert, open to all, on May 17, at 4 p.m. **Diana Fanning** has performed extensively throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe, both as a solo performer and as a chamber musician. She will play Ravel's *Sonatine* and will also perform César Franck's *Prelude, Fugue and Variation* in the duet version for organ and piano along with **Emory Fanning**, Professor Emeritus of Music at Middlebury College. **Rebecca Mitchell**, an Associate Professor of History at Middlebury College, is also a gifted performer with degrees in both history and

music. She will play music by Medtner and Scriabin, and will also collaborate with St. Stephen's Director of Music, **Robert Ludwig**, for the Schubert *F-minor Fantasia* for four-hand piano. Ludwig will round at the program with pieces by Domenico Scarlatti.

### ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

#### DIANA FANNING

**Diana Fanning** has toured extensively as a solo performer and chamber musician throughout the U.S. and in England, France, Austria, Switzerland, Holland, the Czech Republic, Canada and Germany. In recent years she has performed at the Schloss Leopoldskron



## MORE TUNES

### MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY WIND ENSEMBLE OFFERS TWO CONCERTS, MAY 9 & 11

The Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble, conducted by Jerry Shedd, will perform two concerts over the next two weekends. First up the group will perform on Friday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m., in the Mount Abraham Union High School Auditorium in Bristol. Followed by a Mother's Day concert on Sunday, May 11, from 4-5 p.m., at the Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall in Middlebury.

A cornerstone of the program features four generations of Middlebury's own Friml Family. This Midd Winds concert features a suite from Bill's grandfather Rudolf Friml's operetta "The Firefly." Bill's father William Friml wrote a never-performed song called "Will They Ever Name a Sandwich After Me," which will

SEE WINDS ON PAGE 4

### HINESBURG ARTIST SERIES GIVES MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT

The Hinesburg Artist Series (HAS) will celebrate spring and Mother's Day with a concert full of beautiful music on Sunday, May 11, at 4 p.m., in the CVU auditorium in Hinesburg. The concert will feature the Hinesburg Community Band and South County Chorus, both under the direction of Rufus Patrick.

"We have put together a wonderful mix of music that families are sure to enjoy," said Patrick, HAS founder and Music Director. "This concert will be a wonderful way to celebrate spring and mothers."

The Hinesburg Community Band will present Columbia River Quickstep, Capriccio, Declaration, Ballade, & Finale,

SEE MOTHER'S ON PAGE 4

("Sound of Music" castle) in Salzburg, and in Prague at the invitation of the International Dvorak Society. Fanning has performed on numerous occasions as a concerto soloist with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. Vermont Public Television featured her in a program of works by Scarlatti, Ravel and Chopin. Radio audiences hear her frequently over Vermont Public Radio, and she was interviewed on Radio Prague. As a chamber musician, Fanning has been a guest artist with the Takacs, the Schumann, the Jupiter and the Alexander String Quartets, and with ensembles from Point Counterpoint Music Camp, which she

SEE MUSIC ON PAGE 8

## HEAVEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

instrumentalist," Moorhouse praised, adding that he is the musician behind her vocals.

"Will I Be Bored in Heaven?" pairs folk sensibility with alternative country charm, topped off with Moorhouse's signature earthy vocals — a blend of smoky sweetness and soul.

"Music is my love language," Moorhouse said. "When people connect with my songs, I feel fulfilled as a songwriter. I see songwriting as a form of energy work."

### "MUSIC IS A WAY OF EXPRESSING HOW I AM FEELING AT THE TIME."

— Melissa D

Moorhouse knows a thing or two about impacting the lives of others... After all, she dedicated 20 years working as a counselor and advocate for the state of Vermont. Since 2016, she has quietly forged her own musical path, recording and releasing her solo

work. Partnering with producers Clint Bierman (The Grift), Kristina Stykos and Phil Henry, she has chosen to bypass the traditional industry grind — big tours, record deals and relocation — in favor of an independent, soul-driven approach.

"Music is a way of expressing how I am feeling at the time," she said. "I never want to pigeonhole myself in a certain sound."

Moorhouse began singing at a very early age — maybe 4 or 5, she guessed — and continued on until high school, where, she

## DID YOU KNOW?

Melissa D is an animal lover and advocate. She donates portions of her VIP Songbird Community — where folks can subscribe to get early access to new tracks, exclusive deals and downloads. The best part though... 10% of her proceeds each year go to helping homeless animals including donations to Homeward Bound and the Rutland County Humane Society. At home, Melissa D is loved by her Chiweenie/Dachshund mix Roosevelt and cat Panther.

says laughing, she was "kicked out of chorus."

"I was shy and discouraged," Moorhouse explained, but the spark reignited in college at Lyndon State where she began taking voice lessons again.

Her vocal career took off when she fronted the rock band The Alley Katz. There she shared the stage with musicians like Joe Moore (Pork Tornado), Jon Fishman (Phish) and Benjamin Orr (The Cars). Then singing led her to co-creating the folk-rock collaboration

CHILL with Michael Cressey, her EP "Little Girl" and several singles.

Moorhouse will show up this summer at several local venues, including Brandon's Kennedy Park Summer Series on June 7, and the Middlebury Farmers Market on July 19 and Oct. 11. More details about her live performances can be found on her website, [melissadmusic.com](http://melissadmusic.com). There you can also get early access to "Will I Be Bored in Heaven?" — which will be officially release on all outlets on May 16.

# Wharton Between the Sheets

by Anne Undeland

Directed by Melissa Lourie

May 8 - May 18

May 8-10 & May 16-17 at 7:30pm

May 11, 18 at 2:30pm

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# COLLEGE ART EVENTS ROUND UP



SCAN FOR  
THE FULL  
SCHEDULE

## Free and open to all dance opportunities at Middlebury College

As the spring semester closes there's lots of free concerts and performances at Middlebury College. Here are a few to check out:

In dance, **"Another Word for Love"** takes the stage Thursday, May 8, and Friday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m., at the Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theatre. Students will perform original solos crafted in collaboration with Visiting Assistant Professor Meshi Chavez, with lighting by Bert Crosby. Tickets range from \$5 to \$15 and are available at [middlebury.edu/college/box-office](http://middlebury.edu/college/box-office).

Students of MUSC 240 will perform **"Chamber Music Alive!"** on Friday, May 9, from 7-9

p.m., at Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall. Free and open to the public.

Music Department vocal students present **"Scenes and Songs,"** a sampling of musical theater from opera to Broadway. The performance will be presented at Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall, on Saturday, May 10, from 7:30-9 p.m. Free and open to all.

A political satire performed by the German Theater Group will take place in the Chateau 005 Performance Space (139 Chateau Rd) on Sunday, May 11, from 7:30-9 p.m. **Madame**

**Prospère's bar Der Grüne Kakadu** offers guests a glimpse into what revolutionary Paris might look and feel like. There, a group of actors posing as bandits, thieves, and revolutionaries provide visiting aristocrats with the pleasant thrill that the possibility of their demise instills. But as events in Paris take a serious turn on July 14th, 1789, the boundaries between performance and reality, between history and performance, and between the private and the political begin to blur. Free and open to the public.

Can't make it in person? Some performances are available livestream on YouTube @robisonhall.

## STUDIO ART THESIS EXHIBITION WELCOMES VIEWERS

Students studying Studio Art at Middlebury College will present a Thesis Show at the Johnson Gallery, 78 Chateau Road, from May 2-16. There will be an opening reception on Friday, May 9, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The work is collaborative; with contributions by Miriam Bamako, Lucinda Bryson, Ava Carbonara, Alicia Guevara-Flores, Bryan Guevara, Aidan Levy, Noemi Ponce, Jayden Stefano-Schiavi, June Su and other anonymous artists.

Free and open to all.



### WINDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

be premiered by Bill's daughter, internationally-known comedienne Tina Friml, via video.

The program also includes the world

premiere of a new work by Middlebury area composer Margie Bekoff, a suite from Sergei Prokofiev's score for the film "Lieutenant Kijé," and rousing works written for the big screen by John Williams and Klaus Badelt.

The Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble is comprised of more than 40 amateur musicians from our local community, including students from Middlebury College. All are invited to celebrate local music, and honor mothers at these free concerts — no tickets required.

### MOTHER'S

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Symphonic Dance No. 1 Blessed Hope and Gershwin's An American in Paris, skillfully arranged and orchestrated by Charles Booker. The South County

Chorus will sing Over the Rainbow, How Can I Keep from Singing, Festival Jubilate, When Our Voices Rise, Everybody and an awesome arrangement of When You're Smilin', by Kirby Shaw.

The concert is free, with donations accepted. Visit [hinesburgartistseries.org](http://hinesburgartistseries.org) for more info.

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# ART ON EXHIBIT

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**"Mount Abe Emerging Artists."** The Annual Mount Abe Emerging Artists exhibit opens on May 16 with a reception from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Organized by art teacher Ryan Strobel and featuring work by high school aged students who show aptitude in the arts. Mixed/all media types. On view through May 30.

## EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

For more info visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-458-0098 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com).

**"Edgewater Gallery Celebrates the 2025 Graduates."** A pop-up exhibition highlighting Middlebury College alumni, local artists, and other Middlebury scenes. The gallery will host a relaxed, pop-in style event — free and open to the public, with live music by Deep Think — on Saturday, May 24, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. On view May 3-June 1.

## EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-989-7419 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com).

**"Flight Patterns,"** a group exhibition featuring Susan Raber Bray, Ellen Granter, Holly Harrison, Liz Hoag, Eric Tardif, and Molly Doe Wensberg. This exhibit reminds us to look to the skies in appreciation of birdlife and nature. Experience a "lift off" and the sense of hope that the coming season brings. On view through May 11.

**"Pools of Reverence,"** a solo exhibition featuring work by Rory Jackson. An opening reception will be held Friday, May 23, from 5-6:30 p.m. View the collection, meet the artist, enjoy live music and lite bites. This event is free and open to all. On view May 16-June 29.

## JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury

Visit [townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery](http://townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery) or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

**"Courtney Allenson: Hand Carved Block Prints."** Courtney Allenson is a Vermont-based fish printmaker who specializes in creating hand carved and prints, particularly focusing on trout. Her love for fishing and the natural beauty of Vermont's waterways deeply influence her artwork. Through her block printing techniques, she captures the details and vibrant patterns of various fish species, celebrating their beauty and the joy of fishing. On view through May 24.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15



**ARIES:** March 21/April 20. Aries, you soon find yourself pushing forward with great determination. Your drive is unstoppable, but tread carefully and respectfully in the pursuit of greatness.

**TAURUS:** April 21/May 21. Introspection is paramount right now, Taurus. You may find yourself reflecting on your values, goals and personal growth. This week there are chances to change.

**GEMINI:** May 22/June 21. Gemini, right now is a good time to collaborate with others, whether at work or in personal projects. Use any time this week to your advantage to attend social events.

**CANCER:** June 22/July 22. Put your long-term goals in focus this week, Cancer. Start thinking about where you would like your career to go. You'll certainly feel driven to make progress.

**LEO:** July 23/Aug. 23. Adventure is the name of the game for you right now, Leo. Whether it is travel, higher learning or other new experiences, you just may soon break free of your routine.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24/Sept. 22. This is a week when practicality and organization will be your friends, Virgo. You will likely feel a need to get things in order. If you have any outstanding debts, tackle them now.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, the spotlight is on you for the time being. You are feeling more confident and ready to take charge of your destiny. Personal growth may come by way of a job promotion.

**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, you may be drawn to more quiet, intimate moments with your partner this week. This is a great time for reflection and connection for the both of you.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, expect to meet new people or form bonds with others who share similar interests and goals this week. Community-based projects may draw your attention.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22/Jan. 20. This week the focus will be on your career, Capricorn. You'll feel more motivated than ever to achieve your goals, but it will take a lot of hard work to get there.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, you might feel more connected to your spiritual side right now and want to seek knowledge or inspiration in areas like philosophy.

Take every opportunity to learn and grow.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, now is a good time to focus on your financial situation and make some changes for your security and personal growth. Your intuition will guide you.

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OPEN: M-F 10-5 and Saturday 9:30-4

## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 9 — Mike Wallace, journalist (d)  
MAY 10 — Bono, musician (64)  
MAY 11 — Salvador Dali (d)

MAY 12 — Ving Rhames, actor (65)  
MAY 13 — Stevie Wonder, musician (74)  
MAY 14 — Cate Blanchett, actor (56)  
MAY 15 — Madeleine Albright, ambassador (d)

# CALENDAR

MAY 8-16  
2025



## THURSDAY, MAY 8,

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN BRISTOL.** Thursday, May 8, the Watershed, Plank Rd. Meet at Bristol Waterworks on Plank Road for an easy 3-mile loop in a prime area for viewing wildflowers and the spring bird migration. Binoculars helpful. Dogs not allowed. Contact Morris Earle to register and for more information at [morrisearle@gmail.com](mailto:morrisearle@gmail.com) or 802-734-0984. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**"FRIED GREEN TOMATOES" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, May 8, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater, 65 Main St. Join the Middlebury Classic Film Club for a screening and discussion of the 1991 film. A neglected housewife makes an unexpected friend at a nursing home, where she hears a true tale about an independent woman in 1920s Alabama who ran the town diner, served food to people of color and protected her sister-in-law from an abusive spouse. Popcorn is on us.

**VERMONT BLUEGRASS PIONEERS BENEFIT CONCERT IN NORTH FERRISBURGH.** Thursday, May 8, 6:30 p.m., North Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church, 227 Old Hollow Rd. Come hear one of Vermont's top acoustic bands. The program will feature it's signature hard-driving style of bluegrass music, with a dynamic mix of old and new songs. Admission by donation. All proceeds will benefit Dismas House, an organization dedicated to aiding individuals transitioning from state custody back to the community. More info: contact North Ferrisburgh UMC at 802-425-2770 or [nfumc@gmavt.net](mailto:nfumc@gmavt.net).

**"BETANIA" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, May 8, 7 p.m., Dana Auditorium, 356 College St. The Hirschfield International Film Series presents this 2024 film, set in the northeast of Brazil in a breathtaking landscape defined by endless sand dunes. The film features mostly non-professional actors, and it follows protagonist Betania as she moves away from her community upon the death of her husband. Viewers are welcome to arrive early for pizza at 6:30 p.m. Free.

**"WHARTON BETWEEN THE SHEETS" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, May 8, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. This Middlebury Acting Company production takes us to Paris in 1908 and brings together literary legend Edith Wharton, her dear friend the novelist Henry James, her lover Morton Fullerton, and her Irish lady's maid in an eyebrow-raising retelling of Wharton's actual mid-life romance. Tickets \$20 for this preview performance, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

**SPRING DANCE CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, May 8, 7:30 p.m., Dance Theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. In "Another Word for Love," Middlebury College Dance Department showcases the work done by dance students during the spring semester. Tickets \$15/10/8/5. More info at [middlebury.edu/events](http://middlebury.edu/events).

## FRIDAY, MAY 9

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDIO ART THESIS RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, May 9, 4:40-6:30 p.m., Johnson Exhibition Gallery, Johnson Memorial Building, 78 Chateau Rd. Come see

what senior art majors have created for thesis presentations.

**CHAMBER MUSIC ALIVE!** in Middlebury. Friday, May 9, 7 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Students of MUSC 240 — a lively Chamber Music course — will perform works from their semester of study. Live and streaming. Free.

**MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY WIND ENSEMBLE IN BRISTOL.** Friday, May 9, 7:30 p.m., Mt. Abraham Union High School Auditorium, Airport Dr. Join the ensemble for a concert, conducted by Jerry Shedd, in a program of music featured in film. A cornerstone of the program features four generations of Middlebury's own Friml Family. Plus a world premiere by local composer Margie Bekoff, a suite from Sergei Prokofiev's score for the film "Lieutenant Kijé," and rousing works written for the big screen by John Williams and Klaus Badelt. Free.

