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Photo provided

Soup Bowls for Hunger set for April 10

By Catherine M. Oliverio
NYVT Media

RUTLAND – The 19th annual Soup Bowls for Hunger returns to the Rutland High School cafeteria April 10 with two seatings, one at 4:45 p.m. and the other at 6:15 p.m.

Soup Bowls for Hunger is an annual community fundraiser for food shelves in Rutland County, Vermont, and surrounding areas. It is a collaboration of DK Gamma, Vermont chapter, an organization of educators, and the students of Rutland High School.

As part of the Rutland High School art program, teacher Elizabeth McRenolds plays an instrumental role in assisting her students in creating the soup bowls. Additionally, the students and their friends meet on two Saturdays designing more bowls. This year they have produced 200 bowls.

“DK Gamma is small, but over time we have involved more students,” said Karen Nawn-Fahey, chair of DK Gamma. “I knew it would be a great student project.”

She continued: “I like the fact that so many different members of the community are involved, and the money goes to local food shelves.”

There are various clubs within the high school that participate in making this a successful annual event. The Club Giving students

See SOUP, pg. 6

MapleFest a glorious day of sweetness

By Catherine M. Oliverio
NYVT Media

POULTNEY – MapleFest 2025, sponsored by the Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee, turned out to be a glorious day of sweetness on Saturday, March 22. Bright sunshine and blue skies greeted the community and visitors.

Rather than a warm spring day, it seemed almost like fall, with temperatures in the mid-30s which eventually crept up to the mid-50s.

All sorts of festivities continued throughout the day and evening. It began at 8 a.m. with a delectable free breakfast at the Poultney United Methodist Church with sausage patties, pancakes, local maple syrup, orange juice, coffee, tea and milk all provided by the church. Donations were accepted.

At 9 a.m. riders joined Analog’s fifth season ride and race through the mud and enjoyed maple syrup. They trudged up and through muddy dirt roads and watched the sap boil, while snacking on fried dough drizzled with maple syrup.

There were three options for the Analog race: 22.38 miles of roads to five sugar houses with a maple-



Photo by Catherine M. Oliverio

Terry Williams taps the tree with onlooker Sugar Bear.

themed lunch provided by the Poultny Pub for \$71; 34.72 miles on gravel to various sugar shacks and complete various food-related challenges before heading back to Analog for a catered lunch and beverages for \$71; or just a hang out, no ride with donuts and coffee in the morning, an option to drive to the sugar shacks and a catered lunch with a drink token for \$55.

The MapleFest Kid Zone made available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Raphael’s Parish Hall had the kids having a ball with the Bouncy House Bonanza, indoor yard games such as Cornhole, giant Jenga, Connect4 and more, face painting, craft corner creativity and snack shack with plenty of maple treats.

See MAPLE, pg. 18

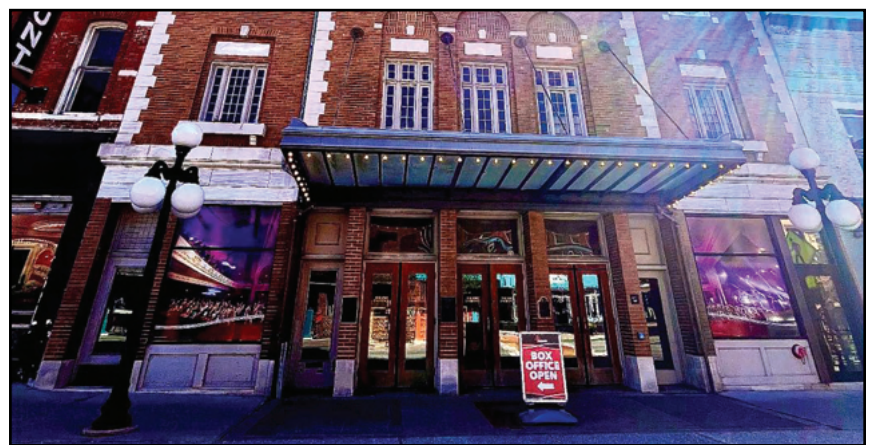
Paramount Theater celebrates 25 years

By Catherine M. Oliverio
NYVT Media

RUTLAND – The Paramount Theatre celebrated its 25th birthday Tuesday, March 18. Its grand opening curtain call after an extensive renovation was March 18, 2000, marking a new beginning.

The first performance presented was An Evening with Arlo Guthrie and the Vermont Symphony Orchestra with John Nardolillo as the conductor.

This historic landmark built in 1912-1913 by George T. Chaffee opened on Jan. 16, 1914 as The Playhouse Theatre of Rutland, Vermont. It was known as one of the finest theatres in America with an architecture of the “City Beautiful” movement, the beautifying of buildings to provide a benefit to the public’s private interests. The interior took on the flare of a Victorian opera house with



Photos provided

The exterior of the Paramount Theater.

velour hangings, ceilings decorated with gold leaf and a large oval painting representing music, lyric art and the dramas shown. It provided seating for 1,000 patrons in the orchestra, balcony and six boxes.


The Playhouse Theatre became a movie theatre and renamed in 1931 The Paramount. People flocked to see “talking pictures” one of which was “Gone with the


See PARAMOUNT, pg. 6



MARCH MADNESS

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Call for SVA art submissions

POULTNEY - Stone Valley Arts is excited to announce the call for submissions for the 2025 Artist Member Show. This dynamic exhibition is open to artists and creators of all genres and techniques, welcoming a diverse range of works, including painting, illustration, photography, sculpture, mixed media, installations and jewelry. Artists may submit up to five pieces for consideration, with the deadline for submissions set for April 1. Notifications regarding acceptance will be sent by April 6. All images should be uploaded in high resolution at 300dpi. You can submit your art at: <https://tinyurl.com/SVA25> If you are not yet a member or need to renew your membership, you can do so at: <https://tinyurl.com/SVA26> Artwork drop-off is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, and Sunday, April 13, from 12-4 p.m., or by appointment. All submitted pieces

must be properly prepared for display, with a wire or saw-tooth hanger, and labeled with the title, medium, price, and artist's name. The exhibition will open on April 26 from 2-4 p.m., and all are welcome to attend. The show will run through June 8, with artwork pickup available on June 8 from 1-4 p.m. or by appointment.

At least one piece must be for sale (unless approved otherwise). Artist receives 70%, Stone Valley Arts 30%. SVA may use images of accepted works for promotional purposes (with attribution). Accepted works cannot be withdrawn before the show's end.

We are looking forward to your art submissions.

For more information email stonvalleyartscenter@gmail.com. Stone Valley Arts is located 145 E. Main St., Poultney.

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Check out more artwork from local schools online

Poultney Town Wide Yard Sale vendor space available

The Poultney Town Wide Yard Sale is coming together. There are vendors signed up for spots on Main Street, but there are still spaces to be rented, so get your items together and get your registration form in. Forms can be downloaded from the Chamber website at PoultneyAreaChamber.com. You can also call Carol at 203-727-3951, or email the Chamber at PoultneyVTChamber@gmail.com.

It's first-come, first-served on the available space, so lock yours in now. Cost is \$35 for a 15-foot space, a great deal. The Poultney Town

Wide Yard Sale always draws a big crowd, so don't delay.

Poultney residents are already going through their houses, garages, and barns to see what they have to sell. Many will hold their own yard sales, and you never know what you'll find.

When is it? It's ALWAYS the first Saturday in June, which for this year is June 7. Whether you're selling artwork, flatware, household goods, clothes, tools, chairs, collectibles or whatever, there's a place for you. Sometimes people have items they can't use, or inherited items that need a new home for. Bring it to the Poultney Town Wide Yard Sale and turn it into cash.

Food vendors will also be participating. You can also dine in or take out from many local eateries, with selections from simple to simple to gourmet.

Make Poultney your destination on Saturday, June 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the Poultney Town-Wide Yard Sale. For updated information, go to PoultneyAreaChamber.com.



