



EDITOR'S NOTE

The *Mountain Gazette* strives to present up-to-date and accurate information. However, due to the rapid pace of change during this time of COVID-19 and the rate that new response instructions and information come out, the *Gazette* advises that everyone check for more current information about events and government instructions. Please stay safe, and take care of each other.

Underhill Center Browns River bridge repair, through April

Bridge 8 on Pleasant Valley Road — over the Browns River between the Town Hall and Schoolhouse #5 — is undergoing repairs that began Monday, March 30. This work is expected to last until the end of April.

During this time the bridge will remain open to one lane traffic. Traffic control will be accomplished by “one lane ahead” signs and the use of traffic cones on the bridge. In addition, a Jersey barrier will be placed on the southbound lane prior to the bridge as additional protection to the bridge construction crew. A traffic control light system will be in place 24 hours per day to manage traffic flow over the bridge.

Work is expected to occur for up to 12 hours during the day, Monday-Friday. Please use caution when crossing the bridge during this time.

The primary work on this bridge is an extensive deck repair job on the downstream side due to significant deck erosion that has compromised the guard rail integrity. In addition to the deck, all four wing walls will be repaired. This will involve using jackhammers to break up and remove deteriorated concrete, so at times it may be loud. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

This project falls under the exempt status from the Governor’s recent “stay at home” directive because, as mentioned above, it is to address a safety issue with the guardrail and underlying deck.

For questions or concerns, please contact Kurt Johnson of the Highway, Equipment, Infrastructure Committee, 802-760-0769.

CSWD and COVID-19

Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) has announced major changes to their operations, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This information is accurate as of Friday, March 25.

Only the Williston Drop-Off Center (WDOC), 1492 Redmond Rd., is open for residential use. Due to staffing shortages, all other Drop-Off Centers and the Environmental Depot are closed until further notice. Williston is CSWD’s largest and most centrally located facility and provides the best option for managing customers and materials as safely and efficiently as possible.

Hours: Monday-Saturday, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

Fee: a flat fee of \$10 per visit, checks or cash only. Checks must include the signer’s name, current address, and phone number, and be payable to “CSWD.” Exact cash amount is appreciated! No other fees apply during this time.

Only these materials will be accepted at WDOC:

- household trash; limit four bags or barrels of any size
- blue-bin recycling
- food scraps (no fee when taken to Green Mountain Compost)

Accepted at Green Mountain Compost, 1042 Redmond Rd., Williston for no fee (hours Monday-Saturday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM):

- leaves — loose or in paper yard and garden bags only
- food scraps. No charge for residential quantities
- tree branches, twigs, and dimensional lumber that has never been painted, stained or treated

Note, all operational changes are temporary and may change at any time. Please check cswd.net for the most up-to-date information available.

CSWD carefully considered the economic impact of the \$10 per visit fee on our customers and decided to implement it to minimize exposure to our customers and staff. This fee allows up to four bags or barrels of trash of any size for \$10. Four of any size container would cost more than \$10 under our normal rates, which are \$2.75-\$7.50 per bag or barrel depending on the size. This flat fee encourages our customers to consolidate their trips to get the best value and to minimize the risk of exposure for themselves and our employees.

We agree that hanging on to trash for too long can be a health hazard, depending on the circumstances. Food waste is typically the most problematic material. To minimize the health risk, we encourage everyone to start managing their food scraps separately from their trash.

Please remember: Visit the Drop-Off Center only when absolutely necessary. To reduce exposure and prevent the spread of COVID-19, our staff cannot help you unload.

The Environmental Depot hazardous waste facility is closed until further notice. Call the CSWD Hotline, 802-872-

CSWD continued on page 2

Vermont Art Online creates virtual portal for VT arts



Vermont Art Online — www.VermontArtOnline.org — is a new website that lets families, students, educators, and the public enjoy Vermont’s museums and galleries from the comfort and safety of their own homes. Visitors to the site, which launched Wednesday, March 25, can explore virtual galleries at art, history, and science institutions across the state, interact with spaces and exhibitions, click on objects for deeper exploration, and link to museum websites for more information and educational resources.

