

Profiles in Community

A publication of the

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946

Table of Contents

- · Addison County Chamber of Commerce
- Addison County Economic Development Corporation
- Addison County Home Health & Hospice
- Addison County Independent
- Addison County Solid Waste Management District
- Addison County Therapies
- Addison Housing Works
- Addison Residential
- Addison Wellness
- Advanced Hearing
- All Earth Renewables
- American Flatbread
- Autumn Gold
- Bourdeau Brothers
- Bradford Kitchen & Bath
- Bristol Electronics
- Business Telephone Systems
- Champlain Valley Equipment
- Champlain Valley Properties
- Charter House Coalition
- Co-Operative Insurance
- Cole's Flowers
- Community Investment Counselors
- Costello's Market
- County Tire Center/Addison County Alignment & Repair
- Desabrais Glass
- Distinctive Paint & Interiors
- Drop In Brewing
- Dunmore Marine Service
- EastView
- Ebenezer Punderson, Law Practice of
- Eddy Farm School
- Evergreen Preschool
- Farm Credit East
- · Goodro Kitchen and Bath
- Grapevine Grille
- Green Mountain Electromagnetics
- Green Peppers
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hare and the Dog
- Henry Sheldon Museum
- Ilsley Public Library
- Jackman's Inc. of Bristol
- Keeping Good Company
- Laberge Insurance
- LaRose Surveys
- Lincoln Applied Geology
- Lost Lantern Whiskey

- Maple Landmark
- Maple Meadow Farm
- McLeod Architects
- Medicine Chest
- Memorial Sports Center
- Middlebury Eye Associates
- Middlebury Frameshop
- Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival
- · Middlebury Shop
- Middlebury Studio School
- Mr. Mike's Cleaning Service
- National Bank of Middlebury
- One Dollar Market
- Otter Creek Bakery/Otter East
- Otter Creek Used Books
- Peak View Eye Care
- Plouffe's Boiler & Mechanical Service
- Ouilter's Corner
- Rainbow Pediatrics
- Raymond Renovations
- RK Miles
- Sanderson Ducharme Funeral Home
- Sargent Construction
- Silver Maple Construction
- Smith & McClain
- Sparrow Art Supply
- Speedi Lube
- Stark Mountain Woodworking
- Sunrise Orchards
- Sweet Cecily
- Sweet Charity
- Tae Kwon Do KICKS
- Town Hall Theater
- Turning Point Center
- United Way of Addison County
- UVM Morgan Horse Farm
- Valleywide Veterinary Services
- Vergennes Grand
- Vergennes Opera House
- Vermont Adult Learning
- Vermont Book Shop
- Vermont Gas
- Vermont Integrated Architecture
- Vermont Sun
- Vermont's Own
- Wimett Trading Company
- Woodware
- Young Forest Homes

About This Issue

Community means giving a nod or a wave to that person you see on the street or pass in the grocery store.

Community means feeling good when your friend tells you about someone who has just achieved a big milestone or experienced an incredible piece of good luck.

Community means being moved when you hear someone in your broader circle of acquaintances has had a death in the family.

Community means knowing who you are talking to when you are making a deal — whether that is picking up something for \$3.25 at a store or making an agreement to spend thousands of dollars on a once- in-a-lifetime purchase.

In this Profiles in Community special section, the Addison Independent hopes to reinforce those bands of community by reminding you, our reader, the names of many of the people you run into on a semi- regular basis and introduce you to some of the people you might not yet have met but are likely to if you live in Addison County long enough.

No matter how the world is swirling around us with news on the national and international level grabbing our eyes and diverting our minds, it is good to remember that we actually live here — in this community. Many of the people we care about most live here among us. Wouldn't you like to put a name to a face? This publication gives you a chance to do that.

We have been publishing this guide to local businesses for a few decades now, and we've found that one of the pleasures of perusing Profiles in Community is to see so many people over and over, and seeing their hair turn grey while their smiles remain vibrant. Sometimes it's fun to note that this guy or this gal used to work at one place but now they're somewhere new. And look who's leading their own business now!

We hope you enjoy these pages and take the time to reacquaint yourself with these businesses and individuals — your neighbors. And that you find our community is filled not only with products and services, but also with the smiles of those who greet us each day.

- The Editors



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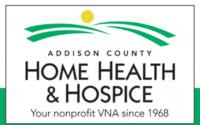


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Missing from the photo: Dennis Smith (driver), Joe Malzac (driver) and Vicki Nolette (accounts receivable).

