

VERMONT

## Statewide Cleanup Planned

### Green Up Vermont Partners With State

By **Stephen Cheslik**  
EAGLE TIMES  
MANAGING EDITOR

Orange is the new green — at least it will be across Vermont on Aug. 26.

Gov. Phil Scott announced that Green Up Vermont's annual cleanup will make a special August appearance this year in the aftermath of July's floods.

During the Green Up Vermont Recovery Clean Up Day, "people from all across Vermont — all 251 cities and towns — go into public spaces, mainly roadsides, to pick up litter," said Green Up Vermont Executive Director Kate Alberghini. "We basically clean the entire state of Vermont."

During this month's cleanup, Green Up Vermont, in partnership with the state, will distribute 10,000 orange trash bags for volunteers to fill with flood debris and

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CLAREMONT, N.H.

## Volunteers Unearth Museum's Treasures

By **Chris Frost**

EAGLE TIMES NEWS EDITOR  
CLAREMONT, N.H. — Big things are underway at the Claremont History Museum, as the collection is cataloged, organized and ultimately digitized.

The museum contains treasures and unique finds, including one room featuring items made in Claremont.

The project aims to identify items related to Claremont's history and ensure they remain in good shape as the museum shows off Claremont's proud history.

Volunteer Jill Chastenay said there are "tons of files" in the Historical Society's cabinets.

"President Dakin Burdick created a spreadsheet where we are documenting

what's in those files and figuring out where things are," Chastenay said. "When you look at some of the files, it will say there are things, but they are not in the file because it's an artifact and might be on display or needs storage."

She and her partner, Cheri Losito, are trying find and catalog everything at the museum. Chastenay recently fell in love with a catalog of the breeds of horses of William H. Moody.

"He was known for having a lot of horses because he was into horse racing," Chastenay said. "I also found some cool pictures of Stevens High School, and since I am a teacher, I always pull out pictures of Stevens High School."

She teaches social studies at Stevens and admits to being a "history geek."

"I just earned my master's degree in heritage studies and a master's certificate in historic preservation," she said. "I'm looking for more ways to get involved in museum science. As much as I love my students, I'm getting ready to get out of teaching."

She's lived in Claremont most of her life and finds it fascinating.

"I don't think I'll ever stop teaching, even if I'm not at Stevens," Chastenay said. "I love teaching people about history and want people to be enthusiastic about history."

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DEANNA MEADOW PHOTO

Teams of draft horses compete at the Cornish Fair in a test of horsepower and human-to-horse communication. The Cornish Fair starts Friday.

CLAREMONT, N.H.

## Applicant Asks for Variance for RV

By **Chris Frost**  
EAGLE TIMES  
NEWS EDITOR

CLAREMONT, N.H. — The City Planning Board is being asked if RVs can be used for commercial businesses and transient housing in the city.

During its Aug. 7 meeting, the board voted to continue discussing the usage request for 142 E. Green Mountain Road. A site visit was held on Tuesday with a meeting planned for Monday.

On a 4-1 vote, the board determined that a recreational vehicle for a commercial purpose in short-term rentals be dismissed because they don't feel it fits the zoning definition.

The applicants, Stephen and Nicole Verbeck, of Revere, Mass., and their representative Jeffrey Christianson, said the board asked for code compliance for the RV and wanted to speak with the Claremont City Council about issues regarding the application.

Christianson said Norm Skantze, a former fire chief and fire safety and building safety consultant, had inspected the camper, found it complied with the National Fire Protection Association's 1192 standard and recommended the addition of a second egress and guards for the loft.

"Although New Hampshire has not adopted NFPA 1192 and Claremont hasn't built it into its zoning ordinance independently, the review of the camper is regardless of what's

See RV, page A5

## Food, Rides, Entertainment at 2023 Cornish Fair

By **Audrey Champness**

EAGLE TIMES  
CORRESPONDENT  
CORNISH, N.H. — Get ready to be swept off your feet by the annual Cornish Fair.