The website was created by Sarah Briggs and Sarah Laursen of Middlebury College Museum of Art (MCMA), in partnership with the Vermont Curators Group in response to the closures of many of the state’s museums and galleries due to

the COVID-19 pandemic. “We wanted to create a way for Vermonters to easily find quality online content while providing greater visibility and broader audiences to local institutions with closed doors,” explained Sarah Briggs, MCMA Sabarsky Graduate Fellow. MCMA Curator of Asian Art Sarah Laursen continued, “As curators and educators with digital media experience, we thought our skills could be of service to our fellow curators. The fact that we have such a close-knit network in Vermont made it possible to carry out this collaboration in such a short time frame.”

In addition to virtual tours, the website will offer at-home activities from Vermont arts institutions for teachers, families, and students to enjoy as a resource for online learning.

Underhill Town Plan

By Phyl Newbeck

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Public hearings are currently on hold but when all is back to normal after the precautions relating to COVID-19 have passed, residents of Underhill will have the opportunity to vote on the adoption of a new Town Plan.

Underhill Zoning and Planning Administrator Andrew Strniste said discussions about the revisions started in the fall of 2018. In early 2019, the Planning Commission developed a survey which was distributed at Town Meeting and was also available online. “After that there was a two-month waiting period,” Strniste said, “and then once we got all the feedback we went chapter by chapter to see what needed to be changed from the 2015 Town Plan. In late May, early June, we started looking at the content.”

The revised Town Plan still has ten chapters, but they have been renumbered and reorganized. Strniste said the Planning Commission focused on the goals, policies, and strategies in the plan and reassessed those based on citizen feedback and input from various town committees, commissions, and boards. “A lot of time was spent revamping old policies, developing new ones, and seeing what should be carried over,” he said.

In reviewing each chapter, the Planning Commission found that some sections took very little time and others like the Natural Resources section required four meetings. “One of the big differences is we tried to make the strategies measurable,” Strniste said. “The old plan contained a lot of language that was supporting and encouraging but couldn’t be measured. The new plan focuses on finding strategies that are actionable so we can look back in eight years and see if we’ve

succeeded.”

To further highlight the goals, policies, and strategies, the Planning Commission moved those pieces out of the text and put them at the beginning of each chapter. In addition to the Implementation Plan which had been Appendix A, Strniste rearranged that document by grouping things in order of the party involved in doing the work and made that Appendix B. “Previously, if you were a board, commission, committee, or staff member, it was hard to dig out what you were supposed to do,” he said. The town survey results are another appendix, as is a section on the highway network, which was done with the assistance of Underhill Assessing Clerk, Amanda Bosley. The new plan also has photographs courtesy of Tim Dubrow, Randy Clark, Todd Barker, and Val Stori.

Strniste said many chapters were not changed much, but a few had some significant modifications. One of those is the Energy section, which was enhanced so the town can get it certified by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission. It will give Underhill more say in where energy infrastructure should be placed.

Chapters which had the most revisions include the Land Use section, which will allow the town to decide whether changes need to be made to the Zoning Regulations. The Natural Resources section was updated, as was the Economic Development chapter. Strniste said the biggest changes were in the Recreation chapter, which was improved upon thanks to input from the Recreation Committee.

In July of 2015, the state of Vermont decreed that town plans could last for eight years instead of the previous five. Unfortunately, the Underhill Town Plan was adopted on June

Underhill Town Plan continued on page 2

Stay safe while helping neighbors during COVID-19

While Vermonters are staying home as much as possible to slow the spread of COVID-19, some are stepping up to ensure their neighbors have what they need. This type of **community support is crucial, but we need to make sure our helpers and volunteers are still using social distancing practices** to protect our most vulnerable Vermonters.

The Vermont Department of Health recommends any volunteers bringing items to those who need to stay home:

- keep a distance of six feet away;
- avoid entering the recipient's home;
- wash your hands regularly, avoid touching your face, and cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash;
- if you feel sick or learn that you have had contact with someone who is sick, stop doing community support work immediately;
- keep a list of anyone you come into close contact with in case contact tracing is required;
- wear clean gloves when handling items that may be given to people with a weaker immune system, and when you are close to someone who may be sick.

