Governor floats \$8.6 billion budget, warns of 'tough budget year'

By MICHAEL FRETT Islander Staff Writer

MONTPELIER – In an address echoing his previous "State of the State" presentation, Gov. Phil Scott previewed an \$8.6 billion budget last week that, according to the governor, foregoes new taxes and fees in the midst of what the Vermont Republican warned would be a "tough budget year."

Spread between the state's general fund, education fund and transportation fund, the governor's budget proposal highlighted his often-repeated concerns with Vermont's graying population and thinning workforce, as well as his concerns with public safety and housing highlighted in Scott's "State of the State" address from early January.

"Solutions for these issues are within our reach, especially with the historic infrastructure investments we've committed to," the governor said in his address to lawmakers last week. "If we address them head on, we'll restore the working class, refill our schools and revitalize communities and neighborhoods in every county."

The governor's proposal includes additional support for the state's downtown and village center tax incentives, \$8 million additional funds between a program intended to quickly repairing rental units and another focused on manufactured homes, as well as continued calls from the governor to reform Act 250 and local zoning laws that, according to Scott, restricted housing development in Vermont.

Scott's budget also includes another \$24 million for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, as well as funds for expanding shelter capacity and permanent supportive housing for homeless families.

His proposal included a package of reforms for Vermont's justice system, walking back prior bail reforms while calling for other changes, like universal record sealing in lieu of expungement and a larger list of violent crimes that could see a juvenile prosecuted in a criminal court. Scott also called for updated drug laws to account for the deadlier drug mixes behind Vermont's growing number of fatal overdoses.

At times, he also jabbed at the Democratic lawmakers with supermajorities in both the Vermont House of Representatives and the Vermont Senate, noting

See "STATE BUDGET" Page 2

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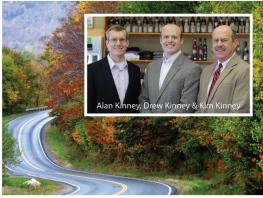
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a showdown the year prior that saw the governor veto the legislature's approved \$8.5 billion budget and, ultimately, saw lawmakers override that veto.

"I also understand the realities of a supermajority, which means you don't have to listen or even consider my priorities or objections, but I bet many of you do hear and maybe even share some of my concerns," he said. "More importantly, I'm pretty sure the majority of our constituents certainly do."

The governor's speech reportedly drew some criticism from the legislature's leading Democrats over its darker – and at times combative – tone.

"I think his speech was long on fear and short on hope," Vermont's Speaker of the House, Burlington Democrat Jill Krowinski, said afterward, according to broadcasters WCAX.

The governor's proposal, which increases Vermont's annual budget by around 3.6% from what the legislature approved the year before, comes as lawmakers contend with what, according to the Vermont Dept. of Taxes' most recent estimate, could amount to a 17.3% increase in property taxes driven primarily by education spending as schools absorb the loss of federal aid and wrestle with inflation.

Simply "buying down" the tax increase, according to Scott, would cost around \$213 million, prompting the governor to instead ask lawmakers to reconsider reforms previously debated in Montpelier, including further school consolidation, as well as attempts to address health care and retirement costs, and possible reconsideration of Vermont's school-funding mechanisms.

"Vermonters can't afford this increase," Scott said. "When you consider it comes with stagnant or declining enrollment and troubling test scores, none of us should be okay with it."

According to an executive summary provided by the governor's office, Scott's proposed budget also includes around \$5 million in one-time "bridge funding" to support the Vermont State University as it navigates an ongoing transition in governance, as well as \$12.5 million needed to draw funds from the federal government's flood insurance program following last year's devastating floods.

The governor also proposed committing \$4.9 million awarded to Vermont in a settlement with prescription opioid manufacturers to expand staff and operations in at least three of the state's substance-use treatment centers while opening another in Bennington, as well as bolster transitional housing services and school-based prevention services.

While the week before met lawmakers with better news than expected with respect to the tax revenues preceding the coming budgeting cycle, Scott said those additional revenues would do little more than help steady the state's budget as its contends with challenges like inflation, growing costs for employment and other services, and the state's pension demands.

"We as a state are also impacted by inflation, rising costs and other increased pressures," Scott said. "Nearly all the additional revenue is needed just to sustain our core services and programs."



BY MIKE DONOGHUE Islander Staff Writer

GRAND ISLE - The Grand Isle Selectboard gave final approval this week for items to be considered at the annual Town Meeting Day in March, but decided to postpone a proposal to convert the post of town treasurer from elected to appointed.

The board agreed to delay the treasurer question until the General Election in November to allow for voters to be better informed about the proposal.

The voters will be asked to approve a \$1,188,701 general operating budget and a \$575,780 highway budget.

The Selectboard had to make a couple of last-minute corrections to the official warning for the annual town meeting that Town Clerk and Treasurer Melissa Boutin had drafted before the final approval 4-0. Selectboard member Couper Shaw was absent.

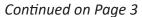
The board also agreed at its Monday night meeting to ask voters to spend up to \$35,000 for a generator that would service the town highway garage on Allen Road.

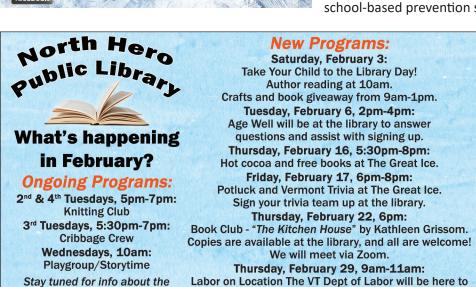
The price could be offset by possible federal and state grants that the town will seek, according to Selectboard member Jen Morway, who has been working on the project and compiled all the documents needed to seek a grant.

Boutin also announced at the meeting that there will only be one contested race at town meeting – to fill a vacant slot on the library board.

Boutin told the meeting that Morway will be seeking a full 3-year term on the selectboard. Residents voted overwhelmingly in August to elect Morway to fill a slot after board member Eric Godin resigned.

Former longtime Selectboard Chair Ronnie Bushway was the lone person to file nominating petitions for a two-year seat, Boutin said. Shaw is not seeking a second term after a rocky year that saw the Selectboard vote to replace him as its chair during the summer.





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The discussion about the possible appointment drew the most discussion. About 30 Vermont towns in 2022 and another 20 towns in 2023 asked voters to make the conversion, according to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

The board agreed to split up the 50 towns to see what each did and learned in the process to share with

The board and voters have noted that the required duties of town clerk have been growing. The post of town treasurer could be part-time and Grand Isle would be able to hire the best person possible for the job rather than leaving it to chance if somebody files nominating petitions.

Vice Chair Josie Leavitt noted that Alburgh is among the towns that has moved to an appointed treasurer because of the complexities of the job maintaining the financial records and not wanting to leave it to an

More than \$8 million passes through the town offices in the way for municipal and school tax revenues, the board noted.

Milton officials preview \$10 million budget

By MICHAEL FRETT **Islander Staff Writer**

MILTON – Milton officials presented to the public last week a \$10 million municipal budget the town's government will bring before voters on Town Meeting Day this coming March.

In a public meeting joined by the town's school board, Milton's selectboard introduced a more than \$10 million operating budget intended to fund the town's central office, departments like the highway department and recreation department, and emergency services like its police department.

At \$10 million, spending increased in Milton by \$240,000 – or 2.5% – from what the town budgeted the year before. Officials speaking last week attributed the increased spending primarily to contractual salary increases and pay raises for non-represented staff, as well as increased health care premiums and a new state-imposed child care credit tax facing employers across Vermont.

According to a review of the town's proposed budget, increases noted in each of Milton's municipal departments were largely accounted for in full- and part-time salaries and benefits. Officials said last week the town was also encompassing around a 9% increase in health care premiums and saw more municipal employees opt for larger family and shared plans that cost Milton more to offer.

"We have a decent health insurance plan," Don Turner, the town's manager, said last week, "but it's expensive."

The proposed budget also included the \$344,000 operating budget requested by the Milton Public Library's leadership, including increased funding for part-time salaries sought by library officials to help "rightsize" what the library pays its part-time librarians as officials ponder a larger staffing shift for the Chittenden County community's public library.