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Wells Historical Society meeting

The Wells Historical Society will hold their first meeting of 2025 on Wednesday, April 2, at the Modern Woodmen of American building in Wells, Vermont. The annual Pancake supper will begin at 6:00 p.m. A meeting will follow the supper and there will be reporting on

this year's maple production. A display of newly acquired Wells artifacts and photos in their collection will be available to view. Come and enjoy a little bit of Wells history and friendship. Future meeting dates for 2025 are April 2, June 4, August 6, October 1.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



MARCH

- 29** Vermont Farmers Market – 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 251 West Street-Rutland
- 29** Rummage Sale 10 a.m.-noon Wells United Methodist Church
- 29** Basket Raffle -Doors open at 11 a.m. St. Raphael's Parish Hall-Poultney
- 29** Reptile Shows of New England -10 a.m. Rutland Free Library
- 29** Just getting By Documentary – 2 p.m. Poultney Public Library
- 30** International Folk Dancing – 1-3 p.m. Rutland Jewish Center
- 30** Champlain Philharmonic Concert – 4 p.m. Grace Congregational Church-Rutland

APRIL

- 1** Movie Matinee – 1.p.m. Rutland Free Library
- 2** Wells Historical Society Meeting – 6 p.m. Modern Woodmen Hall-Wells
- 2** Kits & Cubs – 10 a.m. Merck Forest – Rupert
- 3** Story Time-Bunnies – 10 a.m. Rutland Free Library
- 5** Rutland Farmers Market – 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 251 West Street-Rutland
- 5** Vermont Forest Cemetery Program –11 a.m. Poultney Public Library
- 8** Dungeons & Dragons - 3:30 p.m. Rutland Free Library
- 12** Pie for Breakfast – 8-11 a.m. Middletown Springs Library
- 25** Dirty Deeds-AC/DC Experience – 7 p.m. Paramount Theatre-Rutland

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Join the team at Rutland County Humane Society

Rutland County Humane Society is growing and looking for compassionate, dedicated individuals to join the team. Currently being hired for full-time positions are a donor relations coordinator and an animal health technician.

Both positions play a vital role in

supporting the animals and the mission of the Rutland County Humane Society. If you're passionate about animal welfare and looking for a rewarding career, we'd love to hear from you. For more information or to apply, visit <https://rchsvt.org/about-us/join-our-team/>.



Mischief

one-year-old, spayed, female, pit bull terrier, brindle

Don't let her name fool you. Mischief is all about love, fun and adventure. She's an energetic, smart pup who thrives with an active family. She already knows some basic commands and is eager to learn more. While playful and affectionate, she can be a bit nervous in new situations and needs a patient home to build her confidence. She's great in the car, loves snuggles and is always on the lookout for treats, especially pup cups. If you're looking for a fun, loving and loyal companion, come meet Mischief.



Tucker

one-year-old, neutered male, pit bull terrier, brown with white

Meet Tucker. This young guy is super sweet and happy. He loves people and he especially loves long walks. He would do best in a home without dogs, kids or cats. But trust me, he's got plenty of personality to fill your home. If you're looking for a cute companion, please visit the shelter.



Jamba

five-year-old, spayed female, basset hound/pit bull terrier mix, black/white

Meet Jamba. This sweetheart is an absolute lovebug. She is a higher-energy girl who will thrive in an active home. She loves to be busy and will need plenty of exercise. She is a true Vermonter and absolutely loves playing in the snow. She is great with kids and loves people, but prefers a home without other dogs. She will be sure to keep you busy with her sassy personality.



Stella

nine-month-old, spayed female, pit bull terrier/husky mix, tan/white

Stella is a young, energetic puppy with a heart full of love. She's one of the friendliest dogs you'll meet and would thrive in an active home where she can stay busy and engaged.

This smart girl already knows "sit", "paw" and "lie down" and would love to keep learning new tricks. She did great with kids in her previous home, but we don't have a history of how she does with other dogs or cats. Stella is sweet, social and ready to be your loyal adventure buddy. If she sounds like the perfect match for you, stop by. She's waiting to find her forever family.

Give the Rutland County Humane Society a call at 802-483-6700 or stop by the adoption center at 765 Stevens Rd., Pittsford Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to meet your match.

Paramount

Continued from front page

Wind.” Vaudeville, a mixture of acts, comedy, song and dance, was quite popular, as well.

During World War II, more patriotic and inspirational films hit the screen. Activity continued through the 1940s and 1960s, but by the 1970s small theatres across the country struggled. By 1975, the Paramount closed and sat empty and neglected for about a decade.

It wasn't until 1985 that the Center on the Alley, Incorporated, formed and purchased it for a performing arts center. In the 1995 the Richardson Block building adjacent to the theatre was purchased with the intention of future expansion.

By 1999 the John A. Russell Corporation became the contractor for the historic renovation. Original colors and textures, fabric, etc., were recreated by the F. Schumacher

company of New York. Artisans repaired the damaged ornamental plastic, retouched the ceiling and reapplied the gold leaf, and so The Paramount Theatre was completed in February 2000.

Thanks to donors, patrons, board members, dedicated staff and volunteers, the Paramount Theatre thrives today. The community is encouraged to frequent the theatre for exciting shows of all types—live on stage performances, opera, comedy, Vermont Symphony Orchestra, and more. Visit <https://www.paramountvt.org/> for a complete listing

The Paramount Theatre is located at 30 Center St., Rutland, Vermont. Tickets may be purchased at the Box Office, 36 Center St., open Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and one hour prior to all main stage events. You may also leave a message at 802-775-0903. The Heritage Family Online Box Office is open for tickets 24 hours a day, seven days a week at <https://ci.ovationtix.com/36265>



Photo provided

The interior of the Paramount Theatre.

Soup

Continued from front page

run the basket raffle, and the Kiwanis Club supplies all the flowers. National Honor Society and others serve as volunteers for the evening. The Environmental Club provides less plastic with real silverware, more sustainable mugs and sets up a recycling station for utensils, trash, compost and recyclable items.

Students of Stafford Technical Center Culinary Arts bake the rolls, and desserts are provided by eight bakeries and the Allen Street School, which is part of the Rutland City School district, bakes all the cookies.

Upon admission, you will choose your bowl and proceed to the soup service lines. Volunteers will be circulating with dinner rolls. Dessert and coffee service will be available at a separate table.

Local restaurants known by the surrounding area residents have donated their soups. The beef chili by Lookout Tavern; beef stew by Maple Angus; broccoli cheddar soup by Marble Valley; butternut squash by Olivia's; gluten-free corn chowder by Jim Stewart; French onion by Mae's Place; hearty ham-bone by Kamuda's Country Market; gluten-free hearty vegetable by Soup Dog; pasta fagioli by Paisano's; vegetarian and gluten-free rustic tomato by Café Provence; spicy chicken mulligatawny by Rutland Regional Medical Center; sausage and kale by Sweet Caroline's; and tomato basil bisque by The Cluckin' Café.

Soups that are not used will be packaged for purchase and sent home with the goal of not having any leftovers.

During the evening, there will be a basket raffle and silent auction. Some of the basket raffle prizes are Home Movie Night, Payday Basket of Lottery Tickets, Chocolate Lovers Basket, Fun for Young Basket, Music Makes the Heart Sing, Man's Best Friend and VT Maple. For viewing, visit <https://soupbowlsrutland.org/raf>

file

Silent auction items are donated by various local artists, Hubbardton Forge, Pyramid Salt Cave, a dinner and theatre by the Paramount and Nonna's Restaurant and more. For a complete listing visit <https://soupbowlsrutland.org/silent-auction>

“We are so accustomed to doing things online,” said Nawn-Fahey. “The Sup Bowls for Hunger website grew out of COVID because the last in-person was March 2020. The following year we had a basket raffle online, and the next two years we had pre-order containers of soup to go that were picked up at a window.

“We were pretty creative, and it took a lot of people so our website was critical in doing so. Of course, we were back in-person by 2024,” she said.

Tickets are available on line for \$20 at soupbowlsrutland.org until the end of the day April 7. It is advised to buy tickets ahead of time since this event is usually sold out. Payment by credit card, debit card or PayPal are accepted for online orders.

If you prefer to buy offline, you may pay by check. Email Karen Nawn-Fahey at knawnfahey@gmail.com

Basket raffle tickets may be purchased online until the end of the day on Monday, April 7. Tickets will be available the night of the event.