Common sense practices can go a long way while Vermonters take care of each other!

Visit healthvermont.gov/coronavirus for resources and information.

VT Legal Aid: COVID-19 update

Following the Governor's State of Emergency declaration on March 14, Vermont Legal Aid will continue to serve its clients via telephonic and electronic means. While we have discontinued in-person access to our offices, clients may still contact our intake helpline at 1-800-889-2047 to receive assistance. Clients with a legal or benefits problem related to the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak also may receive assistance by going to <https://vtlawhelp.org/>.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus has caused many changes in the way Vermont courts and state agencies are operating, changes to public benefits programs, and more. To make sure that Vermonters and community partners have the most current information, we are currently tracking these changes at: <https://vtlawhelp.org/coronavirus-updates>. We are posting information there daily and updating on the following subjects:

- Vermont courts are postponing many court hearings through April 15;
- new court filings;
- evictions;
- heat / water / electricity / phones / internet;
- emergency housing;
- foreclosures;
- food;
- health insurance & Medicaid;
- immigrants, health care and the "public charge;"
- unemployment compensation;
- Social Security;
- state and federal taxes;
- debt collection cases;
- bankruptcy hearings;
- long-term care / nursing homes.

We will be sure to update these and other topics as the need arises. Most importantly, our clients should know that we are still available to help them, despite the state of emergency.

NEWS BRIEFS

Assistance needed: Barber Farm's summer crops for donation

The Barber Farm in Jericho is entering its eleventh season of growing vegetables that are given away. In 2019, when the economy was strong and employment high, about 100,000 servings were donated to institutions, food shelves, and individuals. The handwriting on the wall indicates that way more will be needed this coming summer.

We have machinery and land for expansion, but to do so we need money for inputs and commitments to help tend and then harvest the crops. Contact us at Barberfarm.org to become involved.

No salaries or benefits are taken and we are a certified charitable organization. Donations are dedicated 100% to the production of organic crops, all of which will be given away. Thanks in advance for your generous support. — Charlie and Jean Siegchrist

VT Electric Coop suspends disconnections through April 30

Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC) is committed to ensuring safe, reliable and uninterrupted electrical service during this challenging time.

We have closed our Johnson business office to visitors. If you need to pay a bill, work out a payment arrangement or have a question, please call 800-8332-2667 or email support@vermontelectric.coop.

As of March 16 we suspended service disconnections until the end of April.

If you see VEC staff in the field, please respect the six foot social distancing guidelines.

We care about our VEC staff and members and urge that you adhere to the guidelines set out by the VT Department of Health in the coming weeks. Here is the link: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>.

Please check the VEC website (VEC.org) periodically, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates. We are confident that we, as a community, will weather this storm together.

CSWD continued from page 1

8111, with questions. Businesses should call 802-865-4663 with hazardous waste questions. CSWD has confirmed that private trash and recycling collection companies have capacity to add residential customers. See options at www.cswd.net/haulers.

VT Dept of Taxes guidance for VT tax due dates

By Trevor Squirrel,
State Representative, Chittenden-3

Governor Scott has directed the Commissioner of Taxes to exercise his authority to provide relief to Vermont businesses who owe Meals and Rooms Tax or Sales and Use Tax until further notice. Many of our local businesses find themselves unable to meet the March 25 and April 25 filing deadlines due to the implementation of mitigation steps to slow the spread of COVID-19. Taxpayers who are unable to meet the deadlines will not be charged any penalty or interest on these taxes for late submissions.

"Our local businesses are facing serious economic and logistical challenges and the Administration will do all it can to help them get back on their feet and operational as soon as possible," said Secretary of Administration Susanne Young. "The waiver of penalties and interest is within the current authority of the Tax Commissioner. Realizing we must be prepared to provide additional relief, the Administration will work with the Legislature in the coming weeks to explore additional stimulus opportunities for our local businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic."