According to town officials, Milton was also absorbing the additional costs of operating a restored Milton Grange hall, which had proven popular with locals since its renovation last year, as well as the costs of operating both Milton's current public works garage on Ice House Road for a time as well as the town's new public works facility being built near Milton's municipal complex on Bombardier Road.

Milton officials were also budgeting nearly twice as much this year to cover elections, a step town officials said in January was typical during years seeing both local, state and federal elections.

While accounting for increased expenses, Milton officials also expected increased revenue in the coming fiscal year between additional interest from funds invested by the town, as well as increased revenue from Milton Rescue's increased call volume and a \$25,000 lease allowing Norwich Solar to develop a new solar array near the town's wastewater treatment facility.

The town was also seeing increased revenue from people renting event space at the renovated Milton Grange hall, according to town officials, and Milton officials previously reported being able to retire some of the town's annual debt obligations ahead of the next fiscal year.

"We've seen some significant use of the [Grange hall]," Turner said during last week's meeting with the town's school board, "and it's generating more revenue than we saw last year."



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Officials also retired a \$20,000 line item included in its last municipal budget as contingency in case the town needed the additional funds as it negotiated a new contract with the local police union.

According to the town's budget presentation, around \$7.7 million of the proposed \$10 million budget would be raised through property taxes, resulting in what officials projected to be less than 1 cent increase in the rate used to determine the town's share of property taxes in Milton.

For a \$350,000 Milton home, the increased spending plan would account to around a \$25 increase in taxes paid annually to the town, raising the hypothetical property's estimated annual property taxes from \$1,763 to \$1,788. For a home valued at \$500,000, annual property taxes owed to the Town of Milton would increase instead by roughly \$35.

Those increases, according to Milton officials, assumed there being no growth in the town's grand list, a list of taxable property found within a given municipality. While officials budget assuming no growth, however, Milton officials said last week that the town's grand list had likely grown in 2023, though municipal leaders will likely not know by how much until after Town Meeting Day.

Town Meeting Day polls open at Milton's municipal offices at 7 a.m. on March 5 and close at 7 p.m. that evening. According to town officials, early and absentee ballots would be available by request.



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Milton officials hear from ongoing community, rec center study

By MICHAEL FRETT Islander Staff Writer

MILTON – Milton officials heard an update last week on a study exploring how Milton might develop a long-desired recreation and community center, entertaining a report articulating both a clear demand for the facility – as well as challenging economics.

Representatives from HVS, a Chicago-based consultant firm contracted for a feasibility study focusing on the tentative recreation and community center, shared their study's current progress with an audience of staff and residents last week, highlighting possible development plans while noting that Milton was still a long way from building its long-sought community center.

"There's a long way to go and we have a lot of work ahead of us, as well," HVS's Tom Hazinski told Milton residents and officials during last week's presentation. "It's important we get a consensus at this meeting what the direction of our next work will be."

What the consultants did present, however, showed there was a likely demand for a finished Milton recreation center with facilities like an aquatic center and an ice rink, and that any future development would likely come in phases to absorb significant upfront costs particularly as plans incorporated local demand for an ice rink and a pool.

Officials said last week that the Milton on the Move initiative, a community development initiative spun out of a Vermont Council on Rural Development visit several years prior, would likely work with HVS to host a public meeting and source additional feedback for HVS as the consulting firm moves into its feasibility study's next phases.

"I also have concerns about affordability, as do many of the members who have participated in Milton on the Move," Lori Donna, a Milton on the Move volunteer who co-chairs the initiative's task force for developing a recreation and community center, said. "We still have the opportunity through these next to phases to be able to give further input."

As economics seem difficult, focus falls on phased development at Bombardier and Brault

According to the consultants, given the likely "shocking" construction costs for a community and recreation center featuring each of the amenities Milton residents demand, the town would likely be best served by a phased approach to building out its community center project.

Projections offered by HVS and based off typical square footage development costs saw a completed community and recreation complex costing between \$93.7 million and \$122.8 million, with individual components ranging from a community center facility costing between \$11 million and \$15 million to an ice rink

Continued on Page 5



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possibly costing between \$28.8 million and \$38.8 million.

"The cost estimates we have are going to be shocking for you," Hazinski said. "We can't do everything at once, so we need to prioritize what steps a phased development would take."

The consultants' study did not include any information about how to finance the proposed recreation center or what it would cost to operate the facility. Hazinski referred to HVS's estimates as "very rough" and "ballpark" estimates, adding that more refined numbers for both development and operations would come as their study entered its next phase.

For the time being, the consultants' focus will also fall to the neighboring town-owned Bombardier and Brault properties near Milton's municipal complex and centerpiece park. According to Hazinski, while the study had considered repurposing Milton's elementary and middle school building given the Milton school district's interest in building a new facility, doing so was ultimately seen as impractical.

"It has gyms already, but aquatics in there and other components of the project we're thinking about wouldn't work there," Hazinski said. "We don't have control of the site... and we don't have any idea what the costs of renovation would be, and it's just filled with uncertainty."

To manage the hefty costs of a recreation complex particularly as the Milton community also looks toward other major infrastructure projects like the Route 7 "Hourglass" and a new elementary and middle school sought by school officials, HVS's report recommended the town consider a phased approach, starting with the community center and building out toward other recreation facilities.

The consultants compared their roadmap to a similar project in Colchester, where local officials only recently started construction on a long-sought recreation center and gymnasium that, according to a presentation posted by Colchester's government, would eventually see a pool added once that project's centerpiece recreation center was finally opened.

The consultants' recommendation drew some pushback last week, particularly given the suggestion that more in-demand facilities – namely an aquatic center and an ice rink – be pressed into later phases in favor of more manageable projects like a core community center and a connected gymnasium.

"It appears the community has flipped and wants multiple things prior to an aquatics center and an ice rink," Darren Adams, the chair for Milton's selectboard, told the two consultants during last week's presentation. "It looks like, all of a sudden, we've changed our mind."

Hazinski said he understood those concerns, offering that feedback from the public as the consultants' study continued might result in different priorities for the center's development.

"We're not here to reflect our own views," he said. "We're here to reflect certain realities of money and management, but we also want to reflect what the community's preferences are."

Report finds likely demand for center in Milton area

According to the two consultants, a review of previous studies and interviews with more than three dozen residents found a clear demand in Milton for a fully equipped recreation and community center.

Most of Milton's population, according to HVS's David Priess, fit within the typical demographic and income brackets for participating in sporting clubs. The town was also likely to maintain a larger population of children beneath the age of 18 years old than other parts of Chittenden County, with younger families drawn to the comparatively lower home prices found in Milton.

Surveys conducted at recreation facilities in nearby communities found most facilities welcomed a large contingent of Milton residents traveling outside of Milton for amenities like ice rinks and pools. A pool in St. Albans drew around 3,600 visits from Milton residents the year before, and ice rinks in Burlington and St. Albans courted 7,600 and 24,000 individual visits from Milton residents, respectively.

"The consideration for these comparable venues is that you are traveling outside of your town to participate in recreation," Priess said, "and you'd rather

Growing popularity for more accessible sports like pickleball meant there would likely be increased demand for year-round recreation space, Priess said, and other sports like lacrosse and soccer were hoping for indoor turf space for practice. There was also a notable demand for a local ice rink for hockey, with Priess noting Milton high schoolers currently traveled as far as Highgate for home games.

Public access to the Milton school district's gymnasiums, meanwhile, was limited for outside recreation programming, according to Hazinski and Priess, and in the communities surrounding Milton, demand particularly for ice was steep enough that operators for rinks particularly near Burlington have had to turn people away requesting to lease time on the ice.

"The ice rink is a big part of this conversation," Priess said. "Milton has a fervent hockey culture, but participation has varied and declined in recent years because of a lack of facilities."

Residents also clearly expressed a need for a community center in Milton, according to Hazinski and Priess, with demands ranging from multi-generational gathering spaces to areas for expanded recreation programming, early child care programming, and arts and performance spaces.

"We need a space for activity for kids, for teens," Priess said. "For senior citizens, we need places to overcome food deserts and isolation."

While the early phase of their study focused primarily on demand within Milton, Hazinski and Priess said a recreation center would likely draw visitors Continued from Page 4 from outside of town, as well. A presumptive "market map" extended the potential market for a Milton recreation facility well outside of Chittenden County, reaching north toward St. Albans, south toward Shelburne and well into the Champlain Islands.