If for any reason you are unable to attend and become a winner, you will be contacted by phone or email to arrange the pickup of your prize.

Additional donations are welcome and go directly to the food shelves. They can be made online before the end of the day April 7 or during your seating. Cash or checks are always welcome.

Thanks to sponsors DK Gamma Chapter, Vermont, and Blue Hills Digital, website designer.

The Rutland High School Cafeteria is located at 22 Stratton Rd., Rutland, Vermont. Please use the parking area nearest the cafeteria. If you have any questions, call Karen Nawn-Fahey at 802-989-3081.



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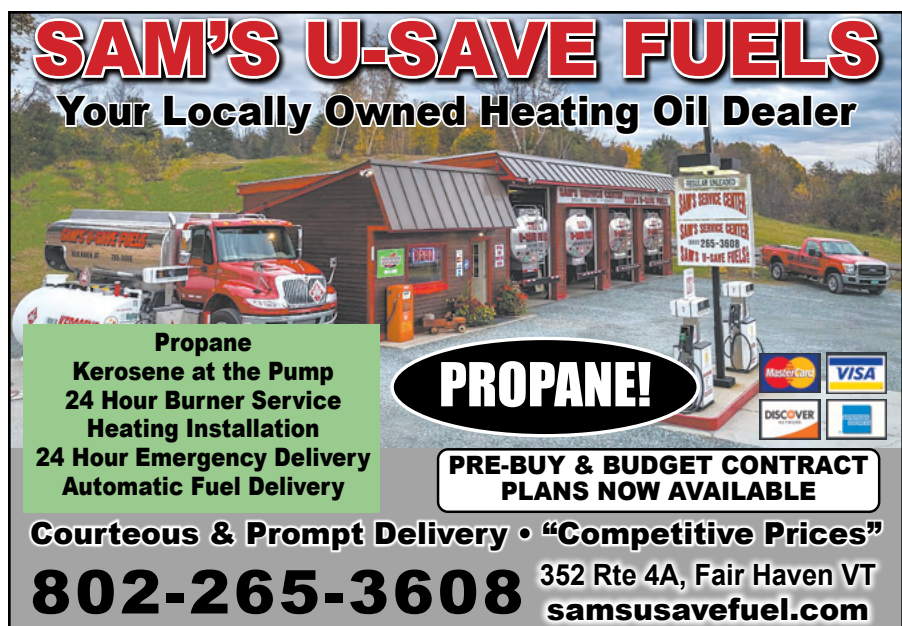
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SALUTE TO NATIONAL GIRL SCOUTS WEEK

MARCH 10TH - MARCH 16TH

GIRL SCOUTS EARN MANY AWARDS AT ALL LEVELS



Picture Provided

Left: New York Troop 3904 and Christmas gathering. Middle: Girl Scout Awards. Right: New York Troop 3898 mixing it up.

**By Catherine M. Oliverio
NYVT Media**

Although earning the Gold Award is the most prestigious achievement in Girl Scouts, they can also earn the Bronze or Silver.

The Bronze is awarded to Junior Girls Scouts, Daisies, Brownies and Juniors, who work with other girls to make a difference in their communities.

Cadette Girl Scouts are awarded the Silver when they identify a community issue, make a plan and take action to improve that within the community.

There are also the Gold, Silver and Bronze Torch Awards that recognize Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors who act as leaders by completing a

leadership journey and serve in a leadership position.

As Girl Scouts and ongoing, they earn badges accordingly for the Daisies (kindergarten-first grade), Brownies (second-third grade), Junior (fourth-fifth grade), Cadettes (sixth-eighth), Seniors (ninth-10th grade) and Ambassadors (11th-12th grade).

In STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), the girls participate in various things pertaining to animals, automotive engineering, cybersecurity, digital arts, investigation, mechanical engineering, robotics, space science and STEM career exploration.

The outdoors category includes adventure, art in the outdoors, entrepreneurial stewardship, naturalist (bugs,

flowers, trees sky), outdoor explorer, snow or adventure, climbing and camping.

Life skills encompass art, athletics, civics, citizen, cooking, crafts, creative play, do-it-or-self, first aid, the girl scout way per age group, maker—art and design, manners, performance, practical life skills, storytelling and college preparation for the older girls.

Other awards include meritorious service for heroic acts beyond maturity and training level, life-saving, presidential volunteer service, girl leadership/mentoring and council.

Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors may earn a Community Service Bar by choosing an organization they would like to volunteer with. The organization will agree to

give a specific task to achieve in at least 20 hours of service.

The Service to Girl Scouting Bar is earned by volunteering at least 20 hours to the Girl Scout organization.

All grade levels may earn the Journey Summit Award Pin who have completed three National Leadership Journeys at their grade level. All levels may also achieve a Safety Award by following a five-step process for being safe.

Cadettes may receive a Leader in Action by completing GSGWM Program Aide Training. Seniors and Ambassadors may earn the right to be a counselor in training or volunteer in training.

One other award is the Congressional Award that recognizes initiative, service and achievement in young people



SALUTE TO NATIONAL GIRL SCOUTS WEEK

MARCH 10TH - MARCH 16TH

GOLD AWARD IS THE PINNACLE FOR GIRL SCOUTS



Pictures Provided

Over the years, the Gold Award has undergone different changes, in both name and design. The modern design has been in place since 1980

By Brett Porter
NYVT Media

The Girl Scout Gold Award stands as the pinnacle of achievement within the Girl Scouts of the USA, symbolizing a young woman's dedication to leadership, community service, and personal development.

Since its inception in 1916, about one million Girl Scouts have earned this esteemed honor, reflecting a century-long tradition of empowering young women to effect positive change in their communities and beyond.

The journey of the Gold Award, in both name and requirements, mirrors the evolving landscape of Girl Scouting and societal shifts over the past century.

From 1916 to 1918, the Golden Eagle of Merit award was the original name of the highest achievement in Girl Scouts.

Established by Juliette Gordon Low, the organization's founder, the original award required girls to earn 14 proficiency badges in diverse subjects ranging from aviation to nursing.

From 1919 to 1938, it

was renamed as the Golden Eaglet. Renamed to emphasize excellence, the Golden Eaglet continued to challenge Girl Scouts to broaden their skills and community involvement.

Reflecting a shift toward comprehension of scouting skills, the First Class Award was introduced as the highest honor from 1938 to 1940. The Curved Bar Award emphasized community service and leadership, a change made to align more with the organization's focus during the mid-20th century, from 1940 to 1963. The First Class Award was then reinstated for 17 years, from 1963 to 1980. This iteration continued to adapt to the changing roles of young women in society.

From 1980 to now, the Gold Award has been the official moniker for the highest level of Girl Scout achievement, focusing on sustainable community impact and leadership.

Like becoming an Eagle Scout, achieving the Gold Award is a rigorous process that requires dedication, strategic planning, and a commitment to

making a sustainable impact. Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors, generally in grades 9 through 12, are eligible to work on the prestigious title.

As a prerequisite, a Girl Scout must have either completed two Senior or Ambassador Journeys or one Journey alongside earning the Silver Award. From there, the process mirrors that of an Eagle Scout project. A young lady will identify an issue in her community, research said issue, build a team to help her create a plan, and take action to provide aid or improvements.

The minimum time requirement for a prospective Gold Award applicant's project is 80 hours per Girl Scout handbook, essentially serving as a means to make sure enough dedication and effort goes into said project.

Earning the Gold Award offers numerous personal and professional advantages. Many colleges and universities recognize the prestige of the Gold Award, offering scholarships to recipients. Additionally, GSUSA provides national scholarships, such as the \$5,000 GSUSA Gold

Award Scholarship, to support higher education endeavors. The leadership, problem-solving skills, and community involvement demonstrated through the Gold Award project enhance college applications, distinguishing candidates in competitive admissions processes.

Gold Award recipients who enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces may enter at a higher rank, reflecting the leadership and commitment associated with the award. The project management experience, leadership skills, and community engagement involved in earning the Gold Award are highly valued by employers across various industries.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is more than a recognition; it is a testament to a young woman's ability to lead, innovate, and effect lasting change. As the award enters its second century, it continues to inspire Girl Scouts to tackle challenges head-on, embodying the organization's mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.