Vermonters are advised as well that income tax filing due dates for the following taxes have been extended from April 15 to July 15, 2020:

- Vermont personal income tax;
- Vermont Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Claims;
- Corporate income tax;
- Fiduciary income tax.

This means taxpayers can file and pay these taxes on or before July 15, 2020 without any penalty or interest. This includes any tax year 2020 estimated payments that were due for these taxes on April 15, 2020.

Although the filing deadline has moved, Vermonters can file their returns and claims any time before July 15. Anyone expecting a refund is encouraged to do so. In these uncertain times, that refund will make a difference and Vermonters are assured that the Tax Department is open for business and continues to process returns and refunds. For those who self-prepare, the fastest and easiest way to file is electronically with commercial tax preparation software.

For the most up to date guidance, please visit www.tax.vermont.gov.

Please feel free to send along questions/comments, and we will do our best to respond: Trevor Squirrel, tsquirrel@leg.state.VT.us; George Till, gtill@leg.state.VT.us.

Underhill Town Plan continued from page 1

23 of that year so the plan will expire this June instead of 2023. Since the previously warned public hearings have been cancelled, the plan will likely expire, but Strniste said the only consequence is that the town cannot amend any by-laws or ordinances during that time. No such amendments are currently planned and the hope is that the Select Board can begin scheduling hearings for June and July, which would mean the town would only have six to eight weeks in limbo.

You can see the draft of the updated Town Plan at <https://www.underhillvt.gov>.

We are open to serve you!

Call and place your order for curbside pickup.

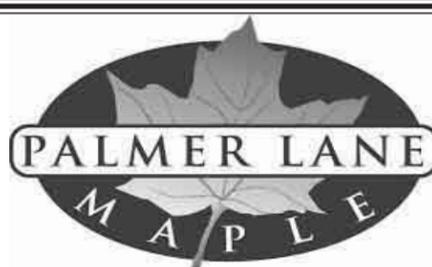
Awesome Fudge

The perfect gift, or treat yourself...



Blue Mall, So. Burlington • 802-863-8306
Factory Location, Route 15, Jericho • 802-899-3373
www.snowflakechocolate.com

Call to place your ad here for the next issue - email it to mtngazette@gmavt.net or call Brenda Boutin at 802-453-6354



Serving Creemees in Pints

Open 10-5:30 7 Days
899-8199
Route 15 Jericho

palmerlanemaple.com



Mountain High
Pizza Pie

CURBSIDE PICKUP ONLY

Menu available at
mthighpizzapievermont.com

Monday 4:00 - 8:30 PM
Tuesday - Thursday
11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Friday
11:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Saturday
11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Sunday
4:00 - 8:00 PM

899-3718

Route 15,
Jeri-Hill Plaza, Jericho

TOWN INFORMATION

BOLTON

COVID-19 Bolton Community Network Volunteers

By Pamela Gude, Bolton

The Bolton Community Network Volunteers has formed to help coordinate the Town of Bolton and its volunteers in our response to the COVID-19 emergency. Our goal is to assist the residents of Bolton in their efforts to stay home and stop the spread of the virus, and to help people who are vulnerable or sick get the supplies they need to stay home safely.

First things first: whether you are sick or well, it is important to limit contact with others. You have seen the advice: wash your hands, don't touch your face. Next: You or someone you know may need help staying safely isolated. We have made a questionnaire to assess needs and one to collect volunteers:

Want to help? The Volunteer form is at <https://forms.gle/PPcabNBgtRSLHvnY9>.

Are you a Bolton resident in need? Fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/Jxa2ippyjHdeHpPg7>.

Volunteers will be asked to follow VT Department of Health guidelines for any requested home deliveries.

If you need help or if you have help to offer, you can contact help@boltonvt.com.

If you need help getting food for a pet or getting assistance to care for a pet, you can contact pets@boltonvt.com.

