

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE

VOLUME 6 • NO. 15 • Serving Bolton, Cambridge, Jericho, Underhill, Westford, and Jeffersonville, Vermont • February 21, 2008

The changing face of Jericho



Well, you can see that it was once a house... The sign seeking a demolition crew was replaced by action Tuesday, January 29 at the old house next to Jolley's on VT Rt. 15 in Jericho. By now, the rubble is cleared away from demolishing the house, built in the 1930s. Little Putty's Demolition of Johnson and CPK Excavator of Eden worked together to take the house down. The foundation will be filled and planted to lawn.

PHOTO BY SARA RILEY

Bolton school budget up 3.97%

Residents of the town of Bolton will be asked to approve the pre-kindergarten through grade 4 budget of \$1,279,134 at their meeting Monday, March 3, held at Smilie Memorial School.

The Bolton Town School District budget reflects an overall decrease of \$59,645, down 4.46% from last year. This is due to an accounting change to the way Chittenden East Supervisory Union assesses special education and central office costs to local school districts.

Although the school budget shows an overall decrease, when the accounting changes are taken out of the equation the actual Smilie School budget shows an increase of \$50,799, a 3.97% increase over last year.

Changes in teachers' salaries are reflected in an increase of \$36,020 over last year's budget, a result of the 4% contract increase. In other changes at the Smilie School, an aide position is reduced from full-to part-time, and the cost of preschool will decrease by 32.14%. Other changes show an estimated 7% increase in health insurance costs. Educational services are looking at replacing computers.

In the 2007-08 school year, there are 77 students enrolled at the elementary school.

Voters are asked to attend Town Meeting on Monday, March 3 at the Smilie School auditorium. There will be a potluck dinner at 5:45 PM, and the Town Meeting will follow.

Holbrook sale controversial in Bolton

The fate of the Sara Holbrook property will be put before Bolton voters at Town Meeting Monday, March 3, according to Town Clerk Deb LaRivière. "The 16.5-acre parcel is a hot button issue," she says.

The Town of Bolton offered the former Sarah H. Holbrook property to the Cycle Conservation Club of Vermont (CCC of VT), a non-profit located in Bolton. CCC of VT is a trail-based family recreation organization, not a competitive organization. The Bolton Conservation Commission opposes the sale.

A petition signed by more than 5% of Bolton's

Holbrook continued on page 14

Westford town and school budgets show small changes

The change to Westford's town budget, to be voted on at the March 4 Town Meeting, is slight, down from \$1,421,763 in 2007-08 to a proposed \$1,361,412 for 2008-09.

An increase of 2.38% in the Westford Elementary School budget will be brought before voters at Town Meeting. The proposed budget, \$5,116,203, is an increase of \$140,763 over the approved 2007-08 budget of \$4,975,440.

Some items, such as special education cost, show an increase of 25.06% (\$81,141), but that is offset by decreases in health care cost, information technology, and debt service.

In 2008-09, estimates put 212 students at Westford Elementary School in grades K-8, and 108 students tuitioned to area high schools.

Underhill faces three-way race for Selectboard

By Ted Tedford

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Voters face a three-way race for the Selectboard position and a less than 2% increase in the town budget at Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 4.

One-term Selectboard Chair Steve Walkerman is being challenged by former Board Chair Marc Maheux and former Constable Mike Timbers. Terms run three years.

Walkerman said he is proud of having helped put into place a salary and benefits program for town employees that is comparable to municipalities of similar size in the state.

"We proposed a year ago a fairly significant increase in Town Hall salaries," Walkerman said. "We were making up for past inequities." That was a \$58,108 increase. This year, the Board is asking for an increase of only \$6723.

The VT League of Cities and Towns had conducted a comprehensive salary evaluation of all Town Hall employees and established a new basis for their salaries, Walkerman said. Voters at last Town Meeting approved the \$58,108 increase. Although the budget line for salaries shows a 3.8% cost-of-living increase, it actually will decrease by 2.9% because the Selectboard overestimated the actual costs in last year's salaries.

The overall budget increase this year is 1.77% compared to the present budget. Voters will be asked to approve \$1,551,620, for an increase of \$26,934.

And voters will find it much easier this year when it comes to reading the town budget in the Town Report. Each budget item is numbered, and starting on Page 53 of the Town Report is an explanation of each line item.

Walkerman said the Selectboard will turn its interest to the Town Hall roof, which, he said, is badly in need of repairs. The Board is asking for \$52,000 for those repairs and a new fence around the town pond.

"We are going to need more than just a covering on the roof," said Walkerman. "We probably will need underlay work," he said. "When you open one thing, you discover other problems." He pointed to the extensive repairs to the building last year after ceiling tiles fell onto the Town Clerk's office.

Maheux said he was chairman when the Town Office staff salaries were studied and increased.

"I enjoyed being on the Selectboard," he said. "I thought we were doing some pretty good things. I was approached in town by some conservatives who have been here a long time and asked if I would seriously think of running again."

He said he also is proud of having put into place a town emergency operations plan. "I started that," Maheux said. The plan lays out steps town officials would take in case of an emergency, such as flooding to which he said Underhill is susceptible, a severe ice storm, a hurricane, or cleaning up hazardous spills.

Maheux also pointed to getting a new accounting system for the Treasurer. He said the new Nemrec accounting system integrates the Town Treasurer's office with the state's financial offices. He also said he developed a new town website that voters can

Underhill town continued on page 14

Bond issue payment jolts Jericho budget

By Ted Tedford

Special to the Mountain Gazette

When Jericho voters show up for Town Meeting Tuesday, March 4 they will be faced with a bump in the proposed town budget and three vacancies for the Jericho Elementary School Board with only one person running.

Residents last year approved major renovations to the Town Hall and now the first \$90,000 bond payment is coming due, adding a jolt to the budget's bottom line.

When voters gather at the elementary school on VT Rt. 15 at 9:00 AM they will be asked by the Selectboard to approve a budget that is \$227,294 over the present year's budgeted amount (\$2,842,116). The proposed budget bottom line is \$3,069,410, a total increase of 8%.

The reason for a relatively large increase over the present budget is that the first payment is due on the 20-year bond issue approved last year to pay for renovations to the Town Hall. The first payment accounts for almost half the increase in the proposed budget. Had it not been for the bond payment, the budget would be 4.81%, according to Town Manager David Spitz.

The Selectboard has moved an item to the top of the Budget Summary that will be of interest to most residents. It shows property taxes increasing by 8.96%. To balance its budget, the Board shows it will have to collect nearly \$197,000 more than the \$2,194,462 collected in property taxes for the present budget.

Increases for most of the town departments are small, ranging from less than half a percent for the Town Treasurer up to 6.6% for the Town Clerk's office, which faces higher costs this year because of the state, congressional, and presidential elections.

Salaries for most town employees will show a 3% cost-of-living increase, while some departments are adding small increases in hours.

Salaries in the Highway Department show a \$15,000 increase from the budget approved at last Town Meeting. Road Foreman Kenny Barkyoub was given added responsibilities and a new title: Road Supervisor, Foreman. He also was given a raise in pay. The Highway Department's budget increase this year, with salary and benefits, is 4.8%.

The summer recreation program increases by \$8038, or just over 15%, but that is expected to be offset by increased income from fees. The Building and Property budget line increase just over 7%, or \$7750. This cost is because the town is increasing sidewalk construction.

The School Board and the Selectboard will hold informational meetings Monday, March 3 at the Town Hall on items voters will face the next day. The School Board will discuss its proposed renovations to handicapped-accessible restrooms at Jericho Elementary School. That meeting is set for 6:30 PM. At 7:00 PM, the Selectboard will discuss its budget.

For more information, call the Town Administrator, 899-9970, or visit www.jerichovt.gov/.

School Board vacancies

Voters scanning the ballot in the polling booth at **Jericho town continued on page 5**

Cambridge Elementary School budget sees minimal increase

By Katherine Quimby Johnson
Special to the Mountain Gazette

When Cambridge voters go to the polls to cast their first Australian ballots on the elementary school budget, they will find a total that is up \$67,375, or 1.61%, over last year's budget. In part, the low level of increase is due to stable staffing. The same number of staff will be employed at the school next year as this year, with the only change being the replacement of a full-time instructional assistant's position with that of a half-time special educator.

The \$4,714,551 total request to taxpayers would have been higher had it not been for a surplus in the current year's budget. According to Principal Mary Anderson, who responded by email, "The budget surplus is primarily due to unanticipated revenue in the areas of Medicaid reimbursement (Medicaid revenue is generated by students on IEPs), Special Education reimbursement, and interest revenue." Anderson added that she and Lamoille North Supervisory Union (LNSU) Business Manager Marilyn Frederick adjusted revenue figures for the 2008-09 budget based on both last year's numbers and this year's projections.

The total surplus is \$240,000. The CES Board chose to use \$65,000 of the surplus to offset the proposed budget. They are asking voters to approve placing the remaining \$175,000 in a capital account, to be used over the next five years for purchases in such areas as technology, instructional equipment, and facilities, or for capital debt service reduction. The Board has also been advised by Frederick to keep \$25,000 of this fund as a capital emergency reserve.

(The Lamoille Union Board, which had a surplus of \$850,000, is following a similar policy, applying \$150,000 of the surplus toward this year's budget and asking voters to establish a \$700,000 capital fund, which will be drawn down over the next five years. The vote on the Lamoille Union capital reserve fund was taken on the floor at the Lamoille Union School District on February 19, 2008.)

If the Cambridge Elementary Board had applied the total surplus to this year's budget, that decision would have had consequences for next year's budget. The 2009-10 budget will be governed by Act 82, the legislation passed by the Vermont General Assembly in 2007 that would force a budget that increased by more than a certain specified percentage above the previous year's budget to be voted on in two separate articles, with one article being the amount allowed by the calculating formula, and the other, the remainder. Because the 2009-10 school budget formula will be calculated based on the 2008-09 budget, reducing that budget significantly would have undesirable consequences for the following year.

The residential tax rate to fund the 2008-09 budget will increase from last year's \$1.29 to \$1.305. That is because the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) has fallen from last year. The non-home-

Cambridge continued on page 14

COURT REPORT

January 2, 2008, **Oran L. Lamphere**, 37, Westford, VT, charged with false information to law enforcement officer on November 4, 2007; pleaded guilty; sentenced to three to four days.

January 2, 2008, **Nathaniel P. Miller**, 21, Jericho, VT, charged with DUI, second offense, in South Burlington, VT on October 13, 2007; pleaded guilty; sentenced to one to 12 months, suspended, probation.

January 3, 2008, **Robin Smith also known as Sweeney**, 39, Cambridge, VT, charged with vehicle operation – license suspended in Colchester, VT on November 19, 2007; pleaded guilty; fined \$300.

January 11, 2008, **Anna C. Houle**, 30, Jeffersonville, VT, charged with DUI, first offense, in Shelburne, VT on November 2, 2007; pleaded guilty; fined \$300.

POLICE REPORT

Friday, February 8, 2008 at 8:30 AM, **Scott Langdell**, 41, of Johnson, VT was observed inside the Aubuchon Hardware Store in Jeffersonville, VT returning shovels he allegedly purchased from the store the previous day. Investigation by Vermont State Police/Williston-Lamoille County Troopers Michael Kamerling and Daniel Marcellus revealed that Langdell had in fact taken the shovels off a rack outside the store, then went into the store and returned them without a receipt. He was given the money for the shovels. After leaving the store Langdell proceeded to the J&L Hardware Store in Fairfax, where he attempted the same crime, but the clerk at the store was able to determine that he had not previously purchased the shovels. Langdell was charged by Trooper Marcellus in Franklin County for attempted false pretenses and careless and negligent operation, Fraud, and violation of conditions of release, and lodged at NE State Corrections with bail set at \$10,000. (Case #08A100733)

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Essex Rescue volunteers Heather Eagan, Jim Adams, and Danielle Shearer (patient on board) train on proper lifting techniques.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at approximately 3:30 AM, the VSP/Williston-Lamoille Outpost responded to an alarm activation at Hanley's General Store, Jeffersonville, VT. Upon arrival, Trooper Hunt discovered a window had been smashed, allowing the suspect(s) entry to the store. The suspect(s) stole an undetermined amount of cigarettes. Anyone who witnessed suspicious persons in the area is asked to call VSP, 888-2031. (Case #08A100905)

Friday, February 15, 2008 Trooper Renee Hall, VSP/Williston, reports that there were five separate single-motor vehicle accidents with minor damage on VT Rt. 15 between Hawk Ridge and Poker Hill Rd. in Underhill, VT at 7:35 AM, 8:26 AM, 11:31 AM, 2:33 PM, and 3:30 PM. In each of these accidents, there were no injuries, and there was a sole occupant, the driver, in each vehicle. Road conditions during the day were black ice covered by a wet, cold snow. The Underhill Jericho Fire Department responded to each of the accidents and assisted with the clean up. (Cases #08A100966, 08A100968, 08A100971, 08A100975, 08A100982)

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Newspaper -

The Mountain Gazette

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Letters Policy

Letters: maximum 400 words; one letter per writer, per calendar month. Must be signed for attribution, with writer's address and phone.

Letters accepted by mail or email.

Sewing -

The Sewing Corner

Laurie Wells 802-899-1290
 Owner / Seamstress

66 VT RT 15, Jericho, Vt
 Reg. Pant Hems - \$6.50
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Skirt Hems Start at \$12.00
 Suit Jacket Sleeve - \$20.00
 Tues-Fri-8 to 5 - Sat 8 to 12
 Closed Sat in July

Alterations & Tailoring

Saturday, February 16, 2008, **Jeffrey Parco**, 23, of Johnson, VT was stopped by Trooper Shaffer of VSP/Williston on VT Rt. 108 near Smugglers' Notch for a motor vehicle violation and found to be operating on a suspended license. He was cited to appear April 1, 2008 in Lamoille District Court, and released. (Case #08A100999)

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Underhill-Jericho Fire Department
 By Kitty Clark

EMERGENCY CALLS

Monday, February 4, 3:28 PM – Responded to a two-vehicle accident VT Rt. 15 near Packard Road, Jericho.

Saturday, February 9, 5:35 PM – Responded to Mount Mansfield High Union School, Jericho, for an activated fire alarm.

Saturday, February 9, 9:29 PM – Responded to Browns River Middle School, Jericho, for an activated fire alarm with smoke in the building.

Saturday, February 9, 10:43 PM – Responded to 27 Old Farm Rd., Jericho, for a carbon monoxide alarm.

Wednesday, February 13, 12:35 PM – Responded to VT Rt. 15 near Gert's Knob, Underhill, for a one-vehicle roll over with injury.

Wednesday, February 13, 3:45 PM – Responded to River Rd. near Sand Hill Rd., Underhill, for a two-vehicle accident with injury.

Remember that if you do not have your locatable address on your mailbox, driveway, or on your house, please take the time to do it. At this time of the year, snow sometimes covers your mailbox and numbers cannot be seen, so take the time to clear them.

Practice fire safety every day!

Cambridge Rescue Squad offers classes

The Cambridge Rescue Squad, Inc. will be offering a number of classes to the public over the next few months. In addition to the classes listed below, we also offer CPR for the *Professional Rescuer* and *Blood-Borne Pathogens*.

Space in all classes is limited, so please call to sign up early. If you have a group or organization that would like to schedule a private class, please call for availability. To sign up for a class or for more information, please contact Denise Sargent, training officer, 644-2113 ext. 104 or scubadms@yahoo.com.

Saturday, February 23, 8:30 AM – 12:00 noon: Adult and Infant CPR with AED. Cost: CPR only \$25; CPR with AED \$27.

Saturday, March 1, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM: First Aid. Cost: \$25 (if you are taking both CPR and First Aid, the cost for both classes is \$30).

Saturday, April 5, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM: *BLAST! Babysitting Course*. Cost: \$25. Please bring a bag lunch.

All classes will be held at the Cambridge Rescue Station, 18 Williamson Court (off VT Rt. 108S), Jeffersonville.

JES board needs three directors

On Tuesday, March 4, voters in the Jericho Elementary School district will be voting for three new school directors. The incumbents, Beth Hopwood and Sarah Ward, will not be seeking re-election. Only one resident filed for a position, leaving no candidate for a three-year term. An individual can still run as a write-in candidate on Town Meeting. At least 31 voters need to write your name in. If you have any questions about this process or any questions about the work of the school board, feel free to contact any board members or the chair, Karen Glitman, at 899-1877 or kglitman@comcast.net.

AREA WORSHIP SERVICES

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 "Little white church with the red door"
 VT Rt. 15 Jericho
 Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM
 Reverend J. Harrison L. Heidel, Rector
 Karen Floyd, Parish Administrator, 899-2326
www.calvarychurchvt.org

COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH
 "Come as You Are"
 VT Rt. 15 between Jericho and Essex Center
 Pastor Peter Norland, 879-4313
 Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 AM
 Special Worship Sunday School: K-6, 10:15 AM
 Youth Group, Small Groups for Adults, Family Events,
 Opportunities for Service; Handicapped Accessible
pastor@jerichocovenantchurch.org – www.jerichocovenantchurch.org

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
 273 VT Rt. 15 - between Jericho and Underhill
 Rev. Dagmar Rosenberg, Pastor - 899-3932
 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM - Nursery provided
 Sunday School for all ages - 10:30 AM
gslcvt@verizon.net www.GoodShepherdJericho.org

JERICO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 On the Green in Jericho Center, VT
 Pastor Peter Anderson and Youth Pastor Glenn Carter
 Sunday Services at 8:00 and 11:00 AM – Nursery care provided
 Sunday School for everyone at 9:30 AM
 Fellowship at 10:30 AM - Youth Group at 7:00 PM
 899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org

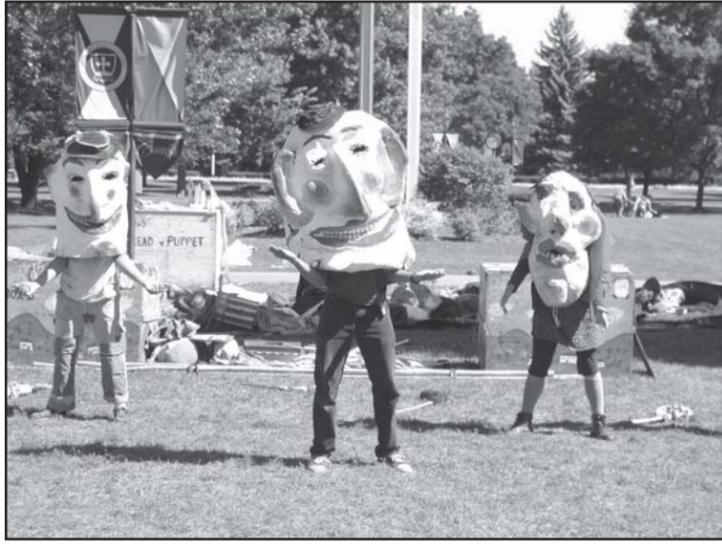
JERICO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"
 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (next to Town Hall)
 Rev. Charlie Yang, Pastor, 899-4288, cyang@troyconference.org.
 Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 AM;
 Children's Sunday School, age 0 to grade 4, 9:30 AM
 Adult Sunday School, 9:30 AM; Youth Group, Saturday 6:00 PM
 United Methodist Men's breakfast, 3rd Sunday 7:30 AM
www.troyconference.org/jumc or JerichoUMC@troyconference.org

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 P.O. Box 150, Jericho, VT 05465
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 All are welcome.