SALUTE TO NATIONAL GIRL SCOUTS WEEK

MARCH 10TH - MARCH 16TH



Mary P. Hollister
CPA, PC



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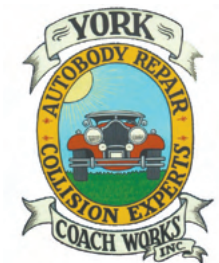
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Free luncheon for Castleton area Veterans

On Friday, April 4 from noon until 2:00 pm, there will be a free luncheon for all Veterans at the Castleton American Legion Post 50, 378 VT-4A, Bomoseen. Shepard's pie, rolls, coffee, and tea, along with homemade pie for dessert, will be

served.

Come and enjoy the camaraderie of other Veterans. We look forward to seeing you there.

This free luncheon is hosted by the Castleton American Legion Auxiliary Unit 50

Celebrating National Poetry Month in Castleton

Joyce Thomas's new book of poetry, "Some Things in This World" is now out. Please join us for a poetry reading/book launch/book signing event on Wednesday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

Ms. Thomas has lived in Vermont since 1980; she is the author of two previous poetry collections and was named Professor Emerita at Castleton University. "Joyce Thomas uses irony and humor to alert us to human frailty and environmental desecration...These poems will help us to carry on in uncertain times" -George

Longenecker, past president of the Poetry Society of Vermont.

On Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. come to the library and celebrate more poetry. There will be an open poetry reading with members of the Castleton Community Center's writer's group. Bring a poem to read and share. We'll also be honoring Shakespeare's birthday with some yummy birthday cake.

Visit our website castletonfreelibrary.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Castleton Free Library is located at 638 Main Street, Castleton.

4-H educator hired for Bennington and Rutland Counties

RUTLAND - Moonshine (Moonie) Shorey recently accepted the position of University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H educator for Bennington and Rutland Counties.

Shorey, who is based in the UVM Extension office in Rutland, filled in as the interim 4-H educator for the two counties in late summer and fall before being hired for the fulltime position. As an interim employee, he coordinated and facilitated 4-H's involvement at the 2024 Vermont State Fair. He also collaborated with club leaders to participate in recruiting efforts for club members and volunteers.

"I plan to keep enriching the established clubs and promote recruitment of new clubs, members and volunteers to service the needs of my constituents," Shorey said of his new position. "I will also work with the other 4-H educators in the state to grow the 4-H program throughout Vermont."

Rutland County currently has 10 clubs and Bennington County, three, along with independent members not affiliated with any clubs. Among the most popular projects for club members are horse, robotics, shooting sports, sewing, crafts, dairy and dog.

Prior to being hired by UVM Extension, Shorey's 4-H involvement included serving as an adult volunteer for the Rutland County Performance and Arts club and as a chaperone for the Vermont delegation to Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts. He is also a former Rutland County 4-H Foundation board member.

His background includes work in behavioral health, supporting clients with various health and social needs. He was a founding member and helped manage the Rutland County Pride Center and was a



Photo courtesy of Moonshine Shorey

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H recently hired Moonshine Shorey as the 4-H educator for Bennington and Rutland Counties.

board co-chair for the first two Pride Festivals in Rutland County.

According to Sarah Kleinman, state 4-H director, "Moonie's event-planning skills, his experience connecting and supporting youth and adults with various needs and his creative side will be a great help to his work."

The 4-H educator was born in Rutland although he worked in New York City for several years before returning to Vermont. He invites 4-H'ers, their parents and guardians and anyone interested in learning more about 4-H in Bennington and Rutland Counties to reach out.

"I want to hear what 4-H means to them and what they want in terms of programming and events," he said.

Shorey can be reached at moonshine.shorey@uvm.edu or (802) 656-7586.

West Pawlet constable appointment

WEST PAWLET - With the retirement of Constable Ricard and Constable Covino's move to First Constable the position of Second Constable became vacant.

At a recent select board meeting Mark Gutel of West Pawlet was appointed Second Constable. Mark is a certified police officer with experience in animal control and a passion for mental health work. Mark started his career as the animal control officer for the Town of Fair Haven and as

a Fair Haven Police Officer. Mark continues to serve as a part time officer. Mark has worked for the Addison County Sheriffs Dept. He also teaches mental health response to other law enforcement officers and crisis workers through the Team Two Program.

Mark and his wife Ericka own and operate the Kinderway Animal Sanctuary and Berry Farm in West Pawlet. With Mark's appointment this will continue with all constables being fully certified police officers.

Man faces new sexual assault charge

RUTLAND - Vermont State Police have filed additional charges of sexual assault and aggravated domestic assault against 38-year-old Jason Seiple of Poultney.

Seiple was re-arrested at the Marble Valley Correctional Facility in Rutland, where he was being held without bail following a March 12 arrest for 1st degree aggravated domestic assault committed in the presence of a child.

Troopers said their investigation into the most recent incident brought



Photo provided by VSP

Jason Seiple

forth another reported victim of aggravated domestic and sexual assault. Probable cause was developed to charge Seiple in connection with the alleged abuses against an adult female occurring in the Mt. Holly/Belmont area between 2018 and 2021.

Seiple was arraigned on the most recent counts on Monday, March 17 in Vermont Superior Court in Rutland and ordered held without bail, pending a further court appearance.

Local Police Reports

Vermont State Police

March 11

5:55 p.m. - State Police responded to a report of a theft at a U.S. Route 4 location in Killington. The investigation revealed that 53-year-old Justin Jones of Waldenville, New York, allegedly trespassed into the residence and damaged property not belonging to him. Jones was arrested and charged with criminal mischief. He was then released with a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court at a later date.

March 17

9:30 p.m. - Troopers were called to investigate a property damage accident on Park Street in Brandon. It was determined the operator of the vehicle, later identified as 42-year-old Everett White of Brandon, had fled the scene. White was subsequently located and charged with leaving the scene of an accident. It was further determined he was operating the vehicle with a criminally suspended license and was so charged.

White was processed and given a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court to answer both counts at a later date.

March 18

4:17 p.m. - Vermont State Police were notified of a condition of release violation in the Town of Mount Tabor. Through investigation it was determined that 47-year-old Jason Hoffman of Mount Tabor had allegedly entered property he was prohibited from doing so by a court order.

Hoffman was arrested, processed and released with a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court at a later date.

March 20

11:31 p.m. - Troopers responded to a

report of a domestic assault that occurred at a residence on Cold River Road in the Town of Rutland. The subsequent investigation led to the arrest without incident of 73-year-old Cary Buck of Rutland on a charge of domestic assault. Buck was issued a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court at a later date.

Rutland County Sheriff's Office

March 12

4:20 p.m. - While on patrol a deputy noticed a white U-Haul van parked suspiciously at the West Rutland Recreational Center. A records check revealed the vehicle was reported as being stolen. The vehicle was subsequently relocated in the Town of Clarendon. The operator was identified as 37-year-old Meghan A. Muir, who is listed as a transient.

A records check determined that Muir's privilege to drive a motor vehicle was criminally suspended. A search of the van located a quantity of controlled substances.

Muir was arrested and charged with operating a vehicle without the owner's consent, possession of narcotics and driving with a suspended license. She was issued a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court at a later date and released.

March 14

11:13 p.m. - While on patrol in the Town of Proctor, a deputy conducted a motor vehicle stop for a broken fog light. A record check determined the operator, 37-year-old Moriah J. Donahue, who is listed as a transient, was driving with a criminally suspended license.

Donahue was issued a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court at a later date and released.

Obituary

Dolores Sbardella, 87

LOW HAMPTON, – Dolores (Patten) Sbardella, 87, of Low Hampton, New York died after a brief illness on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at the Rutland Regional Medical Center surrounded by her children.

She was born on July 4, 1937, in Rutland, Vermont, the daughter of Francis and Florence (Minogue) Patten.