> The two consultants also suggested the demand at other facilities in nearby Chittenden and Franklin county communities meant a Milton facility would likely see use, as well.

> Developing a recreation and community center had been a longstanding goal in Milton, referenced in local surveys leading back to at least the early 2000s. When the Milton on the Move initiative first came together in late 2021, developing a community and recreation center was quickly identified as a priority by Milton residents and volunteers.

> Milton afforded HVS's ongoing study with funding allocated to Milton under the American Rescue Plan Act, a federal pandemic era stimulus bill awarding money directly to county and municipal governments to help weather the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and support communities' recoveries as the pandemic waned.

> A similar allocation under the American Rescue Plan Act was used to fund Milton's purchase of the Brault property near Bombardier Park with plans to potentially operate a recreational facility on the property.





Take Break

The Spats





by Jeff Pickering



MOST-WATCHED TV SHOWS OF 2023



- 2. Wednesday: Season 1
- 3. Dahmer Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story
- 4. Money Heist: Season 5
- 5. Bridgerton: Season 2
- 6. Bridgerton: Season 1
- 7. Money Heist: Season 4
- 8. Stranger Things: Season 3
- 9. Lucifer: Season 5
- 10. All Of Us Are Dead: Season 1

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Source: Insider Monkey

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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (🖤) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together

Trivja

- 1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a beaver's home called?
- 2. U.S. STATES: In which state would you find Crater Lake?
- 3. TELEVISION: Which animated cartoon character says, "What's up,
- 4. LITERATURE: Who is the author of "The Exorcist"?
- 5. MATH: In Roman numerals, what is XVIII times V? 6. ANATOMY: How many vertebrae
- are in the human spine?7. GEOGRAPHY: Which nation is
- home to Europe's largest glacier?
- 8. MOVIES: In which film does Doris Day sing "Que Sera, Sera"?

 9. SCIENCE: What is anemophily?
- 10. MUSIC: Who sang the hit "Girls Just Want to Have Fun"

Answers

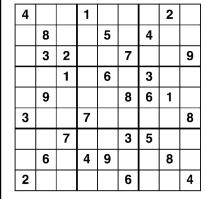
- 1. A lodge.
- 2. Oregon.
- 3. Bugs Bunny.
- 4. William Peter Blatty.
- 5. XC (90).
- 6, 33,
- 7. Iceland.
- 8. "The Man Who Knew Too Much."
- 9. Pollination by the wind.
- 10. Cyndi Lauper.

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Weekly **SUDOKU**

"Excuse me ... I believe that's MY arm!"

by Linda Thistle



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- 13 Layered cookie
- 14 Greek vowel
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- 19 Slogan 21 Garden figu-
- 24 Use henna
- 25 Post-op area 26 Apply cream
- 28 College study 32 Close by
- 34 "Gee, ya think?" 36 Golfer's cry
- overs 39 Clothing pro-
- tector Sandwich meat
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- 46 Opposite of
- candor 50 Eggy quaff
- 51 Bern's river 52 Halite
- 56 Egyptian deity
- 58 Half of CIV
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- Gershon 22 Mark Harmon TV series
- 23 Melancholy "Atlas
- Shrugged" 30 Exam format

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- "Tell —" (Streisand/ Dion song)
- 38 Fr. holy woman
- 40 Monopoly job 43 Seafood
- selection 45 Cyclades island
- 46 Stated 47 Lighten
- 48 Baby's bed 49 Boo-Boo's buddy

- -Magnon

"Elementary 55 Box office buys, slangily

Growing black pepper

This plant is native to South India and is widely cultivated in tropical

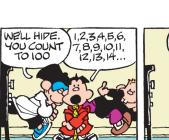
regions around the world. A black pepper plant needs support such as a trellis or staked chicken wire as they grow. Its fruit (called peppercorns) are collected, dried and ground into powder or fine flakes which are used to add flavor and heat to a wide variety of dishes. Black pepper has also been used medicinally for thousands of years and is believed to have

es: balconygardenweb.com, wikipedia

YOU'RE IT

PUNKINHEAD

antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and digestive benefits. – Brenda Weaver © 2024 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved. IGER











by BUD BLAKE







Answers on Page 14

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Take Your Child to the Library Day with free family events

By Caroline Korejko, North Hero Public Library Director NORTH HERO - When was the last time you took your child to the library? Or visited the library yourself? On Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, public libraries throughout Vermont and beyond will celebrate the 13th annual Take Your Child to the Library Day with free events and activities for children and families.

Take Your Child to the Library Day celebrates the importance of the library in the lives of children and families. Children who are proficient in reading by the end of grade 3 are significantly more likely to graduate high school, opening doors to a bright future. Libraries help families build solid foundations of literacy and love of learning by providing access to books, early literacy storytimes, technology access, homework help, online resources, and fun, safe spaces to explore and grow.

"Taking children to the library helps them develop a love of reading and learning. Choosing and checking out their own materials helps children learn independence and sharing. Library books and technology open access to the world and fuel children's curiosity and passions. And library programs provide countless opportunities for learning, discovering, making friends, and having fun! If you want your children to become thoughtful, engaged citizens, start by bringing them to the library on Take Your Child to the Library Day or any day." said Ellen Paul, Executive Director of the Connecticut Library Consortium, the

non-profit organization that founded the event.

Bring the whole family to the North Hero Public Library on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for crafts, free books, game swap, and an author reading at 10 a.m. Dr. Douglas will read from his book Dalil the Desert Dog which is about

a pup and his family facing the challenges of living in an inhospitable environment. Visit the northherolibrary.org to learn more.

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Property Transfers

*Source Vermont Dept. of Taxes

January 2024 COLCHESTER

- •Joanna Alberts transferred property at 710 Sand Rd, 2.75 ac., to Patricia Alberts, \$N/A.
- •WTH Partners LLC transferred property at 302 Mountain View Drive, 3.45 ac., to LMJ LLC, \$3,700,000.
- •Maple Bay LLC transferred property at 52 Ellies Way, 0.05 ac., to Bruce Righi & Theodore Gamache, \$586,100.
- •Jennifer Baker transferred property at 141 Bay Meadow Estates, Unit 4 to Kelli McGovern, \$290,000.
- •Glenn Weeks transferred property at 70 Woodland Shores Dr. to Trevor Hanbridge Living Trust, \$4,000.
- •Woodland Shores Park RLLP transferred property at 46 Woodland Shores Dr. to Jonathan Smith, \$100,000.
- •Woodland Shores Park RLLP transferred property at 38 Woodland Shores Dr. to Kayleigh Butler, \$110,000.
- •James & Paula Palin transferred property at 70 Camels Hump Rd to Thein Win, Eh Man & Dah L. Moo, \$67,500.
- •John K. Leggett Living Trust & Christine A. Leggett Living Trust transferred property at 150 Overlook Dr.,

0.48 ac., to Christine A. Leggett Living Trust, \$N/A.

MILTON

- •Christine & John Lamora transferred property at 37 Taylor St. to Jennifer Lamora, \$N/A.
- •Jodi & Matthew Thomas transferred property at 145 Middle Rd, 0.77 ac., to Jodi Thomas, \$10.
- •Edward Buturla Jr. transferred property at 196 Cold Spring Rd, 1.6 ac., to Sean Buturla, \$N/A.
- •Building Mastery, Inc. transferred property at 68 Murray Ave., 1.3 ac., to Stephanie Olmstead & Amanda Fleming, \$529,000.
- •Susan Guay transferred property at 97 Dewey Dr. to Kyle Mumley & Heather Bell, \$5,250.
- •Brenda Estus, Suzanne M. Sauve & Stephen P. Guilmette transferred property at 680 Route 7 South, 2.3 ac., to James Heald, \$380,000.
- •Susan Burns transferred property at 133 West Milton Rd to The Housing Foundation Inc., \$898.

NORTH HERO

- •Estate of Robert Foley transferred property at 0 South End Rd, 26.9 ac., to Joan Laundon, \$100,000.
- •Ellen Isham transferred property at 81 Log Cabin Ln, 1.8 ac., to Laura &

Katherine R. Isham, \$N/A.

•Austin & Tiana Callahan transferred property at 80 Watsons Ridge, 3.21 ac., to David Bird & Nancy Pecor, \$650,000.