**"WHARTON BETWEEN THE SHEETS" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, May 9, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. Tickets range from \$15 for students to \$39 for generous price. See May 8 listing.

**SPRING DANCE CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, May 9, 7:30 p.m., Dance Theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. See May 8 listing.

## SATURDAY, MAY 10

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB TRAIL WORK IN RIPTON.** Saturday, May 10, Bread Loaf Wilderness. The trail crew will be working on the Long Trail and connections. Contact Ellen Cronan at

908-595-2926 to sign up and for further information. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**MONTHLY WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, May 10, 7-9 a.m., Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help us survey birds and other wildlife. Meet at the parking area of Otter View Park at the intersection of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Road in Middlebury. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. More info call 802-388-6019.

**LIVE MUSIC WITH BREANNA ELAINE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Come hear Vermont singer/songwriter Breanna Elaine while you shop Middlebury's Farmers Market.

**ROKEBY MUSEUM SEASON OPENING IN FERRISBURGH.** Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 4334 Route 7. Rokeby opens for the season with half-price admission. Rokeby, a nationally recognized stop on the Underground Railroad, was home to four generations of the Robinson family for nearly 200 years. Enjoy the main exhibit, "Seeking Freedom: The Underground Railroad and the Legacy of an Abolitionist Family," and the 2025 Seasonal Exhibit, "Inspired by Nature: The Art of the Women of Rokeby." More info at [rokeby.org](http://rokeby.org).

**JOHN VINCENT FROM A REVOLUTIONARY PRESS IN BRISTOL.** Saturday, May 10, noon, Art On Main, 25 Main St. A printing demonstration by John Vincent from A Revolutionary Press. Come grab a free print off the

*CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE*

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753	
<p><b>Channel 1071</b> Through the Night: State House, Protests <b>Friday, May 9</b> 5 a.m. Will Miller Social Justice Lecture 6 a.m. Press Conferences 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Press Conf. 2 p.m. Will Miller 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week <b>Saturday, May 10</b> 5:30 a.m. Vote For Vermont 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 8 p.m. Will Miller 11 p.m. Energy Week <b>Sunday, May 11</b> 6 a.m. Energy Week</p>		<p><b>Wednesday, May 14</b> 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard 10 p.m. Energy Week <b>Thursday, May 15</b> 5 a.m. Press Conferences 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Vote For Vermont <b>Channel 1091</b> Through the Night: Nature, Science, Art Programs <b>Friday, May 9</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Gardens and Conservation 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s</p>	
<p>7 a.m. Will Miller 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Will Miller <b>Monday, May 12</b> 4:30 a.m. Energy Week 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Press Conferences 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Will Miller Social Justice Lecture 5 p.m. Vote For Vermont 8:30 p.m. Legislative Updates <b>Tuesday, May 13</b> 7 a.m. Press Conferences 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard</p>		<p>6:30 p.m. Chat with an Artist - Matt Heywood 7:35 p.m. Doris Eddy (1985 by Deb Ellis) 8 p.m. Festival On the Green <b>Saturday, May 10</b> 5 a.m. Festival On the Green 7 a.m. At the Ilsley 12 p.m. Gardens and Conservation 3 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting 6 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 p.m. Festival On the Green <b>Sunday, May 11</b> 5:00 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 a.m. Meditation 6 a.m. Yoga 7:05 a.m. Doris Eddy 1 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting 7 p.m. An Intimate Version of Carmen 10 p.m. All Things LGBTQ <b>Monday, May 12</b> 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Chair Yoga</p>	
<p>7:35 a.m. Doris Eddy 6:30 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting <b>Tuesday, May 13</b> 5 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 12 p.m. School Board Meeting 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 5 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Music from Around Vermont <b>Wednesday, May 14</b> 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. School Board Meeting 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. Authors and Poets 7 p.m. Music Around Vermont <b>Thursday, May 15</b> 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6:55 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. School Board Meeting 12 p.m. Authors and Poets 3 p.m. Carmen 5 p.m. Student Voice In Education</p>		<p>Please see the MCTV website, <a href="http://www.middleburycommunitytv.org">www.middleburycommunitytv.org</a>, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 802-388-3062.</p>	

press and enjoy watching him spread his poignant and impactful message one L-E-T-T-E-R at a time.

**"KING PEDE" CARD PARTY IN FERRISBURGH.** Saturday, May 10, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, 3279 Route 7. The evening begins with a sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and games. King Pede is a game that involves "trick-taking" such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch.

**"THE STRONG MAN" ON SCREEN IN BRANDON.** Saturday, May 10, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Brandon Town Hall's 2025 silent film series kicks off with classic comedy starring Harry Langdon — and the first movie directed by a very young Frank Capra. Live accompaniment by silent film aficionado Jeff Rapsis. Admission is free. Donations are welcome to help defray expenses.

**BRUCE MOLSKY & ALE MÖLLER IN LINCOLN.** Saturday, May 10, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Molsky transports audiences to another time and place with his authentic and personal interpretations of rarities from the Southern Appalachian songbook and other musical traditions from around the globe. Doors open at 7 p.m. Homemade refreshments available. Tickets \$20-\$25 sliding scale. More info at burnhampresents.org.

**SCENES AND SONGS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, May 10, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Seventeen of Middlebury's vocal students present a sampling of musical theater from opera to Broadway, under the tutelage of Music Department Affiliate Artists Carol Christensen and Susanne Peck. Live and streaming. Free.

**"WHARTON BETWEEN THE SHEETS" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, May 10, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. See May 8 listing.

## SUNDAY, MAY 11

**WARBLER WARM-UP IN BRISTOL.** Sunday, May 11:7:30-9:30 a.m., Watershed Center, 4783 Plank Rd. Otter Creek Audubon's Ron Payne will lead a search for newly arrived spring migrants. Hone your birding identification skills before leaf-out. Co-sponsored with The Watershed Center. Meet at the Bristol Waterworks. Call Ron at 802-388-6019 if in doubt about the weather.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE CLUB RIDE IN VERGENNES.** Sunday, May 11, 9:15 a.m., Vergennes Union High School, Monkton Rd. The Vergennes Voyager is a 26-mile rolling or 39-mile flat to rolling rural ride running along Otter Creek to Middlebury for a possible bakery stop. The longer ride heads toward Kingsland Bay State Park before heading south to Middlebury. More info contact Karla Ferrelli - karla.ferrelli@gmail.com.

**RESTORING NOTRE DAME**

**PRESENTATION IN FERRISBURGH.** Sunday, May 11, 2 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, 3279 Route 7. Timber framer Will Gusakov will join the Ferrisburgh Historical Society to talk about his involvement with the restoration of the Paris cathedral — from using techniques dating to medieval times to working with other tradespeople from many countries. He will also talk hear about some of his projects closer to home.

**"WHARTON BETWEEN THE SHEETS" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, May 11, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. See May 8 listing. A talkback with Edith Wharton scholar Professor Brett Millier of Middlebury College will follow this performance.

**LEARN ABOUT SAKE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, May 11, 2 p.m., Room 232, Axinn Center, Old Chapel Rd. Sake scholar and award-winning author Nancy Matsumoto will be giving a 45-minute lecture on Japan's national drink, its history, the state of its industry, its cultural influences, and how it's being affected by climate change. Free and open to the public.

**SOUTH COUNTY CHORUS AND HINESBURG COMMUNITY BAND MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT IN HINESBURG.** Sunday, May 11, 4 p.m., CVU Auditorium. Celebrate spring and Mother's Day with a concert full of beautiful music. Donations gratefully accepted. More info at hinesburgartistseries.org.

**MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY WIND ENSEMBLE SPRING CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, May 11, 4 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Join the ensemble for a concert, conducted by Jerry Shedd, in a program of music featured in film. A cornerstone of the program features four generations of Middlebury's own Friml Family. Plus a world premiere by local composer Margie Bekoff, a suite from Sergei Prokofiev's score for the film "Lieutenant Kijé," and rousing works written for the big screen by John Williams and Klaus Badelt. Free.

**ARTHUR SCHNITZLER, "DER GRÜNE KAKADU" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, May 11, 7:30 p.m., The Chateau, Chateau Rd. A political satire performed by the German Theater Group at Middlebury College. At Madame Prospère's bar Der Grüne Kakadu, a group of actors posing as bandits, thieves and revolutionaries, provide visiting aristocrats with the pleasant thrill that the possibility of their demise instills. But as events in Paris take a serious turn on July 14, 1789, the boundaries between performance and reality, between history and performance, and between the private and the political begin to blur. Free.

## MONDAY, MAY 12

**ARTHUR SCHNITZLER, "DER GRÜNE KAKADU" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Monday, May 12, 7:30 p.m., the Chateau, Chateau Rd. See May 11 listing.

## TUESDAY, MAY 13

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN STARKSBORO.** Tuesday, May 13, Vermont State Forest. Discover this little-known gem of state public land. Moderate hike of about 5 miles with woods roads, unmarked trails, and a bushwhack, with over 600-ft. elevation gain. Discover cellar holes, beaver ponds, a mill site, spectacular waterfall, spring ephemerals and conservation efforts. Limit of 6, boots (a couple small stream crossings), poles and layers for the weather (no cotton), first aid kit, food and water. Duration of at least several hours to explore and take it all in. Contact Cecilia Elwert at ceciliaelwert@yahoo.com for more info. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

**ART FREE-FOR-ALL IN MONKTON.** Tuesday, May 13, 6 to 8 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. Join Monkton artist Julie McGowan for an evening of creativity for adults in a low stress environment. Bring your favorite art supplies or the library will have the basics in supply. This program will continue on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

**KIDS' HALF-DAY BLOCK PRINTING WORKSHOP IN BRISTOL.** Wednesday, May 14, noon-2 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Come join local artist Heather Zelonis for a block printing workshop. Try your hand at carving your own designs to print and make cards. For kids ages 9+ (10 spots available. Pre-registration required at lawrencelibraryvt.org/kids-events/half-day-block-printing.)

**BOOK DISCUSSION: "SUMMER," BY EDITH WHARTON IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, May 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. Join The Vermont Book Shop owner Becky Dayton and director Melissa Lourie to discuss Edith Wharton's novel, a "compelling story of burgeoning sexuality and illicit desire (with) a strikingly modern and troubling ambiguity."

**ALEXANDRE F. Caillot in Bristol.** Wednesday, May 14, 6-7:30 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Join author Alexandre F. Caillot for a reading and discussion on his new book, "Late to the Fight," which examines the combat performance of Union soldiers in newly raised regiments during the Civil War's final year.

**ACOUSTIC OPEN JAM IN ORWELL.**

Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m. Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Bring instruments and enjoy jamming with your neighbors. All levels and audience members welcome.

**LOCAL AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT - BOBBI LONEY IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m., NBM meeting room, Mini-Ilsley Public Library, 30 Main St. Join Middlebury author Bobbi Loney and engage in conversation about her new youth novel, "Homefree," a story about the homes we love, the ones we lose, and the faith it takes to building new ones from the wreckage.

## THURSDAY, MAY 15

**WILLIAM LEE ELLIS IN MONKTON.** Thursday, May 15, 7:30 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. Acclaimed Americana/Blues guitarist William Lee Ellis was raised in the deep roots of American music. Admission is free with donations welcome. A 5 Town Winter Into Spring Musical Library Tour performance.

## FRIDAY, MAY 16

**TED PERRY TRIO IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, May 16, 6-7 p.m., Anderson Studio, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. In Town Hall Theater's new Anderson Studio overlooking the river, enjoy early evening jazz with the Ted Perry Trio. At 5 p.m., the adjacent Jean's Place lounge will open, serving beer, wine, specialty cocktails and non-alcoholic beverages.

**"NEVER BEFORE SCENE 2025" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, May 16, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. The Addison Repertory Theatre presents its annual "Never Before Scene," a collection of original 10-minute one-acts, with new works presented in random order and desserts at intermission provided by the Glass Onion Cafe. Tickets available online at addisonrep.ludus.com.

**"WHARTON BETWEEN THE SHEETS" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, May 16, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. This Middlebury Acting Company production takes us to Paris in 1908 and brings together literary legend Edith Wharton, her dear friend the novelist Henry James, her lover Morton Fullerton, and her Irish lady's maid in an eyebrow-raising retelling of Wharton's actual mid-life romance. Tickets range from \$15 for students to \$39 for generous price, available at townhalltheater.org.

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# The Jedi Trails return to Rutland's Pine Hill Park on May 10

Come Alive Outside invites Star Wars fans and nature lovers of all ages to Jedi Trails, a free, family-friendly outdoor adventure happening Friday, May 10, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., on the Lower Giorgetti Trail at Pine Hill Park.

This annual event transforms the forest trail into a galaxy of movement, imagination and connection. Participants will follow a Star Wars-themed scavenger hunt, and upon reaching the Jedi Village, they can trade in their completed hunt sheet for a prize.

This year's Jedi Trails features new additions:

- Special appearances by the 501st Legion, featuring Star Wars characters in full costume.
- Free HOT DOGS served by the Vermont Cairo Shriners.
- Frozen treats from Scoop 'N Chill Italian Ice.
- An obstacle course challenge from Whirlie's World.
- A pop-up Jedi archive hosted by the Rutland Free Library.
- Galactic crafts and activities with the Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County, Community Care Network, The MINT, and other community partners.
- The Tatooine Teen Area — a space just



for youth ages 11-18 with free snacks and hangout activities.

Costumes are encouraged, and no registration is required — just show up, follow the trail and use the Force.

"This is one of Come Alive Outside's

favorite community events of the year," said Arwen Turner, executive director of Come Alive Outside. "We love introducing and reintroducing Star Wars fans of all ages to the trails at Pine Hill Park and sharing community resources in a fun and quirky way."

For more info, visit [comealiveoutside.com](http://comealiveoutside.com).

## MUSIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Artist at Middlebury College.

### EMORY FANNING

As a Professor Emeritus of Music at Middlebury College, **Emory Fanning** was named

Artist of the Year,

1995, by the New

Hampshire-Vermont

chapter of the American

Guild of Organists. He was

a faculty member, lecturer and performer at

the first International Organ Academy in Paris,

and his writings on César Franck have been

translated into French and published in *L'Orgue*.

A graduate of Oberlin Conservatory, where he

studied with Leo Holden and Robert Fountain,

he also holds an M.M. from the University of

Illinois and a D.M.A. from Boston University. He

studied harpsichord with Gustav Leonhardt.

Well-known throughout New England as a

performer, Fanning has made recordings as



owned and directed for 10 years with her husband Emory Fanning. She is an Affiliate

an organist and with the Middlebury College Choir, which toured widely throughout the U.S. under his direction. He appeared many times as guest conductor of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, performing major works for choir and orchestra, and was soloist in Poulenc's Organ Concerto with the VSO, as well as in Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony. His two programs for public television ("Christmas in Vermont" and "A Vermont Christmas") featuring the Middlebury College Choir were, for many years, broadcast annually throughout the U.S.

### REBECCA MITCHELL

**Rebecca Mitchell** is

Associate Professor of

History at Middlebury

College. She is the

author of numerous

scholarly articles and

chapters, as well as

two monographs: "Sergei

Rachmaninoff" (Reaktion Press, 2022)

and "Nietzsche's Orphans: Music, Metaphysics

and the Twilight of the Russian Empire" (Yale

University Press, 2015). In addition to her

scholarly work, she also holds Bachelor of Music

(University of Saskatchewan), Master of Music

(Meadows School of the Arts, SMU) and ARCT

(Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Music in



Toronto) degrees in piano performance.

### ROBERT LUDWIG

Now retired from full-time

music positions and

currently serving St.

Stephen's as part-time

Director of Music,

**Robert Ludwig** served

for decades as Director

of Music at Christ Church,

Lexington, Ky.; Cathedral of

the Incarnation, Garden City, N.Y.; Community

Church, Garden City, N.Y.; and St. John's

Episcopal, Bangor, Maine. He was also Professor

of Church Music at the George Mercer, Jr.