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United Christian Assembly Full Gospel Church
 100 Raceway Rd., Jericho, VT 05465
 Pastor Mike Murray – 899-2949, Monday-Friday
 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
 Nursery and Sunday School available
 Youth Fellowship Sunday nights, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
 Area Home Fellowships, Thursdays, 7:00 PM
uca.secretary1@verizon.net
www.unitedchristianassembly.org

The Divine Reality Comedy Circus to perform at McCarthy Arts Center



Saint Michael's College invites the community to The Divine Reality Comedy Circus by the world-famous Bread & Puppet theatrical group of Glover, VT Saturday, February 23 (7:00 PM, McCarthy Arts Center, St. Mike's, Colchester). Free. With inimitable panache, this new show features the Grand Forgiveness Society of Glover, VT, the triumph of the small farmer, advice on where to get really cheap drinking water, a celebratory ballet by a flock of roosters, political issues, and more. The raucous, highly engaging Bread & Puppet Circus Band will accompany the performance. According to B&P, "If some of the circus acts are politically puzzling to adults, accompanying kids can usually explain them."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

ARTS / MUSIC / THEATER

ART

Rep. Peter Welch is inviting Vermont's high school art teachers and students to participate in the 27th Annual Congressional Art Competition—An Artistic Discovery. First initiated by then-Rep. Jim Jeffords in 1981, the statewide art competition lets high school students the showcase their work at the state level. The winner will be invited to Washington, D.C. and have his or her work displayed at the U.S. Capitol. Student registration forms are due

to Welch's office by March 21, and finalists' works will be on display at the T.W. Wood Art Gallery in Montpelier beginning April 29. Each school may submit up to five pieces of artwork and interested students should contact their school's art department. All artwork must be two-dimensional and less than 30"x30". For more information or to register for the competition, go online to www.welch.house.gov/art, or call (888) 605-7270.

Travels with Ben, watercolors by Ben Stein,

will be on display at the Emile Gruppe Gallery in Jericho through March 23. There will be a reception for the artist on Sunday, February 17 at the Gallery from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. The Emile Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho, 899-3211, emilegruppegallery.com. Open Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM or by appointment.

Essex Art League presents "Big... Bold... Colorful," a new exhibit of original artwork a new exhibit at Phoenix Books in the Essex Shoppes and Cinema plaza, with 100+ works of art by the Essex Art League members. All work is available for purchase and will be on display throughout February. Also, Essex Art League artists Clair Aimi, Sarah Drown, Jennifer Fay, Mary Krause, Jane Sandberg, and Lynn Sullivan are displaying their fine art at the Given Health Center in Williston throughout February. All work is available for purchase. Thursday, March 6 at the League's meeting, member Annelein Beukenkamp will discuss how to stretch your palette, 9:00 – 11:00 AM at Essex Jct. Congregational Church. For more information, contact 899-6757 or go online to www.essexartleague.com.

International artists Christopher Griffin and Danilo Gonzalez are exhibiting new paintings at the West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park, Stowe. *The Temperature of Color* combines the colorful cultures of North America and Latin America. Griffin and Gonzalez are interested in the human condition, the experiences that color human history and current events alike. West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park, art@westbranchgallery.com or 253-8943, open Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM and by appointment.

Objects of Desire: Still Life Paintings at Bryan Memorial Gallery. Reception in honor of the artists Sunday, April 20, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Bryan Memorial Gallery, Jeffersonville, hours through April 12: Friday and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and by appointment. April 17 – May 11: Thursday – Sunday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and by appointment. 644-5100, www.bryangallery.org. Free admission.

On display at the Flour Shop, VT Rt. 15, Underhill, art by Poker Hill Arts students, whose card creations are also being offered for sale – this year, to benefit the Jericho Underhill Park District.

Ancient Beings at Helen Day Art Center in Stowe. A joint exhibit by painter Marina Epstein and painter/sculptor Benjamin Davis with the theme of Greek, Byzantine, Hebrew, and Biblical mythical figures. Through March 22. Helen Day Art Center, School Street, Stowe, 253-8358, www.helenday.com.

MUSIC

Noted American violinist Soovin Kim will be

the guest soloist for the forthcoming Vermont Symphony Orchestra concert on Saturday, March 8 at the Flynn Center in Burlington at 8:00 PM. A Vermont Youth Orchestra alumnus, he returns to Vermont to team with his former teacher VSO Music Director Jaime Laredo, who will conduct the *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D minor* by Jean Sibelius. This exciting concert, part of the VSO 2007/08 Masterworks series, also includes *Symphony No. 3, "Rhenish"* by Robert Schumann and *Radiance* by VSO composer-in-residence David Ludwig. VSO Principal Oboist Nancy Dimock will perform as oboe soloist.

English Country Dance, 7:00 – 9:30 PM, Elley-Long Music Center, Colchester. First, third, and fifth Fridays through mid-June. Live music on third Fridays. Contact Val Medve 899-2378 or valandtom@together.net.

Saint Michael's College presents a free concert of Chamber Music Masterpieces on Friday, March 7, at 7:30 PM in the McCarthy Arts Center on the Colchester campus. Nationally acclaimed performers from the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival will perform Schubert, Beethoven and Dvorak as part of the Saint Michael's Humanities Program Concert Series. This special winter concert brings together some of the players who participate in the summer Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival. The program features Franz Schubert's *Rondo in B Minor, Serenade in D, Opus 25 for flute, violin, and viola*, by Beethoven, and Dvorak's *Piano Quartet in E-flat, Opus 87*.

Tuesdays – Open Mic, 9:00 – 11:00 PM, Smugglers' Notch Inn, Jeffersonville. Contact 644-6765.

Thursdays – Open Mic, 8:00 PM – midnight, Village Tavern, Jeffersonville.

Saturdays – Acoustic music session, 1:00 – 4:00 PM, Foothills Bakery, Fairfax; contact mrksustc@together.net.

THEATRE

The Fairfax Community Theatre Company will hold auditions for Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced* on February 26, 27, and 28 at 7:00 PM at Bellows Free Academy in Fairfax. Performance dates are April 24-27. Roles are available for adult men and women in a range of ages; character descriptions are available at www.fctcv.org. For more information, contact 524-9632 or info@fctcv.org, or visit www.fctcv.org. Fairfax Community Theatre Company will present four plays for the 2008 season's three regular slots: Spring: *A Murder is Announced: A Miss Marple Mystery* by Leslie Darbon, adapted from Agatha Christie's novel; summer: *A Cry of Players* by William Gibson; and fall: *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* by Don Zolidis, *Translations* by Brian Friel. For more information, please visit www.fctcv.org or email info@fctcv.org.

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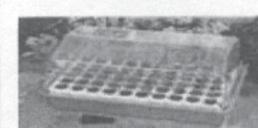
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Cinematic Wanderings

By Luke Mindell

Twenty Ought Seven, Year In Review (parts 7-11)

I generally try to avoid the conventions of film writing, but today, I just can't help but throw my voice into the growing chorus of top ten lists featured in every periodical in the civilized world. This won't be a classic top ten list, however. First, there are eleven items on it, and technically, not all of them are from 2007. Technically, not all of them are movies, and not all of them are the "best." So let's just call this... an account of the most interesting things I saw in 2007. Boy, that's catchy!

In the last issue I covered favorites 1-6; here are 7-11. I have already written extensively about my three favorite movies of the year, so I'll be brief.

7) *Half Nelson* – Ryan Gosling gives the performance of the year as an inner city public school teacher who forms a strong friendship with one of his students after she discovers his addiction to crack. The movie sidesteps every cliché of the student/teacher plotline. (Available on DVD)

8) *Little Children* – Funny, disturbing, moving, and riveting. Great performances all around, but an especially great breakout performance by Jackie Earle Haley, who landed an Oscar nod after a 13-year hole in his career. *Little Children* also featured the best narration of a film I can remember. It really made me feel like I was watching a novel on screen. Just a great film.

9) *The Lives of Others (Das Leben der Anderen)* – Complex, beautiful, and meaningful. Amazing characters brought to life by amazing performances. It paints a picture of humanity that is both genuine and extraordinary. The best film I have seen in a long, long time. To call it the best of the year would be an understatement.

10) *Michael Clayton* – George Clooney has always been a force for good in Hollywood. Even when he makes bad movies, he uses the fame they

bring him to foster small, meaningful projects like *Syriana*, *Good Night And Good Luck*, and now, *Michael Clayton*. Clooney plays the title character in this legal thriller that never sets foot in a courtroom. This movie explores what happens when morality forces its way into the often nefarious relationship between corporate goliaths and the lawyers who protect them from taking responsibility for damage they sometimes cause.

11) *The Wire: Season 4* – I have been screaming about how great this show is for years, and thankfully, it has never let me down like so many others. (I'm looking at you *Sopranos*!) It is so smart that most people won't put in the effort to watch it. Its ratings pale in comparison to HBO's other smash hits, but I guess the suits over there have more integrity than their network counterparts, so they let the show have a full run of five seasons. (The fifth is airing now, and it's as brilliant as ever!) Set in Baltimore, it started out as a show that compared the hierarchy of the police force and the local drug cartel, pointing out how individual thought that could reform these organizations for the better was crushed by a hierarchy that only cares about the status quo. One of the show's many rules is that reformers must die (sometimes literally, sometime politically). Since that first season, *The Wire* has gone on to explore the death of the working class on Baltimore's docks, reform in city hall, the news media's ability or inability to inform the community about what it needs to know, and in season four, education in the schools and on the streets. America's cities are ill, and if you really want to understand why, *The Wire* will tell you everything you need to know. If only people would pay attention. A recent article in *The New York Times* pointed out that while *Boston Legal* has five Emmys and *Desperate Housewives* has six, *The Wire* has never been nominated. They called it "...one of the best and most original series on television in decades." I dare them to name a better one. (Seasons 1-4 available on DVD)

Jericho town continued from page 1

the meeting will find only one person running for three openings on the five-member School Board. Beth Hopwood and Sarah Ward decided not to run again after each served one term, and veteran board member Diane DeRuyck is resigning as of Town Meeting Day with two years left on her term.

DeRuyck said she is mainly dissatisfied with the CESU Executive Committee, comprised of the chairmen of the district's seven school boards. In an interview earlier this week, DeRuyck said that committee has not, in her five years on the JES Board, followed some important rules in the VT School Boards Association handbook that details the responsibilities of school board members.

"There are no checks and balances," DeRuyck said. "The Executive Committee seems to make decisions on the spot without involving individual board members. The board chairs are supposed to take things back to their board so decisions are made by the entire board." She said that isn't being done.

She also complained that there is no personnel handbook in the supervisory union, so there are no written policies for handling school personnel matters.

DeRuyck also said school board members are supposed to evaluate their principals and the CESU superintendent, but during her years on the JES Board those evaluations have never been done. She also said the community has never been asked to evaluate the job school board members do, although the handbook calls for those evaluations.

DeRuyck said Board Chairwoman Karen Glitman has worked to make the relationship among the executive committee and the other individual board members easier and more productive, but problems still exist.

Glitman said she feels progress is being made, but because all the boards are tied into a supervisory union, "it's a cumbersome process." The union has nine schools – six elementary schools, two middle schools, and MMUHS.

"Because of the structure, it is difficult to know who's in charge," Glitman said. "Each school district has representatives on (supervisory union) committees, but local board members only have the authority granted them by their board. There isn't a clear line of authority."

She said that last fall, some parents complained about changes in school bus routes, but they were frustrated after meeting with several boards and the superintendent because there is no written policy for handling such complaints. "Where do you go when you have a complaint?" she asked.

"My sense is that everyone is committed to doing the right thing, but we operate in a cumbersome system. There are 45 board members and nine schools. That is not really a good forum," she said.

Glitman pointed to some progress. There is a personnel policy in the works and the meetings of the three school boards in

Jericho and Underhill who are trying to find ways to save money are paving the way toward greater cooperation between boards.

Laura Zamarano is the only one running for the school board. She is seeking a two-year term to succeed Sarah Ward, who chose not to run again.

A former middle school Spanish teacher, Zamarano said she is now a stay-at-home mother with two young children in the school. She is involved with the school's Partners in Education, but she wants to learn how the school functions. "This is a good school and I want to see how things work and give my input," she said.

Beth Hopwood served for three years, but said she wants to spend more time with her children, helping them with reading and math. School Board meetings take time away from them, she said.

Hopwood said she is proud of having worked with other Board members to devise a vision for the school. That work followed training by the Board members and principal through the VT Educational Leadership Alliance.

She also said she is proud of helping hire Victoria Graf as the school principal after Florence Hurteau left to head the Georgia Elementary School. "She is such a strong leader," Hopwood said about Graf. "I'm proud of the process we followed in finding Vicky."

Voters also will be asked to approve spending up to \$40,000 to make bathrooms near the gymnasium handicapped accessible. The money would come from funds left from a 1989 bond issue.

The annual school meeting will begin at 1:00 PM following Town Meeting.



By Ted Tedford

Special to the Mountain Gazette

It wasn't a sure thing where the new Deborah Rawson Memorial Library would be located, but 10 years later it's going strong and it's more popular than ever.

Some 30 residents of Jericho and Underhill gathered at the library Thursday, January 24 to reminisce about the years and months of hard work and frustrations overcome that culminated in the two towns joining together to build a modern library.

"One of the more contentious issues was siting of the library," said Peter Brooks of Underhill. He was a board member of the Waters Memorial Library at the time and later was one of the original Rawson trustees.

Brooks and other members of a group appointed to find a site for the new library spent months looking at sites, among them the Congregational Church on VT Rt. 15 in Jericho Corners, Dr. Stuart Alexander's former office on Browns Trace in Jericho, and land on the corner of VT Rt. 15 and Packard Road in Jericho. The library trustees and the board of the Underhill I.D. School reached a land-lease compromise and the library was able to erect a building fronting River Road near the I.D. school almost two years later.

The Waters Library, in Underhill Flats on VT Rt. 15, closed soon after the new one opened in 1997.

Recounting the political issues involved, Bob Robbins said, "It was a great short course in the centers of power, a great education." Robbins and his family moved to Jericho just prior to the move to create a new library.

One other major hurdle nearly killed the plan for a two-town library. At the tenth anniversary celebration, Library Trustee Chairwoman Mary Bassett read a letter from Gail Schermer of Jericho Center, one of the original trustees. Schermer was in Arizona visiting family at the time of the anniversary celebration.

Schermer recalled in her letter that the Selectboards of the two towns had appointed a joint committee to look into floating a bond to build a new library, but they discovered it was illegal to spend money in one town on something that would benefit another town. So, the idea of forming a library district was approved by the voters of both towns, creating what is in effect a self-sustaining municipality, similar to towns and cities in the state.

Schermer wrote that the founders of the library were given \$100 each by the towns of Jericho and Underhill and fund-raising then began in earnest. The wish of Dr. and Mrs. Burnett Rawson to support a memorial to their late daughter, Deborah, was

Rawson Library celebrates 10th anniversary

Holly Hall, left, director of the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in Jericho, talks with Bob Robbins and DRML Board of Trustees chair Mary Bassett, both of Jericho, during the library's 10th anniversary celebration.

PHOTO BY TED TEDFORD

key to raising the money. Deborah Rawson had written a book, *Without a Farmhouse Near*, that chronicles the changes Underhill and Jericho experienced as they transformed from farming communities to suburbs. She had grown up in the affluent town of Pearl River, NJ, but spent her summers at the Rawson farm on Cille Hill Road.

The Rawsons donated \$100,000 in memory of their journalist daughter who died of cancer in 1992 at the age of 39. Fund-raising began in earnest and the trustees were able to put together a \$550,000 package, the cost of constructing the building. A big part of that money was a \$200,000 bond the library district floated. Fred and Margaret Pope Trask, who summered on Stevensville Road in Underhill for many years, donated \$30,000 for the children's room in memory of family members.

Once the library opened its doors in 1997, the Waters Library and the Delaporte Library, located in the Underhill Town Hall, disbanded. The Jericho Town Library in Jericho Center, established in 1899, is still operating.

At the tenth anniversary celebration, school librarian Sheila Aiken marveled at how the library came into being. "When you look from the shovels (at the groundbreaking) to what's happened..." She didn't need to finish the sentence.

DRML Director Holly Hall recounted how she became involved with the library right at the beginning. She said she joined the staff at the Waters Library a month before a horde of volunteers began moving books from that library into the new one. She said Ann Dorman, first director at the DRML, had boxes labeled and ready for the volunteers to fill, load onto pick up trucks, and cart to the Rawson Library, where they were reshelved. "We had to move all the non-fiction books again," she recalled because there were more than expected. Hall has been on the staff of the library since it opened and last April was appointed director.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed being here for the last ten years," Hall said. "It's been wonderful."