We have set up a slack team to help people in neighborhoods and all over town connect, share offers, information, and just be able to chat with each other. You do not need to join slack to get help or to ask for help, but everyone is welcome to join if they like. You can ask for an invitation through help@boltonvt.com, or use the joining link at https://join.slack.com/t/boltonassistance/shared_invite/zt-cpudy9n5-6d76p1V84vbyQE~3M195nQ.

As always, you can check the useful information at the Vermont state for COVID-19 updates, <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>, or the CDC Coronavirus Site at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Spring mud in Bolton

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

Yes, it's spring, and the Highway Department and Road Commissioner recognize that Bolton's gravel roads are currently very muddy and difficult to navigate! We are currently experiencing very limited resources with respect to staffing, due to the "ripple effects" of COVID-19. We know the roads are muddy, we are sorry, and we are doing all that we possibly can with the staff and resources we have available. Thank you for your understanding and patience. "Stay Home, Stay Safe."

Bolton Town Office closed to public

Amy Grover, Town Clerk and Treasurer, Bolton

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bolton Town Office closed to the public on Tuesday, March 17, until further notice.

The Town Office staff will remain available to assist you by phone and email during regular business hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. To reach the Town Office, call 802-434-5075 or 434-3064, ext. 221 or 222 or email clerkbolton@gmavt.net or assistbolton@gmavt.net.

Tax payments, dog license renewals, zoning applications, and other payments and applications can be mailed, left in the drop box (even if we are here, the office will be locked), or scanned and emailed if applicable. The late fee for dog licensing has been waived until May 1, 2020.

Requests for copies of tax bills and tax status reports, lister cards, and documents with book and page numbers provided, can all be handled electronically. We will respond to requests via phone and email to the extent we can.

If you have an immediate need for a title search, please contact the Town Office to discuss scheduling an appointment.

We encourage everyone to continue to follow recommendations from the VT Department of Health and CDC. Thank you for your patience and understanding — these are unusual circumstances for us all, and we're all in this together.

CAMBRIDGE

All Cambridge commissions/committees meetings cancelled

By Larry Wyckoff

Chair, Town of Cambridge Select Board

All Town of Cambridge commission and committee meetings are canceled until further notice due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements. Any exceptions such as the Development Review Board can get special approval from the Select Board Chair for time sensitive meetings, and hearings. We are working on rolling out a Zoom video/audio conferencing option that may allow us to relax this restriction in the future.

We appreciate your understanding as our community struggles with the rest of Vermont, and the nation, to overcome this crisis.

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge Town Office closed to the public

By Mark Schilling, Cambridge Town Clerk

To Cambridge residents and those who do business with the Cambridge Town Office:

Information updates will be posted to the town website on a timely basis, so check frequently: www.cambridgevt.org/news.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town Clerk, Town Administrator, and the Listers' Office are taking prompt action to mitigate the spread of the virus.

As a precaution, the Cambridge Town Office is closed to the public effective immediately and until further notice. The Town Office staff will remain available to assist you by phone, email, and online. All government meetings are cancelled until further notice.

The Town Clerk's phone and email hours remain the same: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM; Tuesday 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Friday 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. To reach Cambridge Town Clerk's Office staff, call 802-644-2251 or email clerk@cambridgevt.org.

The Town Administrator's phone and email hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. To reach Marguerite Ladd, the Town Administrator, call 802-644-8290 or email townadmin@cambridgevt.org.

The Listers' phone and email hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. To reach Cambridge Listers' Office staff, call 802-644-2200 or email listeners@cambridgevt.org.

The following Town business can be done via email, USPS mail, and by phone:

- copies of tax bills and Lister cards;
- tax payments / delinquent tax payments;
- dog registration/licensing;
- marriage/birth/death certificates;
- DRB applications and follow up;
- Listers inquiries;
- Green Mountain Passes;
- land posting signs.

Applications and instructions for many items are available at www.cambridge.VT.gov and more will be added daily.

Only land record research which our Town Clerk deems necessary and essential may take place at the Town Office, by appointment only, and following safety protocols put into place by the Cambridge Town Clerk. For more information, contact the town Clerk, 644-2251.