SOUTH HERO

- •Andrew & Mary S. Staley transferred property at 3 Englewood Rd, 1.1 ac., to The Staley Revocable Trust, \$N/A.
- •Andrew & Mary S. Staley transferred property at 20 Idlewild Rd, 0.3 ac., to The Staley Revocable Trust, \$N/A.
- •Hubbard Family Revocable Trust transferred property at 15 Lakeview Rd, 2 ac., to Kirk Hubbard, \$N/A.
- •Estate of Mark E. Sikora transferred property at 91 Featlender Ln, 1.15 ac., to Robert Cain & Jill J. Sikora Cain, \$361,875.
- •Champlain Associates II transferred property at 36 Outer Bay Way, 1 ac., to Bernita M. Tourville Trustee of the Charles N. Tourville and Bernita M. Tourville Trust, \$N/A.
- •Karola Wigness transferred property at 95 Marble Way to Karola Wigness & Andrea S. Martin, \$N/A.
- •Kirk Hubbard transferred property at 15 Lakeview Rd, 2 ac., to Hubbard Family Revocable Trust, \$N/A.

SWANTON

•Estate of Michael Rich transferred property at 2 Nokes Rd, 0.5 ac., to Cody

Lapan, \$237,000.

- •Estate of Daniel Levesque transferred property at 2041 Sheldon Rd, 1 ac., to Cody Levesque, \$N/A.
- •Carroll Concrete-VT, Inc. transferred property at 19 Elm St., 0.66 ac., to Missisquoi Valley Rescue, Inc., \$30,000.
- •Kenneth & Tina M. Limoge transferred property at 35 Second St., 0.06 ac., to Keith Lamoge & Tina Traverse, \$215,000.
- •Robert Trombley transferred property at 161 North River St. to State of VT Agency of Trans, \$N/A.
- •Gary Rice and Terrance Rice, PTR transferred property at 5 South River St., 0.29 ac., to LSS, LLC, \$150,000.
- •Gary Rice and Terrance Rice, PTR transferred property at 9 South River St., 0.13 ac., to LSS, LLC, \$150,000.
- •Gary Rice and Terrance Rice, PTR transferred property at 2 South River St., 0.25 ac., to LSS, LLC, \$350,000.
- •Timber Brook Construction, LLC transferred property at 70 Harvest Ln, 0.44 ac., to Marjorie Bourdeau, \$488,500.
- •Estate of Leonard Unwin transferred property at 48 Pine St., 0.25 ac., to Mark Unwin, \$N/A.

LOCAL BUSINESS: CONTEST CONTES

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THE BUSINESS I LOVE MOST IS: YOUR NAME: YOUR ADDRESS: YOUR PHONE: YOUR EMAIL: CONTEST RULES: Completed entry forms must be received by 5 pm on Feb. 12. Forms can be mailed to The Islander, PO Box 225, South Hero, VT 05486, submitted by email to islander@vermontislander.com, or dropped off in person at 7 Ferry Rd, South Hero, VT 05486 for the chance to win a \$150 gift card to the participating business you love most. The winner will be announced in the Feb. 14 issue of The Islander. Participants must be 18 or older. Please note that

employees of the newspaper and owners of participating businesses are not eligible to participate in the contest. One







entry allowed per person.

State awards preservation funding to historic Grand Isle, South Hero locales

By ISLANDER STAFF

GRAND ISLE/SOUTH HERO – Historic properties in both Grand Isle and South Hero were recently awarded state funding for major renovations, according to an announcement last week from Vermont's Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

According to the state's development agency, renovations planned for both the Grand Isle Lake House and the South Hero Meeting House would each receive \$20,000 in historic preservation grants awarded under a state program focused on rehabilitating important landmarks and properties in Vermont.

In a statement, Vermont's historic preservation officer Laura Trieschmann said the funding announced last week, which included money slated for other preservation and rehabilitation projects across much of Vermont, would support "some of Vermont's most iconic historic buildings and structures."

"These places matter because they reflect our history and serve as the centerpieces of our communities," Trieschmann wrote. "Preserving historic sites starts at the local level and we applaud this year's grant recipients for their commitment."

According to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development's announcement, funding awarded for the Grand Isle Lake House would allow the Vermont Land Trust, which owns and operates the historic, century-old hotel as an events venue and meeting space, to finish the restoration of the resort's wood-shingled mansard roof.

Another \$20,000 awarded to South Hero's "Old White Meeting House," meanwhile, will be added to a growing pot of grant funding, donations and local funds collected for the first phase of the building's restoration, a project targeting the restoration of the historic meeting hall's stone foundation and its slouching eastern wall.

Originally built as a church in 1816, the South Hero Meeting House has also served as a school, a town

hall, a garage for both South Hero's fire department and its highway department, and the home to the locally popular charity thrift shop Granny's Attic. A group of local officials and volunteers have for several years now worked to fundraise for the hall's eventual restoration as a meeting and events space.

Funding awarded under Vermont's historic preservation grants programs is intended to support "the rehabilitation of civic and community resources that are a vital part of Vermont's historic downtowns, villages and rural communities," according to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development's announcement.

"This successful program continues to support local projects and investments in communities across the state," Gov. Phil Scott said in the agency's statement. "This work employs skilled craftspeople, while also helping to preserve landmarks and monuments that are so important to the character of our state."

The \$20,000 one-to-one matching grants awarded to both the Grand Isle Lake House and the South Hero Meeting House is the maximum amount awarded under the program.













PUBLIC NOTICE POLICY WARNING MILTON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT Amy Rex

Superintendent of Schools

The Milton Town School District Board of School Trustees will conduct a public hearing on February 8, 2024. The hearing will take place during a Regular School Board Meeting at 6:00 PM in the MHS Library/17 Rebecca Lander Drive.

The Board will take action to adopt the following **School Policies:**

A1: Board Member Conflict of Interest

A30: Role and Adoption of School Board Policies

B2: Volunteers & Work Study Students

B4: Drug and Alcohol Testing for Transportation

Employees

B7: Tobacco Prohibition B40: Employee Conduct

B41: Staffing & Job Descriptions

C3: Transportation

C6: Home Study Students

C41: Student Placement

D4: Title I Comparability Policy

D5: Animal Dissection

D6: Class Size

F1: Travel Reimbursement

F3: Options Based Response to Violent Intruder Drills,

Fire Drills and Emergency Preparedness

F20: Fiscal Management & General Financial

Accounting

F23: Capitalization of Assets

The Board will take action to rescind the following School Policies:

D3: Staff & Job Descriptions

D101: Employee Conduct

E105: Cash Account Management

F21: Financial Reports & Statements

F108: Student Placement

Copies of the above Policies are available on the school website www.mtsd-vt.org

SOUTH HERO TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT **OFFICIAL WARNING** ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the South Hero Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the South Hero Town Office, on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Polls open between the hours of 7:00 A.M and 7:00 P.M. to vote by Australian ballot of the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$5,371,316 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

ARTICLE 2. To elect all School Officers as required

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters authorize the School Directors to place unencumbered funds from FY24 in a Reserve Fund for the purpose of capital improvements to the school facility under the control and direction of the School Directors of the South Hero School District?

ARTICLE 4. Will the Town School District authorize the School Board to borrow in anticipation of taxes?

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters of the South Hero School District authorize the Board of School Directors to accept and expend such grant monies as may from time to time become available to the school district?

Dated at South Hero, Vermont this 18th day of January, 2024.

/s/ Robert Chutter, Chair

/s/ Tim Maxham

/s/ Whitney Doremus

/s/ Richard Monterosso

/s/ Kaight Altoff

*The South Hero School board will hold an informational meeting in-person (with a virtual option to be provided) on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Recorded and Posted at South Hero, VT this 22 day of January, 2024.