Tears welling in her eyes, Hall talked about the late DeeDee Jameson, one of the prime movers and an original board member. There are a plaque and two paintings by Jericho artist Dianne Shullenberger honoring Jameson's service to the library.

Library staff member Constance Murphy said she and her family moved from the Washington, D.C. area of Virginia to Underhill Center, remembering how small the Delaporte Library was. She said, "How valuable this space is. It's an incredible place... it's the busiest little library. It's an amazing place."

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Recipes By Marian Tobin

Grilled Wieners
 7 medium-sized wieners
 2 Tbsp. prepared mustard
 ½ pound sharp cheese
 7 strips bacon (c. ½ pound)



Slice wieners lengthwise to form pockets and spread the inside with mustard. Insert strips of cheese in each wiener.

Wrap the bacon strips around the wieners and fasten with toothpicks.

When needed for a picnic, cook on grill.

AARP driver safety course

A driver safety course will be offered for seniors on Thursday, March 20 and Friday, March 21 from 12:30 – 4:30 PM. It will be held at North-western Medical Center, Conference Room 1, in St. Albans. The cost for the program is \$10. Pre-registration is required; please call Chuck Thweatt, 524-2267.

Westford senior lunches

Westford Senior Lunches will resume in March. They are always the second Monday of the month and held in the Red Brick Meeting House on the Westford Common at 12:00 noon. Mark your calendars for the following Mondays: March 10, April 14, May 12, and June 9.

We are planning several programs of interest this spring. An attorney from Essex Junction will talk about estate planning and important documents on one of the Mondays, and several of our members in town are writing the history of their roads, early years, schooling, and other memories, which will be shared at the lunches. We sometimes can persuade Roland and friends to entertain us with sing-along music. We are a lively bunch of not-so-senior seniors and welcome all to join us. Please call 879-7382 with questions or if you need a ride to the lunches.

The town is seeking a volunteer to be the key contact for elderly or disabled residents who need help with small projects such as springtime cleanup, helping to prepare for winter, emergency snow shoveling, cleaning out garages and outbuildings, etc. This person would maintain a volunteer

list and match needs when requested. If interested, please contact the Town Office, 878-4587.

CVAA Meals information

The Champlain Valley Agency on Aging offers an ongoing series of special meals for groups of seniors at a variety of restaurants in the area. The schedule is listed below. All seniors are welcome to join the group and enjoy lunch with neighbors and friends. Participating seniors must be at least 60 years old, or the spouse of someone at least 60 years old. Suggested donation for meals is \$3 at Covenant Church and United Church; for meals at other sites, \$5. Transportation may be available if needed. Reservations are required for these meals and may be arranged ahead of time by calling 865-0360.

Thursday, February 21 – Ponderosa, Williston, 11:00 AM check-in, 11:15 lunch.

Friday, February 22 – United Church, Hinesburg, 12:00 noon.

Monday, February 25 – Covenant Church, Essex Ctr., 12:00 noon. Scalloped potatoes with ham, honey carrots, cornbread, chocolate cake.

Monday, February 25 – Papa Nick's, Hinesburg, 3:00 PM. Meatloaf dinner.

Tuesday, February 26 – JP's Diner & Deli, River Rd., Essex, 11:00 AM. Chicken 'n biscuits.

Wednesday, February 27 – Doubletree Hotel, Williston Rd., So. Burlington, 11:30 AM. Turkey dinner.

Thursday, February 28 – Ponderosa, Williston, 11:00 AM check-in, 11:15 lunch. All you can eat buffet.

Friday, February 29 – United Church, Hinesburg, 12:00 noon. Fresh cheese pizzas from Da'Vines Gourmet, garden salad, butterscotch brownie.

Monday, March 3 – Covenant Church, Essex Ctr., 12:00 noon. Salisbury steak, red potatoes, stewed tomatoes, fruit bread, pears.

Tuesday, March 4 – Euro Restaurant, 1 Market Place, Essex, 10:30 AM check-in, 11:00 AM lunch. Lasagna.

Wednesday, March 5 – Libby's, Colchester, 1:30 PM check-in, 2:00 PM lunch. Turkey dinner.

Thursday, March 6 – Bridge Street Café, Richmond, 11:00 AM. Turkey dinner.

Friday, March 7 – United Church, Hinesburg, 11:30 AM.

In addition, CVAA-sponsored meals for seniors

are offered on an ongoing basis at the following establishments. For details about the special ticket program, call 865-0360:

A.J.'s Kitchen, 85 Main St., Essex Jct. – open menu; tickets limited. Sunday-Tuesday, 5:00 AM – 2:00 PM, and Wednesday-Saturday, 5:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

Bridge Street Café, Richmond – breakfast, lunch, or dinner (ordered before 5:30 PM) Monday-Thursday. Regular menu excluding shrimp, steak, or some specials.

Dutch Mill, Shelburne Rd., Shelburne – Tuesday-Sunday, 7:30 AM – 2:00 PM.

Euro Restaurant, 1 Market Place, Essex – Monday-Friday lunch, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM; Monday-Saturday dinner, 4:00 – 6:00 PM. Closed Sundays.

Old Yankee, 4A Jericho East, Jericho. Meals Wednesday-Sunday, 3:00 - 5:00 PM. Ordering off senior menu..

Pizza Putt, Airport Parkway, So. Burlington – lunch or dinner, seven days a week. Choice of spaghetti with marinara sauce or baked ziti with tomato sauce and cheese, salad, garlic bread or roll, soda, coffee, or milk.

Towns short of road salt

By Ted Tedford
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Jericho and Underhill are running out of road salt and highway officials in the towns urge drivers to slow down during storms and after.

Jericho Highway Foreman Kenny Barkyoub said there is enough salt in the town salt shed "for two more storms." Unless he can get more salt, Jericho's roads may not be as clear after storms as usual.

"We use roughly 1,000 tons a year," Barkyoub said, "and already we've used 712." He said the road crew and its six trucks have been out 71 times since November 17.

"If these storms keep coming the rest of the month and March, we will probably overspend the salt budget," Barkyoub said. "I was hoping we could cut down on salt use this year," he added, "but the winter has been so wet."

Barkyoub said the department has plenty of sand and the crew can spray the sand with liquid chloride which will help melt snow and ice under certain conditions.

In Underhill, Road Foreman Rod Fuller said his

department may have enough salt to last the winter, but things are close. He said he has just gotten two truckloads to add to the pile at the town shed. Fuller said he has been sending trucks out all winter with salt and sand mixed. He has issued orders to limit its use.

A mix of salt and sand will be spread only on Pleasant Valley Road, River Road, and Park Street. On heavily traveled secondary paved roads, only intersections and steep hills will receive a sand-and-salt mix.

Winter treatment of gravel roads will remain the same: during storms, only intersections, steep hills and curves will be sanded; after the storm, the entire gravel road will be sanded. Gravel roads do not receive a sand and salt mix during the winter as this exacerbates problems with mud in the spring.

The Highway Department asks that you please use caution and good judgment when traveling this winter during storms. Limit your driving, if possible, to essential travel only; and if you must travel, slow down.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

From the Statehouse

By Representative Martha Heath

Developing a budget for FY2009 promises to be an extremely challenging task. My committee, House Appropriations, has been taking testimony on the governor's proposed budget since he delivered his budget address on January 22. This week (on February 14) we finally received the budget document. We will take testimony for another week and then will begin the lengthy process of deciding the legislature's priorities and creating our budget bill.

The budget challenges became more acute when the revenue forecast was revised in January. The revenue projections for FY09 were reduced by \$14M. In a year where we are facing a \$20M deficit in state funds in Medicaid, a need to pay for the portion of Catamount Health that the Federal government wouldn't agree to cover, an increased appropriation needed to keep our commitment to teacher's retirement, and the ongoing needs for increasing the transfer to the Education Fund and keeping up with demands in human services, the news was unwelcome. Because we are concerned about where the state and national economies are headed, the governor and the legislature have asked for an

Heath continued on page 15

Richmond Area

RICHMOND LIBRARY

We also have a new, although so far only a bare-bones, web page at www.richmondfreelibvt.org.

A quick reminder – we will be closed Tuesday, March 4 for Town Meeting. See you there!

We have many magazines at the library, which can be checked out for two weeks just like books. Of course we have the ones most people have heard of like *National Geographic*, *Vermont Life*, and *Consumer Reports* but we also have a few you may not be familiar with. One of these is *Birds & Blooms*, which has beautiful photographs of gardens, birds, and butterflies as well as helpful hints about attracting birds and butterflies to your home. It even has a page dedicated to some very creative birdhouses and feeders. This magazine is especially comforting this time of year with cabin fever upon us. Another lesser-known magazine that we have is called *Caring Today*. It is information for caregivers, whether they are caring for spouses, parents, or children. There are helpful hints, articles about care giving, and helpful strategies for how caregivers can care for themselves.

Fantasy masks – Come up with your own fantasy creature and create a marvelous mask to bring your character to life. Learn to use simple household materials to make a basic form for your mask. Then, embellish the mask with a variety of decorations such as feathers, tissue paper, shells, or jewels. You'll take home a finished mask as well as many new ideas for constructing additional masks.

A HomeschoolKidsConnect@the Library program with Teresa Davis for ages 8 and up. Friday, April 18, 10:30 AM – 12:00 noon. Registration required.

Storytimes – Toddlertime (for ages 18 months to three years) is

on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM. Storytime (ages 3-5) is on Mondays at 10:30 AM. Pajamatime (ages 2-6) with Douglas is on Mondays at 6:30 PM. You don't have to register; just show up ready to have fun.

COURT REPORT

December 31, 2007, Kyle Moran, 21, Richmond, VT, charged with vehicle operation – license suspended in Burlington, VT on October 20, 2007; pleaded guilty; fined \$200, sentenced to 24 to 25 days, consecutive.

January 10, 2008, Kimberly O'Brien, 25, Richmond, VT, charged with DUI, first offense, in South Burlington, VT on December 22, 2007; pleaded guilty; fined \$400.

January 11, 2008, Thomas Cota, 31, Richmond, VT, charged with sexual assault – victim less than 16 years, felony, in Richmond, VT on October 1, 2002; pleaded guilty; sentenced to two to 10 years, suspended but one year, probation.

POLICE REPORT

Saturday, December 29, 2007 at 7:54 PM, Trooper Wagner of Vermont State Police/Williston arrested **Silas Wells, 17**, of Richmond, VT at Mount Mansfield Union High School for stealing a car owned by Edward Gill, 52, of South Burlington, VT from a parking lot Bolton Ski Area. Wells was charged with Operating the vehicle without the Owner's Consent (OOC), Felony Unlawful Mischief for vandalizing the interior of the car and causing damage to the exterior of the vehicle with damage exceeding \$1000, and Petit Larceny for removing the owner's personal items from the vehicle. Wells is scheduled to be arraigned in Chittenden County Court on March 25, 2008. (Case #07A105773)

CAMPUS HONORS

Rebekah Everest Phelps, a freshman graphics design major at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA, was named to the dean's list. She is a 2007 graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, VT and the daughter of Laurie A. Hill of Richmond, VT and James E. Phelps of Newport, VT. Phelps received a maximum amount allotted Presidential Scholarship from the University of the Arts.

OBITUARIES

Kathryn Anne Marie Roberts, 46, of Richmond, VT passed away peacefully with her friends and family by her side after a long and courageous battle with cancer on Friday, February 1, 2008. Born in Attleboro, MA on May 1, 1961, she was the daughter of the late Abram Ostrander and her surviving mother, Muriel (Courchesne) Ostrander.



Kathryn graduated from Attleboro High School in 1979 and attended Fisher Junior College in Attleboro from 1979-81. Kathryn will be lovingly remembered for her kind innocence, generosity, and gift of hospitality. Her most cherished memories were times spent with family and friends. With a strong belief in the importance of community, Kathryn was always active in volunteering at school, her church, and Miscellaneous Mart in Richmond. She opened her heart and home to Fresh Air Kids for six years. Kathryn enjoyed having her friends and family with her, always welcoming with a warm smile and open arms. She taught Sunday school to the youth at her family church,

was on the hospitality committee, and visited elderly in her community. She was a Cub Scout leader and soccer coach for her sons John and David. She is survived by her loving sons John and David; husband Norman Edward Roberts; siblings Richelle Otovic of Fountain Inn, SC, Sheelah Collins of Cumberland, RI, Kristina Ostrander of Essex, VT, and Barry Ostrander of Paisley, FL; seven nephews; and a large extended family. A celebration of her life was held Tuesday, February 5 in the Richmond Congregational Church for all family and friends. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Richmond Congregational Church, Christian Education, P.O. Box 302, Richmond, VT 05477.

Events in the library's community room: Open Mic, 7:00 PM, Friday, February 22; Medieval Country Dance, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Monday, February 11, 18, 25, and March 3 – Free! Audubon Society "Bears in Vermont," 7:00 PM, Friday, March 7; Talks & Walks, 7:00 PM, Thursday, March 13.

Display case: In February, Richmond Cub Scouts are proudly displaying their Derby Cars. In March, three dimensional art by students of Richmond Elementary School.

Book Group: *Double Bind* by Chris Bojahljian. Multiple copies are available at the circulation desk. Date TBA.

Wall Display: Art by Richmond Elementary School 4th graders. These collages, using paper that the students made themselves, were inspired by famous paintings: *The Great Wave* by Hokusai, *Tiger in a Storm* by Henri Rousseau, or *Starry Night* by Vincent Van Gogh.

We have just got a fresh supply of books from the Mid-State Regional Library. Come in and check them out!

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COMING EVENTS

Friday, February 22

Moonlight skiing and snowshoeing, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, Ethan Allen Homestead, Burlington. Winooski Valley Park District will provide free hot chocolate and popcorn, and a warm fire. Meet WVPD staff under the picnic shelter, with your own equipment, head lamp, and warm clothes. Parking available. Wildlife is active at night; please leave dogs home. Come walk the trails if there is no snow!

Saturday, February 23

Bread & Puppet Theatre's The Divine Reality Comedy Circus, 7:00 PM, McCarthy Arts Center, St. Michael's College, Colchester. Free. With inimitable panache, the new show features the Grand Forgiveness Society of Glover, VT, the triumph of the small farmer, advice on where to get really cheap drinking water, a celebratory ballet by a flock of roosters, political issues, and more. The raucous, highly engaging Bread & Puppet Circus Band will accompany the performance. According to B&P, "If some of the circus acts are politically puzzling to adults, accompanying kids can usually explain them."

Sunday, March 2

Rabies clinic, 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Washington County Coon & Cat Club, Salem. Sponsored by WCC&CC. \$6 per cat or dog; bring one or more. For information, (518) 747-6904.

Thursday, March 6

The Irish Are Coming! The Irish Are Coming! 6:30 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, Jericho. Dan Casey on the movement of the early Irish into Vermont from Quebec, New York, and the New England corridor, conditions in Ireland, probable ports of emigration, and motivations for coming to Vermont. Local surnames, maps, slides, and genealogical charts explain how and why the Irish came to stay. A VT Humanities Council event. Information, 899-4962.

Friday, March 14

Burlington Contra Dance, 8:00 PM, Anthony's Hall, Burlington. Queen City Contrás' regular contra dance; caller Bill Olsen; music by *Ti Acadie*. All are welcome, all dances taught, no partner /experience necessary. Beginners' session 7:45 PM. Adults \$8; under 12 free. Please bring clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing. Information: 434-2446.

ONGOING EVENTS

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Adult coed volleyball in Westford, 8:00 – 10:00 PM, Mondays, Westford Elementary School gym. Fun, casual volleyball. \$2 at the door. Information: Jon and Tammy Brown, 872-8333.

Women's volleyball, Brown's River Middle School, Mondays, 7:00 – 9:00 PM. All age levels and skills welcome. Follows school calendar: no volleyball when there is no school. For information, contact Cathy Leatherstitch, 899-1395 or cleather@us.ibm.com.

Basketball – open gym in Westford, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:00 PM, and Saturdays, 10:30 AM – 12:00 noon, until Jr. High practice begins. \$1 donation at door. For information, call Rich Staab, 879-4745.

HEALTH GROUPS

Overeaters Anonymous meets 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays at the Jericho United Methodist Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Questions – please call 899-2355.

Healthy Weight Support Group, Mondays, 12:00 – 12:30 PM and Wednesdays, 3:45 – 4:15 PM. Weekly support group for those working on weight management combines behavioral and nutritional strategies to increase physical activity and decrease calorie intake. Provides techniques to help you manage your eating behaviors. Come 15 minutes early for a weight check. Northwestern Medical Center, Cobblestone Building, Classroom A. Speakers: Kay Tran, Registered Dietitian, MS, CDE; and Leslie Gardzina, Registered Dietitian, Northwestern Medical Center. Free; pre-registration required, 524-1234 or cshw@nmcinc.org.

Fit Kids Support Group, first Mondays (March 3), 4:15 – 5:00 PM. Program for kids 8-13 and their parents. Learn about nutrition and physical activity, ways to increase activity level safely, change eating behavior, self-esteem, and obstacles that interfere with weight management success. Northwestern Medical Center, Cobblestone Building, Classroom A. Speaker: Kay Tran, Registered Dietitian, MS, CDE. Free; pre-registration required: 524-1234 or cshw@nmcinc.org.

Cholesterol Class – Wednesday, February 27, 9:00 – 10:00 AM. Monthly group discusses foods and eating habits that may help to manage your cholesterol levels; practical suggestions for overcoming the barriers to heart healthy eating. Topics: saturated and unsaturated fats, fiber, portion sizes, American Heart Association guidelines. Northwestern Medical Center, Cobblestone Building. Speaker: Kay Tran, Registered Dietitian, MS, CDE. Suggested donation, \$5 at door; pre-registration required: 524-1234 or cshw@nmcinc.org.