Mrs. Sbardella graduated from Fair Haven High School in 1955, and went on to attend Trinity College in Burlington, Vermont. While growing up in Fair Haven she always enjoyed the great 4th of July parades the town would have, as she would tell it, to celebrate her birthday. Some of her happiest moments were her days as a majorette and cheerleader in Fair Haven, a teacher of swimming lessons at Camp O-WAN-YA-KA at Lake Bomoseen, as well as at Camp Bernadette in New Hampshire, where she eventually became the camp's Aquatics Director.

She married Dominic Sbardella Jr. on September 27, 1958, in Fair Haven. He was her husband and best friend for 59 years. Together they raised their four children: Dennis, Dina, Daniel, and Dominic III.

Mrs. Sbardella was always active in the community. She was a dedicated communicant at Our Lady of Seven Dolours Church where she sang in the choir, taught the First



Communion Class for 17 years, volunteer at the parish thrift store, and served as a Eucharistic Minister. She was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America, the American Legion Post 49 Auxiliary, the Fair Haven Historical Society, the Cub Scouts –serving as a Den Mother, the Fair Haven High School Alumni Choir, and the Friends and Neighbors barbershop group. And while busy with these activities, she always found time for a game of Bridge with friends.

Survivors include her children

Dina Bullock, Dennis Sbardella (Patricia), Daniel Sbardella, and Dominic Sbardella III; her brothers Patrick Patten, Paul Patten, and Peter Patten; Dominic's sisters Josephine Williams and Marie Hanley; five grandchildren: Angela Kitson, Sara Kitson, Justin Sbardella, Vincent Sbardella, and John Bullock; nine great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, her parents, her brother James Patten and sister Camilla Dente; Dominic's parents Dominic Sr. and Carmena Sbardella, Dominic's brothers James Sbardella and Julian Sbardella; grandson James Sbardella, and her son-in-law Bob Bullock.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11a.m. on Saturday, April 12, at Our Lady of Seven Dolours Church, 10 Washington St., Fair Haven, Vermont. Burial will be in the St. Mary's Cemetery. A reception will follow at the American Legion Post 49 in Fair Haven. At the request of Mrs. Sbardella, there will be no calling hours.

Arrangements are with the Durfee Funeral Home, 119 North Main St., Fair Haven, Vermont

Memorial contributions may be made to Our Lady of Seven Dolours Church. Please mail your contributions to Parish Rectory, 45 North Road, Castleton, Vermont 05735 or via the Durfee Funeral Home.

Tea Cup Auction in Wells April 11

WELLS - The Wells United Methodist Church will host a Teacup auction on Friday, April 11 at the Modern Woodmen of America (MWA) Hall in Wells, Vermont. There will be hundreds of items to choose from: collectables, knickknacks, jewelry, toys, plants, and of course baked goods. There will be something for everyone.

Doors open for ticket purchase and viewing at 5 p.m. and calling will begin at 6 p.m. Participants may buy envelopes with numbered tickets (10 tickets for \$1) and place the tickets into a cup next to the item they hope to win. One ticket will be drawn from each cup and that item's winner will be called. Usually everyone wins something.

Light refreshments including sandwiches, chips, cookies, and beverages will be provided courtesy of the church. Donations gladly accepted.

For more information or to coordinate donations please call Bonnie at 802-645-0422.

Proceeds to benefit the work and missions of the Wells United Methodist Church.

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Lakes Region Weddings



The roles played by bridesmaids and the maid of honor in a wedding

During a wedding, the couple tying the knot certainly gets to shine, but so, too, do other ceremony participants. From the parents of the bride or groom to the officiant to the ring bearer, there are many roles beyond bride and groom.



A bridal party typically includes a soon-to-be-bride's close friends and family. The bridesmaid tradition may trace its origins to ancient times, when bridesmaids would be selected to dress like the bride and confuse vengeful spirits or warring rival clans who might want to harm the bride. A special individual gets to enjoy a higher-level job within the bridal party, serving as maid of honor, if she is unmarried, or matron of honor if she has already walked down the aisle.

Maid of honor

The maid of honor (MOH) does all of the above and more. She will attend wedding dress shopping appointments and serve as a trusted source of honest feedback. The MOH also may be called in to mediate any conflicts within the bridal party, as these ladies may not all know each other prior to the nuptials. She will check in with the bridesmaids to be sure they are on task and fulfilling any responsibilities in a timely manner.

Bridesmaids lend support and provide help as needed, but it is the maid of honor who will serve as the right-hand woman to the bride. Here is a deep look at the unique rolls these women play both before and during a wedding.

The MOH will be the main point of contact for the bridal shower and bachelorette party. She will keep track of gifts so that the couple can follow up with thank you notes. She also may help assemble and mail out wedding invitations. The MOH will help the bride get dressed on the wedding day and attend to any needs she may have, including providing snacks and water. In the event the bride's gown is cumbersome, the MOH may need to assist the bride by adjusting the dress while seated or when visiting the restroom.

Bridesmaids

A significant amount of planning goes into a wedding and bridesmaids may be called upon to help brides make various decisions. Bridesmaids also offer support to the bride, who may be feeling a tad overwhelmed. It is important for bridesmaids to calm the bride and care for her while she tackles the tasks necessary to host such a momentous occasion.

During the ceremony, the MOH will hold the bride's bouquet and she will give a toast at the reception. She also may make music requests to keep the party upbeat and fun.

Bridesmaids can lend support and opinions when visiting with vendors like florists or musicians. A bride-to-be also may ask certain bridesmaids to come to dress appointments.

There is no minimum or maximum number of people who can be part of a bridal party, but it is important to choose people who can be relied upon and who will enhance the experience. The bride-to-be can discuss her expectations from bridesmaids and the maid of honor at the start of the wedding adventure to ensure that everyone can help ensure the day is a momentous occasion.

Collectively, bridesmaids will plan and help pay for the bridal shower and bachelorette party. They also can assist the mother-of-the-bride with whatever extra help she may need.

7 reasons to hire a wedding planner

The average cost of a wedding in 2022 in the United States came out to roughly \$30,000, according to a survey of 12,000 couples compiled by wedding planning site The Knot. The survey also found New Jersey and Massachusetts topped the list of most costly states to tie the knot.

tasks expeditiously, while couples with no experience planning a wedding may not work so quickly.

When committing to as significant a financial investment as a wedding, couples may want to do all they can to ensure their big day is a hit. There are many advantages to hiring a professional wedding planner, who can take the stress out of a process that should be fun.

4. Helps couples save money: Knowledge and experience also comes with contacts in the industry that can help couples save money. The planner likely knows where to get the best deals, and may be privy to insider pricing and other discounts.

1. Serves as a sounding board: Wedding planners can take couples' ideas and turn them into reality. Seasoned planners know how to help a couple's vision come alive.

5. Serves as a buffer: While everyone wants weddings to be incident-free, conflicts can and do arise. A wedding planner can serve as a mediator or run interference between challenging family members or even vendors.

2. Lightens the responsibility load: A wedding planner takes time-consuming responsibilities off couples' plates. These can include scheduling appointments, dealing with vendors, conducting walk-throughs of locations, and more. This can be a big asset to couples who work full-time.

6. Reduces overall stress levels: There's a measurable difference between the stress experienced by couples who don't hire wedding planners and those who do. The main goal of a wedding is for it to be memorable and for couples and their guests to enjoy themselves. By leaving the planning to someone else, couples can arrive at the big day feeling more relaxed and ready to have fun.

3. Offers a wealth of knowledge: A good wedding planner has years of experience handling weddings and will know which aspects will work and which may not. Also, a wedding planner can likely handle

7. There is an extra person around: Wedding planners can field questions or handle tipping and other tasks on the wedding day, freeing up time for couples to have fun.



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Lakes Region Weddings

Questions to ask when shopping for a wedding reception venue

Engaged couples make plenty of decisions when planning their weddings, and some may be more significant than others. Choosing a wedding reception venue is among the most important decisions couples will make.

The reception venue is where couples and guests will spend the majority of the day, and no two venues are the same. As couples begin shopping for a place to host their reception, they can ask themselves and venue representatives a multitude of questions to narrow down their options and ultimately make the best decision for them.