ATTEST: /s/ Naomi King, Clerk

PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/ rules/. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as pos-

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

VPharm Coverage.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P003

AGENCY: Agency of Human Services

CONCISE SUMMARY: This proposed rulemaking amends VPharm rule 5450 titled "Coverage" which establishes coverage for the VPharm program. This VPharm Coverage rule was last amended effective February 25, 2012. This amendment aligns with federal and state guidance and law, improves clarity, and makes technical corrections. Certain content, such as 5450.1 Rebate or Price Discount, has been removed as it was redundant with language that exists in state statute. Substantive revisions include: expanding drug coverage available under VPharm 2 and VPharm 3 to be equivalent to the drug coverage available under VPharm 1 and the Medicaid program, as authorized through Vermont's Global Commitment to Health 1115 Demonstration waiver effective July 1, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Ashley Berliner, Department of Vermont Health Access, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-1000 Tel: 802-578-9305 Fax: 802-241-0450 E-Mail: ahs. medicaidpolicy@vermont.gov URL: https://humanservices.vermont.gov/ rules-policies/health-care-rules.

FOR COPIES: Danielle Fuoco, Department of Vermont Health Access, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-1000 Tel: 802-585-4265 Fax: 802-241-0450 E-Mail: danielle.fuoco@vermont.gov.

Rules Governing the Importation of Domestic Animals, Including Livestock and Poultry.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P004

AGENCY: Agriculture, Food & Markets

CONCISE SUMMARY: This is an update to the existing importation rules for livestock and poultry. The rule outlines the documentation and disease testing requirements to import cattle/bison, equine, swine, sheep goats, poultry, ratites, psittacine birds, camelids, and cervids from the US 50 States and Canada. Disease epidemiology and testing have changed, this update addresses the significant diseases of concerns and the tests required to reasonably demonstrate free status. This update aligns the rule with USDA disease programs, modern technology, and the disease traceability standards set by Vermont statutes. Examples of the changes: current USDA brucellosis program standards are eliminating the Class A-C language for describing state status and has increased the age recommendation for swine testing from four months to six months of age. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Kaitlynn Levine,

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620, Tel: 802-636-7144 Email: AGR.FSCPRule@ vermont.gov URL: https://agriculture.vermont.gov/rule-governingimportation-livestock-and-poultry-rule-98074.

FOR COPIES: Kristin Haas, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620, Tel: 802-522-7326 Email: AGR.FSCPRule@vermont.gov.

Private Nonmedical Institution Rules Simplification.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P005

AGENCY: Agency of Human Services

CONCISE SUMMARY: These rules strike all existing Division of Rate Setting rules and replace them in the Agency of Human Services' Health Care Administrative Rules. Some material, particularly language regarding which costs are allowable and how the Division applies various bonuses or penalties, is moved into a new manual. The remaining material primarily sets out the administrative process for applying for, receiving, and appealing per diem rates set by the Division.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: James LaRock, Department of Vermont Health Access, NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671 Tel: 802-241-0251 Fax: 802-241-0260 Email: james.larock@vermont.gov URL:https://humanservices.vermont.gov/ rules-policies/health-care-rules/health-care-administrative-rules-hear.

FOR COPIES: Jaime Mooney, Department of Vermont Health Access NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671 Tel: 802-798-2144 Fax: 802-241-0260 Email: jaime.mooney@vermont.gov.

Nursing Home Reimbursement Rule Simplification.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P006

AGENCY: Agency of Human Services

CONCISE SUMMARY: These rules strike all existing Division of Rate Setting rules and replace them in the Agency of Human Services' Health Care Administrative Rules. Some material, particularly language regarding which costs are allowable and how the Division applies various bonuses or penalties, is moved into a new manual. The remaining material primarily sets out the administrative process for applying for, receiving, and appealing per diem rates set by the Division.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: James LaRock, Department of Vermont Health Access, NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671 Tel: 802-241-0251 Fax: 802-241-0260 Email: james.larock@vermont.gov URL: https://humanservices.vermont.gov/ rules-policies/health-care-rules/health-care-administrative-rules-hcar. FOR COPIES: Jaime Mooney, Department of Vermont Health Access

NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671 Tel: 802-798-2144 Fax: 802-241-0260 Email: jaime.mooney@vermont.gov.

General Assistance Temporary Housing Assistance. Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P007

AGENCY: Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and

CONCISE SUMMARY: The proposed rule contains four amendments to the General Assistance program rules: (1) language was added to rule 2650 authorizing DCF to withhold payments to hotels/motels in violation of lodging licensing rules;(2) the rule expands categorical eligibility for 28 days of housing under rule 2652.3 to include families with children who are 19 years old or younger; (3) the rule updates the basic needs standard chart in rule 2652.4 to align with the current Reach Up basic needs dollar amounts; and (4) the methodology for calculating the 30% income contribution in rule 2652.4 was changed from using the least expensive daily motel rate to either the current daily rate at the motel in which the temporary housing applicant is staying or if the applicant is not currently housed in a motel, the average daily rate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Heidi Moreau, Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families 280 State Drive, NOB 1 North, Waterbury, VT 05671 Tel: 802-595-9639 Email: heidi.moreau@vermont.gov URL: https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd/laws-

FOR COPIES: Amanda Beliveau, Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families 280 State Drive, HC 1 South, Waterbury, VT 05671 Tel: 802-241-0641 Email: amanda.beliveau@vermont.gov.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Alburgh Family Clubhouse is soliciting proposals from qualified Construction Managers for the construction of a new Childcare Facility, in Alburgh, Vermont. The project scope includes the construction of a category 5B, 4,542 square foot building, septic system, parking area, and natural playground. This project is subject to the Build America Buy America Act, and Davis Bacon wage rate requirements. Proposals are due at 4pm on February 12th, 2024. Please contact Natty Jamison, Owner's Representative, at 802-999-4764 or natty@pcivt.com to express interest and request the project documentation.

WARNING -TOWN OF MILTON, VT **2024 ANNUAL MEETING**

The legal voters of the Town of Milton are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Milton Municipal Building in said Town on Tuesday the 5th of March 2024, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) in the forenoon (A.M.), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (P.M.) at which time the polls shall close, to vote by Australian ballot on the following Articles of

ARTICLE I. Shall the voters of the Town of Milton accept the reports of the Town Officials as presented in the Town Report?

ARTICLE II. To elect all Town/School Officers as required by law and Charter. List of offices and terms to be voted on are as follows:

> Select Board 3-Year Term Select Board 1-Year Term Select Board 1-Year Term Library Trustee 3-Year Term Library Trustee 2-Year Term School Trustee 3-Year Term

School Trustee 2-Year Term School Trustee 1-Year Term

Town Clerk 3-Year Term Town Treasurer 3-Year Term

ARTICLE III. Shall the voters of the Town of Milton approve the budget for the Fiscal Year 2025 in the amount of Ten Million, Twenty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars (\$10,025,278.00) of which it is estimated that Seven Million, Six Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$7,689,925.00) will be raised by local property taxes?

The legal voters of the Town of Milton are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

The legal voters of the Town of Milton are further notified and warned that an informational meeting to explain and discuss the Australian ballot Articles set forth above will be held on Monday, March 4, 2024 at the Milton High School Library (17 Rebecca Lander Dr.) beginning at six o'clock in the evening (6:00P.M.). The public may attend the informational meeting in person or on Zoom at the following link: https://link.mtsd-vt.org/JointMeeting

Dated at Milton, Vermont this 16th day of January 2024

By the Selectboard of the Town of Milton:

/s/ Darren Adams, Chair

/s/ Michael Morgan, Vice Chair

/s/ Brenda Steady, Clerk

/s/ Leland Morgan, Member

/s/ Chris Taylor, Member

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office this 18th day of January, 2024.

ATTEST: /s/ Kristin Beers, Milton Town Clerk

REQUEST FOR BIDS GRAND ISLE CEMETERY FOR CEMETERY LAWN MAINTENANCE FOR APRIL 1, 2024 – MARCH 30, 2025

The Grand Isle Cemetery Commission is soliciting bids for maintenance of the three (3) cemeteries in the Town of Grand Isle using your own equipment. Bids shall be submitted providing an hourly rate.

A full job description can be picked up at the Grand Isle Town Office.

Current proof of insurance is required. Proposals are due by 3:00 P.M. on February 9, 2024. The Cemetery Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Notification of award of contract will be made by February 15, 2024 by phone. If more information is needed regarding this request, please contact Sue Lawrence at cemetery@grandislevt.org

The Commission is not responsible for typographical errors.

TOWN OF ISLE LA MOTTE OFFICIAL WARNING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Isle La Motte are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Isle La Motte Town Office/former Elementary School on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 9:00 AM to transact the following articles of business.