Statewide Quit Line – Telephone Smoking Cessation Counseling. Call 1-877-yes-quit (1-877-937-7848). Free.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting: "Keep It Simple" group meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 8:00 – 9:00 PM, and Saturdays, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, at the United Church of Underhill, Underhill Flats. **ADULT ACTIVITIES**

Westford Knitters Group meet the first Friday of each month (March 7), 6:00 – 8:30 PM at the Westford Library. All needlecrafters in Westford and surrounding communities are welcome. Enjoy conversation with neighbors and friends while you work on your current project. Come early or late; bring a brown bag dinner and drink if you like. For information: Julie Nelson, 343-0165 or Julie@coolmoonyoga.com.

Handbell ringers, Tuesday evenings, United Church of Underhill. All are welcome at rehearsals. Two ensembles; opportunity for small groups/shorter time periods. We ring a variety of music in a variety of settings and look forward to new faces joining us. Beginners welcome! Call Roger, 899-3106 for information.

French Canadian Genealogy Research, Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 9:30 PM, Dupont Building, Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester. For information, 864-6037 or mail@vt-fcgs.org.

SENIORS

Jeri-Hill XYZ Seniors meet at the Town Hall in Underhill Center on the first and third Wednesday of each month (March 5, 12). All seniors are welcome! Dinners are served at 11:30 AM. For information, please call Lenore Whitten, 878-8996, Bette Workman, 899-4446, or Loreen Teer, 899-1363.

Connections @ CCC Internet Café, – a community Internet Café for those 60+, Thursdays, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, VT Rt. 15, between Essex Center and Jericho. Computer/Internet instruction, presentations, lunch. Use a Connections computer or bring your own. For more information and to make lunch reservations (\$4 suggested donation), call 879-4313.

KIDS

Open Gym at the Westford School Gym, Sundays, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Ongoing through March (except March 2). Open to all children aged 0-6 and their families. Bring bikes, trikes, cars, etc. Balls, scooters, jump ropes, and other equipment provided. For information, call Julie, 872-2641. Sponsored by the Westford Early Childhood Connection.

Chittenden East Early Childhood Connection playgroup programs – both follow the school calendar; ages birth-5 years; everyone welcome; contact Abby for information, 899-3727. **Jericho Playgroup**, 9:30 – 11:00 AM at the Jericho Community Center; meets Mondays. **Underhill Playgroup**, 9:30 – 11:00 AM at the Underhill Central School; meets Fridays.

Westford Playgroup, Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon, children's section, Westford Town Library. Free and open to all children 5 and under and their families – drop in! Open play till 11:20 AM, cleanup and circle time of story and/or songs, followed by a snack of crackers and extras brought from home to share.

TOWN GOVERNMENT AND ORGANIZATIONS

Tim Nulty, Jericho Selectboard member, at the Village Cup, first and third Wednesdays (March 5, 12), 8:00 – 9:00 AM, and at the Flour Shop, second and fourth Wednesdays (February 27, March 12, 26), 8:00 – 9:00 AM.

Westford Fire Department, Mondays, 7:00 PM, at the fire station next to the Town Garage. Volunteer for firefighting, dispatching, radio communications, computer operations, grant writing, equipment maintenance, fire police, education, and much more. You are welcome and encouraged to join. For information, email John Quinn, jquinninv@atol.com.

Board of Water Commissioners of the Village of Jericho, Inc. – monthly, 7:00 PM at the Old Red Mill on 4B Red Mill Dr., Jericho. For information, 899-2938.

Jericho Historical Society, second Thursday (March 13), 7:30 PM, Old Red Mill, Jericho.

Jericho Underhill Park District Board meeting, first and third Wednesdays (March 5, 12), 7:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, Jericho. Residents of Jericho and Underhill always welcome. 899-2693 for information.

Fairfax Food Shelf has moved to the United Church on the corner of Fletcher Road and River Road, near the Foothills Bakery.

The Food Shelf is open the first two Wednesdays of the month, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon. Please use the downstairs entrance. For information, 849-6588.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alzheimer's support group, third Wednes-

day (March 19), 9:30 – 11:30 AM, the Arbors, 687 Harbor Rd., Shelburne. For individuals and families in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. For information and to register, contact Nicole Houston, 985-8600.

Approach Autism With Advocacy, Recovery & Education (AAWARE) in the Lamoille Valley, third Sunday (March 16), 3:00 – 5:00 PM, Second Congregational Church of Jeffersonville Community Room, Jeffersonville. Special topics, guest speakers, resource information; playroom for kids, fenced side yard for outdoor play. Info: Terry Holden, 644-2759 or Tina Karl, 888-3430.

Veterans Job Networking, Wednesdays, 9:30 – 11:00 AM, VFW Post, Essex Jct.; 1:00 – 2:30 PM, American Legion Post, St. Albans.

Lamoille Valley Kin as Parents, second and fourth Thursdays (February 28, March 13, 27), 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Lamoille Family Center, Morrisville. Dinner and childcare provided. For more information, Imelda at 888-5229 ext. 152 or Rhonda Barr, 888-1376.

Eating Disorders Parental Support Group, third Wednesday (March 19), 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, VT Rt. 15, Essex Center. For parents of children with or at risk of anorexia or bulimia. We focus on being a resource and providing reference points for old/new ED parents. Information, 899-2554.

Grandparents Raising their Children's Children, third Tuesday (March 18), 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Wesley Methodist Church, Main St., Waterbury. Light refreshments and onsite childcare provided. For information, Evelyn, 433-1513.

WORKSHOPS

"Can't Draw a Straight Line?" with Gwen Evans – free demo Saturday, February 23, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Artist's Mediums, So. Burlington. Gwen Evans, an artist who happens to be blind, will demonstrate how vision isn't required to do art. She will present art in various media she has explored, talk about how ego and sight can get in the way of creativity, answer questions, and help others participate in a "blindfolded" artistic experiment. Information: 879-1236.

"Ukrainian Egg Decorating" with Theresa Somerset – free demo Saturday, March 8, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Artist's Mediums, So. Burlington. Theresa's unique and traditional Ukrainian egg designs are intricate and whimsical. She will show you how to follow the steps involved in creating your own egg masterpieces. A great indoor activity with no limitations except your own imagination. Information: 879-1236.

2008 Family-to-Family Classes – The NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family-to-Family program is a 12-week course for families and friends of individuals with brain disorders called mental illness. Some of the topics covered are: major mental illnesses, new research, problem solving, communication skills, self-care, services and recovery, and advocacy. The course is taught by trained family members who have lived with this experience. Free. For more information, contact the NAMI-Vermont office, (800) 639-6480. Classes will be offered in St. Albans beginning March 13 and in Morrisville beginning in early- to mid-March.

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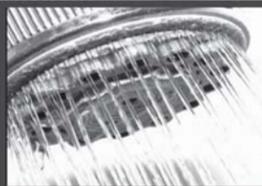
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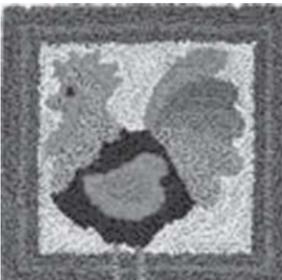
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Thank our local blood donors

Following are the names of donors in our readership area who have received gallon pins from American Red Cross Blood Services, New England Region recently.
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Louise Matthews, Underhill Center - 13 gallons.
Benjamin Ware, Westford - 26 gallons.
Timothy Durbrow, Underhill - 45 gallons.
Dawn Stanger, Underhill - 51 gallons.

Folic acid seal helps women prevent birth defects

In an effort to promote increased consumption of folic acid among women of childbearing age, the March of Dimes and the Grain Foods Foundation have created a new Folic Acid for a Healthy Pregnancy seal that will be featured on select products at retail locations to help women quickly and easily identify grain products that are enriched with folic acid.
Daily consumption of folic acid beginning before pregnancy is crucial because birth defects of the brain and spine known as neural tube defects (NTDs), such as spina bifida, can occur in the early weeks following conception, often before a woman knows she is pregnant. In Vermont only 55% of women of childbearing age (18-44) are aware of the role of folic acid in the prevention of birth defects (2006 Vermont Behavioral Risk Factor Survey).
Since the FDA issued the mandate in 1998 to fortify enriched flour with folic acid, neural tube defects (NTDs), including spina bifida, have declined by 26%.
The March of Dimes urges all women of childbearing age to consume 400 micrograms of folic acid daily beginning before pregnancy and continuing into the early months of pregnancy. Bread, crackers, bagels, pasta, pretzels, and tortillas made from fortified, enriched white flour are popular and important sources of folic acid.

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Heart Health

Over a million people die annually from heart problems. Half of all first heart attacks are fatal. Half of all heart attack fatalities occur within the first three-four hours, making prompt medical attention critical. The most common symptom is pressure – mild to severe – in the chest, but there may also be pressure in the shoulder, neck, and jaw. Other signs of heart attack are shortness of breath, dizziness, fatigue, fainting, anxiety, or nausea. Occasionally there are no symptoms; these are called “silent.”

Heart attacks occur when there is a blockage of blood flow to the arteries of the heart. Obstruction occurs when there is a blood clot, plaques narrow blood vessels, or blood vessels spasm. Congestive heart failure occurs when the heart fails to pump properly. Cardiac arrhythmias occur when the heart beats irregularly, too quickly, or too slowly to effectively pump blood.

Lifestyle plays an important role in cardiac health, however, so you can help determine whether you become a statistic!

Keep your blood pressure low so your heart does not have to strain. Do not smoke. Maintain proper weight. Learn to manage your stress. Be physically active. Keep your blood sugar levels even. Inflammation increases the risk of blood clots so minimize inflammatory foods such as meats, grain, processed foods, and dairy. Alcohol increases triglycerides and the risk of obesity and diabetes. Exercise helps because it improves mood and helps maintain normal weight, blood pressure, and blood sugar. Exercise also raises HDLs, the so-called “good” cholesterol.

Avoid trans fats (a.k.a. hydrogenated oils) because they increase LDLs, the so-called “bad” cholesterol. Limit saturated fats found in animal products because they increase cholesterol more than eating foods high in cholesterol. Consume whole foods, especially fruits and vegetables. Foods such as legumes, oats, and citrus are high in soluble fiber, which helps lower cholesterol. Limit caffeine found in coffee, colas, and chocolate. Use heart-healthy oils such as cold pressed extra virgin olive oil and canola oils. (Keep refrigerated to avoid rancidity.)

Certain supplements are important in heart health. A high quality multivitamin/mineral product will ensure an optimal supply of important nutrients. Essential fatty acids such as Omega-3 help minimize inflammation, lower triglycerides, decrease plaque, and lower blood pressure and clotting while improving vascular function. The American Heart Association recommends a minimum of one gram/day of Omega-3. Co-enzyme Q-10 improves cardiac muscle function. Co Q-10 is depleted by using statin drugs such as Lipitor, so if you use these drugs be sure to supplement. If Lasix, a diuretic, is taken for hypertension, be sure to increase potassium by supplementation or increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables and supplementing the B vitamin thiamine. Magnesium is a natural muscle relaxant, thereby helping you and your blood vessels to relax. Magnesium deficiency is common. Carnitine, an amino acid made from B1, B6, Vitamin C, and protein, helps lower blood pressure and assists with weight loss. Carnitine is found in animal products. Elevated levels of homocysteine are associated with increased risk if cardiac problems. Folic acid (found in foliage), B6, B12, olive oil and fish have been shown to lower homocysteine. Green tea, garlic, ginkgo, vitamin A, beta carotene and vitamin E all reduce clotting.

Minimizing inflammation is thought to be essential to heart health. In fact, some think that inflammation is a more important indicator of cardiac risk than cholesterol. C Reactive Protein (CRP) is an indicator of inflammation. Therefore, when you have blood drawn, ask for a test for C-Reactive Protein (CRP) level. Fibrinogen indicates how easily your blood clots. Fibrinogen can be evaluated by blood work, too.

Homocysteine and insulin levels also directly relate to cardiac risk. If you have had a history of cardiac problems, have risk factors, or just want a baseline measurement, ask that these values be checked too.

Cardiac problems are common and they can kill. They don't have to. Do your part in prevention by living healthfully.

Mary Kintner, D.C., R.N. is a chiropractor and nutritional counselor practicing Jericho

CAMPUS HONORS

Katherine Melfy of Cambridge, VT, an accounting major at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH, has been named to the President's List for the fall 2007 semester, having compiled an academic grade point average of 3.5-4.0.

Champlain College student **Robert Burroughs** of Jericho, VT has been studying abroad at Solent University in England during the Spring 2008 semester. He is the son of Thomas Burroughs and Kimberly Burroughs. Burroughs is enrolled in the Criminal Justice program at Champlain College.

Lydia Johnson of Cambridge, VT, a freshman majoring in English at Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY, has been named to the fall term Dean's List in recognition of her excellent academic work, including a full course load and at least a 3.5 (of 4.0) GPA. The Lamoille Union High School graduate is participating in the Honors Program at Hartwick.

Jacob M. Keszey of Underhill, VT, a graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, VT, studied in Kenya for the fall 2008 semester while participating in St. Lawrence University's International Study Program.

Jessica K. Young of Jericho, VT, a graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, VT, studied in Australia for the fall 2008 semester while participating in St. Lawrence University's International Study Program.

Essex Rescue receives DHS grant

Essex Rescue has been notified through the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness, that our 2007 Assistance to Firefighters, Operations and Safety grant application has been approved, with a project total in the amount of \$76,781.

Congress has directed the program office to award a limited number of grants (on a competitive basis) to Emergency Medical Service (EMS) organizations that are not affiliated with a fire department. This funding will be used to implement a comprehensive wellness and fitness program for members of Essex Rescue.

“Essex Rescue has identified this wellness & fitness program as a priority and we feel that providing the necessary tools and incentives for members to improve their health will result in better performance and safety to the community,” said Craig Butkus, Essex Rescue Executive Director.

OBITUARIES

Roy Andre Kennedy, formerly of Underhill Center, VT, died from health complications on Wednesday, January 23, 2008, following a long illness. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lorraine, who died August 28, 2007. A fuller obituary will appear prior to his memorial services and burial, planned for May. The family wishes to thank all who knew him for their patience, and look forward to celebrating his life together this spring.



Dr. Richard E. Pease, 85, of Jericho, VT passed away on Sunday, February 3, 2008, after a brief illness. He was born January 4, 1923 in Proctor, VT, son of Edward and Catherine (Richards) Pease. He graduated from UVM Medical College, Class of '49, and set up private practice in Morrisville for 15 years. He was an anesthesiologist and associate professor at the Fletcher Allen Health Care, retiring in 1986. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the U.S.A.F. stationed at

Fort Ethan Allen during the Korean Conflict. Dr. Pease was an avid gardener and reader and active community volunteer. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Claire K. Pease. He was also the beloved father of John Jewell of Wisconsin, Brian Jewell of Swanton, VT, Gretchen Cannady of Michigan, Cindy Jensen of Colorado, Peter Pease of Colchester, VT, and Heidi Simpson of Michigan. He was predeceased by his son Richard E. Pease Jr. Twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren also blessed his life. The family would like to thank friends, neighbors, and the Hospice Team from the VNA for their caring support during our time of need. A funeral service was held on Friday, February 8 in the United Church of Underhill, VT Rt. 15, Underhill, with interment to be scheduled for June at the Pleasant View Cemetery in Jericho. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Dismas House, 96 Buell St., Burlington, VT 05401.

William Charles Bister of Jericho, VT passed away at the VA hospital in White River Junction, VT on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, surrounded by his loving family and friends. He was the son of the late Edward and Mary (Krewet) Bister. Bill lived most of his 85 years in Jericho, graduating from Jericho High School and the University of Vermont. He had a master's degree from Syracuse University. Bill was a navigator on a B17 during World War II. He flew 46 missions and was then shot down over Germany and taken prisoner. He was very proud of the manuscript he recently wrote detailing his war experiences. When the war was over, Bill returned to Jericho and married Joyce Woodruff. During their 49 years together, they raised five daughters. He joined Joyce's father's business, Browns River Maple Products of Jericho. While working at this business, he started experimenting, making jewelry out of real maple leaves. This “hobby” would encompass the next 30 years of his life with his jewelry being sold in gift shops around New England. After selling the maple sugar business, he became a physical education teacher and coach in Chateaugay, NY for the next 15 years, retiring in 1978. The loves of Bill's life were his family and sports – any sport, but especially baseball and golf. He was an avid Red Sox fan, happy to see them win not one, but two World Series in his lifetime. Bill enjoyed hunting and sugaring in Pleasant Valley with his nephews Frank, George, and Bruce Hutchins. He enjoyed nature in general, but specifically watching the deer and birds outside his home in Jericho. Bill spent many happy hours of his retirement years volunteering his time assisting the Mount Mansfield Union High School Golf Team. In recognition of this time, a tournament was established in his name. Bill is survived by daughters Sharon and Bill James of Lincoln, VT and their children Hardy, Bill and Marya, Chris and Faith, Karen and David; Peggy and Fred Burbank of Jericho and their children Heather, Tara and Keith, Kristin and Gary; Norma and Jon Ojala of Jericho and their children Laurie and Taylor, Jeffrey, Eric; Marilyn and Grant Thomas of Westford, VT and their children Andrew, Ethan and Cathy, Josie; and Janet and Roy Knutsen of St. Albans, VT and their children Jonathan and Cecilia, Kylie, Corey; eight great-grandchildren; brothers Robert of Jericho, Harvey and Kay of Connecticut, and John and Elaine of Delaware; sisters-in-law Aimee Baisley of Florida and Barbara Bister of Jericho; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife Joyce, a special friend Ardelle Wells, brothers Edward Bister and George Bister, sisters-in-law Norma Woodruff, Irma Bister, and Barbara Bister, and a special brother-in-law, Roy Hutchins. The family would like to thank Bill's long-time caregiver Karen of the VNA and the medical staff of the Veteran's Administration for his wonderful care. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, February 9 in St. Pius X Church in Essex Center. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you send donations to MMU Golf in care of Chuck Webber, 211 Browns Trace, Jericho, VT 05465.