For Cambridge Emergency Management information, go online to <https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeEmergencyManagementVermont/>. For questions or comments to the Cambridge Emergency Management Team, email emd@cambridgevt.org.

Please go to healthvermont.gov/covid19 for the most up-to-date state information and guidance about COVID-19, including information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). You may call the VT Department of Health at 802-863-7240, or call community services information at 2-1-1.

We encourage everyone to follow CDC and U.S./VT Department of Health hand washing and social distancing recommendations.

However, keep in mind that social distancing also results in social isolation. This is an important time to be a good neighbor. With social distancing caution, please check in periodically with your neighbors and other community members who are homebound, frail, elderly, or subject to loneliness.

You may report any concern you have for a Cambridge resident by emailing Cambridge Cares, cares@cambridgevt.org, or by calling 802-730-2588 or 802-644-2927.

Thank you for understanding that these are unusual times, requiring precautions for public safety and health. Many Cambridge community members are in the high-risk group, and we believe taking these precautions will keep ourselves and our community members healthy.

Cambridge Reuse Shed closed

The Cambridge Transfer Station Reuse Shed is closed until further notice and is following Vermont State policies, protocols, and procedures during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Reuse Shed, under new management guidelines, has been transferring monies received from cash and bottle/can redemption donations into the Cambridge and Jeffersonville Villages' Beautification Project Fund.

To date, \$285 has been deposited into this fund! Thank you all for your generosity and your community spirit!

JEFFERSONVILLE

Jeffersonville Village Office closed to public

By Darcy Dudley,

Assistant Village Clerk, Village of Jeffersonville

To Jeffersonville residents and those who do business with the Jeffersonville Village Office:

As a precaution, the Village of Jeffersonville Office is closed to the public until further notice. The Clerk and Water/Wastewater Operator will remain available to assist you by phone and email.

The Office hours are Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM. To reach the Jeffersonville Clerk, call 802-644-5534 or email jeffvillage@myfairpoint.net. To reach the Water/Wastewater Operator call 802-585-5613 or email jeffwater@myfairpoint.net.

Thank you for understanding.

More Town Information continued page 5

COMING EVENT

Cambridge Historical Society cancels April meeting

The Board of Directors of the Cambridge Historical Society have cancelled the Wednesday, April 8 meeting. The scheduled program, *The History of The 2nd Congregational Church*, to be presented by Melody Tobin, will be rescheduled for a later date. We will reassess the situation for subsequent meetings and announce any changes to our schedule. In the meantime, everyone stay safe and healthy.

The Mountain Gazette

6558 VT Route 116, Starksboro, VT 05487
(802) 453-6354 • mtngazette@gmavt.net

Deadline April 9, Published April 16, 2020

Brenda Boutin - publisher/ad design/delivery
News writer - Phyl Newbeck, Editing - Sara Riley

Letter Policy: Maximum 450 words

One letter per writer, per calendar month.

Must be signed for attribution

with writer's address and phone number.

Send your news to mtngazette@gmavt.net

Full paper available online at

www.mtngazette.com

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Jericho cancels all activities

As is happening across the state, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho, is closing its doors to all activities until further notice. Not being able to gather in the usual ways is difficult for everyone. Our hope is that people will call or communicate electronically with neighbors and friends to offer support and relieve the sense of isolation. Visit our website at www.goodshepherdjericho.org to worship online and for on-going updates. A self-study on Building the Beloved Community is found under Events. May peace and cooperation prevail in our communities.

Calvary Episcopal Church closed

Our bishop has ordered that all Episcopal churches in Vermont be closed until further notice. There will be no soup supper(s), and any meetings usually held at Calvary will not be able to meet at the church. We will post a notice on PPF as soon as the ban has been lifted. Stay home and stay well!

United Church of Underhill services online

The United Church of Underhill continues to gather for worship on Sundays at 10:30 AM via Zoom. Full information is on our website, unitedchurchofunderhill.com. We know this is a challenging time for all of us. If you're looking to (re)connect with a caring community, we'd love to welcome you! Stay tuned for more on ecumenical Holy Week activities as well.