What are we looking for in a venue?

Some couples may know precisely what they want their receptions to be like, while others may not have the slightest idea. Of course, some couples may be somewhere in the middle. Prior to beginning the process of choosing a venue, couples can identify what they're looking for. Is a venue with outdoor entertaining space a priority? Do you want to hold the ceremony and reception at the same venue? How many guests will the venue need to accommodate? Answering these questions and oth-

ers can help couples narrow down their search.

How much can we afford?

Budget is a significant variable when shopping for a wedding venue. Some venues offer multiple spaces that can accommodate couples with a wide range of budgets, while others are singular spaces suited to receptions within a specified size. Itemizing a budget and determining how much can be allotted to a reception venue can serve as a guideline when couples begin searching for sites.

Is our date available?

Once couples know what they want and what they can afford, they can prepare a number of questions that are worth asking at every venue they visit. Perhaps the most important, at least for those couples who have already chosen a wedding date, is the availability of the site on that date. If couples have not yet chosen a date, they can ask for a list of available dates at each venue they visit and perhaps use that knowledge to pick a day, particularly if they prefer a given venue.

Who will cater the meal?

Some venues do their own cater-



ing, while others may have working relationships with outside caterers. And some venues rent only the spaces and require couples to hire their own caterers and arrange all the details on their own. If a venue caters the meal, ask if they accommodate people with various restrictions, such as food allergies and gluten intolerances.

How many hours are included in the rental agreement?

It's important that couples know what they're getting, including how much time they get in each space they consider. The online wedding

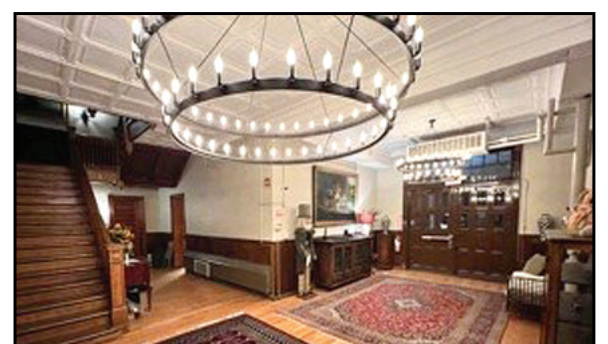
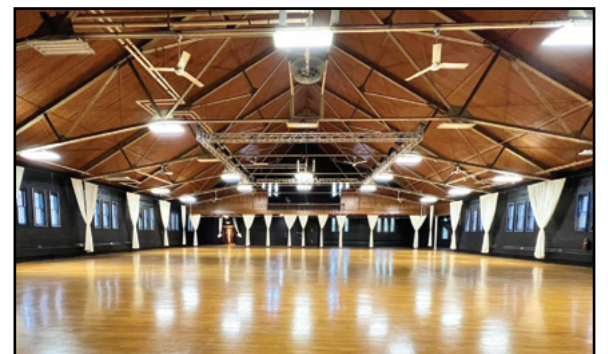
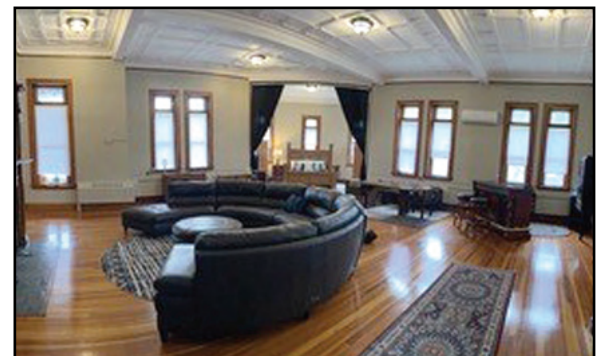
resource The Knot notes a standard wedding reception is five hours, the first of which is generally designated as cocktail hour.

What is the payment structure?

Identifying the payment structure, include down payment due date and when the final payment must be made, is important as well. This knowledge can allow couples to map out their expenses, the most significant of which is typically the reception venue.

These are just some of the questions couples can ask as they plan their wedding receptions.

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Lakes Region Weddings

Small gestures to make a wedding reception more memorable

Wedding ceremonies feature the special moment when a couple officially ties the knot. Such moments have elicited many a tear over the years and helped to create lasting memories for couples and their loved ones. Wedding receptions also help to create lasting memories, and this fun-filled part of a couple's big day can be made even more memorable with some small, unique gestures guests won't soon forget.

■ **Go off the beaten path with your guestbook.** It's customary to set out a guestbook at a wedding reception. Traditional guestbooks ask guests to sign their names and jot down a brief sentiment expressing their love for the happy couple. Couples who want a less traditional guestbook can set up a photobooth for a digital guestbook, leave out a Polaroid camera and encourage guests to snap their own photos or asks guests to sign something unique, like baseballs or planters that can initially be used to house a centerpiece and then be kept as keepsakes for years to come.

■ **Get creative with seating assignments.** Numbered tables are the standard at plated dinner wedding receptions, and couples can even get creative with this familiar tradition. Write guests' names and table numbers on the side of handheld vases with a small bouquet of the couple's

choice of flowers inside, which can double as wedding favors guests take home at the end of the night. In lieu of numbering tables, couples can name them to go along with the theme of the wedding. If it's a beach wedding, name each table after a favorite beach. If couples love Hollywood, name each table after a favorite actor.

■ **Create a cake to remember.** This will likely require some close collaboration with a local bakery, but the options here are as limitless as couples' and their baker's imaginations. Cakes can be created to recreate a favorite piece of art for couples with an artistic streak. Sports fans who met at a game can offer a cake built to mirror the stadium of their favorite team. Couples who love to travel together can create a cake made to look like a jet or a favorite locale they visited prior to tying the knot.

■ **Get guests moving.** The dance floor is a popular place at a wedding reception, and couples can spice things up by hosting a dance-off. Encourage guests of all ages to participate and offer rewards to the guests who impress with their ability to cut the rug.

There's no end to the ways couples can make their receptions more memorable. By focusing on fun, couples can ensure everyone remembers the reception for years to come.

Can't-miss photos for your wedding

Couples who hire a professional photographer to capture their weddings may end up with anywhere from 400 to 600 images, with some photographers promising even more. This list of must-have photos can ensure that the wedding album has all the shots couples desire.

Before the ceremony

- Wedding day outfits hanging in the wardrobe or placed over a chair
- Wedding invitation surrounded by bouquets
- Wedding rings side by side
- Outfit accessories, such as shoes, jewelry, a veil, and cuff links
- Bride and bridesmaids getting hair and makeup done
- Groom and groomsmen laughing and having fun
- Bride getting zipped up into her dress

At the ceremony

- Guests entering the ceremony site
- Ushers escorting guests to their seats
- Cute kids participating in the ceremony coming down the aisle
- Parents of the couple coming down the aisle or seated prominently awaiting the start of the ceremony
- Guests of honor, such as grandparents
- Partner coming down the aisle and the partner's reaction
- Exchange of rings
- First kiss
- A wide shot of the guests at the

ceremony

- Signing the marriage certificate

Portraits

- Couple with bridesmaids and groomsmen
- Bride and maid/matron of honor
- Groom and best man
- Couple with each set of parents and siblings
- Couple with close family members

At the reception

- Couple's first entrance
- Special signage, decorations or photos of the scenery
- Wedding cake details
- Toasts and speeches from key people
- First dance as a couple
- Father/daughter, mother/son dances, if applicable
- Couple mingling with guests
- Guests dancing and having fun
- Shots of the musicians or any special entertainers
- The cake cutting
- The couple's grand exit and wave goodbye

These are some of the customary images that couples will want to request. Photographers likely will cover most of them without prompting, but couples should be sure to point out any special photographs they'd like captured throughout the day.



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Lakes Region Weddings

Consider wedding flowers carefully

Although many decorative elements help to create ambiance for a wedding celebration, perhaps none is more awe-inspiring than beautiful floral arrangements. Flowers offer visual appeal, captivating aromas and texture that can make a space more welcoming.