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946

rom the Addison County Independent's first issue in 1946 to today our mission has been the same: to report the day-to-day events of the county and serve as a mirror that reflects life as it's being lived throughout Addison County.

We do that by covering town and school news, sports, social news, events, arts and leisure, business and professional news, letters and commentary - and almost 50

aspects of our communities.

As we have for the past 79 years, we invite you to join us five days a week to learn about your neighbors, schools and community.

And, yes, that's FIVE days a week. For those of you who don't receive our four newsletters (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday), please go to addisonindependent.com and sign up for the newsletters at the top of the

special sections that put a focus on important screen. It not only allows us to be in regular touch with our subscribers (and those of you just browsing), but it's the source of breaking news. Plus, the newsletters are free!

> We work hard to cover as much Addison County news as we possibly can all with the hope that the most complete picture of the county will yield strong, resilient, respectful and fun-loving communities. We invite you to join us by becoming a subscriber and ADDY ALL-STAR supporter!



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With the launch of the ADDY ALL-STARS last spring, our readers can now show their support for the paper through donations. Diversifying our revenue is increasingly important to build the resiliency and stability of the Addy Indy. Set up your regular donation and help sustain award-winning local journalism in our community.

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM/ALL-STARS







From left: Gene Pouliot, Drew Pettis, Emily Johnston, Gary Hobbs, Chantel Bolduc, Don Maglienti, Jake Vukas, Chad Kimball, Shelly Edson, Ben Eglash, Brian Sherwin

Not pictured: Wes Kimball, Ricky Rheaume, Melissa Sullivan, Bryson Sherwin

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The District Transfer Station in Middlebury is open 7 AM to 3 PM Mon.-Fri. and 8 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. The District HazWaste Center, is open 8 AM to 2 PM Mon.-Fri., and 8 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. The District Residential Drop-Off in New Haven is open Fridays from 7 AM to 2 PM and Saturdays, 7 AM to Noon. Call us for information!

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Left to Right: Jameson, Mary Kate, Michael (Not pictured: Our wonderful new receptionist, Mary Kemp)

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Back row, L-R: Brenda Jaring, John Snyder-White, Liz Marino, Lisa Sargent, Amy Young and Mandy Hodson. Front row L-R: Nancy Foster, January Stearns and Heather Foster-Provencher

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Pictured left to right: George, Jake, Robert, Wendy, Holly, Stuart, Alison

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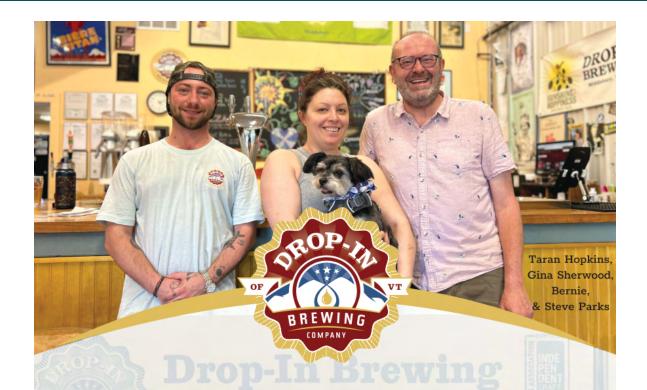
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Three generations of the LaRoche family are working at Dunmore Marine Service now. Marc LaRoche, center, bought his dad's business, Gill's Place Boat Repair, in 2023, and renamed the business, Dunmore Marine Service. Cooper, left, works with his dad Marc, center, and grandfather Gill, right, to offer all the same great services.

GILL'S PLACE IS NOW DUNMORE MARINE SERVICE



After 42 years, Gill's Place Boat Repair is out and Dunmore Marine Service is in. That's because Gill LaRoche is officially no longer the boss, he says, motioning to his son, Marc, as the new owner as of Nov. 2023. "I'm still working," Gill says, "but I'm no longer the guy paying the bills!"

Marc, who has worked with his father at the boat repair shop in Salisbury for the past 30 years, said taking over the business was a long time coming and that they aren't expecting any big changes. "We'll keep doing what we've always done," he said, which includes boat service and repair, selling and installing Hewitt boat lifts and docks, servicing all kinds of watercraft, as well as ATVs and snowmobiles.