Thomas G. Barlous III, age 47, of Jericho, VT passed away Saturday, February 9, 2008 after a one-year fight with cancer. He was the son of Thomas G. Barlous II and Shirley Y. Barlous. Thomas was a loving husband to his wife Lone Barlous, and father to his four children, Thomas, Kristine, and Benjamin, all of Jericho, and Jason Barlous and his wife April and son Nathan of Lake Worth, FL. Thomas is survived by his mother, Shirley Y. Barlous Azuza of California; sister Jaye Barlous and family of Oregon; brother Troy Barlous and family of Tucson, AZ; and cousin Glenn More of Essex Junction, VT. A private service has been held.

Shirley Arlene (Wells) Westman, age 69, of Cambridge, VT lost her courageous battle with cancer on Tuesday, February 12, 2008. She died with dignity in her home, the place she loved, surrounded by people she loved and who loved her.

Shirley was a lifelong resident of Cambridge, born on July 26, 1938, daughter of the late Cecil “Pep” and Josephine “Jo” (Lamonda) Wells. She and her husband Richard D. “Dick” Westman made their life on the Westman Farm in Pleasant Valley. They raised their family there. Shirley served for many years as Town Auditor, a job she was very good at and that gave her great satisfaction. Shirley's life was centered in her husband, her family, the farm, and her community. She was always in charge, strong-willed and definite. She knew how to negotiate on behalf of the things she cared about. She is survived by her husband Dick, to whom she would have been married 50 years in May; three children: son Richard A. Westman and partner Joan Nagy; two daughters, Ellie Westman, and Liz and her husband Colonel Cedric George. Shirley loved and was extremely proud of her four grandchildren: granddaughters Morgan, Hannah, and Sidney George, and grandson Andre Morton; her three siblings: Howard Wells and wife Patty; Linda Gingras; Barbara LaFountain and husband Myron. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. A graveside funeral service will be held in the summer, Shirley's favorite time of year. In lieu of flowers, donations in Shirley's memory may be made to Lamoille Home Health and Hospice 54 Farr Ave., Morrisville, VT 05661.



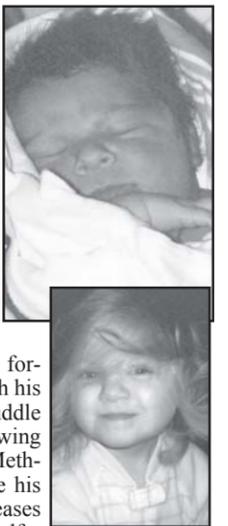
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JERICHO

(**Muller**) Gretchen (Price) and Kurt Muller had a daughter, Anya Bell, Friday, January 18, 2008 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT.

UNDERHILL

(**Morrill**) The Morrill and Gallant families are happy to announce the arrival of Brady Allain Morrill. Brady is the son of Colby and Amy (Gallant) Morrill and the little brother of Ava Mae Morrill, who has just turned two years old. Brady was born on Saturday, January 12, 2008 at 3:47 AM, and he weighed in at 9 pounds, 14.5 ounces. A young man of stature, he was 22 inches in length! Born with soft dark hair and lots of it, he arrived very quickly to greet his loving parents, sister, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Ava loves him and gives him lots of kisses. Mommy is just so glad that he's here now, and Daddy is looking forward to watching baseball and football with his boy and girl. Mem Lucy Morrill loves to cuddle him and Nana Catherine Gallant enjoys showing him off to all the friends at Jericho United Methodist Church. Brady looks quite a bit like his Papa George Gallant and we know this pleases Papa. He is welcomed by his paternal grandfather Greg Morrill, and Lynn too. Brady is a very lucky little guy because he gets loads of attention from his Aunt Jen, Uncle Art, Aunt Heather and Uncle Jason, Uncle Devin and Liron, and Uncle Keith and Aunt M.J. When Brady is big enough, his cousins Jackson and Ryan will be great playmates and his sister Ava will always be there to keep him out of mischief! Oh, wait a minute, Ava will probably be thinking up mischief! Brady has loving great grandparents as well. He has Great Mem and Pep, Emilien and Helen Richard, and Great-Grandmother Emily Morrill. In Burlington, he has Great Nana Maxine Griffith, and Florida is where Great Peper Alvin Gallant lives. May your life be blessed Brady, now and always. There is so much to enjoy! We love you so much!



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Diantha Korzun of Cambridge, VT has joined the architectural team at TruexCullins. She has worked at Carney Architects in Jackson Hole, WY. She earned a BFA from Carnegie Mellon Univ. and a master of architecture from the Univ. of Washington.

On June 7-8 **Paul Gosselin**, originally from Jericho, VT, will walk to raise funds and awareness for suicide prevention, education, and research programs, and to support survivors of suicide loss. Proceeds from the *Out of the Darkness Overnight (TheOvernight.org)* event in New York will benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. To help Paul reach his goal or for information, call 888-THE-OVERNIGHT or visit www.TheOvernight.org.



Champlain College senior **Colin Cramer** of Jericho, VT has been cast in two supporting roles in *Our Country's Good* presented by Champlain Theatre. Cramer will play Robert Sideway and Captain David Collins on March 19-22 and 27-29 at the Flynn Theatre, Burlington. Cramer is a Professional Studies student at Champlain.

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How to make your wedding dance memorable

The wedding ceremony went wonderfully, just as you planned, and at the reception you and your new husband are introduced to your friends and families for the first time as a couple. Everyone watches as your husband takes you in his arms and moves effortlessly around the dance floor with you. The joy you get from being with each other is obvious to everyone as the dance ends with a deep dip, and a kiss.

Will you include a special first dance at your wedding? Although the first dance is symbolic of the effort that a couple will put into working together for the rest of their lives, it often surprises me how many people choose to include dancing in their wedding day even though they don't dance at any other time in the year. If you plan to include a first dance with your new spouse – and not everyone does – it is worth putting some time and effort into learning to dance in advance of the wedding reception.

If you do decide to include a first dance, it is a good idea to start planning early. If you start taking lessons at least several months in advance, you will decrease your last-minute stress and increase your enjoyment of your first dance together. Dave and Emily, a Burlington, VT couple, spent a year learning to dance, and when it came time for their first dance together, even the hotel staff came out to watch them dance!

While learning to dance, practicing individual step patterns will give the couple the building blocks of a wonderful first dance. Then, once you are comfortable dancing the pieces separately, you can put the pieces together into a routine that will incorporate all you have learned. Of course, couples should also practice forgetting the routine, just in case.

As your wedding day approaches, it is a good idea to practice at least half an hour once or twice a week. As with any other physical skill, it is better to practice for a short time but often, rather than practicing for a longer time only once or twice.

Most people choose to include a photographer or videographer in their wedding plans. If you include these professionals, you may want to tell them that you know how to dance to ensure that you'll get dazzling photographs and video! If possible, dance through the routine with them watching so that they will now when to take pictures. Ensure that whoever is filming the couple doesn't stay zoomed in on your faces and lose what the rest of your bodies are doing.

Like the rest of your life together, each of you will have input into what the final product of your first dance looks like. You both want to look and dance your best, but presumably neither of you has danced like this before. Be kind, gentle and understanding of each other as you learn to dance together. Remember that dancing, like marriage, is a team effort!

Kevin Laddison teaches dance classes, private lessons and wedding workshops in Burlington and St. Albans, VT. For more information about dancing, Kevin can be contacted at www.FirstStepDance.com, at (802) 598-6757, or via email at Kevin@firststepdance.com.

Finding the right venue and officiate

Tying the knot is a complicated matter, and staying within your budget is a must. Whether you are getting married or preparing for a civil union, finding just the right place can be one of the hardest tasks.

For a traditional church wedding, there are many choices. Counseling or classes may be required by the religious denomination before you are allowed use the church. Not all churches will marry people who are not in the congregation, and cost may be lower for church members.

Churches	
Cambridge	
St. Mary's Catholic Church 310 No. Main St.	644-1909
Jeffersonville	
Second Congregational Church of Christ	644-5533
Jericho	
Calvary Episcopal Church VT Rt. 15	899-2326
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 273 VT Rt. 15	899-3932
Jericho Congregational Church 331 Browns Trace, Jericho Center	899-4911
Jericho United Methodist Church 71 VT Rt. 15	899-4288
Korean-American United Methodist Church of VT 69 VT Rt. 15	899-4249
Mt. Mansfield Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Meet at Jericho Elementary School	899-1765
United Christian Assembly 100 Raceway Rd.	899-2949
United Pentacostal Church VT Rt. 15	899-4835
Underhill	
St. Thomas Catholic Church 6 Green St., Underhill Center	899-4632
United Church of Underhill Park St.	899-1722
Westford	
United Church of Westford VT Rt. 128	872-8272

You can also opt for a ceremony performed by a justice of the peace.

Justices of the Peace	
Bolton	
Brenda McKeon	434-3191
Paula Gervia	434-3892
John Devine	434-3615
R.J. Vallie	434-8462
Cambridge	
Mark Boyden	644-5535
Munroe Brook	644-2290
Bob Eccles	644-5195
Jan Sander	644-5487

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Peter Booth	899-1391
Mary Coburn	899-2242
Robert Cochran	899-4982
Willadine Cochran	899-4982
Dave Eaton	899-5054
Deborah Fitzgerald	899-4965
Janet Gallagher	899-2029
Sarah Joslin	899-4708
Tom Obbagy	899-4520
Mike Weinberg	899-3481

<u>Underhill</u>	
Gael G. Boardman	899-2260
Susan Boardman-Tobin	899-4822
Josephine McClellan	899-4704
Michael McKnight	899-4185
Joe O'Brien	899-3297
Lise Wursthorn	899-3673

<u>Westford</u>	
Allison Weinhagen	878-5804
Chester Balon	893-4519
Christine O'Donnell	878-2302
Paul Birnholz	879-2686
Caroline Brown	878-8890
Ann Moore	849-2744
Katherine Stebbins	879-7885

Other facilities
Each town has other facilities available for ceremonies and receptions that can be rented for reasonable rates. Prices may have changed; please call to verify.

The Eagles Club is located on VT Rt. 109 in Jeffersonville. Call

644-5333 for information.

The Red Brick Meeting House in Westford is available for public functions. The cost, which includes tables and chairs to accommodate 60 guests, please call for current pricing information. A kitchen with stove and refrigerator is available for use and there are restroom facilities. Call Caroline Brown, 878-8890, for information.

The Jericho Community Center is available year round for a fee of \$15 per hour; the building will hold about 100 people. You are responsible for all amenities. Call Andrea Hook, 899-2366. The property is handicapped-accessible.

Mills Riverside Park has a pavilion with a scenic view of Mount Mansfield. Private parties can rent the pavilion for \$40 per day. You must fill out a use permit form (online at www.parkdistrict.jerichounderhill.com). The park is a carry-in, carry-out facility so you will need to provide all trash receptacles. Alcohol is allowed on the premises and your caterer usually has a license as well. Be aware that the site has no running water, and the facilities are port-o-lets; you may need to arrange for more, depending on the size of your party. Call Livy Strong, 899-2693, early to reserve the pavilion.

The Cambridge Elementary School may be available. Call 644-8821 for information.

The Underhill Town Hall in Underhill Center can be rented for \$200. The facility has a kitchen area and is handicapped-accessible. Call Town Clerk Sherri Morin for reservations, 899-4434, extension 101.

Moore Park is a small park in Underhill Center, across Pleasant Valley Road from the Underhill Town Hall. The park has picnic tables and a lawn area. The park may be used for gatherings at no charge, but please carry out what you carry in, and note that there are no facilities (water, rest rooms) on the property. Facilities at the Town Hall are available during normal town office hours. For more information, call Sue Kusserow, 899-2215.

The Westford Town Common is available for public functions but without exclusive use. Call Nanette at the Westford Town Office, 878-4587, for information.

Popular facilities

The Round Church in Richmond seats 150 guests comfortably and is reasonably priced at \$450. Reservations are being taken for 2008 and 2009. Reserve by calling Sally Singer, 434-3480, after

May 1.

The Spirit of Ethan Allen is a luxurious Lake Champlain cruise ship that provides complete event planning. The ship has three decks that can accommodate 40-500 people comfortably. There is an onboard galley and an expert chef. A complete reception can be purchased starting at \$2,599 and going up. Reservations are suggested, with as much advance notice as possible. Call Gwendy Lauritzen, 862-8300, to reserve your date.

The Shelburne Museum on VT Rt. 7 in Shelburne has gardens and the Meeting house available for wedding ceremonies only at a cost of \$800, and three sites available for receptions and ceremonies.

The Lake Champlain sidewheeler Ticonderoga has space for 150 guests at a sit-down dinner or can easily accommodate 220 for a free-flowing buffet. Cost: \$4500 (\$5500 if Museum staff

Finding continued on page 12



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Choosing the right caterer for your event

By Jenny Woods

Personal Tastes

If you're planning on ethnic eats, vegetarian fare or kosher cuisine, local caterers can serve it up in style.

Your menu should reflect the joy and beauty of your wedding day. Choosing foods that you love will help you celebrate the season's harvest and add a personal touch. Whether you're planning a full-scale kosher, vegetarian or vegan wedding, or just accommodating a few guests with dietary preferences, caterers willing to customize can help you put the "special" in specialization.

Even if you're not exactly sure what you want on the menu, be specific about what kinds of foods

you like — down to the herbs and spices. Bring photographs from books and magazines, menus from your favorite restaurants or suggestions from past weddings you've attended. Ask caterers what particular dishes they're known for and what they recommend.

Research is important to help you get ideas. Find out what will be in season on your wedding day and take that into consideration. "In order to keep costs down and still get what you want, do the seasonal thing," says Susan Melvin-Mathews, owner and executive chef of Chefs @ C. Verona Naturals in Vadnais Heights. But don't be afraid to defy tradition or go beyond what a caterer has

having meat courses, make the vegetarian or vegan options just as appealing.

"It's important that you look at doing something where it's going to be beautiful and it's going to be substantial, and it's not going to look like just a plate of vegetables," says Linda Adam-Mellang, director of catering sales at D'Amico Catering in Minneapolis. If you're planning a main vegetarian or vegan course for an evening reception, consider whether it will excite your guests as well as satisfy their hunger. For early daytime weddings or brunch receptions, make sure the vegetarian entrée is as wonderful as the meat entrée.

Instead of the old standbys, present the unexpected. "We would suggest not serving the pastas with red or white sauce," says Adam-Mellang. One of her reception favorites is D'Amico's Vegetarian Napoleon, which layers portobello mushrooms, eggplant, beefsteak, tomato, Sicilian onion, fresh mozzarella and basil pesto on a bed of saffron couscous.

Even if your dietary principles are strict, there are no limits to you or your caterer's creativity. Savor the many fruits and vegetables of the earth. Test your caterer's culinary art skills and create a feast for the eyes.

Keeping Kosher

In Judaism, the wedding feast—seudat mitzvah—is an integral part of the wedding. If you're having a Jewish wedding, or even honoring a few guests' traditions, a kosher-certified caterer will ensure the food is prepared correctly.

"The Rabbi lights all our ovens and our burners—that has made him part of the cooking process," says John Newkirk, owner and executive chef of St. Louis Park-based Newkirk Catering, which specializes in glatt kosher preparation under strict supervision of the Twin Cities Community Kashruth Council. Among kosher rules for food preparation: no cooking can be done from sundown Friday to sundown on Saturday, and meat and dairy are not allowed to be mixed in a meal. Most of Newkirk's desserts are parve, or

dairy-free.

Kosher food must be prepared in a separate kitchen from non-kosher food. D'Amico Catering, for example, has two kitchens at International Market Square, so it can set one aside for kosher catering.

Ethnic Options

A love for ethnic cuisine is a great gift to share with your guests. Spicy, fragrant aromas can entice appetites and get people talking about items that may be new to them. Asian, Indian and Moroccan cuisine, for example, offer a variety of vegetarian and vegan options.

At Udipi Cafe in Columbia Heights, the entire menu is vegetarian, but catering manager Ramesh Sheregar says Udipi's catering team is more than willing to go beyond the 100 South Indian items specified. Among its wedding specialties, the restaurant offers dhosa stations, which feature a variety of vegan crêpes such as the Mysore Masala Dosai, thin rice crêpes filled with potatoes and onions and a layer of hot chutney. Udipi also caters to spice-sensitive palates. "If an entrée is really spicy, we could make it mild," Sheregar says.

Your guests will delight in little details, whatever their dining preferences. Olive oil on the tables gives a tasty vegan alternative to buttering bread and will please guests who are avoiding saturated fats. Sorbet and berries for dessert work well as a kosher, vegan and lactose-intolerant alternative to dairy. Marrying care and consideration, you'll give new meaning to a tasteful wedding.

Finding continued from page 11

has to break down the exhibit in the dining room). Second site: the Pavilion tent, which accommodates 250 for a sit-down meal. The Museum provides a dance floor and a caterers' tent. Cost: \$3500. Third site: the Brick House, located in Shelburne Farms and has a lake view, accommodates up to 220 people on the terrace; cost \$7500. The Museum does not provide a tent for the terrace nor restroom

facilities, both of which must be arranged from other providers, and no shuttle serves the Brick House.

Except as noted above, the prices include utilities, restrooms, security, parking, and a shuttle to and from the parking lot. Caterers, linens, music, and cleanup come at additional cost and must be coordinated by the wedding party; the Museum can provide a list of caterers and rental companies. The prices also include sites to hold a ceremony, either in one of the many gardens (90-180 guests) or in the Charlotte Meeting House (seats 125).

Call Bruce Andrews, 985-3348, ext. 3389, to make reservations or for more information.



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done before. Work together with your caterer to come up with a menu that excites you. "It's best to create your own menu," says Melvin-Mathews. "It's so much fun to experiment."

After a menu has been created, set up a sampling appointment. See if the foods work well together and don't be afraid to mix it up and try something different.

