

## Emergency response, in distress

STORY BY ADAM PIORE | GLOBE STAFF

About 15 minutes after her 2-year-old daughter went into cardiac arrest, **Andrea Feeley realized an ambulance was not coming to save her.**

Just before 10:30 a.m. that January morning, Feeley was kneeling in front of the couch trying to entice her curly-haired little girl, Yuna, to take a drink of Pedialyte when she suddenly went limp and stopped breathing. Yuna had been sent home from day care two days earlier with a low-grade fever, but until that morning Feeley had no reason to believe she was seriously ill.



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Feeley's son called 911. Within minutes, town firefighters converged on Feeley's tidy, two-story clapboard home in Winthrop and took over chest compressions and CPR on the toddler. It was immediately clear she needed the kind of advanced life support that trained paramedics could provide.

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## Legislator and lobbyist make for a power couple

His committee reviews bills of interest to her clients



Representative Jeff Roy

By Samantha J. Gross  
GLOBE STAFF

When state Representative Jeff Roy was sworn in for the sixth time last winter, he posed for a photo outside the House chamber with a high-powered lobbyist.

**STATE SECRETS** She wasn't any ordinary guest. She was Jennifer Crawford, a partner in the state's highest grossing influence firm. He is the chairman of the House energy committee, with oversight over many bills and issues of keen interest to Crawford and her firm, especially a sweeping climate bill then chugging toward passage that was sprinkled with priorities for some of Crawford's clients.

And the two are dating. The blossoming of their relationship is evident in photos on Facebook, and was officially and very quietly acknowledged by Roy in a letter to the House clerk that revealed he and a lobbyist at Smith, Costello & Crawford were in a per-

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'People tend to behave better when it's in front of people they live around versus distant, anonymous strangers.'

MICHAEL WOOD-LEWIS, *Front Porch Forum's chief executive*

## Amid the noise and discord online, a model of civility

Neighbors being neighborly on Front Porch Forum

By Aidan Ryan  
GLOBE STAFF

Millions of people are flocking to newer social networks such as Bluesky and Threads in the hope that they offer a better experience than the internet's previous town square, X, which has become rampant with misinformation and bot accounts.

But in Vermont, there's a social network that more or less fulfills that dream — functioning more like a real-world town square — and could be one piece of the framework for a healthier web. Front Porch Forum has quietly grown in recent years to become Vermont's most popular social network, not through some technological breakthrough, but thanks to strict terms of use that say only community

members, using their real names, may post.

While users can ask to borrow household items, seek advice on local contractors, or line up help finding lost pets, one thing they won't get is the hateful content they might encounter on other social platforms. Front Porch Forum has bypassed the traditional, algorithmic- and engagement-driven models of mainstream social networks to create a simple website where users can interact with their neighbors virtually and then, if the site is successful in its homely mission, in person.

Front Porch Forum's rare formula for civility stands out in an era of media fragmentation and underscores why its model can't be found everywhere: It can be incredibly diffi-

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PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF

Front Porch Forum isn't just about Vermont — Williamstown became the first Massachusetts community to join the platform four years ago.

## Welcome wagon for additional housing

Lexington shows success under new state law

By Andrew Brinker  
GLOBE STAFF

On Lexington's Bedford Street, where big single- and two-family homes dot a streetscape framed by leafy trees, the newest addition to the neighborhood is a construction zone.

Soon, the parcel that these days is filled with construction equipment and workers laying a foundation will hold 30 new condos.

It's the kind of midsize multifamily property that dots the Boston suburbs. But what makes this one unusual is how easily it sailed through town approvals. Unlike new development of its kind around the town, it didn't need special permission from Lexington's zoning board: rather, it's one of eight new projects so far in the pipeline under new zoning rules that the town passed last year to make it easier to build apartments and condos.

Those rules were spurred by the state's MBTA Communities law, and made Lexington the first town to pass zoning to comply with the law when Town Meeting voted to approve them in April 2023. Nearly 1,000 apartments and condos are in the pipeline to be built under those new rules in this affluent

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