Service has always been the heart of their business and will continue to be so, Marc said. With more than 50 years of experience working on boats (Gill started in 1970 at Vergennes Marine and since 1983 out of their home in Salisbury), Gill has seen it all and knows boats and engines inside and out. Marc has also been working on engines — boats, go-carts and snowmobiles – for almost 30 years and started a companion business setting up and taking down docks and boat lifts mainly on Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake, as well as doing dock work via his barge.

Along with their service and sales, they also offer boat storage, featuring 78 covered spaces for winter storage, plus outside storage for boats not requiring shelter. Boat owners who have their boats stored at Dunmore Marine Service also get their boats tuned up, washed and delivered in time for summer simply by calling at least a week ahead of expected delivery.

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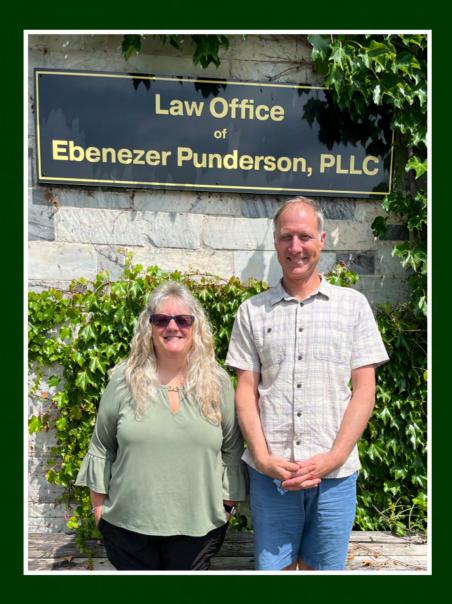
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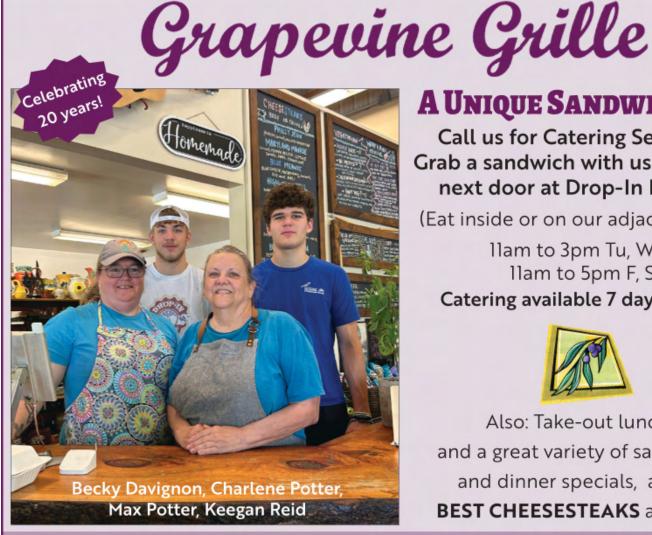
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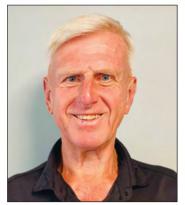




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In front: Betsy.

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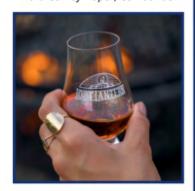
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Front Row L to R: Griffin Sheldrick, David "Boots" Hanson, Argenis Sanchez

Missing: Tucker Sheldrick & Graedyn Devoid

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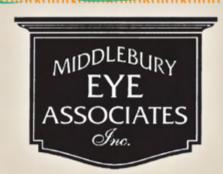
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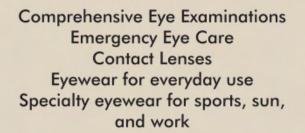