School of Theology, Director of Vocal Music and

Music Theory at Garden City High School, and

Artistic Director of the Bangor Area Children's

Choir. An active member of professional church

and school music organizations, he also served

many years as Assistant Music Director of the

Montreal Boys Choir Course sponsored by

the Royal School of Church Music. He holds

degrees in music from Davidson College and

Yale University, with additional studies in Vienna

and The Netherlands. His musical passions

include historically informed performances,

musical education of children and adults, vocal

jazz, liturgy, and hymnody.



# PUZZLES

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## ACROSS

- 1. Two-person German submarine
- 6. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
- 9. Database management system
- 13. Vertical position
- 14. American jazz singer Irene
- 15. Ancient Greek City
- 16. Former Senate Majority Leader Harry
- 17. Japanese seaport
- 18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 19. Assigns tasks
- 21. Beloved type of cigar
- 22. Discounts
- 23. Cambodian communist leader Pot
- 24. Important football position

- 25. Kilometers per hour
- 28. Lentil
- 29. Extremely angry
- 31. Yellow-flowered European plant
- 33. American state
- 36. Some are made by rabbits
- 38. Express with a head movement
- 39. Affair
- 41. Cured
- 44. Youth organization
- 45. 18-year astronomical period
- 46. Automobile
- 48. Focus a shot
- 49. The NFL's big game (abbr.)
- 51. Mouth
- 52. Infections
- 54. Curved pieces of a horse collar

- 56. Shameless
- 60. Assist in escaping
- 61. Capuchin monkey genus
- 62. Cold wind
- 63. Retired Brazilian NBAer
- 64. Tropical Old World tree
- 65. Bulgarian city
- 66. Speak indistinctly
- 67. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 68. Between-meal sustenance

## DOWN

- 1. Not soft
- 2. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- 3. Line a roof
- 4. Greek god of the underworld

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19				20						21			
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28				29				30	
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38				39			40
	41				42			43		44			
		45						46		47		48	
49	50		51				52			53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60						61					62		
63						64				65			
66						67				68			

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

## Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

**Level: Medium**

- 5. Software
- 6. Large-headed elongated fishes
- 7. Shag rugs
- 8. Type of whale
- 9. Lacking a plan
- 10. Spill the beans
- 11. Some is "heavy"
- 12. One who has been canonized
- 14. Indicate times
- 17. Greeting
- 20. Broadway actor Josh
- 21. Seashore
- 23. Indicates before
- 25. Electrical power unit
- 26. Destitute
- 27. Drags forcibly
- 29. Impropriety
- 30. Word forms
- 32. Equal to 10 meters
- 34. Neither
- 35. Computer language
- 37. Practice of aging film or TV characters (abbr.)
- 40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 42. A promise
- 43. Challenges
- 47. Official
- 49. People living in Myanmar
- 50. Notable tower
- 52. Type of sword
- 53. Vaccine developer
- 55. Listing
- 56. Summertime insects
- 57. Concluding passage
- 58. Guitarist Clapton
- 59. Damp and musty
- 61. Central nervous system
- 65. Against

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.



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# ASK A MASTER GARDENER

## WHY YOU SHOULD PLANT DOGWOODS

**D**ogwoods, in the genus *Cornus*, are among the most versatile native shrubs. With seasonal interest, tolerance of less than perfect conditions and benefits for wildlife, these shrubs are worth considering.

BY **BONNIE KIRN DONAHUE**

There are many benefits of planting native dogwoods. They flower in the spring, offering food for native insects and pollinators.

They set fruit in the fall, which feeds many species of birds and mammals.

These plants also are attractive additions to

the garden. The leaves have a quilted quality with highly visible veining and strong, green leaves. Depending on the variety, berries can be white, purplish-blue or black.

Unique clusters of tiny white flowers are supported on a bed of green leaves. Some varieties have bright red stems that lighten up the winter landscape. Some varieties have leaves that turn burgundy red in the fall.

Dogwoods require little maintenance. Pruning is not necessary unless you are trying to keep the shrub at a certain height. Make a mistake and cut back too much? Dogwoods are very forgiving plants that will persist in gardens in spite of it.



Bonnie Kim Donahue is a UVM Extension Master Gardener and landscape architect from central Vermont.

Several native varieties of dogwoods can be grown in Vermont, including red-twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*), grey dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) and silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*).

Each species has different uses in the landscape. Some may be found at commercial nurseries, while others may only be available at native conservation nurseries.

Red twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), also called red osier dogwood, is a landscape powerhouse species of the dogwood genus. This plant is tolerant of wet and dry conditions and partial or full sun. Deer tend to leave them alone though occasionally nibble the spring buds. This plant likes to spread, so it can be useful in areas that need erosion control such as riparian areas but can also compete with other plants if left unmanaged.

The straight species (plant species without cultivars) grows 6 to 9 feet tall and 7 to 10 feet wide. Red twig dogwood has many cultivars available, including some that grow smaller and others with more brilliant stem colors.

If you're trying to create a more ecologically authentic native garden, choose the straight species. If you are looking for a native plant with certain characteristics, there may be a red twig dogwood cultivar that works well for you.



Grey dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), which produces round, white berries on pink stems in the fall, does best in moist to wet soil and full sun to part shade.

PHOTO / BONNIE DONAHUE

SEE DOGWOOD ON PAGE 11

## Voting is now open for the 2025

# Pet PHOTO CONTEST

We've got categories for every type of pet personality:

**Funny Face**

**Best Pals**

**Action Shot**

**Couch Potato**

**Model Shot**

**Work Companions**

**Voting ends Sunday, May 11th at 11:59PM!**

**How to vote:**

Visit each of the 6 contest category albums on the Addison Independent's Facebook page and "like" your favorite photos.

You're welcome to vote for multiple pets. Winners will be announced in the **May 15th edition of the Addison Independent.**

The top winner from each category will receive a prize from **Middlebury Agway.**

Sponsored by **MIDDLEBURY FARM & GARDEN**

Each category winner will receive a gift certificate from Agway

# DOGWOOD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) is often found in nature on the edge of woods. This large shrub or small tree has a distinct, airy, horizontal branching pattern that helps it stand out from other plants at the edge of the forest.

Growing 15 to 25 feet tall and 20 to 32 feet wide, the pagoda dogwood can grow in part or full sun with medium moisture requirements. Pink stems hold blue-black fruit propped upright above the dark green, horizontal foliage. The leaves turn a burgundy red in fall.



The red twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), also known as red osier dogwood, is a popular choice for landscapes as it comes in many cultivars and is tolerant of both wet and dry conditions and partial or full sun.

PHOTO / BONNIE DONAHUE

Grey dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) prefers moist to wet soil and full sun to part shade. This plant would be appropriate closer to the water in a riparian buffer planting or in a rain garden. Round, white berries are presented on pink stems in the fall, giving this plant a unique natural look. The grey dogwood grows 10 to 15 feet tall and wide.

Silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) is another species of shrub that prefers medium to wet soil conditions. Similar to the grey dogwood, this species would do better closer to water like in a rain garden or wet area. Growing 6 to 12 feet tall and wide, it has more of a natural appearance, so may be better planted in areas left to naturalize.

Interested in more? Check out your local nursery to see what species of dogwood are available.



## Pet of the WEEK

Send us a pic of your pet!

news@addisonindependent.com

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# Pets In Need

## HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

### Sniffles & Scavenger



In a little bunny bed, complete with a frame, a headboard, and room for two, **Sniffles** and **Scavenger** spend their golden days curled up side by side. They've always done everything together. Sniffles, with her big sister bravery and explorer's heart, makes the decisions. Scavenger, shy but devoted, follows with quiet awe.

### Kiddy



**Kiddy** is a 3-year-old sweet and sensitive soul looking for a mellow family to relax with. He was brought to the shelter because the very busy household he was in was too much for him. His best friend was a kid in the home and he was very comfortable with her, but when he was surrounded by many kids he became very stressed out. He has gotten along with other cats and has never been around dogs.

### Sox



**Sox** is a great boy with a lot of love to give! He has cute little boots and a bobtail. Sox likes to roll over on his back for some belly rubs and affection. He has lived with other cats and gets along with those who can respect his personal space. Sox is FIV+ and would need to be an indoor-only cat.

### Bailey



Hi! My name is **Bailey**! I'm a 3-year-old, 62-pound hound mix. I'm an active girl and I love being outside! Since I'm a hound, I'd love to be able to use my nose as much as possible. I've lived with cats, dogs and a bird. Keep in mind, though, that I did like to chase the cat! When I'm not outside, I like to snuggle up on the couch. I'm housebroken, crate trained, and I know a few basic commands. I'm a shy girl, so please allow me some time to warm up to you!

### Puppies



These adorable little bundles are 8 weeks old, four males and four females. They are part blue heeler, part pittie, all cuteness! If you want to add some puppy love to your life, please fill out an adoption application through our website and we will reach out to you to arrange a meet and greet!



**Homeward Bound**  
Addison County's Humane Society



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802-388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org  
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT

# FILM SCREENING

## Brandon's 2025 silent film series kicks off with comedy: 'The Strong Man'



Classics from the silent film era will return to the big screen at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, which will host another season of vintage cinema with live music.

First up is Harry Langdon in "The Strong Man" (1926), a comedy that marked Frank Capra's directorial debut. The film screens on Saturday, May 10, at 7 p.m., at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7.

Admission is free; donations are welcome.

Live music for each silent film program will be provided by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based performer and composer who specializes in scoring and presenting silent films.

"The Strong Man" tells the story of a World

War I soldier (Langdon) who, following his discharge, finds work as assistant to a circus strong man. As the act travels the country, Langdon continually searches for a girl he corresponded with while stationed overseas in the military.

The search leads to a town controlled by Prohibition-era gangsters, which forces Harry to test the limits of his own inner strength even as he looks for his dream girl. Can Harry triumph over the bad guys? And is love more powerful than brute strength?

The feature-length film showcases the unique child-like personality of Langdon, who is largely forgotten today. For a brief time in the 1920s, however, he rivaled Charlie Chaplin as Hollywood's top movie clown.

Harry Langdon tangles with a gangster's girlfriend in "The Strong Man" (1926), a classic silent comedy to be screened with live music on Saturday, May 10, 7 p.m., at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center. All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Admission is free, with donations accepted.

COURTESY PHOTO

Langdon's popularity, which grew quickly in the last years of the silent era, fizzled as the movie business abruptly switched to talkies starting in 1929.

"The Strong Man" was selected in 2007 for preservation in the U.S. National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

In recent years, "The Strong Man" has been  
SEE FILM ON PAGE 14

**This comfortable and conveniently located home offers sweeping views of the Champlain Valley and Adirondack Mountains from its covered front porch.** There's a large eat-in kitchen with plenty of counter space and storage. The heart of the home is a spacious living area featuring beautiful cherry floors and ample space for both sitting and dining areas, ideal for entertaining.



**6867 VT RT. 22A ADDISON**  
MLS #5039277 - \$579,000

Upstairs, you'll find four bedrooms and a three-quarter bathroom, offering room for family, guests and/or a home office. The 10 acre property is ideal for a hobby farm: the small barn has water and electricity, and a run-in shed that opens to plenty of fenced acres. Your livestock can meander down the wooded path to a pasture with Snake Mountain as its backdrop. Or convert the barn into a studio space. The oversized garage is equipped with a lift and heat source. The vast trail runs behind the property for outdoor enthusiasts. Start your next chapter here!

**This well-maintained ranch was built as a retirement home with everything you need on one floor.** There are wide doorways, and an open living, dining/kitchen area. And there is even a ramp in the garage for easy access to the home. It is a short distance to everything in Middlebury, as well as East Middlebury, and to Rt 7 for commuting North or South. The very spacious basement has room for storage as well as many different hobbies. There is even a brand-new roof on this home.



**810 LOWER FOOTE ST., MIDDLEBURY**  
MLS #5038278 - \$450,000

**This four bedroom saltbox home is nestled on 13+ acres, with expansive views of the Green Mountains.** As you enter, a slate tiled foyer guides you into a living space abundant with natural light. The kitchen boasts custom cabinets, maple butcher block island, pantry, and Hubbardton Forge lighting. Oak floors lend a seamless flow from kitchen and dining to living areas. Enjoy your morning coffee in the screened-in porch or a relaxing evening on the deck around the outdoor fireplace. Outside has plenty of room for activities and includes a ground level patio with a raised steel fire pit for cookouts. Established perennials, raspberry patch, asparagus and rhubarb adorn the outdoor space. If you need a workshop, you will find that above the two car attached garage. All bedrooms offer ample closet space, and on the first floor is a bonus room which may be utilized as a den or home office. Just ten minutes from Middlebury, Vergennes, and Bristol, and less than an hour from Burlington.

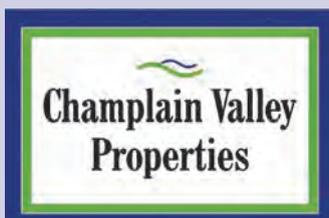


**431 HUNT RD., NEW HAVEN**  
MLS #5038799 - \$635,000

**This home is currently a 2-family rental, but has been a single-family residence in the past.** Converting it back would not be difficult. It could also work well as a home that has an extra unit for extended family. There are 2 kitchens and 2 washer and dryer hook ups, but new owner could take out a kitchen if not needed. The tenants are both planning to be out by July 1, 2025. The house has been well maintained. The large yard is fabulous with lots of room for all kinds of outdoor activities, and a beautiful garden area with established rhubarb bed and raspberry bushes. Combine that with lovely Green Mountain views and you have a lovely property!



**795 LOWER FOOTE ST., MIDDLEBURY**  
MLS #5038931 - \$395,000



70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT  
802-989-7522 | ChamplainValleyProperty.net





**CORNWALL NEW LISTING!**  
**1515 CIDER MILL ROAD**

MLS #5038992 | \$5,995,000  
5 BD | 7 BA | 12,000 SF | 69.52 AC

Perched on a ridge with sweeping views of Middlebury, Middlebury College and the Green Mountains, Moxie Hill Farm epitomizes Vermont luxury. Designed by Truex Cullins Architects and built by Round Tree Construction, this property merges classic Vermont farmhouse charm with modern sophistication. The highlights are endless: cathedral ceilings, amazing woodwork, multiple fireplaces, walls of built-ins, a top-tier gym above the 3-car garage, pool, hot tub, and a handsome display of meticulously landscaped stone patios, fruit trees, and perennials. The pinnacle of Vermont living, Moxie Hill is sold fully-furnished and ready to inspire.



**NEW HAVEN NEW LISTING!**  
**1689 SOUTH STREET**

MLS #5039225 | \$535,000  
3 BD | 2 BA | 1838 SF | 4.30 ACRES

Facing the Green Mountains, enjoy one level living in this well built home. Enter from the garage to your mudroom, with laundry nearby. Hardwood floors and radiant heat throughout, with an open kitchen/living dining area in the center for the perfect gathering space. A cathedral ceiling with exposed wood beams create a spacious but warm environment. Sunroom, screened porch, full basement. An attached, two car garage is convenient and completes the home. There is plenty of yard space for gardens, animals or just play, and a storage shed houses your garden equipment. Conveniently located just 10 minutes to downtown Middlebury.



**NOW UNDER CONTRACT**

**MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!**  
**503 WEYBRIDGE STREET**

MLS #5038795 | \$439,000  
3 BD | 1 BA | 1380 SF | 0.40 ACRES

So much to offer: close to town, nearby recreation, single level living, hardwood floors, open kitchen/dining area, first floor laundry, attached garage, flat yard, basement storage and an easy layout!



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**FILM**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

recognized as a major achievement of the silent film era — a satisfying and timeless balance of emotion and comedy.