Vegetarian Food for Thought
Vegetarian courses shouldn't be thought of in terms of meat dishes with the meat taken out. If you are

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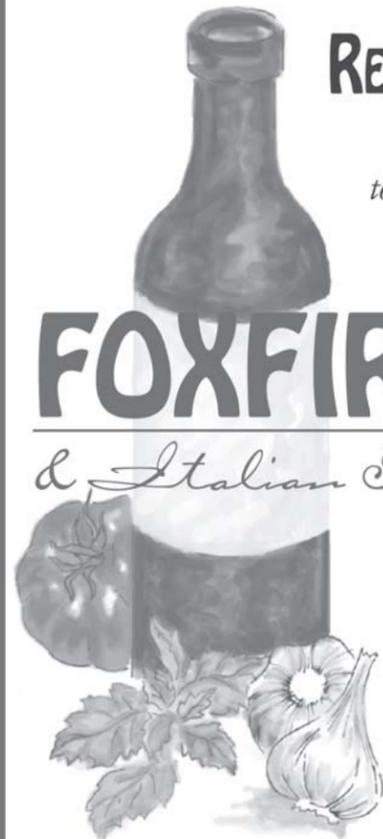
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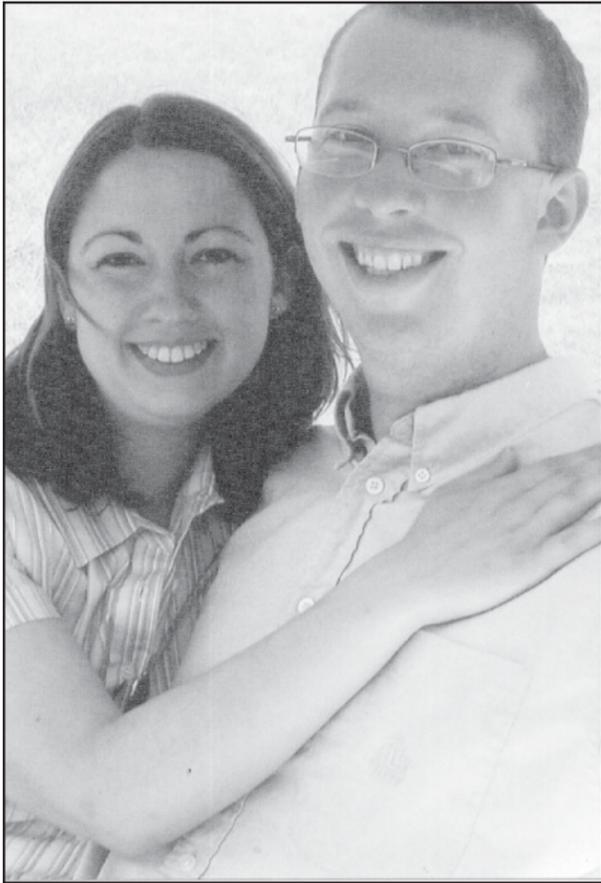


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JUST ENGAGED



KENT-MORIARTY

Wendy and Fred Kent of Jericho, VT announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Ann Kent of Standish, ME, to Ian Shawn Moriarty of Standish, son of Donna and Keith Moriarty of Farmingdale, ME. A July 19, 2008 wedding is planned.

KENT-MCDARBY PONTELLO

Wendy and Fred Kent of Jericho, VT announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Lee Kent of Columbia, MO to Dominic McDarby Pontello of Columbia, son of Kathleen McDarby and Michael Pontello of St. Louis, MO. An October 4, 2008 wedding is planned.

HOGAN-LAWRENCE

Dennis and Diane Hogan of Jericho, VT announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy J. Hogan of San Jose, CA, to Caton Michael Lawrence of San Jose, son of Caton and Sharon Lawrence of San Jose, CA. The couple plan to wed October 10, 2008.

SMINKEY-JABLONSKI

David and Ann Marie Sminkey of Underhill, VT announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa Sminkey of Portsmouth, NH, to Thomas Jablonski II of Portsmouth, son of Toby and Donna Lyons of Richmond, VT. The couple plans to wed August 2, 2008.

WESSON-MOSSINGHOFF

Cecelia Wesson announces the engagement of her daughter, Heather Wesson, to William Mossinghoff, son of Rick and Pat Mossinghoff. A September 13, 2008 wedding is planned.

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Underhill town continued from page 1

access without going to the Town Hall. However, Maheux said it appears meeting minutes of town boards and commissions are not being kept up to date.

"I try to look at things in a positive way, not a negative way," he said. "If people think I did a good job, then I hope they will vote for me." Maheux and his wife Jane live on Poker Hill Road. He operates his own business, Countryside Heating and Ventilation.

Timbers, a realtor, said he is running because "the town has been good to me and my family." He and his wife Lisa have lived here nearly 25 years and he said he wants to serve in another capacity.

"Underhill has gone through a transformation since we first got here," Timbers said, "and it is going through another transformation, to a 'well-to-do' town."

Timbers said he is an outdoors enthusiast and thinks the town can do more to promote outdoor recreation. "It is something I feel strongly about and also strongly about energy conservation." The recent formation of a town Energy Committee is a step in the right direction, he said.

Timbers and his wife live on Irish Settlement Road. Their son Will is a student at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, and their daughter Becky, a photo journalist, works for *National Geographic* magazine.

Some details in the proposed budget include:

The Selectboard seeks \$35,000 for a new pickup truck for the Town Road Crew.

A 5% hourly wage increase for the Town Highway crew, reflecting adjustments to the crew's base wages, and \$1 an hour above the cost-of-living increase for the foreman.

Health insurance coverage increased 8% in the proposed budget, but the health insurance line in the budget reflects an 8% decrease because the Board last year also overestimated that cost. Employees pay 6% toward their health care cost.

The cost for fuel oil in the Town Hall is down \$750, or 12%, from last year and at the Town Garage, down \$640, or 7%, because fuel dealers were asked to bid this year. The total savings for both is \$1390.

The Selectboard is asking for \$15,000 to establish a Matching Grant Fund. It would allow town commissions, committees, and boards to use some of the money as matching funds if those groups seek grants. The Selectboard wants to encourage those town groups to seek out grants first before looking for town funds.

The Town Building Maintenance/Repair item would decrease 20%, down \$3000 from \$15,000 approved last year to \$12,000 in the new budget.

The budget line for elections has increased from \$3500 approved last year to \$8000 this year because this is an election year: presidential, congressional, and statewide. Postage also has increased because of the

elections. The new budget asks for \$1300 more. Last year, voters approved \$4500, and this year they are being asked to approve \$5800.

The Selectboard decided not to send money to the Burlington Food Shelf. Instead, it will give \$300 to the Ecumenical Food Shelf in Jericho.

Cambridge continued from page 1

stead tax rate is \$1.304.

Voting on the Cambridge Elementary and Lamoille Union budgets will be by Australian ballot. Voting on the establishment of a capital reserve, and on a transportation reserve fund that is used for bus leasing, will be from the floor on Town Meeting Day.

In other School Board news, Jan Sander has said that she will seek re-election at Town Meeting. Sander is currently Board chair. Tim Russell, whose term also expires this March, has said that he anticipates not running for another term.

The Cambridge Elementary School Board scheduled two informational meetings. One was held Wednesday, February 20. The second will be held Monday, March 3, at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria at Cambridge Elementary School.

Cambridge Voting:

Polls Open 7:00 AM, Close 7:00 PM at Cambridge Elementary School gymnasium. • Cambridge Elementary School Budget • Lamoille Union School Budget • Construction Bond – Town Garage • Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian Primaries All other items voted on the floor at Town Meeting beginning at 10:00 AM Cambridge Elementary School gymnasium

Jericho election news

From Town Clerk Jessica Alexander

Early/absentee ballots are available at the Jericho Town Office. You can request a ballot by phone, in person or in writing. A family member can also request a ballot for you by phone.

The last day to register to vote is 5PM on Wednesday, February 27.

This year on Town Meeting, it is also the Presidential Primary. In Vermont you will be asked if you want to participate in the primary at the voter entrance table. If you do, you will need to select a Democratic, Republican or Liberty Union ballot at the entrance table. You do not need to register by party in Vermont, so if you are already registered to vote, there are no additional steps that need to be taken before the Presidential Primary. The election official will mark on the checklist a "D," "R," or "L" next to your name if you choose to participate in the primary. The entrance checklist is public record.

Upcoming informational meetings:

Thursdays, February 21 and February 28 at 7:30 PM for the MMU 2008-2009 proposed budget

Monday, March 3, 7:00 PM at Jericho Town Hall – Town Budget Informational Meeting before Town Meeting.

CESU – teacher contract negotiations

On February 11, the Chittenden East Supervisory Union Negotiation Committee held its second negotiation session with the Green Mountain-NEA, the labor union that represents the teachers, for a new collective bargaining agreement covering teachers in the CESU. The current contract expires June 30, 2008 and covers all teachers in Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill (including Camel's Hump Middle School, Browns River Middle School, and Mount Mansfield Union High School).

The parties exchanged and discussed initial proposals on teacher and management rights under the contract agreement, and planned for future negotiation sessions. The parties reached tentative agreements on some work rule issues, and reserved others for future sessions.

The next negotiation session will be on Monday, March 10 at 4:00 PM at the CESU offices in Richmond. The public may attend the open session. At 6:00 PM, the CESU Negotiation Committee will hold a meeting and take public comment.

For more information or to provide input to the CESU Negotiation Committee, the public can attend meetings of the Negotiation Committee, its local school board, or contact the members of the Committee. The CESU Negotiation Committee will also be posting minutes and other information on the CESU website.

The CESU Negotiation Committee members are: Chair Robert Letovsky (899-3392), Underhill ID: rletovsky@smcvt.edu; Vice Chair Phil Graff (434-5431), Bolton: graffp@yahoo.com; Molly Dugan (434-3044), Richmond: frollys@comcast.net; Peter Geiss (899-3610), Underhill Town: pgeiss@copper.net; Lisanne Hegman (434-4759) Huntington; bhgman@gmavt.net; Beth Hopwood (899-2322) Jericho; beth_hopwood@comcast.net; Judie Jones (899-3918) MMU (Underhill); Jonesis61@msn.com; Michael Marks (434-3789) MMU (Richmond); mmarks@comcast.net; Steve Znamierowski (434-3698) (Richmond); sznam@gmavt.net.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote for Obama

To The Editor,

I urge you to vote for Barack Obama in the upcoming primary on Tuesday, March 4. He represents long-term vision, wisdom, and a progressive approach instead of the stale politics-as-usual process. In the area of education, he believes that federal mandates should be backed up with federal funding. He will reform the *No Child Left*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Behind legislation so that teachers will not feel that they have to teach to the test. He will see to it that higher education is affordable for all, not just the economically advantaged. He will alter the tax code so that the middle class is not unfairly taxed. He will protect the rights of Americans, as guaranteed by our Constitution. He will see that out service people return home from Iraq, and when they get home they will be cared for as they deserve to be. Obama represents the new way – be part of the future. Dare to hope.

Louise Miglionico

Re-elect Steve Walkerman

To the Editor,

This is a letter of support for the re-election of Steve Walkerman for the Underhill Selectboard. As a current member of the Selectboard, I have been able to directly experience Steve's contribution on the Board for two-thirds of his current term. He possesses the ability to respond to issues that come up in a town like ours with insight and clarity. He has an identified skill in the budget creating process that enables town business to be satisfactorily completed, which directly benefits the taxpayers of this town.

Under his quiet leadership as Chair in this past year, the Town Hall staff and the road crew have responded with positive and responsible job performance, benefitting the overall focus of the town. It is my view that another three years of Steve Walkerman on the Selectboard will continue the trend toward stability in our town.

Dan Steinbauer, Underhill

Support SteveWalkerman in Underhill

To the Editor,

I am supporting Steve Walkerman for the Underhill Selectboard. Steve is currently the chair of the Selectboard and during his three years on the Board has worked hard to continue the harmony Underhill residents expect of their boards. Please join me in reelecting Steve Walkerman to the Underhill Selectboard.

Rep. Bill Frank, Underhill

Support Maheux for Underhill Selectboard

To the Editor,

Marc Maheux has announced his candidacy for the Underhill Selectboard. He has served on the Board for three years, his last as the chairman. Marc has lived in Underhill most of his life, is the owner of a local business, has served as a volunteer fireman, and is the operator of the Underhill Water District.

He has demonstrated his commitment to serve our community, willingly donating his time, professionalism, and technical expertise.

Marc offers the community a unique blend of business, people, and computer skills, which is a big plus for our town.

Please give your vote to Marc and return him to our Selectboard. Bob Scudero, former Selectman, Underhill

Maheux for Selectboard

To The Editor,

This letter is in support of Marc Maheux for selectman in Underhill. People who know Marc recognize in him a practical, conscientious person. A family man with his own business, he has experience working with people in different capacities and on different jobs. Having served as a selectman recently, Marc understands the workings of town government and the importance of being able to work with people of different temperaments. His manner is straightforward and to the point, a characteristic always needed in town government.

David Edson, Underhill

Hollbrook continued from page 1

registered voters was presented to the Town Clerk, and there was a public hearing on February 4. The sale will require the approval of voters at Town Meeting.

CCC of VT would like to develop this property into a multi-use recreation park and also to develop and maintain a trail system on this parcel that would be environmentally sustainable and could be used by hikers, mountain bikes, anglers, and off-highway vehicles. Due to the parcel's location and limited size, CCC of VT does not envision that there will be any competitive events; instead, they would like to focus on providing an area where young riders and their parents would have a safe and legal area to ride. The only organized events envisioned are several Motorcycle Safety Foundation-certified dirt bike schools for beginners and/or children and their parents to teach skill development, safety, land stewardship, and responsible trail riding.

The Bolton Conservation Commission opposes the sale of the property, saying that the Hollbrook property located on the Winooski River opposite the base of Notch Road is the only piece of riverfront property owned by the town. It lies entirely within the 100-year floodplain and includes large Class II wetland areas, which are considered by the state of Vermont to be of high value. The property includes over 2500 feet of riverbank with sandy soils highly susceptible to erosion. The parcel is included in a "wildlife crossing" along I-89/ U.S. Rt. 2, between mapped deer yards to the north and the river to the south. The property may also include an historic site with structures identified on the 1869 Beers Map of Bolton. The land abuts one of the most popular fly-fishing areas on the Winooski River. With the exception of its frequent use by local fisherman, the parcel is relatively unused by humans.

The Conservation Commission is concerned that dirt bikes are aggressive in disturbing soils and riders often enjoy going through mud pits. Since the land consists almost entirely of wetlands and sandy riverbank, it is very sensitive to disturbances.

Bolton's actual town budget increase is about 5.7%, up from \$662,900 for 2007-2008 to \$700,845 in the proposed 2008-2009 budget. The general operational increases are for salt, gravel, and paying off the bond that was used to build the new Town Office.

Town Meeting will be held Monday, March 3 at the Smilie School Auditorium following a potluck dinner, which begins at 5:45 PM.

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LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, JERICHO

Thursday, March 6: *The Irish Are Coming! The Irish Are Coming!* Dan Casey traces the movement of the early Irish into Vermont from Quebec, New York, and the New England corridor. He considers conditions in Ireland, shows probable ports of emigration, and explains motivations for their coming to Vermont, and uses prominent historical figures to illustrate Irish influence on the Vermont way of life. He references local surnames and uses maps, slides, and genealogical charts to explain how and why the Irish came to stay in Vermont. A VT Humanities Council event.

February's Art in the Library is Alan Morse with *Vermont Scapes - Acres of Art*.

Join the monthly parent book group at the library, 6:30 PM, March 11 to discuss Susan Linn's *Consuming Kids*. This will complete a three-book exploration our kids' regimented and sedentary lives. *Last Child in the Woods* and *The Power of Play* were read earlier in the year. A collection of all three books is being created at DRML for use by future book groups. If you own a copy, consider donating it to the library. Phoenix Books in Essex stocks these titles; get a 20% discount if you mention the book group. All are welcome at the book group. Call or visit the library (899-4962) to borrow a copy of the book and to register for the book discussion. To learn more, google *DRMLPBG*.

The Board of Trustees will meet Thursday, February 21 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

Movie Night! Friday, February 22 at 7:00 PM, join us to watch a movie on the oil depletion and the collapse of the American dream. Is it the end of suburbia?

Children's events:

Music with Peter – The ever-popular Peter Alsen returns to play his guitar and lead preschool children in singing and dancing to songs old and new. Monday, February 25, 9:30 AM.

Baby Time – Join Leah Rowe and Chris Ryan for board books, lap rhymes, and songs appropriate for babies 18 months and younger. This is a wonderful time for parents and child care providers to connect with one another and to share ideas. Siblings welcome. Wednesday, February 27, 10:30 AM.

Truman the Bomb Sniffing Dog – Meet special agent Joe Harrington and his highly trained dog, Truman. Learn how these partners work together on investigations. To register, call 899-4962. Wednesday, February 27, 1:00 PM.

Young Adult Advisory Group – Now called Anne's Amazing Young Adult Book Group. If you're in grades 5-12 and enjoy reading good books, we're looking for your help. Participants talk about books they recommend and help to select new titles for the collection. Friday, February 29, 11:00 AM. Please let us know if you are coming, we want to have plenty of warm brownies. Call 899-4962.

Wednesday Story Time, 11:00 AM – Stories, songs, refreshments, snack, and craft. March 5, 12, 19, 26.

Thursday Story Time, 10:00 AM – Stories, songs, refreshments, snack, and craft. March 6, 13, 20, 27.

Family Story Times, 6:30 PM – Children are invited to wear their pajamas and join us for stories and light refreshments. Recommended for families with children preschool through grade 2. March 13, 20, 27. Please note there is no Family Story Time on March 6.

Library hours: Tuesday 12:00 – 8:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Thursday 12:00 – 8:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 PM; closed Monday. For information on any of the library's programs, call 899-4962.

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY, JERICHO CENTER

Friday, February 22, 3:30 – 4:30 PM, TAB (Teen Advisory Board-grades 7-12) Meeting. New members are welcome to join this great group of teens! Refreshments served.

Monday, February 25, 6:30-8:00 PM, *String Fling* continues! Get together to work, chat, encourage others, and laugh! Stay for all or part of the night. All skill levels welcome. Bring everything string – knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, sew, mend, hemp, bead jewelry, rug hooking, even fish net making, etc.

Our annual book and media sale fundraiser will be held Saturday, March 22 at the Community Center in Jericho. We are accepting books, books on tape, DVDs, CDs, and software donations. Please do not donate textbooks, *Readers' Digest* condensed books, encyclopedias, or magazines. Thanks to everyone who has already donated!