Engaged couples typically go to great lengths when planning their weddings, but flowers may not be as micromanaged as other elements. Some are content to let florists design their arrangements, but the average cost of wedding flowers in 2023 was \$2,800, according to The Knot Real Weddings Study. That price tag merits some input on the part of couples. Floral experts say couples should budget for floral arrangements coming in at 10 percent of the overall wedding budget, which is the industry standard. Therefore, for a \$60,000 wedding a couple should assume their florals will cost \$6,000. It's important to note that the cost of wedding flowers has been steadily increasing over the last few years due to inflation and climate change, says The Knot. So couples may need to be even more involved in floral decisions to maxi-



mize their dollars spent.

Here are some variables to consider when selecting wedding flowers.

■ **Greenery:** Adding greenery to fill in spaces in floral arrangements can save some money. Centerpieces and bouquets that are floral-heavy will certainly cost more.

■ **Symbolism:** Consider the meaning behind flowers to make choices even more personal. You also may want to select flowers that will complement the theme of the

wedding. For example, traditional spring blooms like tulips and daffodils will coordinate with spring weddings.

■ **Flower varieties:** Hardier varieties of flowers, such as daisies, mums, carnations, and protea, are less likely to wilt quickly in bouquets or centerpieces than some other blooms, even when they are cut. Such blooms can hold up in any weather and last the entire day so that arrangements will be pic-

ture-perfect no matter the hour.

■ **Venue:** Couples may find that some venues already have faux flowers or other decor. That may mean couples do not need to have as many flowers or any elaborate arrangements.

■ **Size:** A particularly large floral centerpiece can overwhelm a table, and a bouquet that is overly cumbersome may detract from the bride or her bridesmaids. Choose the correct scale for comfort in bouquets. For table arrangements, select a size that will not discourage conversation or block guests' view, nor take up too much real estate on the table.

■ **Allergies:** Although they are cut, flowers in arrangements can trigger allergic responses in some people. Others may be bothered by overly aromatic flowers. Work with the florist to find blooms that will be best.

■ **Color scheme:** Although white flowers always coordinate, many couples like some color in their arrangements. Be sure the flowers pick up the hues used in bridesmaid dresses or even the season of the year.



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Lakes Region Weddings

Unique wedding favor ideas

Guests bring gifts to weddings to express their love for couples. Gift-giving also tends to be reciprocal, with couples making sure that guests leave the celebration with their own tokens of affection and mementos of the special occasion. Although favors are not mandatory, they often are included in wedding planning to make the celebration that much more special.

Favors run the gamut from simple, such as tulle-wrapped Jordan almonds, to elaborate, like crystal vases. While there are no rules regarding the type of favors couples can offer, most soon-to-be-newlyweds prefer something that is not only unique, but will have utility as well. The following are some favors to consider.

■ **Food-based favors:** Guests who already have a drawer full of personalized shot glasses, pens and drink stirrers with couple's names and wedding dates may appreciate the simplicity of a favor they can enjoy without having to store. A gourmet cookie, special jerky, small bottle of olive oil or maple syrup, or another food item that is widely enjoyed can be practical and affordable.

■ **Thank-you cards:** Offer each guest in attendance a heartfelt thank-you for attending the wedding. Personalize the sentiments to each

guest. If you have a photo of yourself with that guest, include it in the card.

■ **Candy or snack bar:** A wedding takeaway can be as simple as letting guests fill up decorative containers with various candies and other treats displayed on a special table at the reception. For a fun twist, try to find old-fashioned candy or items you remember eating as a child to stir up nostalgia.

■ **Flower seeds or seedlings:** Sustainable gifts such as flower seeds or small seedling plants can let guests plant something as a remembrance of the day.

■ **Scratch-off lottery tickets:** The opportunity to return home from a wedding with a winning ticket and a few extra dollars in their pockets can appeal to guests.

■ **Charitable donation:** Rather than giving guests favors, you may want to offer donations to a charity instead. This is a popular gesture among modern couples.

■ **Luggage tags:** Guests will always think of you when they travel far and wide thanks to luggage tags printed with sweet sentiments.

■ **Wine stoppers:** Customized wine stoppers will keep guests' bottles of wine fresh without taking up much space in a home bar.



How to manage the menu at your wedding reception

Wedding receptions are the culmination of a lot of planning. Though there may not be any insignificant decisions when planning the post-ceremony party, some choices will loom larger than others, including which foods will be served. When planning a wedding reception, couples can choose a venue that provides the food, such as a traditional reception center; otherwise, the reception may take place at an outdoor location or a venue that is not equipped to prepare and serve food. In the latter instances, couples will contract with an outside caterer. In both situations certain factors can help determine who to use for reception food services.

Planning

A traditional reception center/catering hall is likely a wise choice for couples who prefer simplicity in wedding day meal planning. These facilities are experts at addressing all of the components that go into a reception. Such venues offer access to a cocktail area and banquet room, and the facility likely has a staff of chefs at the ready to dish up meals. While many reception centers offer restaurant-quality offerings, scouting venues and sampling dishes will provide an idea of how foods taste and help couples narrow down their choices.

Preferences

Some receptions are multi-course events starting from the moment guests arrive and snack on hors d'oeuvres to the dessert display served as a final course. Others are

low-key and may not have full sit-down service. If you prefer a cocktail atmosphere only, certain venues may make more sense than others. Identifying how much food to have and the type of service desired can help pinpoint caterers to interview.

Chef access

Having a specific chef or cuisine in mind may require separating the food from a venue. Reception centers likely will not allow couples to bring in their own food. Therefore, you will have to find a venue where outside food is possible. Then you can work with a favorite chef for catering services.

Location

Some couples prefer to combine their ceremony and reception at one spot. This may be at a beachside location or in a converted country barn. If this seems like a scenario you are considering, then the venue will take priority and you'll have to find an outside caterer to service the wedding.

Allergies

Food allergies and intolerances are on the minds of many nowadays. It is important to be mindful of food restrictions when speaking with caterers. Take careful inventory of work-arounds so that every guest at the wedding can be enjoy a safe, delicious meal.

The wedding reception menu is an important variable for engaged couples to consider. A host of factors may come into consideration as couples try to determine how to feed their guests come their wedding day.



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What to know before a wedding gown shopping trip

Weddings mark a turning point from one stage in life to another. The significance of that transition is perhaps one reason why couples and their guests dress so nicely for a wedding ceremony and reception. Formal garb is a wedding tradition, and guests anxiously await seeing which type of gown a bride will wear. In western cultures, white wedding gowns have been the standard since the nineteenth century and are believed to symbolize purity and grace. In eastern cultures, wedding gowns often have been elaborate, colorful creations that have their own symbolic meanings unique to various areas of the world.

Shopping for a wedding gown can spark mixed emotions. While it is exciting to try on some remarkable garments, there also is the pressure of knowing all eyes will be on you while wearing this couture creation. Narrowing down wedding gown prospects can take vision, time and patience. The following pointers can help when it comes time to visit bridal shops.

Make an appointment

Many bridal shops operate by appointment only. That's because



the staff wants to devote complete attention to a client, and having people simply walk in from the street can draw their attention away and/or lead to long wait times. Identify the stores you want to visit, and then call to secure your time slot.

Narrow down styles

Think about what your personal style might be and how you want to look on your wedding day. If you're not sure about the vocabulary surrounding dress silhouettes, visit Pinterest or Instagram and save images of dresses that you love.

Then you can show the sales staff what you are thinking instead of going in empty-handed.

Keep an open mind

Try on a few different styles even if you have a particular dress in mind. You never know if something might be a better fit for your body type or the scope and style of your wedding unless you give it a go.

Start the process early

Unlike off-the-rack clothing, most wedding shops will have to order your dress and have it shipped. Then comes a few weeks for alterations.

KWH Bridal notes eight to 12 months before a wedding is a good time to choose and order a dress. Brides magazine says most made-to-order wedding gowns take about six to nine months to create. There also are three separate fittings to ensure the gown will fit like a glove.

Invite a handful of confidantes

It's best not to arrive at the shopping appointment with an entire entourage. Pick, at the most, four people whose opinions you trust; otherwise, it could be a case of too many cooks in the kitchen. As a bride-to-be you'll already be anxious, and you'll want soothing, supportive people with you.