"A little tragedy and a lot of laughs can be seen in 1926's 'The Strong Man,'" wrote critic Richard von Busack in 2007. "Director Frank Capra's energy and sturdy plot sense counterpoint Langdon's wonderful strangeness."

It's the 14th year of the Brandon Town Hall silent film series, which gives residents and visitors a chance to see great movies from the pioneering days of cinema as they were meant to be shown — on the big screen, with an audience, and accompanied by live music.

Screenings are held once a month, generally on Saturday nights starting in May and running through November.

Next up in the series will be "Underworld" (1927) starring George Bancroft and Evelyn Brent. This screening will be held on Saturday, June 7, at 7 p.m. Director Josef von Sternberg's groundbreaking tale of big city mobsters,



Harry Langdon stars in "The Strong Man" (1926), a classic silent comedy to be screened with live music on Saturday, May 10, 7 p.m., at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center. All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Admission is free, with donations accepted.



A young Frank Capra at the time he directed his first film, "The Strong Man" (1926), a classic silent comedy to be screened with live music on Saturday, May 10, 7 p.m., at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center. All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Admission is free, with donations accepted.

COURTESY PHOTOS

widely considered the father of all gangster pictures. Tale follows crime boss "Bull" Weed as he battles rival 1920s gangsters. Incredible black-and-white photography; winner of first-ever Oscar for original story by Ben Hecht.

For more about the music, visit [jeffrapsis.com](http://jeffrapsis.com).

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## EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

### JOHNSON EXHIBITION GALLERY

78 Chateau Road, Middlebury  
For hours and info visit [middlebury.edu/events](http://middlebury.edu/events)

**"Middlebury College Studio Art Thesis Exhibition."** Opening Reception: May 9, 4:30-6:30 p.m. On view May 2-16.

**"Beyond Walls"** featuring works made by artist, image maker, and photographer Hannah Smith Allen, reimagining the U.S./ Mexico border. This collection was created during Donald Trump's first presidency, including still photographs, unique screen prints, and Borderlands, an accordion book/sculptural object originally published by the VSW Press in 2021. Also included in this exhibition is "Target Practice," a series of military targets fabricated out of acrylic mirror. The work holds a mirror up to current politics and invites viewers to imagine new possibilities in interpreting, interrupting, and engaging with the American landscape and its political systems. Free and open to all during gallery hours: Sun. 1-7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Saturdays.

### K. GRANT FINE ART

37 Green St, Vergennes  
For more info visit [kgrantfineart.com](http://kgrantfineart.com).

**"Signals,"** a group exhibition featuring works by Steve Budington, Grace Hager, David Kearns, JoAnne Lobotsky, Jennifer McCandless, and Aimée Papazian. On view May 3-June 21.

### PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury  
For more info visit [photoplacegallery.com](http://photoplacegallery.com).

**"Ruins and Remnants."** This exhibit explores the evocative theme of abandoned architecture and the traces left by humanity. Showcased images reveal the stories etched into architectural spaces and the objects left behind — the marks, structures and artifacts that speak to our histories and inspire contemplation. Juror Aline Smithson selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the

online gallery. On view May 2-30. PhotoPlace will donate a portion of submission fees for this exhibit to help those affected by the wildfires in Los Angeles.

### SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main St., Middlebury  
For more info visit [sparrowartsupply.com](http://sparrowartsupply.com)

**"Collective Perspectives."** This member show brings together 11 diverse voices from our collective, showcasing a wide range of mediums including cyanotype on textile, photography, acrylic paintings on skate decks and more. Exhibiting artists include Elise Bouffard, Andrew Clingenpeel, Caitlin Gildrien, Charon Henning, Michael Hollis, Jaqueline Lore, Catherine Raishart, Bart Robbett, Elizabeth Sylvia, Courtney Vengrin, and Heather Rusch Zelonis. On view April 18-June 15.

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# Spring Coloring and Decorating Contest

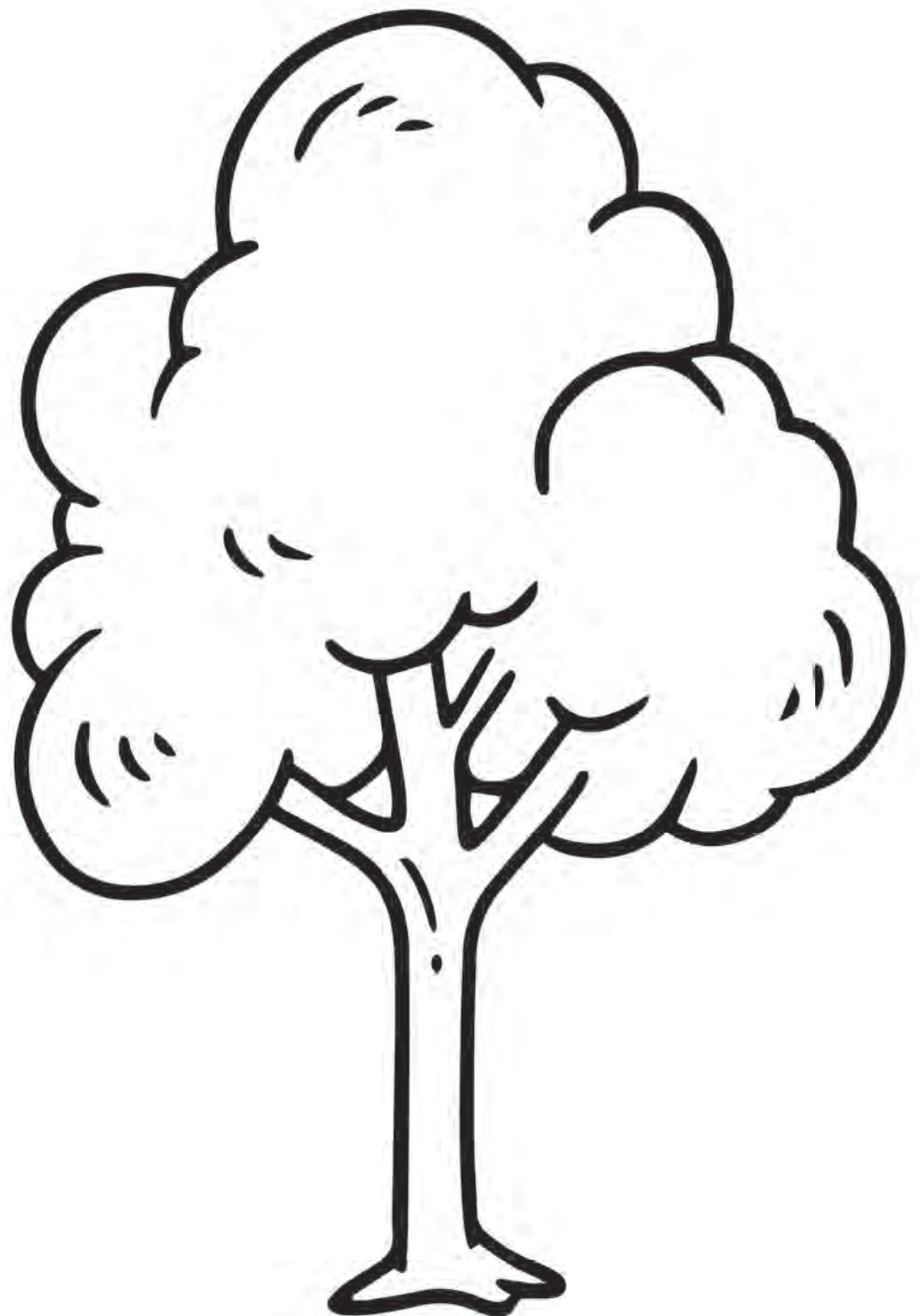
Spring is in the air! Grab your brightest colors and help bring this cheerful scene to life as we welcome warmer days, singing birds, and blooming flowers.

## Submit your entries:

- ◆ Online at [addisonindependent.com/contests](http://addisonindependent.com/contests)
- ◆ By Mail to Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Feel free to tear out this coloring page or go to our website for a printable version. Submissions are due by Friday, May 16th. Winners will be announced in the May 22nd edition of the Addison Independent. Two winners from each age group will win a prize from one of our sponsors that can be picked up at the Addy Indy office through June 20th.

## Thank you to our sponsors:



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's name: \_\_\_\_\_

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# HOME & GARDEN

**THIS SPRING THINK ABOUT YOUR BUILT STRUCTURES AND WATER IN LANDSCAPES**



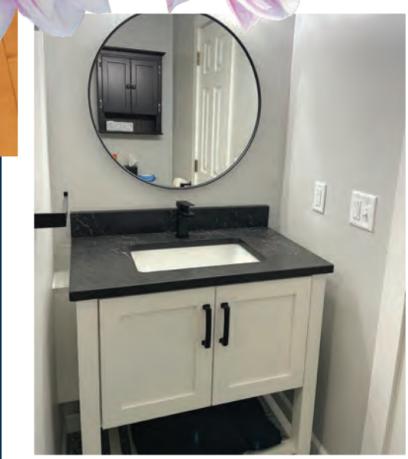
CONTRACTOR SETH VACZY took advantage of the warm spring weather last week to move his home improvement work outside of the Middlebury home where he is doing some renovations. Cutting outside makes for a cleaner worksite inside and gives the carpenter extra elbow room.

Independent photos/Steve James

**A SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT • THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025**

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# Carefully plan your garden

By **BENJAMIN BLOCK**  
UVM Extension  
Master Gardener Intern

Early spring is an exciting and busy time for Vermont gardeners. Many prefer the thrill of choosing from a vast variety of seeds rather than settling for the offerings available at local nurseries.

San Marzano tomatoes, Strawberry Blonde calendula, Dragon carrots — check, check and check! However, as your gardening experience (read: obsession) grows, so will the list of seeds you may buy. My grow list includes 27 varieties this year!

For any variety, there are vital details to track. First and foremost, should the seeds be started indoors or directly sown? If indoors, how many weeks before the average last frost date? Do the seeds need darkness or light to germinate?

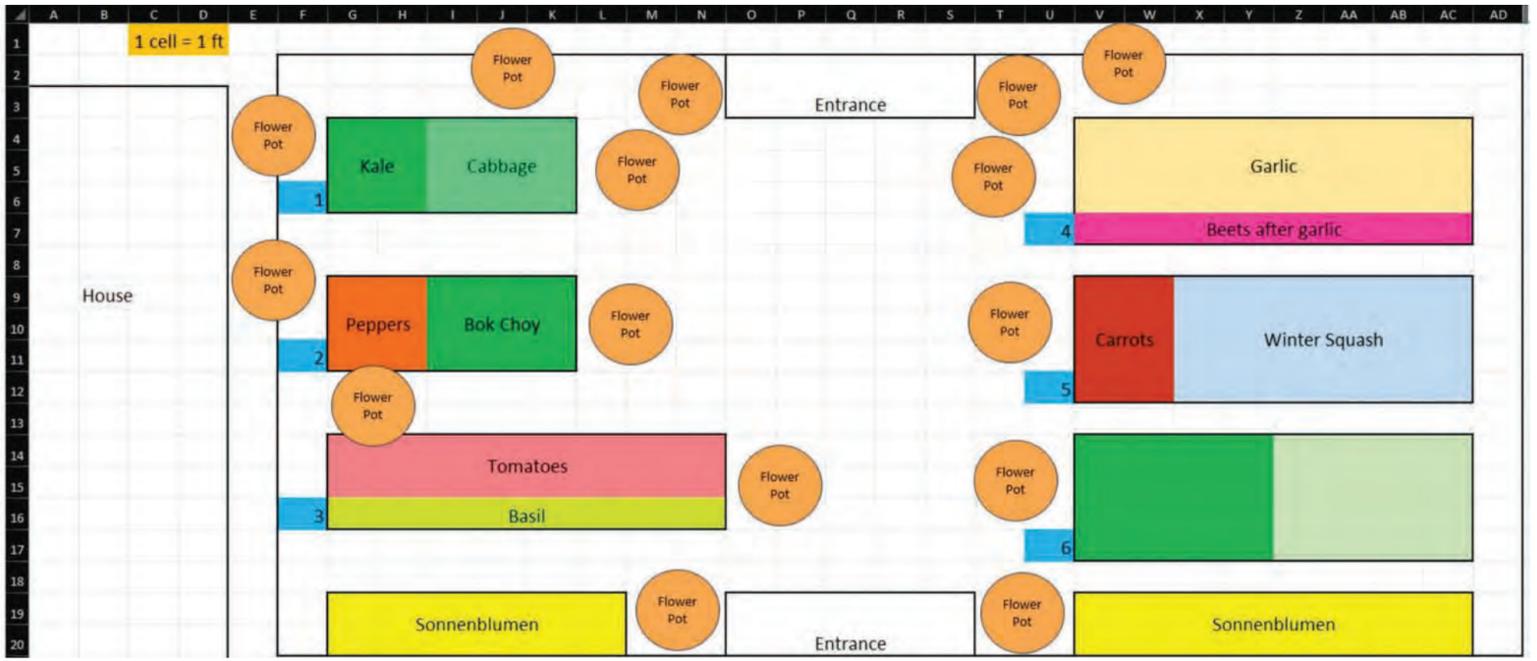
You'll also want to account for the space each plant needs in a garden bed and the days until maturity for successional planting. That's a lot to keep track of, especially as you get into dozens of varieties.

Here is a simple yet effective way to manage all this information. It may not be quick and completely effortless process, but the effort you put in now will be reaped throughout the growing season and in future years.

I track my garden using two main tools: 1) a spreadsheet with all my plant varieties and key information and 2) a grid-layout map representing all my garden beds and pots.

Starting with the plant variety list, I include important details like the indoor sowing date and the spring planting date. I color-code the spreadsheet and use functions to automatically calculate the indoor sowing dates based on the average last frost date in my area, subtracting the maximum number of weeks each variety should be started beforehand.

With this setup, I can simply check this ready-made list of what to plant each week. The spreadsheet can be further customized by adding columns for any additional details you find helpful, such as plant spacing requirements.



USING A GRID-LAYOUT, color-coded map showing all garden beds and pots is an efficient tool for planning a garden.

Images by Benjamin Block

Now onto the garden map. My garden layout consists of eight rectangular beds and several flowerpots. Each cell represents one square foot.

Within each bed, I specify what will be planted there. I color code the cells to correspond with the varieties listed in my plant variety list. If I am not sure what I will plant, I leave it blank, meaning I still need to decide what to plant there later.

While you don't have to be this detailed, I find that planning down to the square foot helps. This map ensures I know exactly where each seedling will be transplanted.

There are many ways you can create these resources for your own garden. The simplest method is using graph paper and a pencil.

For those interested in technology-based resources, there are downloadable gardening apps (though many require a paid subscription). Personally, I prefer computer-based spreadsheets.

They allow for easy edits and adjustments, and you can quickly replicate your work for future seasons. If, like me, you have favorite varieties you plant every year, your plan may change minimally, but all

Name (Variety)	Date of Spring Planting	Direct Sow (Y/N)	Indoor Sow Range	Indoor sow week max	Indoor Sow Date	Area Needed
Amaranth (Opopeo)	5/12/2025	No	8-12 weeks before	10	3/3/2025	18 inches apart
Basil (Gustoso)	5/12/2025	Yes	NA			4-8 inches apart
Bean (Jacob's Cattle)	5/12/2025	Yes	NA			18 inches apart
Beet (formanova)	5/12/2025	Yes	NA			3 inches apart
Cabbage (Caraflex)	4/15/2025	No Spring; Yes Summer	6-8 weeks before	8	2/18/2025	18 inches apart
Calendula (Strawberry Blonde)	5/12/2025	No	4-6 weeks before	6	3/31/2025	
Carrots (Dragon)	4/28/2025	Yes	NA			3 inches apart
Celosia (Flamingo Feather)	5/12/2025	Yes	3 to 4 weeks before	4	4/14/2025	
Chamomile	5/12/2025	No	Direct sow or 4/5 weeks before	5	4/7/2025	
Choy (Shanghai Green)	4/15/2025	No Spring; Yes Summer	4-6 weeks before	6	3/4/2025	6-9 inches apart
Garlic	Already Planted	Yes	NA			6 inches apart
Kale (Black Magic)	4/15/2025	No Spring; Yes Summer	4-6 weeks before	6	3/4/2025	8-12 inches apart
Lavendar	5/12/2025	No	10 weeks before	10	3/3/2025	12 inches apart
Marigold (Queen Sophie)	5/12/2025	No	3 weeks before	3	4/21/2025	18 inches apart
Noctiana (Jasmine scented)	5/12/2025	No	Direct sow or 6/8 weeks before	8	3/17/2025	
Pepper (Espelette)	5/12/2025	No	10 weeks before	10	3/3/2025	18 inches apart

the information will be right at your fingertips for next year.