Feeling shut in? If you are snowed in, sick, or having a hard time getting around, call us so we can bring you a good book (large print also available) at 899-4686.

High school students needing to fulfill community service, please consider volunteering at the library when your schedule permits. Call or stop by!

Interested in volunteering or offering a program to the community? Please call the library.

Story time, including craft and snack, is every Wednesday, upstairs at 10:00 AM.

The hours for the Jericho Town Library on the Green are Monday and Friday 1:00 – 5:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. For more information call 899-4686 or email us at Jerichotownlibrary@gmail.com.

WESTFORD TOWN LIBRARY, WESTFORD

Thursday, February 28, 11:00 AM: Storytime. Stories and activities for preschoolers. Theme: Planes and Trains.

Tuesday, March 4, 6:00 PM: Strategy and board games for ages 12 and up. Hosted by Matt Taylor.

Thursday, March 6, 11:00 AM: Storytime. Stories and activities for preschoolers. Theme: Princes and Princesses.

Friday, March 7, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Knitting group. All needle-crafters welcome.

Book Discussions: Due to the February school break, we will have a double-billing book discussion in March: Wednesday, March 12, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen; Wednesday, March 26, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, *Atonement* by Ian McEwan. Come to one or both!

New additions to the collection include:

Adult Fiction: *Chase* (Cussler), *Lord John and the Brotherhood of the Blade* (Gabaldon), *Family Secrets* (Wall), *44 Scotland Street* (McCall Smith). Paperbacks: *The Hot Kid* (Leonard), *The Black Ice* (Connelly), *Honeymoon* (Patterson).

Adult Nonfiction: *In Defense of Food* (Pollan), *Vintage Vermont Villainies: True Tales* (Bellamy), *Magical Thinking* (Burroughs), *The Artist's Way* (Cameron).

Juvenile Fiction: *Elijah of Buxton* (Curtis), *Henry's Freedom Box* (Levine), *Knuffle Bunny Too* (Willems), *Second Grade Rules*, *Amber Brown* (Danziger), *Poppleton in Spring* (Rylant), *Five Silly Fishermen* (Edwards), *Swimmy* (Lionni), *Franklin is Lost* (Bourgeois), *I Like Me!* (Carlson).

Music on CD: *Symphony No. 7* (Beethoven), *The Best of Romantic Favorites*, *Greatest Hits* (Fiedler), *Suites for Orchestra Nos. 1 & 2* (Bach), *Sondheim: A Celebration at Carnegie*, *The Best of Tchaikovsky*,

Greatest Hits (Gershwin), *The Best of Classical Favorites*, *Bernstein Greatest Hits*, *Waltz of the Flowers* (Tchaikovsky).

Visit our recently updated website for upcoming events and new books, CDs, and DVDs: www.westford.lib.vt.us. Our hours are Wednesday 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Friday 12:00 – 6:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. We can be reached at 878-5639 or westford_pl@vals.state.vt.us. "Check us out!"

VARNUM LIBRARY, JEFFERSONVILLE

The Crescendo Club, along with the VT Humanities Council and the Cambridge Arts Council, is sponsoring again this year a book discussion group meeting at the library once a month through March. The theme this season is Pulitzer Prize winners. Meetings are on Saturdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Books can be reserved at the library and refreshments and lively discussion will be served. Saturday, March 15, 3:00 PM: Wallace Earle Stegner's *Angle Of Repose*. What is it that makes a book worthy of a Pulitzer? Do the characteristics change over time? A VT Humanities Council event hosted by Varnum Memorial Library. Led by Linda Bland. For more information, please contact the library, 644-2117, or April Tuck, 644-6632.

The Varnum Library is open Monday and Tuesdays 1:00 – 8:00 PM, Thursdays and Saturdays 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The library is at 194 Main Street, Jeffersonville.

Heath continued from page 6

other revenue review in April. There's potential for a further downgrade in the forecast at that time.

The governor's budget as originally proposed is technically in balance. It does, however, rely on one-time funds from unusual sources to meet ongoing needs, setting the state up for an even more difficult budget in FY2010. A prime example is the Medicaid proposal. The governor uses \$20.8M in one-time funds to balance Medicaid: \$8M in carry-forward from FY08, \$4.6M from the Housing and Conservation Trust Fund, and \$8.2M in tobacco trust funds. This approach means that the starting deficit for FY2010 will be \$50M in state funds or \$125M in program services. Furthermore, his Medicaid proposal increases the cost shift to those who pay for health insurance by under-funding hospitals by \$8M, reducing payments to providers, and increasing premiums. The latter increases the cost shift when people drop coverage and receive uncompensated care from hospitals and physicians.

Raiding the VT Housing and Conservation Trust Fund to pay for Medicaid is of great concern. In addition, the governor's proposal cuts an additional \$1.6M from the statutory amount VHCB was to receive in FY09. These combined cuts will result in 183 fewer units of affordable housing, and 21 fewer farms conserved. Housing is such a critical need in Vermont's economy. The conservation of farms is often the tool that is used to pass working farms along to the next generation of farmers, preserving Vermont's agricultural landscape. This proposal seems very short-sighted.

Two years ago Vermont re-amortized the Teachers' Retirement Fund. It was often compared to refinancing the mortgage on one's house. At the time, the legislature and the governor committed to fully funding the actuarial recommend each year through a combination of base and one-time funds. We also agreed that at the end of three years, the appropriation would entirely come from the base. The governor's budget contains NO funding for the \$10M actuarial recommend for the fund this year. In addition, the budget doesn't fund the general fund portion of the cost of the November election (\$450,000). These two items seem irresponsible to the legislature.

Flat, declining, or unavailable federal assistance also adds to Vermont's challenges. Failure to grant the full waiver for Catamount Health is costing Vermont \$18.5M over three years. Flat funding for LIHEAP (low income heating and energy assistance) has also cost Vermont dearly. This year, \$6.5M in state funds were added to the program in order to keep our most vulnerable populations warm. Criminal justice grants have been drying up, particularly challenging justice in Chittenden County. Homeland Security funds have nearly dried up. Funding that supports our Area Agencies on Aging has been virtually flat for several years. Providing meals for seniors is ever more expensive and the state tries to fill the gap in funding. Shifting responsibility from the federal government to the states makes balancing Vermont's budget ever tougher.

These are just a few of the challenges facing the budget writing committees this year. We know that finding alternatives to the disagreeable funding suggestions proposed by the governor will be very difficult. If you wish to contact me with questions, concerns, or suggestions about this or other legislative topics you can contact me 893-1291 or mpheath@aol.com. I appreciate hearing from my constituents and would be happy to hear from you.

Westford notes: Town Meeting, presidential primary, and more

Following are a few important dates to remember leading up to Westford's Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 4:

Wednesday, February 27 – 5:00 PM deadline to submit an application for addition to the checklist or to file a written notice of intent to apply, for those who are not eligible to register to vote but will be by Town Meeting day.

Monday, March 3 – In towns using Australian ballot, a voter or an authorized person on behalf of a voter, may request an early voter absentee ballot until 5:00 PM.

Tuesday, March 4 – Town Meeting Day/Presidential Primary. Town Meeting begins at 10:00 AM. Polls are open from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM for Australian ballot votes.

Free childcare is available at Town Meeting, a public services provided by the Westford Elementary School 8th grade class. A wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities for ages toddler to 10 years old – artwork, puppet shows, creative cardboard construction, board games, movie marathons, playground fun, snow tag, sledding, snowshoeing, etc. Please bring your child equipment for indoor play and outdoor fun in the snow. Nutritious snacks provided. If your child has food restrictions, please feel free to bring your own labeled snack. RSVP greatly appreciated, but not required – for RSVP and information, contact Alex and Allison Weinhagen, weinhagen3@surfglobal.net or 878-5804. Please bring a non-perishable food item for our area food shelf.

Listers' notice – It's that time of year again that the Listers will be out checking on building permits issued in the past year for out buildings or other building alterations. We leave a notice of our visit to your property. As we are still contracting with APAS, LLC, they will be in town at some future (unknown) date to complete the inspection of the new house permits in town. There is information about the upcoming data collection by APAS having to do with a reappraisal is written in the Town Report, which will be published for Town Meeting Day.

Town Common Committee news – The Town Common Committee consists of five members: Jason Hoover, Leni Jorschick, Linell Vilaseca, Sue Adams, and Melissa Manka. We've been meeting for almost a year. Our mission is to conceptualize enhancement projects for the Westford Town Common. Most of the projects are in the discussion, research, and planning phase; one project is ready for construction later this summer. There will be a display table at the Westford School on Town Meeting Day. Please stop by and check out the work we've been doing. Your feedback is very important.

The Selectboard is currently accepting applications for the following town positions; interested residents should contact a board member or the town office for more information: **Conservation Commission Member** – the Commission meets the fourth Wednesday each month. **Emergency Operations Plan Development Committee** – this committee (ideally 5-7 members) will be responsible for developing an Emergency Operations Plan for the town of Westford. The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) has created a draft template to be customized to fit Westford's needs. **Recreation Committee Member** – duties include contributing to program offerings, community spirit, and committee meeting participation. **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Representative** – the board meets monthly to help establish and direct CCMPO policies and plans for regional transportation issues in Chittenden County. For information, <http://www.ccmppo.org>. **Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) Alternate Representative** – responsible for attending meetings when the representative is unavailable. The alternate may attend all meetings but will not have voting power when the representative is present.

Residents urged to bring food items when they vote

Voters in Underhill and Jericho are urged to bring non-perishable food items with them when they go to vote March 4.

Underhill Town Clerk Sherri Morin said voters in Underhill meet at Browns River Middle School from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM. There will be a receptacle there for the items.

She also urged those who plan to vote in advance of Town Meeting to take non-perishable food items to the Town Hall.

Jericho Town Clerk Jessica Alexander said there will be a receptacle for non-perishables at Jericho Elementary School on VT Rt. 15 on Town Meeting Day, from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM. She also urged those voting in advance to take items with them to the Town Hall on Route 15.

The food items collected in both towns will be given to the Ecumenical Food Shelf in Jericho.

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**TOWN OF JERICHO – DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Jericho Municipal Building to consider the following:

- ❖ A request by the Town of Jericho for an Amendment to a Conditional Use and Site Plan Approval requiring installation of a locked gate to a piece of property used for general municipal outdoor recreation. The property is located on Browns Trace and Fitzsimonds Road and is in the Open Space District.

All interested persons may appear and be heard. Written materials may be viewed in the Zoning Office during regular business hours. Jennifer Rowe, Zoning Administrator, Town of Jericho.

Notes from Montpelier

By Rep. Bill Frank

One of the most important jobs the legislature does in Montpelier is to build a responsible, balanced budget that benefits all Vermonters. The process is not all that different from the ones our Selectboards do in developing the town budget and our school directors do for our school budgets, albeit on a larger scale. Including federal and statewide education property tax funds, the state budget is over \$4 billion. The budget is over \$2 billion without federal and statewide education property tax funds.

The process started on January 22 this year when Governor Douglas presented his proposed budget before a joint meeting of the House and Senate. A complete and detailed budget, agency by agency and department by department, was delivered to the Appropriation Committees. The House always votes on the budget bill first. To get to that vote requires almost the entire session of review and making changes to the proposed budget. The Appropriation Committee takes testimony from agency secretaries, department commissioners, and dozens of other interested parties. They also hold public hearings both in the committee room and on VT Interactive Television. Each committee member is assigned a section of the budget to study in depth and then make recommendations. The Appropriation Committee also asks other committees to look at specific parts of the budget that their committee oversees and to make recommendations.

As you may imagine, there are many differences of opinion on how much money there is to spend and where money should be spent. For example, Governor Douglas cut \$5.3 million of funding for the VT Hous-

ing and Conservation Board (VHCB) in his version of the budget. This cut came after he has said, "This legislature needs to recognize that Vermont has a housing crisis that threatens to undermine our economic security." (Governor Douglas, press release, April 26, 2007). The cut will result in 150 fewer new affordable homes through a program that's proven eminently successful. Faced with this proposed cut and with other fiscal constraints at the federal level, the House is working on H.833 – "Housing Creation and Preservation" to create some affordability to Vermont housing. The bill creates a VT Neighborhood Program that may be designated within an existing growth center, or within or contiguous to a town, village, or downtown center, that has appropriate local zoning and infrastructure. The VT Neighborhood will not require Act 250 review except for wastewater. It will utilize smart growth principles while meeting density requirements. The bill also includes protection for the character and tradition of rural settlement patterns. It balances removal of Act 250 jurisdiction to promote planned moderate and affordable housing in existing centers, while keeping rural character and settlement traditions in place. It balances a very tight budget with targeted ways to promote the creation and preservation of housing in Vermont.

The governor has a proposal to sell the Vermont lottery. I don't agree with this proposal; whether you do or not, the governor is assuming he can sell it in FY09 for \$50 million and has used the proceeds to pay for school construction. The question is where to find the \$50 million if the lottery does not sell.

Governor Douglass proposes to cut town bridge funding by 19% and level fund other local road programs. This will cause local property taxes to increase by requiring the towns to raise more money for maintaining their roads and bridges.

A very startling budget omission resulted in the governor forgetting that 2008 is a presidential election year and democracy is not free. It costs money to hold an election; about \$450,000 in Vermont, but the governor did not include any money in his budget for the 2008 election, saying instead that we would take care of it later.

The Appropriation Committee factors everything together and creates a bill known universally as "The Big Bill," the appropriations bill. Once "The Big Bill" passes on the House Floor, the Senate goes through a similar process and then a Conference Committee of members of the two chambers iron out their differences. If the governor agrees, we have a budget and the legislative session ends.

Legislators spend a great deal of time laboring over the state budget. It is just as important that all of us spend some time reviewing our town and school budgets. Spend time with your town report, your elementary school report, and the Mount Mansfield Union school report. Town and school meetings will be held Monday evening March 3 and Tuesday March 4. Voting will take place all day March 4 including the presidential primary. Be sure to vote, and I hope to see you at the Town meetings.

Congratulations to Marsha Faryniarz of Underhill, who was appointed by Governor Douglas to the Child Care Services Advisory Board. Marsha is also a Mount Mansfield Union School Director.

You can contact me at Rep.BillFrank@verizon.net, 899-3136, or 19 Poker Hill Rd., Underhill, VT 05489. I enjoy hearing from you on the budget or any other topic.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Town of Underhill
Development Review Board (DRB) Hearing
Monday, March 17, 2008 at 6:15 PM
Hearing to be Held at the Underhill Town Hall, Underhill Center VT

The DRB will hold a hearing on the Boundary Line Adjustment application for property owned by Ronald and Susan Racine, located at 32 Krug Road in Underhill, Vermont, and Barney and S. Irene Kelley, located at 18 Krug Road in Underhill, VT. These properties are located in the Rural Residential and Water Conservation zoning districts.

A copy of this DRB application and additional information may be obtained at the Underhill Town Hall. This hearing is open to the public. Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a) (1) (C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. If you can not attend the hearing but would still like to exercise your right to be heard, comments may be made in writing prior to the hearing and mailed to: Zoning Administrator, P.O. Box 32 Underhill Center, VT 05490 or to underhillzoning@comcast.net.

OFFICIAL WARNING
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
BOLTON, VERMONT

The legal voters of the Town School District of the Town of Bolton, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Smilie Memorial School, in said Town, on **Monday, March 3, 2008**, at seven o'clock in the evening to transact the following business.

Voting for Australian Ballot questions on **Tuesday, March 4, 2008**, between the hours of seven o'clock in the forenoon at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock in the afternoon at which time the polls will close.

March 3, 2008 – Annual Meeting

Article 1: To hear and act upon the reports of the School Directors.

Article 2: Shall the voters of the Bolton Town School District authorize the school board under 16 V.S.A. 562 (9) to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year?

Article 3: To vote a budget of \$1,279,134 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town School District.

Article 4: Shall the voters of the Bolton Town School District appropriate \$7,030 from the 2006-07 audited surplus to apply to the Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund?

Article 5: To transact other school business thought proper when met.

March 4, 2008 - Australian Ballot Questions

Article 6: To elect a Moderator for one year.

Article 7: To elect a School Director for a period of three years.

Article 8: To elect a School Director for a period of two years.

[Signatures of School Directors]
School Directors

Received for record the 3 day of January, A.D., 2008.
[Signature] Town Clerk

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Legislative Update

Representative Gaye Symington

Most of the attention of this legislative session is devoted to health care, housing, energy costs and property taxes, along with addressing a very challenging state budget. But there is a great deal of other legislation taking shape out of the spotlight. One important area is water quality.

One of Vermont's greatest strengths is the quality of our natural environment. Lake Champlain, the Connecticut River and our many rivers and streams are incredibly important anchors for recreation and cultural activities. Three pieces of legislation taking shape in the coming weeks would improve the water quality of our lakes, rivers and streams. One focuses on keeping tires out of our waterways. The second works to protect stream banks and lower the amount of phosphorus entering streams and rivers. A third reviews progress in cleaning up Lake Champlain. All three are likely to be discussed in the House between now and town meeting.

For many years tires have been dumped illegally in woods, rivers, and streams. On Greenup Day many are taken out of the rivers and streams and then have to be disposed of. It costs about \$2.00 or more to take it to the recycle center or the dump. If you have a tire dealership put new tires on your car, they usually charge about \$2.50 per tire to dispose of your old tires. H.656, "An Act relating to the Management of Waste Tires", would add \$0.50 to the cost of a tire. The fee would go towards paying for "amenity days" for free tire collection at recycling centers and on Green Up Day.

Vermont is one of the few states that do not protect the areas along rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. These riparian buffers catch runoff and provide shelter and food for wildlife and aquatic life. They help keep the waters clean by reducing the amount of phosphorus and other pollutants that run into the stream. The Riparian Buffer Bill (H.549) would establish a 50-foot buffer along streams unless otherwise regulated. Where they are in place, municipal zoning regulations would trump this proposed state

law.

