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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Deerfield Valley Players present Tony Award-winning
2 musical, '1776'

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 The Deerfield Valley Players, a local community theater
6 group, will be presenting 1776, the 1969 Tony award-winning
7 Broadway musical, at Memorial Hall, 14 W. Main St.

8 The choice for this year's show is credited to Therese
9 Lounsbury, Wilmington town clerk, who contacted Barbara
10 Lipstadt, founder and musical director, to ask if the performance
11 could be something with a patriotic theme. It would be a part of

12 the Vermont 250 committee's celebration of the signing of the
13 Declaration of Independence.

14 1776 is a recreation of the days in hot, sweltering
15 Philadelphia from May 8 to July 4 when John Adams relentlessly
16 badgered the delegates of the Continental Congress to vote for
17 independence from Britain. "It is a drama of tension and triumph,
18 interspersed with humorous dialogue," wrote organizers in a
19 news release.

20 The music ranges from lyrical and melodious — when
21 Adams, Ben Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson argue about what
22 should be the national bird — to heart-wrenching, when the
23 young Congressional courier trudges back and forth from General
24 Washington's army camp with dispatches to the Congress relating
25 how mothers search the battlefield for their fallen sons.

26 "As the struggle toward a unanimous decision
27 intensifies," said organizers, "the characters take on a human
28 dimension unattainable in history books alone."

29 There are 22 local actors and 11 members of the
30 production team for the show. Director is Diana Stugger, musical
31 director is Barbara Lipstadt, and technical director/set designer is
32 John Iverson with Katherine Chandler as stage manager.

33 The show is presented by Friends of Historic Memorial
34 Hall. Financial support is from the Wilmington Vermont 250
35 committee and the Vermont Council for the Arts.

36 1776 performance dates are Fridays and Saturdays, July
37 24, 25, 31, and Aug. 1, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 26, at 2 p.m.
38 Tickets to the show are \$20 and can be purchased at Bartleby's
39 Books in Wilmington and online at
40 friendsofthehallvt.org/shows/1776-the-musical.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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