Good luck with your 2025 gardening season!

A CUSTOMIZED SPREADSHEET listing plant varieties and key information, such as dates for indoor sowing and spring planting, is an effective way to organize information for planting a garden.

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# Lazy gardener finds a new way to do it

## No-dig method banishes frustration

By JESSIE RAYMOND

Over the winter, I heard about an intriguing vegetable-growing technique called “lazy gardening.”

As far as I knew, that was the kind of gardening I’d been doing for two decades. And based on my results, it was not a method I’d recommend.

But the lazy gardening I do — heavy on half measures, flagging enthusiasm and growing neglect — isn’t the same. This trendy version, also known as “no-dig gardening,” relies on proactive steps to create beds that require less maintenance and produce higher yields.

Is “lazy gardening” just a PR term to trick people like me into thinking it’s not a lot of work?

I’m about to find out.

I grow vegetables every year, but not well. Sometimes I water faithfully; other times I make the veggies fight for survival. Sometimes I spend many hours keeping the garden tidy; other times I throw a hoe into the bed and hope its mere presence will intimidate the weeds.

The other day at the garden center (a place they’ll apparently let anyone go), a nice man asked me for some gardening advice. He had no way of knowing this was like asking a yellow Lab for advice on how to reformat a hard drive. Rather than be unmasked as an impostor, I said nothing and backed myself under a pile of bark mulch, where I covered until he wandered off.

Maybe this lazy gardening thing is my chance to finally succeed.

Here’s how it works: The first year, instead of tilling in your weeds in the spring and then

spending the summer pulling them as they fight their way back to the surface — stronger than ever and out for revenge — you smother them with sheets of cardboard. You ignore their faint screams as you lay several inches of well-composted soil on top.

Weeks later, when the cardboard has disintegrated, most of the weeds will have died (in a satisfyingly slow and agonizing manner). Your plants, luxuriating in the rich, loose soil on top, will, for once, have time to establish themselves without being choked out.

Each subsequent year, instead of turning over the soil, you add a light layer of compost on top of the beds. There’s science behind it, stuff about moisture retention and preserving the layers of organisms and fungi in the soil and so on. Whatever. I’ve spent years bending spades in Addison County clay; lazy gardening had me at “no dig.”

I began by hoarding cardboard boxes and then took an unprecedented step: I paid for dirt. Yup. Last weekend

I had a few yards of compost and soil dumped at the edge of the garden. I don’t want to say it was the most exciting thing that’s happened to me in 2024, but I did hug the delivery driver.

So far, as expected, I’m finding that lazy gardening isn’t all that lazy. I’ve spent hours laying cardboard on the ground and shoveling fancy new soil and compost on top. But I can already see a benefit: Unlike the native soil on our property, this stuff is movable.

When seed-planting instructions say, “Cover seeds with a fine layer



“Sometimes I spend many hours keeping the garden tidy; other times I throw a hoe into the bed and hope its mere presence will intimidate the weeds.”

— Jessie Raymond



## Learning the building trades

OTTER VALLEY UNION High School reaffirmed its commitment to career readiness in March with the successful hosting of its second annual OV Career Day. Organized by technology education teacher Devon Karpak, the event provided students with invaluable opportunities to connect with local employers and trade programs, emphasizing career pathways beyond the traditional college track. This year’s OV Career Day featured an enhanced structure designed to maximize student engagement and exploration. Here, students listen to and ask questions of a representative from Naylor & Breen Builders, who shared his expertise and discussed opportunities with students.

of soil,” I can do that now. In the past, I would just lob brick-sized clumps of clay onto the bed and hope for the best.

As with most ideas that grab me, however, I’ve allowed myself to be sucked in by well-produced YouTube videos on the subject. I’m currently fascinated with a British man named Charles Dowding — the Bob Ross of no-dig gardening. His gentle voice radiates peace, nothing like the emotions I’ve always associated with gardening — mostly frustration and disappointment.

His gardens are neat and beautiful and free of weeds, and when I watch his videos, I imagine I too could have 1.3 acres of orderly no-dig goodness where the vegetables practically grow

themselves.

Of course, I ignore that Dowding has deep knowledge, a complex composting system and a full-time staff who work tirelessly off-camera. If I had those three things — plus a decent attention span — I could have bountiful gardens, too.

I don’t know whether my interest in the garden will, for once, last as long as the growing season. But at the moment, this new version of lazy gardening has me hooked.

Now I’m looking into whether there’s some version of “lazy cleaning” that might work for me too.

*Editor’s note: This story was originally published May 2024. Read more online at [www.jessieraymond.com](http://www.jessieraymond.com).*

## Davis joins construction firm

MONKTON — Neagley & Chase Construction, a commercial construction firm based in South Burlington, recently hired Kyle Davis as a Project Engineer. Davis is a Monkton resident.

He has more than a dozen years of construction and project engineering experience, having worked in various roles at Vermont construction companies since graduating in 2013 from the University of Vermont.

“Adding somebody with Kyle’s experience to our firm strengthens our already solid team,” said Rob Higgins, vice president of Neagley & Chase. “He brings a deep understanding of energy efficiency



KYLE DAVIS

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The HazWaste Center at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury is open to residents from any of the District’s member towns.

Most items are accepted from residents free of charge.

Businesses must pay for disposal and must call 388-2333 for an appointment.

Common items include:

- |                       |                        |                          |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Acetone               | Drainer opener/cleaner | Mercury thermometers     | Primers or shellacs    |
| Acids                 | Driveway sealer        | Mercury thermostats      | Rechargeable batteries |
| Adhesives             | Dry cleaning solvents  | Mineral spirits          | Roach traps/poison     |
| Algaecides            | Flea & tick killer     | Mothballs                | Rug/upholstery cleaner |
| Aerosols              | Fluorescent bulbs*     | Motor oil                | Solvent-based          |
| Antifreeze            | Fly killer             | Mouse/rat poison         | Glues                  |
| Ant killer            | Formaldehyde           | Nail polish              | Stains                 |
| Ammonia               | Fuel additives         | Nail polish remover      | Stump remover          |
| Auto body filler      | Fungicides             | Naphtha                  | Tars or resins         |
| Automotive fluids     | Furniture polish       | Oil-based paint          | Transmission fluid     |
| Chlorine bleach       | Gasoline               | Oily waste               | Tub & tile cleaner     |
| Brake fluid           | Hair dyes              | Oven cleaner             | Varnish                |
| Bug spray             | Kerosene               | Paint thinner/turpentine | Weed killer/fertilizer |
| Button cell batteries | Latex paint            | Parts cleaner            | Wood preservative      |
| Contact cement        | Lead paint chips       | Pesticides/herbicides    |                        |
| Deck sealer           | Lead-acid batteries    | Photographic chemicals   |                        |
| Diesel fuel           | Lime/rust remover      | Pool chemicals           |                        |



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## Now is the time for fantastic ferns

### Fractals show off in fiddleheads

By MICHAEL J. CADUTO

Fractals are sometimes referred to as a “visual representation of math.” They can be observed in the spatial arrangements found in many familiar forms, patterns and shapes in nature: from the branching of trees, ferns, river systems and lightning, to the patterns found in leaves, seedheads, crystals, seashells, snowflakes, clouds, hurricanes and geologic terrain.

### The Outside Story

The intricate branching patterns of blood vessels and respiratory structures are some intimate expressions of fractals in animals.

As a fractal grows, the pattern replicates itself on a larger scale. The mathematical foundation

for our understanding of fractal geometry was laid by the German mathematician Felix Hausdorff during his groundbreaking work modeling the mathematics behind geometrical shapes and patterns. In 1918, Hausdorff introduced the Hausdorff (fractional) dimension, a model that shows how to calculate the dimensions of spatial patterns that replicate, or repeat, at different scales.

The word “fractal” was first used in 1975 by Benoît Mandelbrot, a French-American mathematician, who described intricate shapes and patterns that repeat even when an object is viewed at different levels of scale. Mandelbrot defined a fractal as “a rough or fragmented geometric shape that can be subdivided in parts, each of which is (at least approximately) a reduced-size

copy of the whole.” No matter whether you are looking at a fractal zoomed in or from a distance, each view resembles the same pattern.

Ferns are among the best and most accessible examples of fractals. The leaves of each fern, which are called fronds, form the self-same pattern when viewed at any distance or scale. In fact, one of the most well-known formulas in fractal geometry is the Barnsley fern. In his 1988 book, “Fractals Everywhere,” Michael Barnsley, a British mathematician, describes how he created this fractal to simulate the frond of black spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*), a common European fern.

The fiddlehead pattern of a sprouting fern is a perfect example of a fractal. The familiar fiddlehead is a classic shape which – along with the similarly spiral-shaped nautilus – has inspired countless works of art and sculpture, from the

(See Outside Story, Page 6C)

## Turn attics into livable spaces

Houses typically feature various areas that are traditionally designed for storage, such as garages, basements and attics. However, with some renovation, these spaces can be transformed into livable areas.

Homeowners who would like to convert attics into livable spaces need to take certain things into consideration before starting an improvement project. While the attic may seem like it has plenty of room and is structurally sound enough to walk in, that’s not necessarily so. To be converted into usable living space, an attic must be brought up to the standards of modern building codes, according to the design experts at Board & Vellum. Retrofitting beams and insulation can eat up available space in an attic. Thus, it is best to consult an expert to see if an attic can be converted.

Furthermore, an attic that was

not initially designed as a room when the house was built can add extra “load” upstairs if it is converted. That could present certain structural problems. That means a structural engineer also must be consulted to see if adding beams, flooring and drywall will necessitate other changes elsewhere in the home to accommodate the extra load.

In order to have a functional attic room, building codes will dictate that it needs to be accessible by a full-size staircase. Also, it will need to have another exit in case of an emergency so that will likely be an accessible window. Homeowners’ budgets and renovation plans will need to factor into these considerations. Homeowners also are advised to check local permits to determine what else may be required to go forward. It is best to follow the rules. Lack of a permit for work can affect the ability to sell a

home down the line.

Individuals also should plan for heating and cooling upgrades as the home will need to have ductwork installed in the attic, or at the least, a stand-alone heating and cooling unit. As heat rises, it can get quite warm in an attic, so ventilation and comfort should be considered. The attic will need to be wired for electricity for lighting and other needs. Air sealing and additional insulation can the attic space more comfortable as well. Consult with a qualified electrician and an HVAC technician and have an energy audit done to discuss needs.

Attic renovations can give homeowners more space in their homes, which can be used as offices, bedrooms or cozy corners. This is no small undertaking and all of the right steps need to be followed to ensure a legal, safe and successful renovation.

— Metro Creative

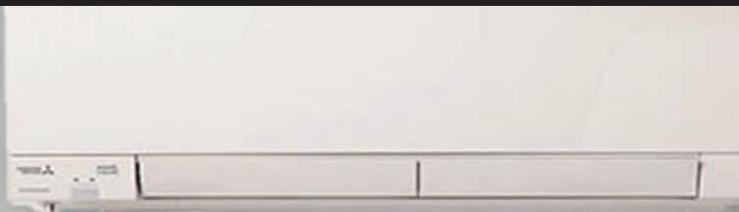


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Outside Story

*(Continued from Page 5C)*

carved spirals at the tops of violins and other stringed instruments, to the ingenious spiral staircases in the designs of the iconic Spanish architect Antonio Gaudi, and even to the spiral path at the start of the yellow brick road in “The Wizard of Oz.”

The spiral-shaped fiddlehead of a sprouting fern is formed by the petiole, or leaf stalk, as it unfurls into a frond. As the leaf stalk grows, each pinna, or leaflet, at first appears as its own minute fiddlehead. The next time you look at a lacy fern frond, try focusing in gradually closer and you will see how the overall pattern created by the entire frond is repeated in each of the gradually smaller elements that branch off of it.

Of course, not all ferns are intricate laceworks. Walking fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*), which is rare in most of the Northeast, has undivided fronds. Other fern fronds, including those of sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), are simple divisions off of the main stem. Fronds of the ethereal maidenhair spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*) has individual pinnae branching off of each striking black stem. The fronds on some ferns, such as long beech fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*) are divided two times, while the most delicate ferns, including evergreen wood fern (*Dryopteris intermedia*), are divided three times.

Two of my favorite examples of how nature weaves the threads of geometry into beautiful green tapestries, are the lacy arching fronds of northern maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), which grows in moist, shady woodlands, and the tall, lush bushy masses of royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*) that commonly grows in and along wetlands. Both are found throughout New England.

The variety of shapes among ferns reveals that there are many examples of fractals found in the natural world. These are visually striking expressions of the hidden geometry that lends order to the fascinating forms that we see. As the ferns begin unfurling this season, take a moment to contemplate their patterns and reflect on fractals.

Michael J. Caduto is a writer, ecologist and storyteller who lives in Reading, Vt. He is author of “Through a Naturalist’s Eyes: Exploring the Nature of New England.” Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



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# RIVER WATCH

## Green stormwater projects have some costs, many benefits

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — How often do you think about what happens to the water that runs off our roofs, roads and sidewalks during a rainstorm?

That water can have a big impact on the surrounding environment, potentially picking up pesticides, bacteria and other pollutants as it flows through storm drains and ditches into nearby waterways. Such polluted runoff is one of the largest threats to clean water in the United States, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

With that in mind, some property owners are turning to green stormwater infrastructure, or GSI, as a way to reduce stormwater runoff and its water quality impacts.

Green stormwater infrastructure is used to filter and manage stormwater runoff in a way that resembles the natural environment, such as with plants and soil. Examples of the infrastructure include rain gardens, green roofs, bioswales and riparian buffers.

This differs from “gray” or traditional stormwater infrastructure — like gutters, pipes and drains — that collect stormwater as it runs off impervious surfaces and ultimately directs it into a nearby body of water.

“For the most part, (green stormwater infrastructure) is not for you. It’s for your neighbors,” Tim Parsons, landscape horticulturist at Middlebury College, said. “Your own yard is just a small piece of a larger ecosystem that we all collectively

maintain. So, if you are slowing down stormwater on your property, you may or may not see direct benefits from that, but your friends and neighbors in low ground, or say on a flood plain, they will see that cost that you’ve helped them upslope.”

*“If your end goal is to have your yard look like a golf course, you will mow. If your goal is to help treat stormwater and increase biodiversity, your lawn will not be as effective as a bioswale is, but that comes at a cost of more physical maintenance.”*

— Tim Parsons

At Middlebury College, a lot of the stormwater on campus gets collected by storm drains and directed to a large retention pond near the running track, which then travels through a swale (a broad, shallow channel that helps convey and filter stormwater) that eventually hooks up to the Otter Creek. Parsons noted that the college has a lot of impervious surfaces, including around 16 miles of sidewalks, about 21 acres of parking lots and many roofs.

“We don’t want to see all of this (stormwater runoff) go down to the Otter Creek if we can treat it first,” Parsons said.

The college treats stormwater through various types of GSI, such as a couple of green roofs on campus and a system of collection areas, wet meadows and swales near Davis Family Library.