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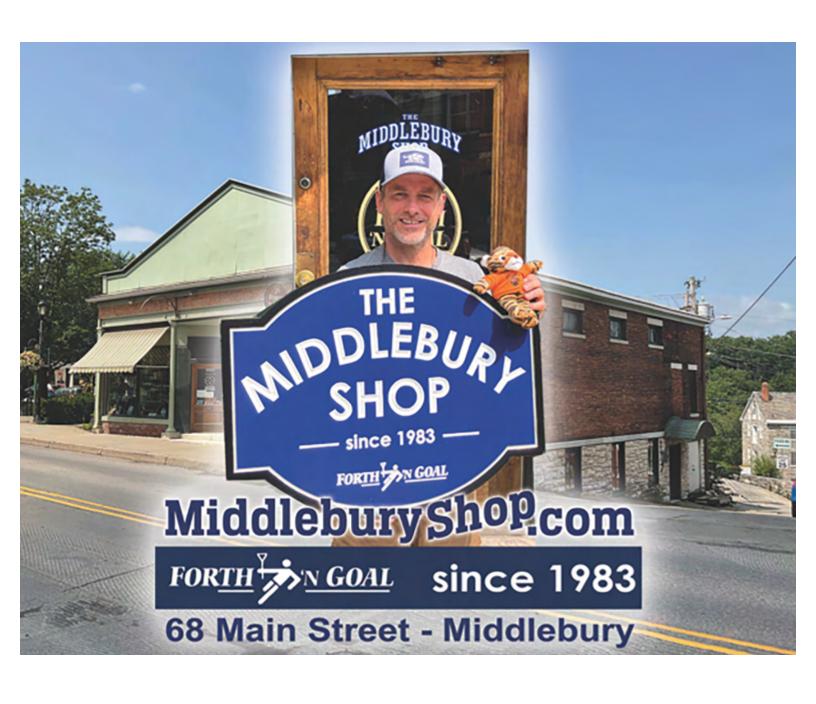














Jen Labie, Saisorn Peemanao, Carrie Ade, and Sarah Briggs



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Baker Mary Duddles prepares white chocolate chip cookie dough at Otter Creek Bakery in Middlebury

Meet Mary Duddles, OCB baker

If you're one of the many fans of OCB breads and baked goods, you likely have Mary to thank! She's the one who comes early to manage and finesse the recipes that create the doughs that create the breads, cookies and many other baked goods found fresh every day. Mary moved to Vermont from Florida, looking for a strong sense of place and she says she's found it at OCB.

"I love the bakery, I love baking! It's kind of a watering hole for the community. We know people, they know us. It's a sense of community here and I love that!

She also loves her co-workers at the bakery and says they share a strong sense of camaraderie. "It's a small space with a lot going on. We are constantly moving and planning carefully around each other and balancing busy times, which can be stressful. So it's really helpful to like the people you're working with — and I do!"

While Mary enjoys the variety of recipes she gets to tweak and perfect, she says her favorite are the breads.

"Bread is not always predictable. You have to work with it, watch it. It's kind of a living thing in a sense. It needs a little bit of care and kind of has its own personality. And yeah, we get along pretty good."









Our amazing Otter East staff: Left to right: Michael, Kim, Cee, Patrick, Rin

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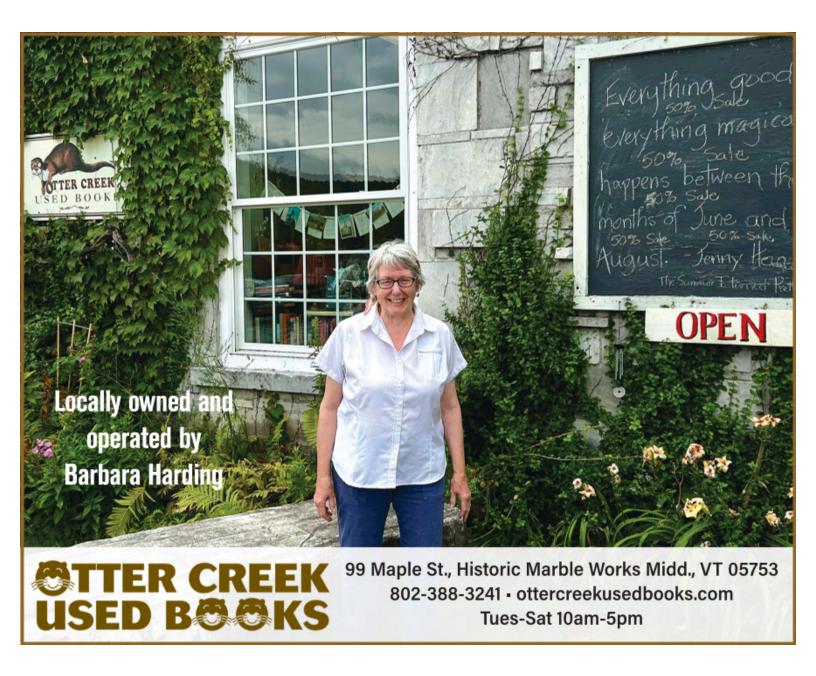
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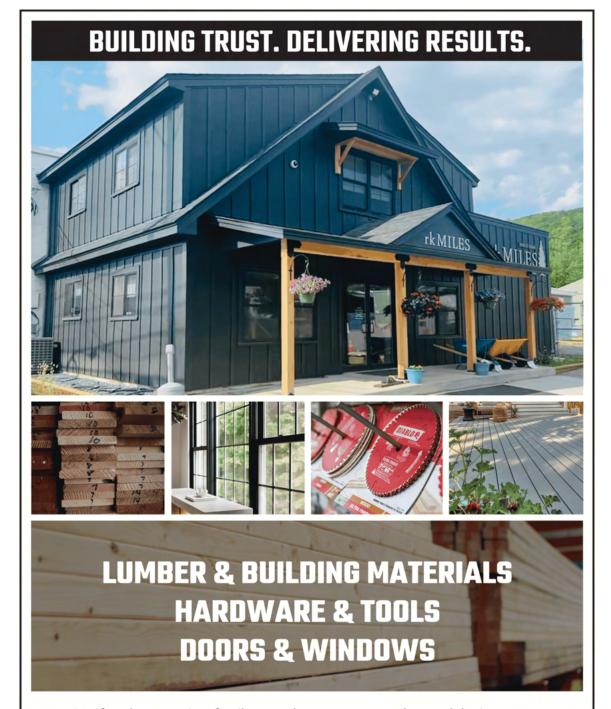