Plan your budget

Know well in advance what you can afford to spend. According to data from The Knot, wedding attire accounts for 7 percent of the average couple's budget. Most wedding gowns are in the range of \$2,000. Don't forget about additional costs, such as veil, shoes, alterations, undergarments, and any add-ons.

In addition to these tips, arrive to an appointment well-rested, fed and comfortable.





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Maple

Continued from front page

“This is the first year with the Kid Zone during the MapleFest,” said Laura Williams, director of the Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee. “I’m happy with the kid turnout.

“It was nice the PDRC was open to the Kid Zone,” Williams added. “It’s fun to see the community and visitors going out to the sugarhouses.”

Stationed in the St. Raphael’s Parish Hall parking lot was the Poultney Fire Department selling T-shirts, as well as Lewis Sugarhouse selling all sorts of maple products and other goodies.

At the Kid Zone Hicks Orchard presented luscious items such as cider donuts, fresh cider, apple butter, local hone, jams and jellies, and very yummy maple covered donuts topped with walnuts or bacon. There was also a lemonade stand.

REclaimed Danny Lang held a demonstration of the operation of a lathe, a machine tool that shapes wood by rotating the workpiece while a stationary cutting tool removes material, creating objects with symmetry around an axis of rotation. This results in a very smooth wooden object.

At the Poultney Historical Society and before the official opening ceremony and tree-tapping commenced, NYVT Media met with the guest of honor and Poultney Citizen of the Year Dick Gray. “I am honored they asked me to come today. I still am confused as to why they picked me as Citizen of the Year,” said Gray. “What a beautiful day. This is really a nice thing and so nice to see the people.”

At precisely 10 a.m. Dick Gray, Sen. Terry Williams, Rep. Patricia McCoy, Lexi Bancroft from Green’s Sugarhouse and Sugar Bear gathered together.

Jamie Lee, president of Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee, said a few words to the audience. She thanked everyone for coming, thanked the sponsors, and shared her excitement of all the events being offered for the day.

Gray and Williams went into action and demonstrated the drill-

ing, placing the taps and setting the buckets for the flowing sap, as onlooker Sugar Bear stood by. Lots of oohs and aahs were uttered.

“What a great day to be here,” said state Rep. Patricia McCoy. “Last year we had so much snow.”

“I’m from South Granville and have a small farm making lots of maple syrup,” said Sen. Terry Williams. “I’m looking forward to the maple season.”

“Great to see the community come out and celebrate MapleFest. Lots of fun activities are planned for today,” said Poultney Historical Society president Krista Rupe. “Happy the Historical Society could host the ceremony for a second year.”

Photo opts and interviews with Greg McCormick from Peg TV ensued afterwards. This reporter was surprised to run into one of her prior eighth graders, John Dematties, who stands at 6 feet 5.5 inches. He’s a volunteer at Green’s Sugarhouse and amusingly his official title is Chief Executive Quality Control Maple Cotton Candy.

The horse-driven wagon joined the ceremony, as well. Soon after and until 2 p.m. people lined up at the East Poultney United Baptist Church, climbing aboard and getting comfy for the horse and wagon rides. Many savored the maple baked goods, such as maple rolls, maple biscotti and more for sale.

From 10:30 to 11:30 individuals took off and explored the Slate Valley Trails East Poultney Hike traversing the scenic trails. The Poultney Public Library gathered from 11 a.m. to noon for story time.

Owners Adrian and Linda Watkins of Bryn Cariad Farm opened their gates for a petting zoo and baked goods. The children especially loved the chickens and baby lambs. Some even had the opportunity to snuggle with one and get up really close without having to deal with a fence.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. sugarhouses opened their doors for all sorts of exciting things and goodies.

Green’s Sugarhouse offered guided tours, maple product samples, treats, showed their wood fired evaporation in action and boasted a stocked shop to fill anyone’s maple desires.

Verlaska Farm had a tour of



MapleFest official road sign

“backyarder” sugar maker and offered snacks made with maple syrup such as chili, beet stew and cake.

Marshall’s Maple boiled sap over a campfire and cooked up hot dogs.

Thrall Road Maple gave sugarhouse and bush tours, maple syrup samples, hot dogs, treats and soft drinks in a family-fun atmosphere.

Mahar Maple Farm, known for its award-winning maple syrup, conducted tours and explained the syrup production process.

Cuttin’ It Sweet gave family friendly tours and offered fried bread dough, complimentary maple hot dogs, as well as hot beverages.

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Not only did the sugarhouses offer food and drink, but so did the local establishments and food trucks. No going hungry or thirsty at the 2025 MapleFest. Such a variety existed at

Stewart’s, Rail Trail Eatery, Toad’s Burgers, Cluckin’ Café, Perry’s Eatery, Poultney Pub, Farmstand Café, Lil Breakfast, Pelletiers Maple Fried Dough and Rolling Rooster.

People had the opportunity to peruse the local shops on Main St. that operated all day long with super sales.

Alongside the front of Toad’s Burgers, Gran-Debra Farms set up a tent with six two-week old baby lamancha goats. The farm is owned by the Adams Family, and they carry soap, fudge and more. “Where the goats are spoiled. The soap smells amazing, and the fudge is so good it’s bad,” is there motto.

At noon Marlene Steiner from Bhakta Spirits poured the flagship whiskey, BHAKTA Spirits 1928. The tasters thoroughly enjoyed the bold rye whiskey fortified with Ancient Armagnac. This spirit embodies the Spirit of the Roaring Twenties.

Happy Hour Syrup Slam, stories and thank you party was from 4-5 p.m. at the Poultney Pub. It was a celebratory time for the individuals who planned and volunteered for MapleFest 2025.

Culminating the day for most ended at the Young at Heart Senior Center. They hosted the annual MapleFest dinner with maple-glazed ham, maple mashed sweet potatoes, vegetables, desserts and beverages. The cost was \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 and under. Dinner was served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Takeout was available by calling 802-287-9200. All proceeds supported Young at Heart.

People did flock and showed their support for the Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee’s efforts. Indulgence in maple delights was what it was all about, including fun for all ages, exploring local sugar houses, horse-driven wagon rides, petting zoo, hikes, bike rides, camaraderie and more. A successful MapleFest 2025 indeed!

Other organizations and part of the MapleFest Planning Team include the Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce, Poultney Coworking Space, Poultney Historical Society, Poultney Journal, Poultney Recreation, Poultney Rotary Club and ReClaimED Makerspace.

Visit poultneydowntown.com/maplefest for a complete listing of the sponsors and in-kind donations.



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Photos by Catherine M. Oliverio
Jamie Lee and Sugar Bear thank sponsors.



A young boy content with his baby goat.



Jillian Nash of Bryn Cariad Farm



Dick Gray gathers with State Representative Patricia McCoy, Senator Terry Williams, Sugar Bear and Lexi Bancroft from Green's Sugarhouse.



REclaimed Danny Lang operates a lathe.



Lynne Bardon, Lynn Wierdon, Sugar Bear, Lexi Bancroft and John Dematties



Young girl snuggles with baby lamb.



Chelsea, Nathan, Abigail and Hattie Loomis gather in Kid Zone.



MapleFest horse and wagon ride



Poultney Citizen of the Year Dick Gray and his wife Bonnie Gray



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What's the Difference?

Find the four difference between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Painting is a television on wall 2. Missing image in newspaper 3. Orange juice is larger 4. Plant on shelf back left

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



1513: Juan Ponce de León reaches the northern tip of The Bahamas on his first voyage to Florida.

1886: The Apache warrior, Geronimo, surrenders to the U.S. Army.

1964: The Good Friday earthquake hits Alaska with a magnitude of 9.2.

Book FACT:

This famous author is celebrated each March for his many contributions to children's literature.

Answer: Dr. Seuss

NEW WORD MEMORIZE

learn by heart; commit to memory

How they say that in...

- English:** Word
- Spanish:** Palabra
- Italian:** Parola
- French:** Mot
- German:** Wort

Did You Know?

The average adult will read between 200 and 400 words per minute. Older adults (over age 65) tend to read more than young people.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Child reading bc



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