Another example of GSI sits on the southside of a building called the Axinn Center at Starr Library, which hosts stormwater retention and filtering features. Parsons said the building’s courtyard has been graded and planned to account for the structure’s roof space. So, the land is sloped and graded to collect rainwater that flows off the roof into a swale.

“This (area) was then planted with trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants to use that stormwater as



TIM PARSONS, LANDSCAPE horticulturist at Middlebury College, stands in front of a green stormwater infrastructure at the Axinn Center at Starr Library. The living infrastructure is used to filter and manage stormwater runoff in a way that resembles the natural environment, such as with rain gardens and green roofs.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

it sits and accumulates,” Parsons explained.

A bioswale in the courtyard collects rainwater that runs off another part of the building’s roof, as well as any overflow from the other swale. A raised storm drain in the area collects water if it gets too full of water.

“I have only seen it do that (in) about two or three really bad storms,” Parsons said.

### PROJECTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

The Axinn Center site offers an example of the type of a GSI project that homeowners can take on — but at a smaller scale.

“This, I think for most homes, is still big, but it’s a good idea of what you could do with, say, one tree, three of that shrub, one of this shrub, some tall perennial sunflowers, this and that,” Parsons

said. What other options exist for landowners interested in green stormwater infrastructure? Parsons

said he likes the idea of mowing less, though he’d advocate for adopting a “no mow midsummer” approach rather than the typical No Mow May.

“To not mow in May sets you up for a lot more lawn mowing in June, and I don’t actually think you save a lot of time,” he explained. “Whereas if you did mow in May and the first two, three weeks of June and then stop, you probably wouldn’t have to mow again until fall because that’s just the life cycle of grass.

“Think about all of the farms that we are surrounded by. They get most of their hay in first cut, which is in May or the first week or

two of June,” Parsons continued. “Then the grass slows down in the heat of the summer, doesn’t need as much maintenance ... to have a no mow midsummer, I think that would make a lot more sense, and it would promote good root growth, good soil structure, all the things that you want from plants that you don’t get as well in an average maintained lawn.”

Establishing low-mow or no-mow zones can also help promote wildlife habitat and decrease runoff.

Parsons said property owners could also think about ways to repurpose parts of their lawn they’re not using. That’s something he considers when it comes to the lawns on campus.

“I’m trying to get our lawns down to ones that are used because lawns are still used, they are still good, but perhaps you don’t need all of them,” he said. “There are sections of lawn here that see a lot of use — frisbee games, or they’ll hold classes out on the lawns. There are also lawns that haven’t seen a student foot in 20 years.”

That approach could be scaled down for homeowners, he said.

“You, I’m sure, have lawns that you want to hang out on. You might have lawns that your kids want to play on, but what is actually used and then what could be repurposed (See Stormwater, Page 8C)

## Why change my beautiful lawn?

Rethink it to create a beautiful, storm-resistant yard

By MATT WITTEN  
Addison County River Watch Collaborative

Gently sloping and smooth green landscape can be gorgeous. And flat, well-mown lawns are great for romping on, kicking a ball, picnicking on. And a neat lawn bespeaks an organized life.

Why mess with that? Well, there are many reasons to shake up our long-held visions of spacious and tidy lawns, but the reason we’ll focus on today is simple: rain resiliency.

Before we get there, though, let’s consider the short history of our crush on lawns, and maybe this will put in perspective the urge to mow down lots of grass.

### Some Lawn History

The word “lawn” derives from the 12th-century Old French *lande*, which meant heath, moor, barren land or clearing. In the 14th century England the word became *launde*, and then, by the 1540s, *laune* meant glade, open space in a forest or between woods. So, from the beginning,

a lawn was not necessarily meant to be a vast and uniform swath of green, but rather a grassy space among other vegetation.

The word “lawn” being used to mean a manicured area was first recorded in 1733 in Europe. When lawns were featured in landscapes at the time, they were a status symbol of wealth. Only the wealthy owned land, and only the uber-wealthy owned land that was maintained for aesthetics rather than profit.

When the United States cast off British rule in 1776, many American landowners had a sort of inferiority complex. At the time, visitors from Europe described the American homestead as unsophisticated, frequently mentioning “yard birds,” a term used derisively to describe the chickens commonly kept in the modest dirt yards of post-independence American homes. This portrayal did not sit well with the American elite, who wanted to showcase the young nation’s success and

sophistication.

Meanwhile, American diplomats and affluent individuals who had traveled to Europe returned with lawn envy. They were impressed with the grand, manicured gardens and lawns of European aristocracy. Motivated by the desire to reflect the prosperity of America, they imported this symbol of European refinement. Lawns began to appear on the landscapes of America’s grand homes, including the White House.

As the United States began to grow, parts of the nation became increasingly urban with cramped housing for the new immigrants that came in large numbers to work and establish new lives. The European notion of getting away to the countryside couldn’t really be practiced because we didn’t yet have countryside; we had a wild, rugged frontier, not a relaxing place to have a picnic.

Around the mid 1800s, “The Father of American Landscape (See Changes, Page 9C)

## Soak It Up assessments

As part of their Soak It Up program, Addison County River Watch staff are available to visit your property — if you so choose — to assess your site’s current conditions with the goal of providing suggestions to improve stormwater management around your home or business. River Watch will examine the characteristics of your site such as soils, slope, impervious surfaces and how stormwater circulates.

Subsequent recommendations might include a mini-meadow, rain garden, rain barrel, stormwater planter, permeable driveway, driveway trench, dry well, gutter re-direct, or other “green stormwater infrastructure.”

Following the visit, River Watch will send you a report back with suggestions with the hope that you will choose a stormwater management practice to install on

your property.

River Watch will assist residents to install new practices to manage stormwater on their properties.

There is some initial funding for planning, design and implementation of low-cost measures and the hope is that there will be additional funding and incentives for installations that are more equipment-intensive and costly.



RAIN GARDENS CAN be made particularly attractive to pollinators, like this one, and include native plants such as joe pye weed and bee balm.

Photo by Julie Parker-Dickerson

## Rain gardens: Practical & Pretty

By KENZIE HINES and MATT WITTEN  
Addison County River Watch Collaborative

You may have heard talk about rain gardens. Intuitively we can guess what they are: an area that has plants like a garden and collects rain. But what exactly are they and how do they work?

Rain gardens are a low-tech way to slow and absorb stormwater runoff from roofs, patios, driveways, sidewalks, and other hard — also called “impervious” — surfaces. Commonly the creation of a rain garden involves choosing a low-lying spot to dig an oblong depression ranging in size from just a handful of feet in

diameter to about 12 by 20 feet, depending on the site. The dugout area is partly re-filled with a layer of sand and/or gravel for water filtration/absorption, and then a layer of compost or rich soil. At that point it can be planted with a variety of native species of plants.

The function of the rain garden is to collect rainwater that otherwise would be increasing in speed as it goes downhill. The rain garden also allows stormwater to absorb more slowly into the landscape and simultaneously provides beauty and habitat. In addition, some studies have shown that rain gardens filter some contaminants out of the water that enters them.

Landscapers (and sometimes

volunteers!) usually plant in these gardens species that thrive in wet or semi-wet conditions such as sedges, willows, dogwoods and other flowering plants with varying blooming times throughout the spring, summer and fall. The root systems of the plants in rain gardens can filter pollutants out of stormwater runoff, and slow down and capture stormwater before it flows into an overwhelmed culvert or water body. Managing stormwater with methods to slow, filter and infiltrate rainwater is a great way to give streams and rivers a break during the rainy season.

Typically rain gardens are (See Rain gardens, Page 10C)



## Stormwater

(Continued from Page 7C)  
to something else, say, trees and shrubs,” Parsons asked.

Peter Norris often comes across green stormwater infrastructure projects in his work with Norris Landscaping and Nursery. He said common projects include rain gardens, swales, and planting the more native materials on slopes prone to erosion.

Jill Sarazen is the Green Infrastructure Collaborative Coordinator for the University of Vermont. She offered a couple success stories of GSI installations in the Burlington area.

“In one case the landowner had water in their basement and a dirt parking area eroding, so we installed gutters, permeable pavers in the driveway, two rain barrels and it worked,” she said.

Sarazen also pointed to a three-unit, older home on a steep slope that had issues in its basement.

“We were able to redirect water upslope, capture it and direct it to the side where we put in a permeable walkway, created a swale and dry well with plantings in it to infiltrate the water,” she said.

### COSTS AND BENEFITS

Sarazen noted that finding landowners willing to stick through the whole GSI process can be a challenge.

“Usually the most motivated people have erosion or flooded basements on their property,” she said, adding that, “GSI systems

can make a difference, but they can’t stop a flood.”

What other costs or challenges might come up in GSI projects?

“Part of it may require a little bit of excavation and some planting, but some of it is just a matter of management, keeping the vegetation or not mowing the lawn near erosion prone areas,” Norris said.

Parsons also noted there’s maintenance that comes with GSI projects.

“It’s not sitting on a lawn mower, it’s coming down to pull weeds,” he explained. “This is still a managed landscape. It’s just a different type of management, but it is still work.”

He said that at the Axinn Center site the amount of maintenance required has decreased over time.

“This is certainly not as much work as it was in the first two, three years to get established,” he

said. “We probably come through here once or twice a year to pull weeds ... The first couple of years to get a new planting established is quite a bit of work.”

In weighing the costs of different projects, Parsons noted it depends on what a landowner’s end goal is.

“If your end goal is to have your yard look like a golf course, you will mow,” he said. “If your goal is to help treat stormwater and increase biodiversity, your lawn will not be as effective as a bioswale is, but that comes at a cost of more physical maintenance.”

As for the benefits, GSI can provide aesthetic elements in communities and habitats and



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE TREATS stormwater on its campus through various types of green stormwater infrastructure, including stormwater retention and filtering features just outside the Axinn Center at Starr Library. A courtyard at the site has been graded and sloped to collect rainwater that flows off the roof into swales, which are broad, shallow channels that help convey and filter stormwater.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

food for wildlife, according to the Rain Garden Manual for Vermont and the Lake Champlain Basin. Some GSI practices, such as planting larger shrubs and trees, can also provide shading and improved air quality.

The EPA outlines several

other economic, social and environmental benefits of green stormwater infrastructure, including reducing localized flooding and improving water quality.

Parsons noted there are also nontangible benefits of GSI

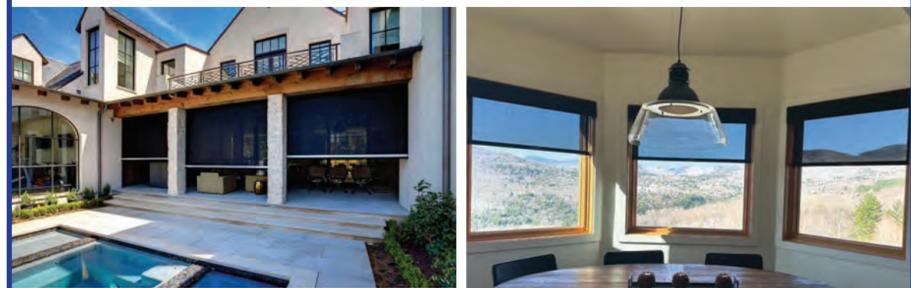
to consider, such as increased biodiversity.

“Not just in terms of plants, but now think in terms of the insects that live on these plants that then they turn into a food source for birds,” he said. “As we

live in a very built world, a long

ways from the woods, how can we bring smaller spots like (GSI at the Axinn Center) to increase biodiversity to help connect our real urban spaces to more natural ecosystems?”

Matt Witten contributed reporting to this story.



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# RIVER WATCH

## Changes

(Continued from Page 7C)

Architecture,” Frederick Law Olmsted, designed Central Park in New York. His design featured large grassy areas called “greenswards,” strategic plantings of trees, and man-made lakes. This work influenced other communities across the country to follow suit and design their public spaces with turf as a prominent feature.

Later in 1868, Olmsted designed the first planned suburb in Riverside, Ill. He required that the houses be set back 30 feet from the road for lawns. This was an aesthetic choice, but also a convenient one. When an architect draws up plans for a subdivision of homes, it’s easier to fill it in blank spaces with generic lawns than to draw up multiple garden plans.

In 1870, Ohio architect Frank J. Scott articulated a vision for the American lawn that emphasized openness and community over exclusion and division. In his popular book, “The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds,” Scott argued that “with our open-faced front lawns we declare our like-mindedness to our neighbors, and our distance from the English, who surround their yards with inhospitable brick wall.” Scott believed that the unenclosed front lawns of American homes symbolized a commitment to transparency rather than the closed-off, exclusive gardens of Europe.

That same year, Elwood McGuire from Indiana introduced the push mower. It weighed 40 pounds, could cut a 12-inch swath, and cost \$12. McGuire’s mower was a significant improvement over earlier, horse-drawn reel mowers, which were heavy and expensive. The push mower made lawn care manageable and less time-consuming, allowing a broader segment of the American population to cultivate their own lawns.

Gas-powered mowers of various sorts came onto the market in the 1900s. After the Briggs & Stratton Company gained experience during World War II with producing generators incorporating aluminum, the company developed its expertise in using this light metal, which helped lead to the widespread use of the vertical shaft single cylinder gasoline engine in lawn mowers.

After the war, suburbs took off. In the 1950s and ’60s, many people were ready for a quiet life away from the city, but close enough for work and consumer conveniences. The frequently mown lawn became an expectation and a symbol of communal identity and pride. The lawn became a measure of civic responsibility. The perfect, uninterrupted green of suburban landscapes represented a place where each homeowner contributed to the collective well-being of the neighborhood. This uniformity exerted pressure on residents to conform to standards

### Raise the blade!

The Lake Champlain Sea Grant and University of Vermont Extension in collaboration with the Lake Champlain Basin Program and other partners are promoting “Raise the Blade,” a campaign to reduce stormwater runoff. The campaign promotes healthy lawn practices to protect water resources in the Lake Champlain Basin, and recommends three simple practices.

Raise the blade on your lawnmower to **3 inches**. Longer grass will shade out weeds and retain moisture in the soil. Longer grass also has deeper roots, which aerate the soil and improve its ability to retain rainwater.

Leave lawn clippings where they are. A natural fertilizer, they will decompose into organic matter and support the health of the lawn.

Remove only one-third of the grass blade to reduce stress to your lawn. Grass will be greener and more resilient during dry periods.

of lawn care — including the use of pesticides and of close-cropped mowing — lest they disrupt the visual harmony of their community.

It is estimated that currently about **40 million acres** of lawn exist in the United States. Can the modern American lawn evolve once more, this time towards resiliency and biodiversity? Maybe it’s time to reevaluate the lawn and its place in our lives.

#### Because...

Alternative approaches to your yard can enhance habitat, create beauty and increase resilience to storm events. Some “green stormwater” practices around homes are quite easy, such as simply raising the blade of the lawnmower to encourage more robust growth, thus increasing root depth and absorption of water. Another fairly easy approach is to create one or more “mini-meadows” in your yard. These can be neatly arranged and bordered, and can also increase water absorption as well as pollinator habitat.

“Our built environment brings changes to the way stormwater behaves,” said Jill Sarazen, the Green Infrastructure Collaborative Coordinator for Lake Champlain Sea Grant. “In the natural environment, there is plenty of space for the absorption of rainwater, but in more urban settings stormwater is sent with increasing volume and speed downstream.” Green Stormwater Management techniques, she said, “are ways to deal with that water closer to the source” so that falling rainwater is slowed, spread and absorbed.

#### Rethinking Your Yard Routine

Alexandra Contosta, research assistant professor at UNH’s Earth Systems Research Center, has done research on “low mow” options as well as carbon storage in the backyards of New England cities. “Taking important small steps, like not mowing as often, can have a big impact on things like carbon storage and carbon emissions, which can influence climate change,” Contosta said. She added that trimming the number of times you run the mower around the yard, known as “low mow,” can help reduce carbon emissions, build soil organic matter and even enhance pollinating habitats for bees.

