

## INDEPENDENCE DAY



JENNIFER HAUCK (above) and GEOFF HANSEN / Valley News file photographs  
Fireworks rain down over Lake Morey in Fairlee on July 4, 2025. Below: John Yacavone, of Meriden, waits for the start of Plainfield's Fourth of July parade in 2019.

## Upper Valley celebrates 250

### Fireworks, parades and sing-a-longs highlight July 4 events

By LIZ SAUCHELLI  
Valley News Staff Writer

Independence Day is almost here and Upper Valley communities are getting ready to celebrate in style. Fireworks are back in Lebanon Thursday and other towns, including Claremont, Hartford, Vershire and Woodstock, have them in the coming days. Some towns, like Norwich and Thetford, are adding celebrations for the nation's 250th. Multiple towns will host community readings of the Declaration of Independence and patriotic sing-alongs.

All in all, it's looking like the region is going to be full of fun this week so be sure to get out and explore.

Events free unless otherwise noted. Email additions and updates to calendar@vnews.com.

### Fireworks

**Brownsville:** July 3, dusk (around 8:30/9 p.m.), Astuney Outdoors, 449 Ski Tow Road.

**Claremont:** July 3, 9:30 p.m., Monadnock Park, 190 Broad St. (Rain date: July 5).

**Fairlee:** July 4, around 9 p.m., over Lake Morey.

**Grafton:** July 11, around 9:15 p.m., Williams Recreation Field, 37 Prescott Hill Road.

**Hartford/Wilder:** July 4, around 9 p.m., Kilowatt South Park, 61 Passumpsic Ave.

**Hartland:** July 5, 9 p.m., Hartland Recreation Center, 9 Route 12.

**Lebanon:** July 2, 9:15 p.m., visible from Colburn Park, 51 N. Park St.

**New London:** July 1, Pleasant Lake.

SEE FOURTH OF JULY A5



## NEW HAMPSHIRE

# Electric rates to change Aug. 1

### Price difference between suppliers is minimal

By CLARE SHANAHAN  
Valley News Staff Writer

Though residential electric rates will continue to climb in New Hampshire come August, the supply cost on customers' bills will only differ by a few dollars per month regardless of power provider.

Come Aug. 1, average residential electric supply costs will range from about \$91 per month on the low end to about \$103 on the high end, based on average usage according to New Hampshire's Public Utilities Commission.

Though the disparity in the cost of providers is limited for now, the long-term future of electric rates remains uncertain. Legacy utilities — including Eversource and Liberty in the Upper Valley — still need to recoup millions of dollars from ratepayers because of past costs that exceeded budgeted expectations.

For the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire that launched in 2023 with the promise of reduced costs, the electric rates approved for August through January will mark a return to parity after more than a year where CPCNH customers were paying higher rates.

The current price-setting window is one of two periods when electric companies set rates in New Hampshire through the PUC.

Starting in August, CPCNH customers in towns served by Liberty will pay a slightly lower rate compared to those taking service from Liberty.

In towns served by Eversource, CPCNH customers will pay slightly higher rates through community power, but less so than in recent months.

Through the coalition, towns and cities buy electricity for residents to reduce and stabilize energy costs and offer multiple renewable energy options for customers. Traditional utility companies, such as Eversource and Liberty in the Upper Valley, still own and maintain the electricity transmission lines and other physical infrastructure.

The difference in supply rates comes down

*Though the disparity in the cost between providers is limited for now, the long-term future of rates remains uncertain.*

## WEATHER

# Extreme heat warning issued

### Concerns for Upper Valley extend through Friday

By SOFIA LANGLOIS  
Valley News Staff Writer

WEST LEBANON — The Upper Valley is bracing for a wave of extreme heat anticipated to last through Friday.

In a Tuesday advisory, the National Weather Service warned East Coast residents

of dangerously hot temperatures starting Wednesday afternoon through Friday evening, with heat index values up to 110 forecast.

"Overnight low temperatures will only fall into the 70s, resulting in accumulated heat stress," the advisory stated.

While libraries and other public spaces often serve as cooling shelters amid heat waves, Fourth of July weekend means several of them will be closed or have limited hours on Friday.

Medical emergencies related to heat are common in the summer months, said Dr. Ryan

Gerecht, who serves as medical director for emergency management for Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

"It's certainly something that will present itself this weekend," Gerecht said Tuesday by phone.

Heat-related illnesses typically account for 6% of emergency department volume during a period of extreme heat, a significant increase from what is usually zero, said Gerecht. Dart-

SEE HEAT A4

## WINDSOR COUNTY

# Senate candidates debate issues

By SOFIA LANGLOIS  
Valley News Staff Writer

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION — The six Democrats competing for three Senate seats from Windsor County explained how they'd address core issues in Vermont during a forum Monday. After the August primary election, only three will make it onto the November ballot.

The candidates:

■ Ben Brickner has been on the Pomfret Selectboard for five years and is the current chair.

■ State Rep. Elizabeth Burrows of West Windsor has been in the Legislature for six years.

■ Heather Chase, of Chester, was a state representative from 2023 to 2025, has been a registered nurse for 43 years and serves on the Vermont Eco-

nomie Progress Council.

■ Christopher Dube of Hartford served over 32 years in the town fire department, and is president of Professional Firefighters of Vermont.

■ Incumbents Becca White and Joe Major are seeking reelection. Alison Clarkson, after 22 years in the Legislature, has opted not to

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JAMES M. PATTERSON / Valley News

Tom Hughes, left, hands a question from an audience member to Emilie Tenenbaum to ask at a Windsor County Senate candidates' forum

## INSIDE



## SPORTS

### GOING FOR THE GOLD

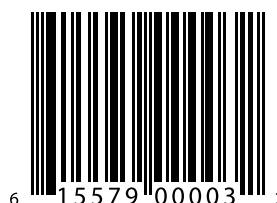
Last week, Brett Clough, of Quechee, and other participants from the Upper Valley joined athletes from around the country to compete at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games in Minnesota.

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## WORLD & NATION

### TRANS ATHLETE BAN UPHELD

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday that states banning transgender athletes from competition does not violate Title IX, the federal law which prohibits sex discrimination in education. Page B3



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