Area Worship Services

JERICO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

"An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message"

On the Green in Jericho Center, VT

Senior Pastor David Coons

Sunday Services at 10:00 AM

Nursery care provided

Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages

Fellowship at 9:30 AM

Youth group 6:15 pm Sundays in our Sunday school building

Summer Bible Camp - August 3-7

Signing for the deaf upon request

899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org

MOUNT MANSFIELD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A liberal faith community standing on the side of love,

as we explore truth and meaning, and work for social justice.

All are welcome.

Sunday Services at Mount Mansfield

Universalist Fellowship!

To learn more: www.mmuuf.org and www.uua.org.

The big red barn, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho.

Worship Services 9:30 AM, 2nd & 4th Sundays, September-June

195 VT RT 15, Jericho VT (red barn across from Packard Rd)

899-2558, www.mmuuf.org

ST THOMAS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth

in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass"

On Green Street in Underhill Center Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:00 PM Sunday 8:30 AM

Pastor: Rev. Christopher Micale

Deacon: Peter Brooks Religious Ed.

Coordinator: Laura Lynch Wells, 899-4770

Parish Secretary: Theresa Gingras Phone: 802-899-4632,

email: office@stthomasvt.com, Website: www.stthomasvt.com

UNITED CHURCH OF UNDERHILL

"Welcoming, Worshipping, Working for God"

At the Green on VT RT15 - Rev. Jennifer Mihok - 899-1722

ONLINE WORSHIP

www.unitedchurchofunderhill.com

Worship 10:30 AM, 9:30 AM in July and August

Home of the Clutter Barn and the Old Fashioned Harvest Market

Local and global mission and service opportunities for everyone!

HEALTH & VOLUNTEER

Red Cross Blood Drive April 15 at Catalyst Church

By Sara Riley

Multiple news reports tell of a blood supply dwindling toward critically low, so I went to <https://www.redcrossblood.org> to find a local blood drive. I chose the one at Catalyst Church, but there are several others in our area in the next several weeks and months:

- Wednesday, April 8: Richmond Congregational Church, Richmond, 12:00 – 6:00 PM.
- Thursday, April 9: Cambridge Elementary School, 12:00 – 5:00 PM.
- Friday, April 10: American Legion, 16 Stowe St., Waterbury, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM.
- Tuesday, April 14: Wood's CRW, 795 Marshall Ave., Williston, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM.
- Wednesday, April 15: Catalyst Church, 100 Raceway Rd., Jericho, 1:00 – 6:00 PM.
- Friday, April 24: Bayada/Williston Place, 422 Blair Park Rd., Williston, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
- Saturday, April 25: The Strike Zone, 160 Griffin Lane, Essex Junction, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
- Friday, May 15: Browns River Middle School, 20 River Rd., Jericho, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- Saturday, May 23: Waterbury Municipal Building, 28 N. Main St., Waterbury, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
- Wednesday, May 27: Bellows Free Academy, 75 Hunt St, Fairfax, 12:00 AM – 4:00 PM.
- Friday, May 29: Essex High School, 2 Educational Dr., Essex Junction, 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM.

The emailed confirmation I received included the following advice:

“To help ensure a pleasant and successful donation experience, please drink an extra 16 ounces of water and fluids before donating, and be sure to get a good night's sleep before hand.

“If your appointment is specifically to donate platelets by apheresis, please remember not to take aspirin products two full calendar days before your appointment.

“The need for blood is constant. Your commitment to help save lives is truly appreciated and makes a difference in the lives of patients in need. Visit [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) for more information and additional donation tips.”

United Way of Northwest Vermont — Volunteer Connection

VOLUNTEERING IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

As with many aspects of this crisis, we are in uncharted territory with when it comes to mobilizing volunteers. While many of our neighbors will have needs in the coming weeks and there are many of us eager to help, agencies are grappling with how to use volunteers safely to both protect the volunteers and the vulnerable populations which need the most help.