"Total Maximum Daily Load" (TMDL for those who like acronyms) is the total amount of phosphorus that is allowed to enter the lake water through our streams and rivers and directly off adjacent land each day. Meeting the TMDL is a key piece of what it takes to clean up the lake. Last year the legislature and Governor Douglas passed Act 43, aimed at improving the water quality of Lake Champlain by updating the TMDL for the lake. Since the bill passed, communities have expressed concern that changing the TMDL would cause many communities to have to upgrade their water treatment plants. Many argue that non-point sources of pollution (such as farms or suburban lawns) contribute more than the large point sources such as water treatment plants. The legislature is reviewing an audit of the state's clean-up efforts and may consider delaying the implementation of the changes in last year's bill in order to balance the needs of the lake with the ability of communities to respond to any necessary changes.

As the House works on these three aspects of protecting surface water quality, the Senate Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Chittenden County's Senator Ginny Lyons, is addressing how best to protect Vermont's vulnerable groundwater supplies. The House will likely consider that legislation after town meeting.

Please encourage your college students or traveling family members to vote in the March 4 Vermont primary and MMU budget votes! For the price of a 58 cent stamp they can have their voice count in what promises to be an exciting election year.

I look forward to meeting with residents on Town Meeting Day. Representative Frank and I will be at the Smilie Elementary School at 6pm, prior to Bolton's town meeting, March 3, and in Jericho starting at 8am, March 4, also prior to town meeting. We'll then visit Underhill's town meeting later that morning. Or, you can contact me at gsym@together.net.

**WARNING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF BOLTON
MONDAY MARCH 03, 2008**

The legal voters of the Town of Bolton are hereby warned and notified to meet at Smilie Memorial School, Route 2 Bolton on Monday March 03, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. to transact the following business. Australian ballot voting for Town Officials, and other questions to be voted in that manner, on Tuesday March 04, 2008 at Smilie School. Polls will be open from 7am until 7pm. Voters registered in the Town of Bolton may participate.

ARTICLE 1. (To be voted by Australian Ballot, Tuesday March 04, 2008.)

- To elect all officers as required by law:
- One Town Moderator for a term of one (1) year
- One Select board member for a term of three (3) years
- One Select board member for a term of two (2) years
- One Select board member for a term of two (2) years
- One Town Clerk for a term of three (3) years
- One Town Treasurer for a term of three (3) years
- One Delinquent Tax Collector for a term of one (1) year
- One Town Constable for a term of one (1) year
- One Town Lister for term of three (3) years
- One Town Lister for a term of three (3) years
- One Town Agent for a term of one (1) year
- One Grand Juror for a term of one (1) year

ARTICLE 2. (To be voted by Australian ballot, Tuesday March 04, 2008.)

To see if the voters will authorize the Select board to add a one quarter cent (1/4¢) addition to the tax rate to support a fund for the purchase of conservation land.

ARTICLE 3. (To be voted by Australian ballot, Tuesday March 04, 2008.)

To see if the voters will authorize the Select Board to convey the Sarah Holbrook property to the Conservation Cycle Club of Vermont, LLC, a non-profit organization, for one dollar (\$1.00), to be used as an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) park.

ARTICLE 4. TO see if the voters will accept the town report.

ARTICLE 5. TO vote a budget \$700,845 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the town and

authorize the Select board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.

ARTICLE 6. TO see if the town will vote to pay real and personal property taxes to the Town

Treasurer in four (4) installments with due dates of September 15, 2008, November 15, 2008, February 15, 2009 and May 15, 2009.

ARTICLE 7. TO see if the town will authorize interest charges on all delinquent taxes of real

and personal property of one (1) percent per month. Interest accrues as soon as a payment is late.

ARTICLE 8. TO authorize the Select board to borrow money for the necessary needs of the

Town as those needs arise.

ARTICLE 9. TO establish expenses for the members of the Select board.

ARTICLE 10. TO see if the town will authorize the Select board to acquire by gift or

purchase, land, in collaboration with the Town's Conservation Commission, to promote reforestation, water conservation and good forest practices or for open land for animal habitats, recreational uses

and to preserve important ecological areas.

ARTICLE 11. TO transact any other business thought proper when met.

Dated at Bolton, Vermont this 4th. day of February, 2008

Bolton Select board

Gene Armstrong, Thomas Benoit, John Devine, Chair, Patrick Mallow, Robert J Vallie

Received for record at Bolton this 4th. day of February 2008.

Deborah La Rivière, Town Clerk and Treasurer for the Town of Bolton

LEGAL NOTICES

**OFFICIAL WARNING
MOUNT MANSFIELD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #17**

February 21, 2008 and March 4, 2008

The legal voters of the Mount Mansfield Union School District #17 consisting of the town school districts of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, Underhill Town and Underhill Incorporated School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Mount Mansfield Union High School on **Thursday, February 21, 2008, at 7:30 p.m.** to transact any of the following business not involving Australian Ballot, the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened in the respective polling places hereinafter named for each of the above-referenced town school districts on **Tuesday, March 4, 2008** at 7:00 a.m. (Huntington at 6:30 am) at which time the polls will open, until 7:00 p.m. at which time the polls will close, to transact any business involving voting by Australian Ballot.

- Article 1: To elect the following officers:
a Moderator for one year,
a Clerk for one year,
a Treasurer for one year, and
an Auditor for three years.
- Article 2: To hear and act upon the written reports of the District Officers.
- Article 3: Shall the voters of the Mount Mansfield Union School District authorize the school board under 16 V.S.A. 562 (9) to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year?
- Article 4: Shall the Mount Mansfield Union School District hold its Annual Meeting on the Monday prior to the first Tuesday in March, commencing in 2009 as authorized in VSA Title 16, Sec 422?
- Article 5: To transact any other school business thought proper when met.

March 4, 2008 — Australian Ballot Questions

Article 6: Shall the Mount Mansfield Union School District #17 adopt a budget of \$25,413,872 for the school year 2008-09?

Upon closing of the polls, the ballot boxes will be sealed, re-opened at Jericho Elementary School in the Town of Jericho, the ballots commingled and publicly counted by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the Towns of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, Underhill under the supervision of the Clerk of Mt. Mansfield Union School District #17.

The legal voters of Mt. Mansfield Union School District #17 are further warned and notified that informational meetings will be held at Mt. Mansfield Union High School in the Town of Jericho on February 21, 2008 and February 28, 2008, commencing at 7:30 p.m., for the purpose of explaining the 2008-09 proposed budget.

The legal voters of Mt. Mansfield Union School District #17 are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said special meeting shall be as provided in Section 706u-706w of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51, and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Said voters and persons warned, are further notified that voter qualification, registration, absentee voting, and voter procedures shall be in accordance with Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17 Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Polling Places

The voters residing in each member district will cast their ballots in the polling places designated for their town as follows:

Bolton	*	Smilie Memorial School
Huntington	*	Brewster-Pierce Memorial School
Jericho	*	Jericho Elementary School
Richmond	*	Camels Hump Middle School
Underhill	*	Browns River Middle School

Dated this 3rd day of January, 2008

Jeffrey Forward	Michael Marks	Linda Willmott
	Richard R. Reid	Marsha Faryniarz
Diane Kirson-Glitman	David Clark	
Jerome Mendicino	Clifford Peterson	Douglas Racine
Brett Norman		Judith T. Jones
Lynn Ann Reynolds	Carol Shallow	

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Received for record this 4th day of January 2008, A.D.
Irene Linde, Clerk, Mt. Mansfield Union School District #17

**** Budget Informational Meetings ****

Thursday, February 28, 2008, 7:30 p.m., Camels Hump Middle School

MMU student earns GS award

Rebecca Pickering, a student at Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, VT, was among the Girl Scouts honored in November, 2007 at a special luncheon in Springfield, VT. For creating a web page for the VT Childcare Provider's Association, Pickering was awarded the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest achievement awarded to Girl Scouts ages 11-14, recognizing skill development, value building, career exploration, and a commitment to bettering the community. Each Silver Award recipient put leadership into action through 15 hours in a leadership role, explored careers through the *Your Own Business* interest project, and planned and implemented her self-designed Silver Award project requiring at least 40 hours of service to the community.



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Saturday 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

CESU meetings

Thursday, February 21: Mount Mansfield Union School District Annual Meeting, 7:30 PM, Mount Mansfield Union High School, Jericho.

Thursday, February 28: MMU School Board and budget informational meeting, 7:30 PM, Camel's Hump Middle School, Richmond.

Wednesday, March 5: Bolton School Board meeting, 7:00 PM, Smilie Memorial School, Bolton.

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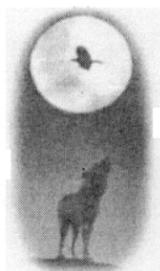
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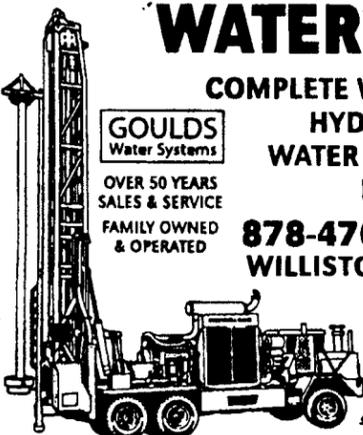
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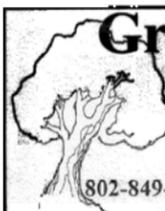
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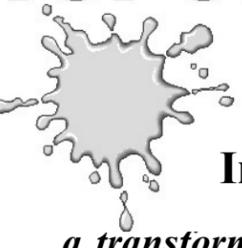
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JES playground project gaining speed

The Partners in Education (PIE) Playground Committee extends a huge thank you to Brian and Haley Stone, owners of *Garden of Eatin'*, for hosting a fundraiser on Friday, January 25 called *Soup for Slides and Swings*. It was very well attended and raised over \$2000 for the Jericho Elementary School playground project.

The Playground Committee is planning a community build for May 16-18. Bring your energy and enthusiasm, but not your children, to help bring this playground to life. For more information or to add your name to the list of volunteers, contact Laura Zambarano, 899-2540, or Edey Graning, 899-3207.

To date, the playground fund has reached just over \$39,000 including direct donations totaling over \$5500; the \$2000 from *Soups for Slides and Swings*; a \$10,000 contribution from the JES Board; and a \$5000 contribution granted by the Jericho Selectboard from the Town.

PIE's largest fundraising event of the year is the upcoming "Mud Season Auction" scheduled for the evening of Saturday March 29, with all proceeds going to the playground fund. To donate an item for bid, please contact Cheryl Forsyth, 899-1070. This will be a fun adult evening out with live music, free food, and a wonderful assortment of items to bid on in both live and silent auctions. Save the date and support the Jericho Elementary School playground project.

Sign up for Westford Little League

Boys and girls ages 5-12 can sign up for this spring's Fairfax-Fletcher-Westford Little League, playing Pitch/T-Ball, Farm League (boys), Minor League Softball (girls), Minor League Baseball (boys), Major League Softball (girls), or Major League Baseball (boys), depending on age.

The T-Ball/Coaches Pitch division is designed to introduce players to the game of baseball while focusing on the basic fundamentals of throwing, fielding, and hitting while learning a team concept. Only adults pitch to the players using a T-5 ball. Coaches are permitted on the field to reinforce defensive positions.

The Farm League division is an entry-level to organized competitive baseball. Players pitch in this league right from the beginning, with continuous batting orders and open substitutions. Players may pitch a maximum of three innings per game, and six innings per week. A higher level of commitment is expected at the Farm League level than at TB/CP.

Player assessments will be held Saturday, March 15 (snow date: Saturday, March 29) at BFA High School gym, for all players except 5-year-olds. Registration forms are available in Westford's February newsletter.

"Little Italy" in Westford

Westford Elementary School's grade 8 students will present scrumptious Italian food Friday, April 11 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at the school, with all proceeds benefiting the WES 8th grade fund. Come enjoy an authentic Italian atmosphere and music, and dinner and dessert with friends and neighbors. The menu includes lasagna, Italian bread, tossed salad, and pasta with meatballs. Plan not to cook that night!

Kindergarten registration for JES

Registration information for the 2008-09 school year has been sent to families in the Jericho Elementary School district. If you have a child who will be 5 years of age by September 1, 2008 and have not received a registration package, please call the school at 899-2272. Kindergarten registration will be held on Thursday, April 10 and Friday, April 11, 2008.



Students and parents from Saxon Hill School create winter art at Old Red Mill Park in Jericho. Children attending the parent-led school regularly visit the park for hands-on nature lessons. The park is an ideal classroom for young and old alike.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

First Catamount Trail BC Challenge

The Annual Catamount Trail BC Challenge Race will stage its inaugural competition Saturday March 8. The backcountry adventure will cover 16 kilometers along the Catamount Trail, from Trapp Family Touring Center in Stowe to the Bolton Valley Touring Center in Bolton. The race benefits the Catamount Trail Association, which manages and protects the 300-mile Catamount ski trail that spans the length of Vermont.

The race will be limited to 75 participants in two categories: male and female, with no age categories. The Registration is \$50 and must be completed before race day. The fee includes a post-race meal, prizes for the top three men and women finishers, and a prize raffle for all participants.

A small backpack with food, water, and extra clothing is recommended. There will be no aid stations on the course. Racers will be permitted one pair of skis and poles for the entire race, but will be allowed to use climbing skins. Racers must stay on the Catamount Trail, designated by blue Catamount paw diamonds on trees throughout the course. The only exception is when departing on groomed trails at the Trapp Family Touring Center. All racers start at 10:00 AM. Race packet pickup is Saturday, and race day between 9:00 - 9:45 AM, at Trapp Family Lodge. Each racer is responsible for race day car shuttle.

Complete information is available at www.catamounttrail.org. Registration is open online at www.skireg.com.

Register for JYL baseball/softball

Jericho Youth League will be hosting walk-in registrations Monday-Tuesday, March 10-11 for the spring baseball season at Jericho Elementary from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. Boys and girls age 5-12 who live in the towns of Jericho and West Bolton are eligible to participate. Farm league, softball, and major and minor baseball divisions available. For detailed information, please visit our website www.eteamz.com/jyl/ or for registration information, call Deb Kesler at 899-2043.



Several Jericho boys play hockey for the Essex Youth Hockey Mite A Transition Travel team. The team took home a first place trophy February 1-3 at a Mite/Midget Tournament in Saratoga Springs, NY. The boys from Jericho include Jacob Wechsler, Cameron Main, Justin Pond, and Thomas Pierce. Kyle Haskins is from Huntington. Other team members include Isaac Johnson, Alex Pearce, Dylan Jean, Alexander Guimmo, Sam Foster, Nicholas McGovern, and Grady Cram of Essex and Jacskon Kerr of Colchester. Coaches for the team are Jeff Cram, Tyler Main, Dan Johnson and Mike Haskins.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lady Cougars win vs. Montpelier, Northfield

February 7, the third straight game was decided in overtime when the Lady Cougars emerged victorious. Laura Till, assisted by Marisse Lorenz and Cathleen Loughlin, scored the winner at 3:30 in overtime as Mount Mansfield rallied to a 3-2 win over Montpelier in Essex. After a scoreless first period, Jessie Gay and Luca Basa gave the Solons a 2-0 lead in the second, with Erin Banfield, Alyssa Turley, and Hope Simpson earning assists. The Cougars rallied in the third period when Jenna Heath netted the first goal for MMU (14-3-2) on a Till assist. Till then scored the tying goal with Marisse Lorenz assisting. Another fantastic performance in goal by Sara Till who finished with 35 saves for MMU. Lauren Sheppard had 19 saves for Montpelier (15-3-1).

February 9 at Kretzberg Arena in Northfield, Cathleen Loughlin's goal three minutes into the final period secured Mount Mansfield's win over Northfield. The Marauders' Caralyn Barrett scored early in the first period but the Cougars responded with two goals - one unassisted by Marisse Lorenz, and a solid slap shot by Hillary Martelle that found the back of the net. Loughlin earned an assist on Martelle's goal. Loughlin's unassisted third period goal increased the Cougar lead to 3-1. Grace Amber's goal for Northfield cut the lead to 3-2, but MMU held for the win. In a game riddled with penalties, the Cougars successfully killed off two 5-on-3 situations, the final one lasting over a minute with 2:30 remaining in the game. Sara Till stopped 23 shots for the Cougars, who end their regular season at 15-3-2. Stephanie Morvan collected 11 saves as Northfield drops to 15-4-1.

Westford kindergarten orientation

Westford Elementary School Kindergarten Orientation will be held on Monday, May 19, 2008. Information packets were mailed to parents on Thursday, January 31. If you did not receive one, are new to Westford, or know of a new family, please call Merilyn Weston at the school, 878-5932.

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Poppy Seed Pancakes

Winter is the time for big weekend breakfasts... at least it is at my house. We love this recipe!

1-2 oranges, peeled, segments torn into small pieces
1 lemon, peeled, segments torn into small pieces
1/3 cup agave nectar (or sub with 1/4 cup sugar + 1/4 cup maple syrup)

2 cups unbleached flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon fine grain sea salt
1/3 cup poppy seeds
1/2 cup sunflower seeds, toasted until deeply golden
2 1/4 cups buttermilk
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
2 tablespoons butter, melted



butter, to serve (and for pan)

To make the citrus syrup, put the orange and lemon segments and agave nectar in a medium saucepan over medium-low heat. Heat and stir until the ingredients combine. Bring the mixture to a gentle simmer for 5 or 6 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside.

Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, poppy seeds and sunflower seeds in a large bowl. Add the buttermilk, eggs and melted butter. Stir all the ingredients until they are just combined. Don't worry if the batter is a bit lumpy, you don't want to over-mix.

Heat a griddle to medium-hot (test for the right temperature. If a drop of water dropped onto the pan starts to dance, you are in the ballpark.) and brush with butter. Pour about 1/3 of a cup of batter into the skillet. Wait until the pancake bottom is deep golden in color, then flip with a spatula and cook the other side until golden and cooked through. Repeat with the remaining batter. Serve with butter and that zesty citrus syrup!

Makes about 12 large pancakes, or dozens of silver-dollar pancakes - enough to feed a small crowd.



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