Around 20,000 fairgoers are expected to visit the Cornish fairground during its run from Friday to Sunday.

Tracing its roots back to 1949,

when it was little more than a couple of booths and a calf, the fair has stood the test of time to become a celebrated tradition.

The fair offers an array of fun attractions that cater to visitors of all ages and interests. Music aficionados can enjoy a lineup of bands, including the Catfish Howl Zydeco Band and ZBTB (Zac Brown Tribute Band).

Art enthusiasts can admire art exhibits that showcase the community's creativity and skills. Thrill-seekers can experience heart-pounding excitement on the rides. And, those looking for unique treasures can explore the vendor's booths offering handmade crafts, delicious local

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## Windsor County Mentors Stand for Area's Kids

By **Chris Frost**  
EAGLE TIMES  
NEWS EDITOR

WINDSOR, Vt. — Members of the Windsor County Mentors are dedicated professionals who advocate for happy, productive youth.

The mentor program offers school- and community-based programs. In the school-based program, children are matched with a mentor who meets with the child for an hour weekly.

Funding for mentoring program comes from grant organizations



CHRIS FROST/EAGLE TIMES PHOTO

**Windsor County Mentors Executive Director Matthew Garcia helps match area youth with mentors.**

inside and outside Vermont and the National Mentoring Project

(Mentor NMP).

According to vcmentors.org, children with mentors are "52 percent less likely to skip a school day, 46 percent less likely to use drugs, are less likely to engage in risky behavior and 81 percent more likely to participate in sports, 55 percent more likely to enroll in College, 78 more likely to volunteer and 130 percent more likely to hold leadership positions."

Executive Director Matthew

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LOTTERIES

POWERBALL 8/14/23  
32-34-37-39-47 PB: 3

MEGA MILLIONS 8/15/23  
18-39-42-57-63 MB: 7

MEGABUCKS 8/12/23  
1-16-26-36-41 MB: 3

PICK 3/4 DAY 8/16/23  
0-8-6 AND 3-6-1-7

WEATHER

THURSDAY

 **76°/ 66°**

Variable cloudiness with a shower in spots; humid

FRIDAY

 **75°/ 56°**

Cloudy, breezy, some showers and a heavy t-storm; t-storms can bring hail and damaging winds

SATURDAY

 **72°/ 52°**

Clouds and breaks of sun; breezy with a brief shower or two

# Big Plants, Tall Plants

If Jack, of Beanstalk fame, were to visit my garden, I think he would be impressed. I'm not sure how tall his beanstalk grew, but I got out my 10-ft tripod Hasegawa pruning ladder and took a picture of a flower blossom while standing on the top step. The flower, a black-eyed Susan stood 111 inches tall on a thick stem that has withstood the wind and rains of recent weeks — without any staking. It is truly a Goliath.

But this is no ordinary black-eyed Susan. Its Latin name, *Rudbeckia maxima* gives you a clue about its inclinations. It wants to be bigger and better than any other in the same genus, or family group. Its common name is large coneflower, which is appropriate as the flower does have a large black cone surrounded by yellow petals. I've read that it commonly grows 6-to-8-feet tall, but this year it has exceeded that — and may still be growing. The leaves are few, but large, and blue green in color. Quite interesting. The leaves are mostly clustered towards the bottom of the stalk.

Large coneflower is not commonly sold in nurseries. But if you find one — or better yet, three — plant it where it can strut its stuff. It does well in full sun, and average, moist soil. Perhaps because my soil is above average (it is rich, black and fluffy), my plants are taller than average. A few words of warning: *Rudbeckia maxima* hates to be moved and can take a couple of years to recover from transplanting, or at least mine did.

Another tall, lanky plant I love is a meadow rue called *Thalictrum rochebrunianum* 'Lavender Mist'. My go-to flower book is 'Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants' by Steve M. Still. This is an 800-page text that tells me most everything I need to know about any flower I want to grow: where a plant will grow best, zone hardiness, flower description, how best utilized, related species and much

more.