Some of Contosta’s tips are:

- **Mow every two weeks** — mowing less often allows for spontaneous lawn flowers, such as clover and dandelions, to grow. These flowers provide important nectar for bees, which are in decline and which pollinate food crops.

- **Try a “no mow” area** — for larger yards, consider creating a zone that is cut less, or not at all, providing time savings, rainwater absorption as well as a beneficial habitat for butterflies. This can be useful for hard-to-mow areas or parts of the property that are not used.

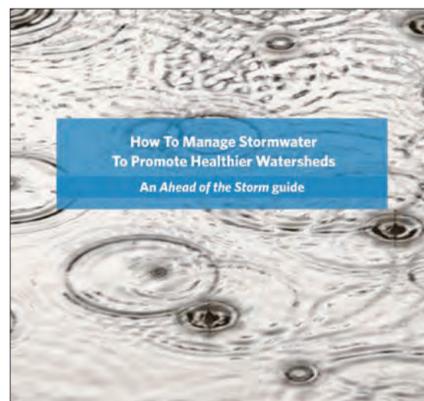
- **Give the rake a break** — skip raking grass clippings; returning them to the soil provides high-quality, carbon-rich leaf litter that organisms can break down and store in soil organic matter. This keeps the carbon out of the atmosphere, where it contributes to warming temperatures.

- **Get the neighborhood involved** — propose no- and low-mow months on your block (in the early spring or late fall), create a community garden and in the fall transform leaves into valuable mulch.

Mowing less also means less emissions, decreasing a household’s carbon footprint. The low-mow approach can be economical, practical and a timesaving alternative to replacing a lawn or even planting pollinating flower gardens. Researchers say if low-mow became more socially accepted, it could be a great way to do more for the environment by doing less.

From 2015-2019 the Urban Conservancy conducted a survey in New Orleans to assess long-term benefits and issues with residential green stormwater infrastructure (GSI). “This data... shows that residential GSI, when properly installed, is effective, economical, not overly burdensome to maintain, and enhances community safety and quality of life by reducing frequency and severity of flooding while keeping thousands of gallons of water per rain event out of our streets, catch basins, and pumping systems,” said Dana Eness, executive director of the Urban Conservancy.

The Center for Neighborhood

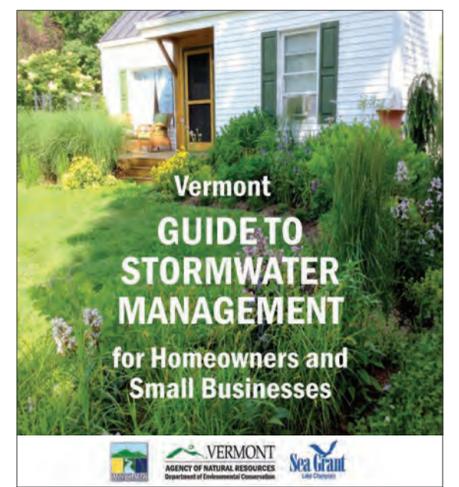


## Books & Manuals

Two excellent green stormwater guides for homeowners and small businesses published within the last few years here in Vermont. Anyone can download them for free off the internet. These books are:

“Vermont Guide to Stormwater Management for Homeowners and Small Businesses,” by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (and partners), 2018. Download it at: [tinyurl.com/VtGuide2Stormwater](https://tinyurl.com/VtGuide2Stormwater).

“How to Manage Stormwater to Promote Healthier Watersheds: An Ahead of the Storm



guide,” by the Lewis Creek Association (and partners), 2024. Download it at: [tinyurl.com/AheadOfStorm](https://tinyurl.com/AheadOfStorm).

And below are two recently published books recommended by *New York Times* garden columnist Margaret Roach. The books aim at gardeners who are rethinking their landscapes by helping them maintain realistic expectations while they’re transitioning to a wilder style:

“Every lawn is a prairie screaming to come out of the ground,” said Benjamin Vogt. His 2023 book is “Prairie Up: An Introduction to Natural Garden

Technology (CNT) has done a study of green stormwater infrastructure’s impacts on property values. Their report shows that GSI also adds value to homes. CNT and partners modeled the impact of GSI installations, such as rain gardens and swales, on property sales data in two cities and found statistically significant higher sales prices of homes near GSI. These findings add to a growing body of research that shows that nature-based solutions to stormwater management provide many benefits in addition to flood resiliency.

#### Resiliency

Which brings us back to where we started: Our time in history — defined partly by extreme weather events — demands that we rethink the American concept of our home landscapes. When it comes to our yards, our civic responsibility now means contributing to slowing, spreading and absorbing stormwater. And at the same time we can enhance habitat for pollinators and other wildlife that are native to our area.

Although there is no guarantee that green stormwater management will keep our communities from flooding during the heaviest rainfall events, a collective

effort can lessen the impact of storms. Since 2013, China’s “Sponge City” program has used ecological methods to transform the traditional “fast drainage” principle to widespread methods of infiltration, detention, retention, purification, utilization and discharge of rainwater. The city of Wuhan has initiated 389 separate sponge city projects covering almost 15 square miles of the city, the sum of which have resulted in improvements in stormwater management with side benefits such as cooling and additional natural spaces for recreation. We can Soak It Up too!

## Soak it Up!

ADDISON COUNTY  
RIVER WATCH

# A Workshop on Flood-Resilient Yards

### About the Event

Your yard can save you money, support pollinators, and slow down stormwater runoff. You’ll discover new possibilities for your yard and connect with pollinator experts and contractors. By mowing less or building a rain garden, you can help your yard soak up stormwater more effectively.

### What You’ll Learn

- Building a flood-resilient yard
- Creating mini meadows in your yard and supporting pollinators
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# RIVER WATCH

## Rain gardens

(Continued from Page 7C) placed in residential yards, in municipal lots or in commercial properties that want to contribute to flood resiliency and water quality in their community. Here it must be said that some businesses and developments are required by law to manage stormwater, in which case green stormwater infrastructure can be part of their overall management plan.

Rain Gardens can:

- Be shaped and sized to fit your yard.
- Use a special mix of sand and compost that allows water to soak in rapidly and supports healthy plant growth.
- Can be landscaped with a variety of plants to fit the surroundings.

“A rain garden can be a lot of work to maintain for the first couple of years,” said Tim Parsons, Landscape Horticulturist and professor of Architecture Studies at Middlebury College. “But after that, they are much less work — maybe just weed and prune once a year.”

Local landscaper Lauren Slayton agreed:

“I water plants only in the first year of planting and can’t think of any major losses.”

Parsons believes that shrubs are a very important element of rain gardens. Shrubs offer good uptake of water, cover and food for birds and beauty above the lower herbaceous layer.

A rain garden in your yard can provide abundant benefits both for

you and the environment. Native plants provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and other pollinators. In a world of mowed lawns, a rain garden could be an oasis for songbirds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

An ideal site for a rain garden is one that is not over any utilities, septic tanks or wellheads; more than 10 feet from buildings with basements; has a gentle slope of not more than 12%; is in the flow of runoff from hard surfaces; and is free of trees that do not like to be wet. If your yard or business fits the bill, a rain garden is a great option for managing stormwater.

By holding on to water, rain gardens can also recharge groundwater, which is great news for folks who use well water. A rain garden of native plants is a great (and great-looking) solution for standing water in your yard, runoff from your roof or road, supporting pollinators and birds, and making your yard more beautiful. After it is established, rain gardens are fairly easy to maintain.

Is a rain garden right for you?

“In Middlebury and Vergennes there are areas underlain with clay that will not be efficient at letting water soak into the ground,” said Addison County River Watch Director Matt Witten. “That said, where there’s lots of clay, there are still fine options for slowing water down, options that can create both additional habitat and beauty.”

### Typical Rain Garden



\*Not to scale.

Illustration by Andrew Mack, Washington State University

**Dig Safe!**  
Before embarking on a rain garden, dry well or other project involving excavation, a call to Dig Safe is in order: **811 or 888-344-7233.**

Rain gardens are most effective at permeable sites such as those with sandy, silty, gravelly or even slightly clay soils. The parts of Addison County with heavy clay soils might do best to look to other Green Stormwater Infrastructure methods, including mini-meadows and stormwater planters. Bioswales are a low-maintenance way to vegetate a soggy part of your lawn with water-loving native plants, and water bars can help with erosion by redirecting water off of an unpaved area and on to vegetated area.

Managing stormwater on your property is a great way to show our streams and rivers — as well as your downstream neighbors — a little bit of love. During a big rain event, waterways (and our municipal stormwater systems) can get overrun with the surge of stormwater filled with pollutants from roads, lawns and agriculture. Rain gardens and other green stormwater management strategies can act as a much needed speed bump in the way of stormwater when big rains come to town.



THIS RAIN GARDEN in Middlebury’s Marble Works complex is classically situated in a low-lying spot where it can collect and absorb rainwater and also filter some contaminants out of the water that runs off the nearby parking lot.

Independent photo/John S. McCrirt

## Rain gardens in Bristol?

It may be that the village of Bristol is a prime location for rain gardens due to its gravelly subsoils. These permeable soils can give a chance for rainwater — if slowed down and stored in a depression — to absorb into the ground rather than zooming downhill and causing erosion or other problems.

The 2019 Town of Bristol Stormwater Master Plan proposed potential projects “that rely on a mixture of Green Stormwater Infrastructural development

whenever possible” along with more traditional end-of-pipe stormwater Best Management Practices.

The part of the village near the elementary school — and perhaps the school grounds themselves — may be a very appropriate area for considering the installation of rain gardens and other green stormwater management.

In April the town of Bristol issued a request for proposals to do a study of the Mountain Street drainage system. According to

the town administrator, the part of Mountain Street between the school and Spring Street has experienced increased stormwater runoff due to more frequent and intense weather events.

“The existing drainage has been consistently overwhelmed, causing water to flow down Mountain and Spring streets, resulting in property damage and infrastructure impacts,” the administrator said.

Perhaps some rain gardens could help!

## Ways to slow, spread and soak up stormwater

Homeowners and businesses can contribute to managing stormwater. Here are a few methods:

- Raise the blade! (of your lawnmower to 3 inches).
- Have a “no mow” or “low mow” area of your yard.
- Plant a mini-meadow (that is

also ideally a pollinator-friendly area).

- Redirect gutter downspouts.
- Install rain barrels and/or stormwater planters.
- Create a bio-swale.

Want to learn more? Join River Watch for their *Soak It Up* workshop: Saturday, May 24,

1-3 p.m. at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society at 2 Duane Court in Middlebury. A short green stormwater garden tour will take place outdoors afterwards. Contact: acrcwvt@gmail.com. More info at acrcw.org.

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# 5 cleaning tips and 5 rebates

Spring forward into energy savings with Efficiency Vermont

WINOOSKI — Spring cleaning and saving energy go together like seeds in the garden. That's why Efficiency Vermont is sharing five tips — and five rebates — that can help Vermonters save money and use less energy during their spring clean-up. Keeping energy in mind while preparing for warmer weather can also kickstart planning for home improvements in the months ahead.

Here are five spring cleaning tips for a more energy efficient home:

• **W o r k efficiency into your spring cleaning routine.** Clean appliances and systems in your home to optimize their performance. Dust bathroom fan covers and behind your fridge. Remove grease and dust from your kitchen's stove hood or exhaust fans. Clear lint and debris from your clothes dryer's exhaust and filter. And sweep or vacuum near any vents, ducts, or registers. Keeping these systems clean means they'll use less energy and save money on your power bills.

• **Replace or clean filters in the equipment that keeps you warm.** Check filters on your heat pump, furnace, or boiler. Replace or clean any filters on your heat pump or connected ductwork. Consider replacing these filters every few months (for some circumstances, like homes with pets, more frequently may be best). Portable air purifiers and window AC units also have filters to clean or replace.

• **Schedule annual maintenance for your heating system.** Book a professional to clean and service the indoor and outdoor components of your heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system. This ensures they're working and ready for next winter (or the next chilly day).

• **Manage your home's moisture.** Moisture and water in your basement can be a serious hazard to the health of your home and the people living inside. Take steps to fix a wet, damp, or leaky basement. Follow CDC guidelines to clean any mold you find. You can use an ENERGY STAR-certified dehumidifier to remove moisture, but addressing the underlying issues can save energy and money in the long run.

**C**heck filters on your heat pump, furnace, or boiler. Replace or clean any filters on your heat pump or connected ductwork. Consider replacing these filters every few months (for some circumstances, like homes with pets, more frequently may be best). Portable air purifiers and window AC units also have filters to clean or replace.

on those projects.

Planning ahead is a great time to review Efficiency Vermont's rebates for weatherization, heating/cooling systems, and energy-saving appliances. Here are five spring cleaning rebates to consider for your home energy goals:

• **Cool off with DIY Weatherization and get a cool \$100.** Sealing around windows and doors isn't just for winter weather. Air sealing can help keep your home comfortable all year long—using less energy to stay cool in warmer months. Now you can get \$100 back for completing a qualifying DIY home weatherization project, including weather-stripping, insulation, and air sealing.

• **Stay cool — or warm up — with boosted heat pump rebates.** Starting in April 2025, Efficiency Vermont is offering increased heat pump rebates. That means bigger savings on these efficient heating and air conditioning systems. Plus, your utility may offer additional rebates. Learn how heat pumps can cool (and heat) your home, then explore our

heat pump rebates.

• **Complete comprehensive weatherization while the sun is shining.** Weatherizing a whole home can take time, so starting these projects in warmer weather makes sense. But comprehensive weatherization makes sense in other ways, too: it can reduce household energy bills year-round, and address health and safety concerns in a home. Get up to \$9,500 cash back for comprehensive weatherization, and explore ways to pay for your project over time.

• **Tidy up your monthly bill with more efficient appliances.** Find energy-saving options for dehumidifiers, window AC units, heat pump clothes dryers, and more. Pair these appliances with a smart thermostat to keep your home at the perfect temperature no matter the season.

• **Electrify your lawn care.** Using a gas-powered lawnmower for one hour emits as much pollution as driving a car 45 miles, according to the EPA. Battery-powered or plug-in lawnmowers, leaf blowers, and trimmers avoid those noxious emissions — and electric lawn care tools are a lot quieter, too.

Your household income can qualify you for bonus rebates and additional partner offers. Income-eligible homes can get free services and products through Efficiency Vermont, including a voucher to replace an inefficient appliance that may be impacting your electric bill. Low-income households can also qualify for free weatherization from Vermont's Weatherization Assistance Programs. Unsure if you're eligible for income-related rebates and programs? Contact Efficiency Vermont's Energy Advisors — call 1-888-921-5990.

Updated annually, income guidelines vary by county, household size, and annual income. Currently, a family of four earning \$142,700 in Chittenden, Franklin, or Grand Isle Counties qualifies as moderate-income, while in Washington County, earning \$126,500 qualifies as moderate-income. Visit our website for details on income-based programs.



## Steady as she goes

SETH VACZY USES a long, metal jig to guide his table saw to a perfectly straight cut so the floorboards he is installing will fit snugly.