ARTICLE 1. To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers as published in the Town Report.

ARTICLE 2. To transact any other business proper to come before this meeting and to discuss any articles to be voted on by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Remote participation may be accessed via the following methods:

By Computer: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8809367923 5?pwd=OTZOUldCdW5sQmFmWXlaVHJHMmM2Zz09

By Phone: +1 646 931 3860 or find your local number at https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kett6ovVBV

Passcode: 416755

Meeting ID: 880 9367 9235

This information is also posted online at https://islelamotte.us/.

TOWN OF ISLE LA MOTTE 2024 ARTICLES OF BUSINESS

The legal voters of the Town of Isle La Motte are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Isle La Motte Town Office/former Elementary School on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM at which time the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by Australian ballot.

ARTICLE 1. To elect the following officers required by law:

Cemetery Commissioner - 3 years Cemetery Commissioner - 2 years

Cemetery Commissioner - 1 year

Constable - 1 year

Delinquent Tax Collector - 1 year

Grand Juror - 1 year

Lister - 3 years

Selectboard Member - 3 years

Town Agent - 1 year

Town Clerk - 1 year

Town Moderator - 1 year

Town Treasurer - 1 year

Trustee of Public Funds - 3 years

ARTICLE 2. Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditures of \$491,448? This includes all Articles as approved by the Selectboard to meet the general expenses and liabilities for the Town for 2024, \$370,223 to be raised by taxes and \$121,225 by non-tax revenue.

The Appropriation Articles for 2024 total \$59,078, already included in the budget.

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters authorize highway expenditures of \$251,515? With the amount to be raised by taxes of \$161,015 and \$90,500 by non-tax revenue to be used for year-round maintenance of the Town roads?

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters authorize an expansion of the Selectboard from three (3) to five (5) members, adding two members to serve three (3)-year terms, with the initial term for one member to be a three (3)-year term and the initial term for the second member to be a two (2)-year term?

Isle La Motte Selectboard

Mary-Catherine Graziano, Chair

Cary Sandvig

Joseph Deller

Received for record and posting this 29 January 2024 at the Isle La Motte Town Office.

Attest: Vickie Buswell, Town Clerk

CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIAL WARNING ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the towns of Grand Isle, Isle La Motte, and North Hero, being the towns of the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at their respective polling places on March 5, 2024 (Grand Isle Residents at the Grand Isle Town office from 7:00am-7:00pm, Isle La Motte Residents at the Isle La Motte Town office from 7:00am-7:00pm and North Hero Residents at the North Hero Town office from 7:00am-7:00pm) to vote by Australian ballot on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. Shall the voters of the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District approve the school board to appropriate \$10,443,759.70 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

ARTICLE 2. Shall the voters of the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow in anticipation of taxes?

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters of the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District authorize the Board of School Directors to accept and expend such grant monies as may from time to time become available to the unified union school district?

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters authorize the School Directors to place unencumbered funds from FY24 in a Reserve Fund for the purpose of capital improvements to the school facilities under the control and direction of the School Directors of the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District?

ARTICLE 5. To elect all School Officers as required by law

POLLING PLACES

Grand Isle Grand Isle Town Office

 $7{:}00am\hbox{-} 7{:}00pm$

Isle La Motte Isle La Motte Town Office

7:00am-7:00pm

North Hero Town Office

7:00am-7:00pm

Ballots shall be transported and delivered to the Grand Isle Town Office in the Town of Grand Isle and there comingled and counted by members of the Boards of Civil Authority of the several Town School Districts under the supervision of the Clerk of the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District.

The legal voters of the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee/early voting relative to said annual meeting shall be as provided in Section 706u of title 19 and Chapters 43,51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes annotated.

Adopted and approved at a duly noticed, called and held meeting of the Board of Directors of the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District on January 18, 2024.

/s/ Michael Inners, Chair

/s/ Nathan Robinson

/s/ Sylvia Jensen

/s/ Elaine Perry

/s/ Brad Blanchette

*The Champlain Island Unified Union School board will hold an informational meeting, in-person at the North Hero Community Hall (3483 US Route 2, North Hero, VT) (with a remote option), on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 1:00

Received for record and recorded in the records of the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District on January 22, 2024.

/s/ Melissa Boutin, District Clerk



WARNING -VILLAGE OF WESTBURY 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Village of Westbury are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Westbury Homeowners Association Community Space in said Village, at 289 Coventry Rd. on the evening of Tuesday the 5th of March 2024, at the hour of seven o'clock (7:00 P.M.), for the Annual Village Meeting on the following business from the floor:

To elect all Village Trustees and officers as required by law. List of offices and terms to be voted on are as follows:

Presiding Officer 1-Year Term

Clerk 1-Year Term

Trustee 1-Year Term Trustee 1-Year Term

Trustee 1-Year Term

Trustee 1-Year Term

Trustee 1-Year Term

Treasurer 1-Year Term

Collector of Taxes 1-Year Term

Dated at Westbury, Vermont this 26th day of January 2024 By the Trustees of the Village of Westbury:

/s/ Marc Daly, Chair

January, 2024

/s/ Amy Latulippe, Co-Chair

/s/ Paula Jackson, Trustee

/s/ Harris Quesnel, Trustee

/s/ Michael Scrodin Trustee
Filed with the Westbury Village Clerk this 26th day of

Attest: /s/ Libby Payne, Westbury Village Clerk



SATURDAY, FEB. 10

- Cabin Fever Dinner & Vintage Video Game Night at the new ILM Town Hall, 42 School St Ext., Isle La Motte; Games from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dinner served from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 11

- Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser to benefit Shawn Creller at the Alburgh Fire Department, 60 Firehouse Rd, Alburgh; 3 p.m. Minimum donation of \$10. Raffles, auction, 50/50, DJ.

ISLE LA MOTTE NEWS By Beth Meese, ILMCO

CABIN FEVER DINNER & VINTAGE VIDEO GAME NIGHT

Join your friends and neighbors for a great night of free food and fun, brought to you by the Isle La Motte Community Organization (ILMCO) and the Masonic Lodge of Isle La Motte!

Experience nostalgic memories that span over 40 years! Several classic game consoles will be set up so adults can flashback to their youth, and kids can experience what their parents used to play. Games include Atari, Nintendo 64, SEGA Dreamcast, Nintendo GameCube, Playstation 1&2, X Box (original), Intellivision, ColecoVision, and more! Ages 8 & up, please. The games will be available to play from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10 in the alternative room of the new Town Hall.

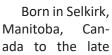
The Isle La Motte Cabin Fever Dinner will include a tasty variety of hot comfort food, served from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the main area of the new Town Hall. Vegetarian & gluten free options will be available.

Location: Town Hall, 42 School St Ext.



ELEANOR MAY EMERSON

CLIFTON PARK, NY - Eleanor May "Ellie" (Marsh) Emerson, age 88, entered into Eternal Rest on Wednesday Jan. 24, 2024 at the Schuyler Ridge Home after a long illness.





Lawrence and Clara "Kelly" (Shiels) Marsh. She was predeceased by one brother Ronald Marsh.

She graduated from Selkirk High School in 1953, moved to Montreal, QC and eventually settled in Clifton Park, NY. She became a citizen of the USA while raising her three children. She graduated from Hudson Valley Community College and became a Respiratory Therapist, working in many of the local hospitals in the Capital District area.

She continued her academic studies and graduated from the University of New York at Albany with a Masters in Social Work. Ellie loved to dance. She won countless international ballroom dance awards from Europe to Central America and all across the U.S.A. and Canada.

Ellie enjoyed spending time at the family cottage in Cedarvale, North Hero. She was a member of The King of Kings Lutheran Church, Clifton Park, NY.

She will be missed by the three children she raised Dr. Drew (Jenny) Emerson; Sharon Emerson; R. "Jay" (Penny) Emerson and her grandchildren Tyler, Sydney, Lindsey, Abigail, Violet and Evan. A special mention to her son Bryan (Joan) Trussler of Gatineau, QC, Canada who she came to love and care deeply for.

The family would like to thank Schuyler Ridge Residential Healthcare and Hospice for Ellie's care.