Still's book says 'Lavender Mist' commonly grows 4-to-6-feet tall with delicate lavender sepals, no petals, and "primrose-yellow stamens'. Like the *Rudbeckia* above, mine get tall, often 8-feet or perhaps more and has large parts of the stem bare of leaves. The finely cut leaves are on a few side branches along the tall stem. This one does need staking sometimes to keep it erect in rain storms. It is a splendid cut flower, very dramatic in a tall vase. 'Lavender Mist' does well in part shade and rich soil. Half a day of sun is fine.

Some years ago at a

Henry Homeyer

## GARDENING GUY

garden-design competition in the Loire Valley of France I happened upon a Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) called 'Fascination'. It is a tall plant, 6- to 7- feet tall for me. The flowers are lilac-rose colored spikes and quite striking. But no one had them for sale in the States until I finally found one for sale at a Mom-and-Pop roadside corn and tomato stand that also sold marigolds and geraniums. Huh. How did it get there? I don't know, but I bought it and still have it 20 years later.

'Fascination' flops in rainy weather and needs to be surrounded by three strong stakes and a barrier of string. But if I remember to cut back the stems by half in mid-to-late June, it does not flop and produces many more flower spikes. Instead of one per stem, it produces six or so smaller ones, and a bit later in the summer. Mine is blooming now.

I've come to love the common white Culver's root even better than 'Fascination'. It only gets to be four-feet or so tall, but needs no staking. Bees and wasps love it, too.

While visiting a farmer in Ohio I spotted a fascinating big plant called teasel, growing in his corn field. I was told that teasel (*Dipsacus* spp.) was a horrible weed, and that I was

crazy to collect seed from it (though I did anyway). It is biennial with a spiny stalk and leaves, and sculptural blossoms that are not like any other I have seen. Hard to describe, see the photo with this article.

Each spring I pull out all but two or three first-year teasel plants so they do not take over my garden. I have three this year, and one is easily 8-feet tall. The flowers are fabulous in an arrangement, and can be used dry all winter. Outdoors the stems stand up in wind, snow and ice and are endlessly fascinating to me.

Another favorite tall native plant of mine is called snakeroot, bugbane or black cohosh. Its scientific genus used to be *Cimicifuga*, but now it has been changed to *Actaea*. I grow two species, *Actaea racemosa* and *A. ramosa*. They bloom starting in August and are a great treat for pollinators, especially bees of all sizes and types. They bloom in alphabetical order, *A. racemosa* first, then *A. ramosa*. They can have a VERY strong scent, which I like as much as the bees do.

Snakeroot is a native woodland plant, but will do well in full sun or part shade so long as there is plenty of moisture. There are also named cultivars such as 'Hillside Black Beauty' that have leaves that are deep purple to almost black and are very striking in the garden. This spring I had 'Hillside Black Beauty' growing next to a *Rodgersia* with big almost-orange leaves, and the combination was breathtaking. Later those orange-tinted leaves turn green.

If you garden on a flat area, think about growing some tall perennial plants to give your garden a more interesting look. And mix in some shrubs or small trees to give you height in winter. But that's an article for another day.

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HENRY HOMEYER PHOTOS

Meadow rue is also known as lavender mist.



Native Culver's root is delicate looking, but strong.



Snakeroot or Cohosh is loved by bees and has a strong scent.

## 54 YEARS AND COUNTING



MARGARET DRYE PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE TIMES

Troop 25 from Manchester, Conn., celebrated its annual summer scout camp in Lempster, N.H., on Saturday by marching in the Lempster Old Home Day Parade. The troop has been attending Camp Kirkham on Dodge Pond for 54 years. "We are a part of Lempster and Lempster is a part of us," said Scoutmaster Emeritus Paul Maidment. The troop returns to Connecticut on Saturday.