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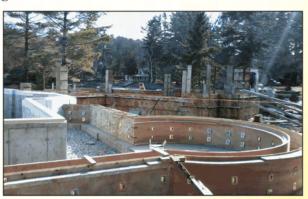




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Sunrise orchard staff, left to right: Ben Wood, Corey D'Avignon, Chris Hodges, Barney Hodges, Bob Lamoureux, Matias Citarella



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Sweet Charity is thrilled to welcome **Andrea Lalumiere** as the new store manager! You may recognize Andrea's smile from other popular Vergennes establishments; she served for many years as the general manager at 3 Squares Cafe, then later at Lu·Lu's. Or perhaps your familiarity with Andrea and her family dates further back — she is a 4th generation Ferrisburgh native!

An avid thrifter herself, Andrea has found herself happily at home among the treasures at Sweet Charity. She adores the joys of thrifting and revels in her ability to help shoppers find unique items full of personality and history.

Knowing that the proceeds from Sweet Charity make positive, direct and local impact through WOW is icing on the cake, she says!

If you haven't yet, please drop in to say hello to Andrea. You might just find yourself a new treasure to bring home while you're at it!

Sweet Charity is a home-goods resale shop located on Main Street in Vergennes. The store is sustained by generous donations and exceptional volunteers who stock and staff the store's inventory.

We are brimming with furniture, art, glassware, jewelry, kitchenware, linens, and decorative home accessories.



Sweet Charity sales provide a constant source of funding to support Women of Wisdom (WOW) in its mission to support local charitable causes.

To learn more about Sweet Charity and WOW, please visit our website, or pay us a visit — we'd love to tell you more!



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We put our hearts into creating memorable arts experiences, engaging classes for all ages, gatherings, and more. THT is a community space open to everyone, and, thanks to grants and scholarship funds, we offer events and programming for every budget. We are here to serve our region!

We invite you to enjoy our new and expanded offerings, which are possible thanks to a groundswell of community support:

- The Maloney Plaza with the FREE Summer Sounds Live Music Series on the Tilly Stage
- The Seligmann Center for Learning & Engagement with all-ages classes scholarships available!
- The Anderson Studio with small performances, rentals, and more
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- Even more shows on the historic Rothrock Main Stage!

If you missed our grand re-opening, swing by 72 Merchants Row or call 802-388-1426 to set up a time to visit. We'd love to give you a tour!



Our friendly and welcoming staff has grown with our new expansion!

THT Staff (from L-R): Pete Curtis – Assistant Technical Director; Lindsay Pontius – Director of the Center for Learning and Engagement (CLE); Stefán Arnarson – Technical Director; Ellie Friml – Gallery Manager; Mary Longey – Volunteer Production Stage Manager; Lisa Mitchell – Executive and Artistic Director; Doug Anderson – Director in Residence; Meg Madden – Marketing Manager; Brad Crowe – Facilities Manager; Erin Jones-Poppe – Operations Manager; Keziah Wilde – Assistant Director of the CLE; Zach Shivers – Box Office and Digital Manager.