Family and friends are invited and may call at the Catricala Funeral Home, 1597 Route 9, Cliffton Park, NY on Saturday Feb. 3, 2024 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. A funeral service will begin at 3 p.m.

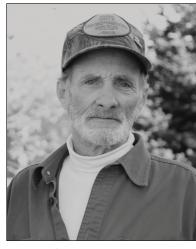
In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her name to Community Hospice, 179 Lawrence St. Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Family and friends are invited to share on-line condolences and memories at CatricalaFuneral-Home.com.



JOHN ROBERT "BOBBY" HALL

WATERFORD, CT John Robert "Bobby" Hall, an independent thinker who charted his own path and remained forever true to himself, peacefully departed this life on Dec. 10, 2023 at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in



New London, Connecticut after a long struggle with COPD.

Bobby was born on May 31, 1944 to Viola "Sis" (Mumley) and Daniel Hall and grew up in Isle La Motte where the apple orchards, swamps, woods and farm fields by the shores of Lake Champlain awakened his love of wildlife.

As a child and throughout high school, Bobby was an avid baseball player. Baseball wasn't just a game to him; it was a compass for life. He continued to play ball until he was nearly 40 years old and was a devout Cleveland Indians and Cleveland Browns fan.

Bobby attended Isle La Motte School and then moved to Connecticut with his family, where he graduated from Southington High School in 1962. His sharp wit and outspoken nature emerged: "Why work when play is so much more fun?" was his year-book motto. Despite his obsession with chocolate, pie and desserts, he somehow stayed perpetually trim

Bobby had a unique and often magnetic personality. He was a gifted conversationalist and could connect with almost everyone he met. Bobby was in his element in any social setting, whether it was at Sunday morning coffee with family, on the front porch of a friend up north or at his favorite watering hole.

He was an orchardist for many years at both the family-owned Hall's Orchards in Isle La Motte and Rogers' Orchards in Southington, where he could often be found perched high in apple trees to expertly prune. He also worked as a carpenter and Vermont State Forests and Parks guide.

Bobby was drafted into the Army in 1967 and served as a medic at Fort Dix. His family will always be grateful that he offered first aid and comfort to his own father during his last moments.

Fishing, hunting, trapping and frogging were his passions, often enjoyed in the company of his best friend and soulmate, his older brother Larry. Music was also a touchstone for Bobby and the songs and philosophies of Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Ray Charles, Merle Haggard and Emmylou Harris were deeply meaningful to him.

When he was in his late 20s, Bobby moved back to Vermont, where he met and then married Bernice Langlois in 1972. They had three daughters together – Jessica, Rebecca and Samantha – and remained close friends after their 2017 divorce. Through DNA matching in 2020, he discovered and soon bonded with his oldest child, Joe, a son he never knew he had. All four of Bobby's children inherited his affinity for the outdoors and continue to explore it in their own ways.

Around 2003, Bobby established his own business buying and selling fish. His shop next door to his Alburgh home was more than just a business: It was also a gathering place where friends stopped by with their daily catch, for banter and a beer. Bobby's horticultural skills were evident in his beautifully land-

scaped yard, extensive vegetable and flower gardens and epic raspberry and asparagus patches.

For three years during his retirement, he served as a volunteer driver for the Champlain Islanders Developing Essential Resources (CIDER) program, transporting seniors and those in need of rides to and from health services.

After moving back to Connecticut in 2019 because of advancing COPD, Bobby lived with his daughter Rebecca and her family in Waterford for a time, until he found an apartment in a lovely home a few miles away. Throughout his final years, Bobby never tired of exploring nearby shoreline, parks, woods and quaint, rural towns.

Survivors include his former wife Bernice (Langlois) Hall of Vancouver, Washington; daughters Jessica Hall of Brookline, Massachusetts; Rebecca Hall (Tim Burrows) of Waterford, Connecticut and Samantha Hall (Kelly Backstrom) of Vancouver, Washington; son Joe Nocera (Trina Fitzgerald) of Nasonworth, New Brunswick, Canada; grandchildren Brendan Letourneau, Aidan Poquette, Jared Burrows, Maddie Burrows, Maeve Nocera, Cassidy Thurston, Olive Backstrom and Annie Backstrom; great-grandchild Audrey Poquette; sisters Judy (Ron) Maier and Sarah Hall (John Tucker); sister-in-law Jean Hall and many nieces and nephews. His brother Larry Hall predeceased him in 2021.

Bobby also leaves dear friends Gilbert and Cathy Bohannon, Craig and Monica Greene, special cousin Allen Hall, Wally Pelkey, Raymond "Swampy" Fleury and Jimmy Pearo. Two other close friends, Dickie Stata and Danny Lavigne, previously passed away. The family would like to thank Margaret Ormond and her partner Larry Tirrell for their kindness, care and friendship. Bobby requested that in lieu of a funeral, others raise a glass with the beverage of their choice, toast his memory, tell stories and cherish the good times. Donations in his memory may be made to the Isle La Motte Historical Society, 4 Quarry Road, Isle La Motte, VT 05463. To leave an online condolence, please visit

https://www.neilanfuneralhome.com/obituaries/John-Robert-Hall?obId=30475986.

To place an obituary contact The Islander at 802-372-5600 or email islander@vermontislander.com

The first 200 words and one photo are offered at no charge.

Additional words are offered at \$.10 each.

Please contact The Islander with questions.



JOHN CHARLES MEEKS

GRAND ISLE John Charles Meeks passed away Jan. 11, 2024 at the age of 76, with his loving family by his side, after struggling with chronic lung and heart disease over the past year. He was born in LynBrook NY to Charles John and



Julia Elizabeth Meeks, the second child and the only boy with 3 sisters.

John grew up on the water - water skiing, sailing, and spending many hours surfing with his best friend Joe Cenis; sleeping on the beach and of course taking a quick break to attend Mass on Sundays. He was also an accomplished gymnast and soccer player in high school. After high school he attended Springfield college and ended up in Maine where he was a lobster fisherman and then an optician.

John moved to Vermont in in 1976, first as a ski bum at Smuggler's Notch and then a counselor at a group home where he discovered his love of teaching. He then met Lynne, the love of his life. John returned to school at Trinity College, majoring in Early Childhood education, an avocation he truly loved.

Lynne and John married in 1980 on the top of Mount Philo. They spent many happy hours together renovating their homes and sailboats, skiing, sailing and hosting many family events at their home. John was a gracious host who loved cooking and planning wonderful meals.

After their daughter Julia was born John opened a Alexis Cruickshank of Milton. home childcare. John later went to work at the YMCA preschool where he worked for 20 years, becoming famous for his Thanksgiving feast, where the entire preschool and parents were able to enjoy his fabulous turkeys, and for the Tin Can band of pre-schoolers who collected food shelf donations by threatening to continue to play until the lucky recipient of the concert made a donation.

After retiring from the Y John continued to work with children as a substitute teacher at the Grand Isle Elementary school. John adored the children and staff and had so much fun working there; he absolutely loved it. He continued to work as long as he could, even after he became ill, with amazing support from everyone at the school.

In addition to being a skier and snowboarder John was also a lifelong sailor. He and Lynne joined the Mallets Bay Boat Club in 1991. John spent many years racing with Lynne's dad and cruising on the lake with Lynne and Julia. John loved MBBC and dedicated many hours to serving the club in various capacities; not in the least on the Entertainment committee where he brought his joy of cooking and hosting and sarcastic sense of humor. During the pandemic John was elected Master of MBBC and successfully managed the challenges of safely opening the boat club during that time; enjoying every minute of that

John was a supportive dad who delighted in assisting Julia with many projects and interests, including her love of horses, constructing a kit horse carriage together, building a hover craft, planning epic camping trips to Hermit Island every summer, and reading so many good books together, including Swallows and Amazons, which of course led to the construction of the sailing dinghy *Swallow*. John was

so proud of Julia, her wit and accomplishments, and was thrilled that she found her fiancé Dan, a loving addition to our family.

John was pre-deceased by his mother and father, his sister Pat and his father-in-law, Edward Ziemer. He leaves his wife Lynne, his daughter Julia Meeks and fiancé Dan Matton, his sisters Barbara Wiggins and Marie Meeks, his mother-in-law Shirley Ziemer, sister and brother in-laws Meribeth Ziemer (Bob Bajak), Gary (Darcy) Ziemer, David Ziemer, Doug (Nicole) Ziemer; nieces and nephews Ali Marcus, Katie Matsen, Melanie Olzak, Meredith Wright, Erik Ziemer, Zachary Ziemer, and John Schenne.