## Kurn Hattin Summer Program Wraps Up Tech Week

**Special To The Eagle Times**  
WESTMINSTER, Vt. — Kurn Hattin Homes for Children recently finished its summer program—Tech Week.

This one-week program immersed the students into a dynamic world of technology with the aim of fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving in young minds, preparing them to thrive in the ever-evolving tech-driven landscape.

The students delved into projects like building robots within the VEX Robotics Continuum while on teams, with their objective being to deliver payloads to

a destination in a model Robot City. They had hands on experience with Snap Circuits and Circuit Maze while they learned all about the fundamentals of electrical engineering.

Kurn Hattin Homes' students were challenged to use Design Thinking to create visual representations of their ideas using any medium in the SmartLab that aligned with the criteria and constraints.

They practiced empathy to consider what the astronauts would need to live happy, healthy, safe and productive lives on Mars. Students ideated together, drew blueprints, and then created a habitat complete

with comfort items, pets, an aquaponic farm, laboratory, observatory, and a model airlock with moving doors.

"On all of these challenges, campers did an amazing job, practicing the 4 Cs of the modern working world; Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Critical Thinking," Benjamin Weiner, Technology Facilitator, said. "There is a lot of potential in this implementation of the SmartLab, and I can't wait to see what it can become."

The diversity offered during Tech Week has undoubtedly left a lasting impact on students, equipping them with valuable skills for their future.

## Scam Alert: 'Couriers' Come for Cash in Grandchild Scam

**Special To The Eagle Times**  
BURLINGTON, Vt. — Attorney General Charity Clark is warning Vermonters that the grandparent scam is on the rise — and scammers are using new, sophisticated tactics.

Typically, callers claim to be grandchildren in an emergency situation, such as in a car accident, in prison, or at the hospital, and need money to resolve the problem. The Attorney General's Consumer Assistance Program has received reports of a new tactic used with this scam: scammers

have local "couriers" arrive in person and collect money directly from grandparents at their home to resolve the fake emergency.

"Calls from family in distress are emotionally jarring. Scammers know this and pressure us to act quickly," said Clark. "The best thing you can do right now, is come up with a family emergency plan, so that if you receive one of these calls you can quickly conclude that your family member is safe."

While the grandchild imposter scam has long plagued Vermonters, "couriers" coming to homes to

collect cash is new. The Consumer Assistance Program has received 19 reports of grandchild imposter scams since the beginning of the year.

In three complaints, grandparents were advised that an individual or a "courier," sometimes referencing "UPS" or "FedEx," would retrieve cash from them at their homes— two of these scams resulted in monetary losses of thousands of dollars.

Common elements of this scam include:

Cash is needed to pay for a "bond" or a "bail bond agent" or other "legal fees."

A loved one was involved in a "car accident," and has severely injured someone.

A person, possibly part of a courier service, comes to your home to retrieve cash.

The Federal Trade Commission has further warned that scammers are using artificial intelligence to clone the voice of the grandchild, making the urgent call seem more credible.

Vermonters who receive these calls should resist the urge to act immediately and take steps to verify the caller's identity.

The Consumer Assistance

Program advises that, whenever contacted by someone unknown who asks for cash, a money order, a gift card to be purchased, funds to be wired, or for any other financial transaction initiated, take steps to verify the identity of your loved one in distress. Here's how:

- Take a deep breath and slow down, the office advises. Scammers create a sense of urgency; by slowing down you can protect yourself from falling for their tricks.

- Write down the phone number of the caller and hang up the phone.

- Call your grandchild or another person who can verify their whereabouts and well-being.

- To protect yourself from future scams, create a scam prevention plan now. Consider creating an uncommon family codeword, phrase, or pin number that you agree to keep private. Make a phone tree of reliable contacts to call if a scam like this is received.

If you, or someone you know, has lost money to this scam, contact law enforcement and report the scam to the Consumer Assistance Program at 1-800-649-2424.