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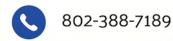




Pictured from left to right: **Steve Williams**, Director of Finance; **Amy Hoekstra**, Community Impact Manager; **Helena Van Voorst**, Executive Director; **Erin Reed**, Development & Marketing Director; **Celia Heath**, Community Initiatives & Grants Manager. Not pictured: **Gina LeBeau**, Youth Coordinator.









Pictured left from right: Margot Smithson, Ronda Thompson, Laura Cleveland, Morgan Corbett, Jamie Maguire, Clarice Houdusse, Rosie Tylenda, Belin Tate, Heidi Willis, Van Powell

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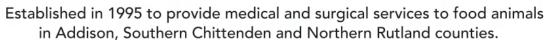




Tina Jordan - Office, Hailey Bartlett - Office, Stephanie Bandoski, DVM, Elizabeth Martens, DVM, Krystal Ingwersen - Office Manager (with Gideon), Emma Cijka, DVM, and Dave Rockwell, DVM.

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After decades of providing care to local seniors, the former Vergennes Residential Care Home was reimagined and expanded into what is now Vergennes Grand Senior Living, a beautiful, purpose-built community offering Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Memory Care.

"Getting here wasn't easy. The road to redevelopment was long and often uphill, with years of design changes, permit delays, and financial hurdles. But we never lost sight of the goal: to create a place where seniors of all income levels could thrive with dignity, safety, and community. Right in the heart of downtown Vergennes." Dan Hassan, Owner/CEO, Grand Senior Living

In March 2025, Vergennes Grand proudly opened its doors to residents. Today, thanks to the incredible team of nurses, caregivers, chefs, housekeepers, activities coordinators, facilities staff, and administrators, Vergennes Grand is more than just a state-of-the-art residence. It's a place filled with warmth, connection, and purpose.

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Vergennes Grand Management Team

Pictured (top row, left to right): Maria Collette, Memory Care Director; Renee Hauter, RN, Health Services Assistant Director; Mathew Chabot, Executive Director; Lawrence Kopp, Sales & Marketina Director: Sarah Hutchins, RN, Health Services Director: Christina Bessette, Business Office Director.

Front (kneeling): Harvey Thompson, Facilities Director; Nima Mehregan, Dining Services Director. Not pictured: Samuel Gonzalez Pinto, Resident Services Director.



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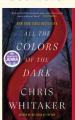
AUTHOR OF ANN HOME ALISON BECHPEL SPENT A COMIC MOVEL

Amy Manager

Spent Alison Bechdel

Part memoir, part fiction, and part satire, this graphic novel was totally relatable, so funny, and a blast to read. It's a spot-on commentary on modern politics and culture.





All The Colors Of The Dark

Chris Whitaker

A big, tangled mystery, but also a hugely heartfelt story about love and connection, full of devastating and beautiful moments.

An amazing combination.

Mary Bookseller



Murder Takes a Vacation

Laura Lippman

Blend a little Agatha Christie with a touch of *Thursday Murder Club* and you get P.I. Muriel Blossom on the Seine. This mystery is a ton of fun for summer!

Carolyn



You Can Never Die

Harry Bliss

A refreshingly honest, thoughtful, and detailed slice-oflife masterpiece from cartoonist and New Yorker coverartist Harry Bliss. It's not just for dog lovers!

Judith

Bookseller



Becoming Madam Secretary

Stephanie Dray

Dray's historical novel about FDR's Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins, who valiantly fought injustice despite tremendous pushback is both a terrific read and educational!



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From L-R: Griffin Perry, Gwen Nagy-Benson, Ely Fretz, Cat Earley, Jesse Gillette, Beth Eisenhower, Ashar Nelson, Andrea Murray, Megan Nedzinski, Gina Basiliere, Susan Coddaire, Marc Young, Brent McDonnell, Ben Allred, Bill Maclay, Sara Looman, Nicholas Wood, Chris Cook, Stefan Richter



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Photo L to R: Mark Grant - Sales Manager, Terry Racine & Richard Bird - Drivers, Bob Lamica - Sales, Mike Jackman - Sales, David Wimett - Owner, Dan Wimett - Sales Missing from photo: Sara Stevens - Sales, Casey Sue Thompson - Reconditioning.

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Left to right: Brian, Conor, Jake, Bela, Deb

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