John's family wishes to thank Grand Isle Rescue, the doctors and staff at UVMMC who were so supportive and kind to John and Lynne during this difficult year -especially Dr. Berger, Dr. Koko and Dr. Kane, the staff and students at Grand Isle school and friends and family who loved him.

Donations may be made in John's memory to Grand Isle Rescue, Grand Isle School, United Way or the charity of your choice.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring. "Be safe, be smart and above all be kind."

ACADEMIC

KUDOS

Fall 2023

President's List

NICHOLS COLLEGE -DUDLEY, MA

Students whose semester average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours receive President's List honors.

Dean's List

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND -KINGSTON, RI

Grace Bevins of Colchester.

Shelby Cohen of Grand Isle.

Eve Colburn of Milton.

Robert Davis of Swanton.

To be included on the Dean's List, students must achieve at least a 3.30 quality point average.

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE -SPRINGFIELD, MA

Kaylee Shaw from Milton.

Emily Zambarano from South Hero.

To be included on the Dean's List, students must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

GROVE CITY COLLEGE -GROVE CITY, PA

Naomi Walters of Milton, with High Distinction.

Students eligible for the Dean's List with High Distinc tion have a GPA of 3.85 to 4.0.

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY – BRISTOL, RI

Makenna Wirtz of Colchester.

Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

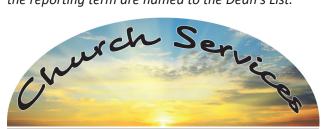
SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY – MANCHESTER, NH

Melissa Bates, Hailey Maring and Benjamin Thieret of Colchester.

Alexis Dewyea and Tonya Willard of Milton.

Alexis Hulbert of Swanton.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List.



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WEDNESDAY Children's Bible Club_____ 7:00PM "A Friendly and Joyful Welcome Awaits You" Nursery Provided at all Services

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St. Joseph, Grand Isle-Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

St. Amadeus Parish, Alburgh-Sunday: 11:00 a.m.

Fr. Joseph Sanderson Tel: St. Amadeus Office 802-796-3481 Tel: St. Rose of Lima Office 802-372-4092 Website: https://ourladyofthelake.vermontcatholic.org/ Email: ourladyofthelakeparish@vermontcatholic.org

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Isle La Motte ~ North Hero ~ Grand Isle

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8:30 a.m. Isle La Motte - 1st & 3rd Sundays 10:30 a.m. North Hero - 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays 10:30 a.m. Grand Isle - 2nd & 4th Sundays

Rev. Mathew J. Enzler "Pastor Matt" Jacqueline Hughes, Lay Leader ChamplainIslandsUMCWorship@gmail.com Emergency Contact: 406-531-5985

Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C. Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

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Pastor: Rev. Cordelia Burpee 24 South St. South Hero, VT 05486 Tel: 372-4962 • ccshvt@gmail.com Office hours M-F 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. www.facebook.com/CCSHVT

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For Sale Wanted Garage Sales For Rent Employment Services Offered Thanks Misc. Lost & Found

2. Write Your Ad

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3. Calculate Your Rate!

Private: \$3 for 1st ten words, \$.10/per word after Business: \$9 for 1st ten words, \$.25/per word after

To Determine Which Rate Applies:

For Sale-Personal Items/Private Rate; All others/Business Rate; Employment Wanted- Business Rate; For Rent- Business Rate; Garage Sales—1 per month at private rate; Business rate for more. Wanted- Private Rate; Services Offered- Business Rate Miscellaneous & Card of Thanks—\$3.00 1st 10 words, \$.10 per word; Real Estate- Business Rate;

FREE or Lost & Found-1st ten words Free, \$.10 each additional word.

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EMPLOYMENT -

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Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) is seeking a full-time assistant planner/zoning administrator to work with communities in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. The position includes serving as the appointed zoning administrator/local planner for up to three municipalities and to assist NRPC with regional and local planning projects.

The ideal candidate has knowledge and skills in land use planning and development through professional, educational or volunteer experiences. This position requires effective written and verbal communication skills, the ability to work in a team environment and independently, and a strong customer service ethic. The position will require work in an office setting at local municipal offices and regular night meetings will be expected.

For more details see https://www.nrpcvt.com/employment. Interviews will begin mid-January. This position will remain open until filled.

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South Hero officials to 'finally' present pending wastewater study

By MICHAEL FRETT Islander Staff Writer

SOUTH HERO – After months of unexpected delays and testing, South Hero officials and volunteers working on a pending wastewater study said last week they were expecting to "finally" present their study's findings to the public in the coming months.

Peter Zamore, the chair of a South Hero wastewater committee coordinating the study, told the town's selectboard last week a preliminary report was wrapping up after consultants explored several sites in South Hero that could have potentially hosted a municipal wastewater system.

"We will be holding a community outreach meeting – finally – in either late February or early March, depending on when we get the report finished and circulated," Zamore told the selectboard. "That will give the public a chance to see what we've been doing and provide their input into it."

Since late 2021, a volunteer committee in South Hero has explored whether developing a wastewater system focused on South Hero's village centers was even feasible, ultimately sourcing funds from Vermont's wastewater revolving loan fund to begin studying the project in earnest after contracting with Otter Creek Engineering and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission in 2022.

According to Zamore, only one of the sites tested – a section of Allenholm Farm – ultimately appeared capable of hosting the limited wastewater system imagined by the volunteer committee, with the committee's study finding soils on the historic orchard could potentially maintain a leach field supporting some amount of treated wastewater.

Whether the farm could even host a wastewater project was still an open question, according to Zamore, as Allenholm Farm was protected under a conservation easement owned by the Vermont Land Trust that potentially forbade its use for development. The committee planned to meet with the land trust and several other conservation organizations in the coming weeks, Zamore said.

Other sites tested, according to Zamore, including Islandacres Farm and sites on and near Camp Ta-Kum-Ta, ultimately proved unfeasible for a wastewater system due to issues with the soil and water table.

The possible layout and infrastructure associated with a wastewater system using Allenholm Farm would, according to Zamore, come as the wastewater committee's study was finalized after the public gathering planned by the wastewater committee's volunteers later this winter.

Officials have previously said they hoped to use a municipal wastewater system to support development within the town's villages and to potentially absorb wastewater from existing properties whose current septic systems have failed. A recent action plan addressing water quality in Keeler Bay lists the tentative wastewater system as a means of managing water quality-associated wastewater needs as well.

According to a website prepared for South Hero's wastewater study, the town would likely forego a centralized wastewater treatment plant typical of larger communities and instead focus on a decentralized system with different means of funneling and treating wastewater.

Between an American Rescue Plan Act-supported loan from Vermont's Dept. of Environmental Conservation and a subsequent development grant, around \$2.1 million in state funding has already been earmarked for developing a wastewater system in South Hero should the project ultimately prove feasible and secure support from the wider South Hero community.

The study's website suggests that construction would wrap-up on a municipal wastewater system, should it ultimately be endorsed by the South Hero community, by August 2026.

During their meeting last week, South Hero's selectboard approved allowing the wastewater committee to continue applying for funding as consultants ironed out the system's feasibility study, and again allowed the committee to contract with the Lake Champlain Islands Economic Development Corporation to help apply for additional grant funds.

More generally, officials said they were appreciative of Zamore's work on South Hero's wastewater study, thanking the committee's chair for shepherding the project forward.

"Thanks for all the work you've done on this," Ross Brown, the vice chair of South Hero's selectboard, said, "which is a lot."

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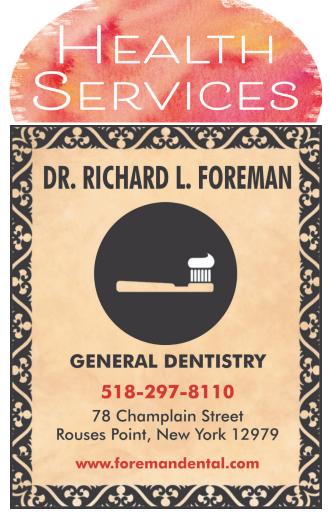




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