Independent photo/Steve James



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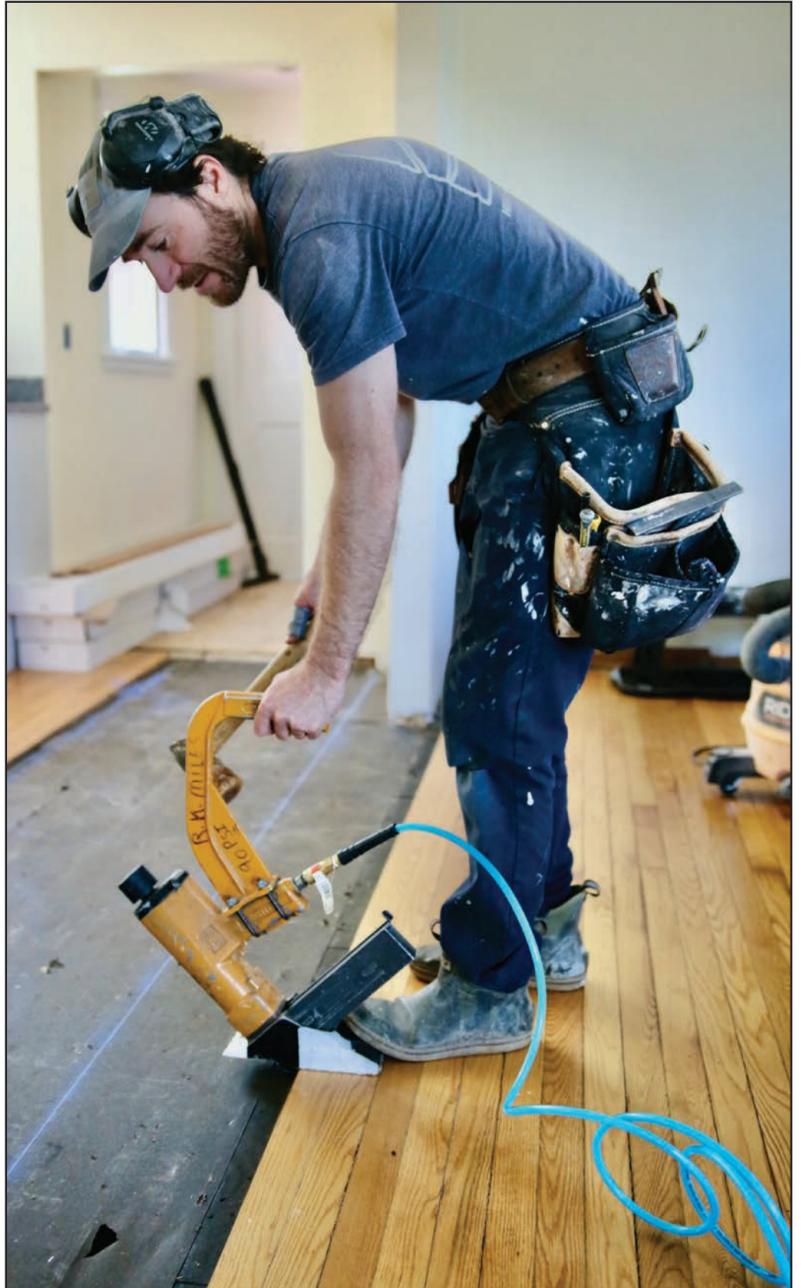
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**The Install**

LAYING THE BEST hardwood floor starts with dry-fitting a piece into place to ensure that the end is aligned with the wall (top left), then the contractor from Vaczy Construction of Salisbury taps the piece into place (left). Finally, Seth Vaczy uses a hydraulic nail gun to guarantee that the flooring will stay in place for years to come.

Independent photos/Steve James

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# HOME DECOR WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

## WORDS

- ACCENT
- ARMOIRE
- ARTISTIC
- ASYMMETRY
- BALANCE
- COLOR
- CONCEPT
- CONTRAST
- DESIGNER
- FABRIC
- FLOORING
- FOCUS
- HARMONY
- LAYERING
- LIGHTING
- MODERN
- MOLDING
- MONOCHROMATIC
- PROPORTIONS
- RENOVATIONS
- SOFA
- STYLE
- TEXTURE
- TRADITIONAL

(See Answers, Page 16C)



Metro Creative photo

## Health problems linked to mold exposure

Mold is a natural part of the environment and can be found growing just about anywhere that moisture and oxygen are present, advises the Environmental Protection Agency. Mold is a fungus that can be helpful because it breaks down dead organic matter. But mold growth indoors can prove problematic, not only to personal living spaces but to one's health.

When mold grows outdoors in the fresh air, exposure to it can be minimal. However, mold growing indoors can cause concentrated conditions that adversely affect indoor air quality and overall health. The Rhode Island Department of Health says exposure to a large number of mold spores may cause symptoms associated with allergies, such as runny nose, watery eyes, headache, fatigue, and sneezing, among others. Exposure to certain molds, such as *Stachybotrys* and *Aspergillus*, can cause more serious illness because of the mycotoxins these molds produce. Aspergillosis is a fungal lung infection with emerging antimicrobial resistance, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The World Health Organization, the National Academy of Medicine and the National Toxicology Program report that occupants of damp, moldy buildings have an increased risk of respiratory problems. Repeated exposure to mold can lead to asthma, which is a chronic airway disease characterized by inflammation, states the National Institutes of Health. Individuals can

experience shortness of breath and airway obstruction from the overproduction of mucus.

Additional conditions also can be attributed to mold. For example, valley fever is linked to the fungus *Coccidioides*, which lives in soil in some areas of the southwestern United States. Mucormycosis is a severe but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds known as *mucomycetes*, says the CDC. It affects the sinuses or the lungs of people with weakened immune systems.

Though some people who come in contact with mold will not develop any adverse symptoms, it is still best to address indoor mold problems promptly. These steps can help.

- Use dehumidifiers in damp areas, such as basements.
- Ventilate bathrooms, kitchens and laundry areas.
- Fix any leaks in pipes, walls or windows promptly.
- Use mold-resistant paint.
- Make sure that clothes dryers and exhaust fans vent to the outdoors rather than an attic or another room.
- Remove mold with mold-killing products. The CDC says mold can be cleaned from hard surfaces with soap and water or a bleach solution of no more than one cup of household bleach to one gallon of water.

Mold is everywhere in the environment, but prevention of indoor mold growth can help people avoid respiratory issues and other health problems.

— Metro Creative

## Carpeting questions? We've got answers

No two homeowners are the same, and that's perhaps most evident in the design decisions individuals make when decorating their homes. Flooring is among the first things a person notices when entering a home, and the array of options consumers have when choosing flooring materials underscores how unique each homeowner is.

Carpeting is a popular flooring option. Many homeowners prefer carpeting because they feel it helps to create a cozy, welcoming vibe in a home. Consumers considering carpet for their homes may have some common questions, and answers to those inquiries can help homeowners determine if carpeting is for them.

Is carpeting expensive?

Home renovations are expensive, and the cost of a project is often the first question homeowners

have. The cost of carpeting varies widely and is contingent on an array of variables unique to each home and homeowner, including square footage, materials chosen by the homeowner and the cost of labor associated with installation, which can vary significantly between locations. According to the online renovation resource HomeAdvisor, the average cost to install or replace carpet is between \$782 and \$2,812. That wide range illustrates how much the cost of the project will be affected by variables unique to each project. However, even homeowners who come in around or above the high end of that estimate may find carpet installation is among the more affordable ways to give the interior of a home an entirely new look and feel.

How different are carpeting materials?

Carpeting materials differ in

their look, feel and function. The home renovation experts at Angi.com note that some carpet fibers are better suited to areas in a home that attract a lot of foot traffic, while others make for better options in areas with less use, such as a bedroom or home office. For example, one website notes that polyester has a luxurious, soft feel, making it a strong option for bedroom floors. Nylon carpet fiber is resistant to stains and damage and maintains its height under heavy weight, making this a good option in heavily trafficked rooms. Homeowners can discuss each carpeting material with their flooring retailer to determine which suits their budget and which is best in each room of their homes.

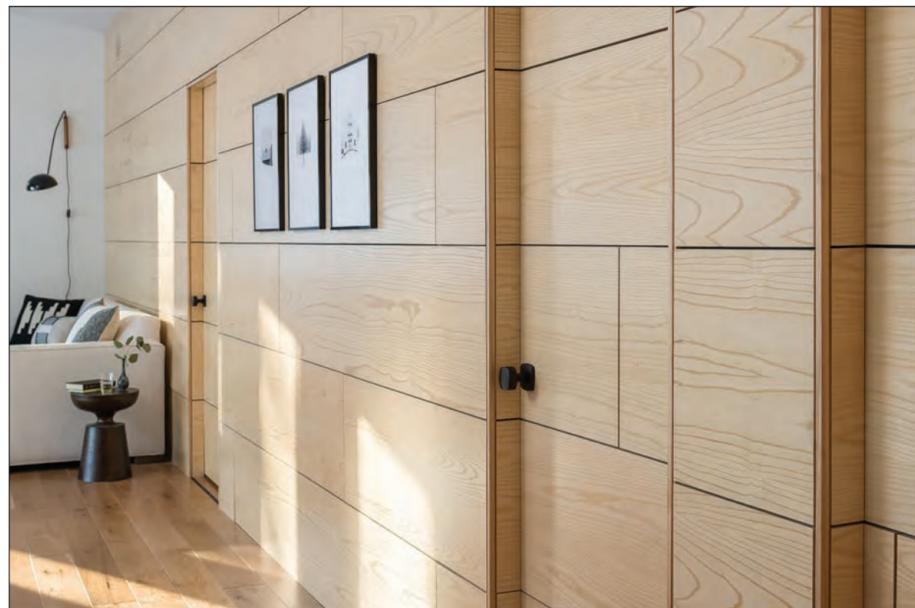
Is carpet padding a must?

Carpet padding is one of the costs associated with carpeting. When shopping for carpeting for

the first time, homeowners may notice carpet padding costs on their estimate and wonder what it is and if it's truly necessary. Carpet padding is necessary, as Flooring101.com notes that it keeps the underside of the carpet from wearing against the subfloor while absorbing the impact of foot traffic and furniture. That absorption helps to reduce stress on the carpet and thus extend its life expectancy. Carpet padding also can have an insulating effect and help to reduce sound in a room. So while carpet padding might be a costly expense on an itemized estimate, it's well worth the investment.

Carpeting can help make a home feel more cozy and welcoming. Homeowners can work with a local carpeting retailer to find a carpet that meets their needs and fits their budget.

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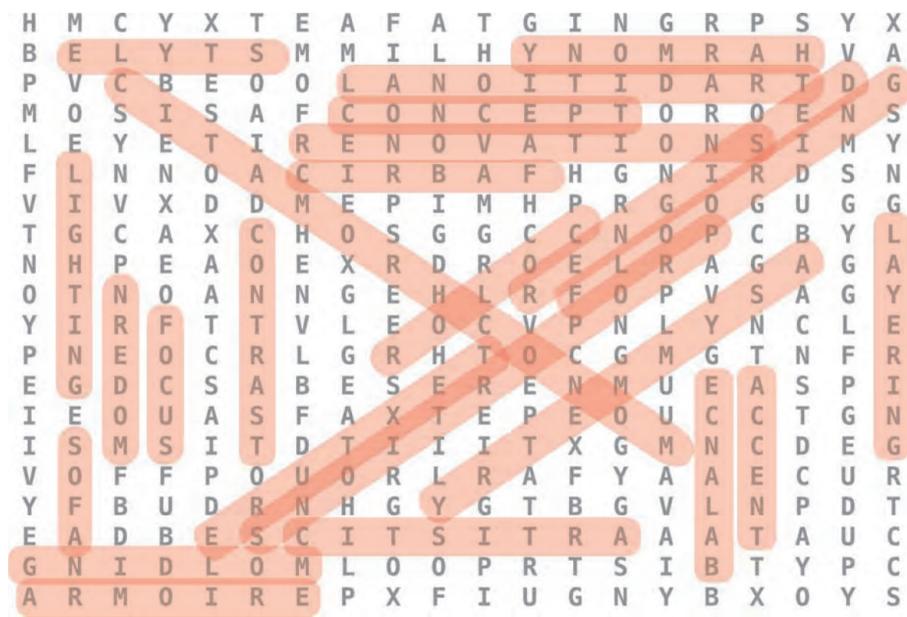
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# Word search answers

(Continued from Page 15C)



# Why hiring a painter is the right choice

Few home improvements can change the look of a room faster and more affordably than a painting makeover. In fact, homeowners often turn to paint before they make any other renovations. Home Light, a real estate technology company, says painting a home's interior can net a return on investment as high as 107 percent.

Although painting is a project that can be tackled by do-it-yourselfers, there are various advantages to calling in a professional to handle painting projects. Here is a look at some of the benefits to working with a professional painter.

**Cut down on the job time**  
A professional painter can reduce the project timeline. Painters have the skill set and experience to complete a project in a timely manner. This means the job will be streamlined from preparation to clean-up.

**Pay attention to details**  
Professional painters are likely to do a job that is nearly flawless, especially after homeowners exercise their due diligence and vet painters carefully. Professionals will pay attention to the small details that less experienced

*A professional painter can reduce the project timeline. Painters have the skill set and experience to complete a project in a timely manner. This means the job will be streamlined from preparation to clean-up.*

painters wouldn't think about.

**Reduce your workload**  
Painting can be a time-consuming job, and most of it occurs even before you pick up a brush. It can take hours to prep walls, patch holes, remove moldings, and apply painter's tape. Homeowners who do not have much time are better off leaving trusting the project to a professional.

**Painters already have equipment**

Do-it-yourselfers may need to buy new tools before beginning the job. This means brushes, rollers, tape, tarps, trays, and much more. Unless you plan to paint multiple times, this can make stocking up a considerable investment.

Professionals already have all the right gear and tools of the trade.

**Lasting results**  
Professional painters understand which products will produce the desired results, depending on the wear and tear of the space. Paints are not all created equal, and certain walls, floors and trim may require unique priming and preparation that novices are not familiar with. Professional painters can help ensure durability and save homeowners from having to do the job again in a few months or years.

**A safer experience**  
Painting can be a challenging job when it involves painting hard-to-reach spaces and/or climbing and balancing on tall ladders. Homeowners are not at risk of injury when hiring a professional painter. In addition, professional painters should be licensed and insured. This means if an injury or incident occurs, the homeowner will not be on the hook for the cost.

A fresh coat of paint can produce amazing results. Leaving the work to a professional can ensure a job is done correctly and beautifully and completed on time.

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# Make your living space comfortable

A kitchen is widely recognized as the most popular room in a home. Though it might be true that the hustle and bustle of home life runs through the kitchen, many a memory is made in the living room as well.

Living rooms tend to be go-to spaces for family movie nights, game watches with fellow fans and places to gather during holiday celebrations. That's a lot of quality time spent in the living room, and those moments can be more enjoyable if the space is as comfortable as possible. With that in mind, people can consider various ways to make living rooms more comfortable.

- Prioritize comfort over aesthetics. In an era of Instagram, it's easy to fall head over heels with images when designing a living room. Aesthetic appeal certainly has its place in a living room, but it's important to remember how much living will be done

in these rooms when designing them. Comfortable couches and furnishings like ottomans can make it easier to relax in the living room whether you're watching a movie, cheering on your favorite team or reading a book.

- Ensure there's ample seating. It can be hard to feel comfortable in cramped quarters whether you're welcoming friends and family into your home or simply lounging around on Sunday mornings. If comfort is your top priority, arrange the room so there's ample seating throughout and people don't feel like they're sitting on top of one another when spending time in the room.

- Consider neutral paint colors. Furnishings are not the only things that can affect how comfortable people feel in a living room. The home improvement experts at The Spruce note that neutral paint colors with warm undertones help to establish a cozy feel in a living

room. Various shades of white, beige, tan, or even gray can help to establish a warm, comfortable vibe in a living room.

- Incorporate the outdoors into the room. The great outdoors can have a calming effect on anyone, so it makes sense that incorporating the outdoors into a living room can make the space feel more comfortable. Furnish the room with plants and look for items with earth-toned furnishings to create a calm and comfortable vibe in the space. In addition, new windows that allow for more natural light and offer views into a yard can help lift spirits and make the room feel more comfortable.

A comfortable living room is a space where people will want to spend their time. A few simple strategies can help create an inviting and comfortable vibe in any living room.

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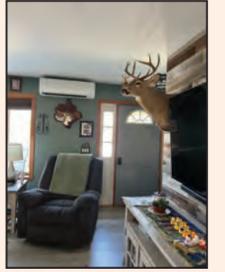




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