We are ready at United Way to use our Volunteer Connection site to help connect agencies and volunteers. We have created a COVID-19 Response section for both needs and in-kind support. As expected, agencies are working hard to navigate volunteering in this new time, so there is not a lot of response yet. Here is a link for you to see what has been entered so far:

<https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/>

As you can see, there is currently a critical need for blood, so this is one way people can help immediately. Also, Age Well is looking of meal or grocery delivery volunteers. They do require background checks to protect the older adults they serve.

We are exploring opportunities for people to do Remote Volunteering and will be posting these opportunities as they arise.

Also, please share the resource page we have added on our website, which includes both resources and links to local Mutual Aid volunteer coordination as well as a link to donate to United Way of Northwest Vermont's emergency response fund that will help agencies in our community on the front line of this crisis.

<https://unitedwaynwvt.org/covid19-community-response>

Copley Hospital and COVID-19

There is a tremendous amount preparation underway at Copley Hospital as we get ready for COVID-19. As your community hospital, we are working nonstop to ensure that you, your loved ones, and our staff are safe. We are doing all we can to reduce the risk of infection in our community.

In the event Copley does have patients with the virus, know that we are well-prepared and have comprehensive procedures in place to ensure those patients receive exceptional, safe care in line with infection control guidelines from the CDC and VT Department of Health.

Here are updates on steps we are taking:

Effective Wednesday, March 18, we have a temporary Visitor Policy in effect. All visitors must be screened before entering the hospital, entry points are limited, visiting hours have been reduced, etc. We encourage you to read the full policy at https://www.copleyvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Temp_Visitor_Policy_FINAL_03_18_20.pdf.

As of Monday, March 23, Copley Hospital began to postpone elective surgeries and clinic visits. This step helps us carry out our mission of caring for the medical needs of our community to the best of our ability. We are currently looking at a three-month postponement for cases and visits where delaying for that time will have minimal clinical effect on a patient's health. Cases that cannot be postponed three months will be evaluated based on the medical needs of each patient. Emergency care will proceed as usual. This measure will be reevaluated and altered as circumstances allow or dictate.

Copley has begun offering curbside testing for COVID-19. These tests are only available by appointment and must be ordered by your primary care provider.

As of Monday, March 23, the Copley Café is closed to visitors and the general public.

Copley has a COVID-19 Information Line: People have many questions about this virus and what to do if they suspect they have symptoms. Copley has opened an information telephone line (802-888-8642) to answer community questions about the virus and offer general guidance. Beginning on March 19, a member of Copley's clinical team has been available to answer calls Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Off hours, you are encouraged to leave a voicemail message, and someone will get back to you. If you are having an emergency, always call 9-1-1.

We continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation daily and will implement additional measures as needed. Look to Front Porch Forum, our website (www.copleyvt.org), and our Facebook and Twitter accounts for the latest updates from Copley.

Our ultimate goal is to ensure the safety of our patients and staff. These measures help us in that effort, and we thank everyone for their understanding and cooperation!

Give/get community support during coronavirus

The Peace & Justice Center has compiled a list of forms for specific areas of the state, including ours, to gather information about who needs help and who can provide help as we head into what seems like it may be a lengthy period of social distancing/isolation. On the page online noted below, click on the link for your town or area to share what you have to give, and what you may need.

Please sign up if you can help, share the resources and help people to stay connected — <https://www.pjcv.org/mutual-aid-and-other-resources-related-to-covid-19/>.

VT Community Foundation's COVID-19 Response Fund

The Vermont Community Foundation's (VCF) COVID-19 Response Fund has announced nearly \$500,000 in grants and mission investments to support Vermont communities responding to the spread of COVID-19 in Vermont.

The first \$380,000 in grants from the VT COVID-19 Response Fund will complement federal aid and focus on extending and expanding the capacity of nonprofits that provide basic needs to vulnerable populations, specifically the elderly and those who rely on the social safety net for human necessities. Recipients include community-based organizations (particularly agencies across the state that address the causes and conditions of poverty through a coordinated community response), targeted senior centers and meal sites, as well as the lead agencies that assist homeless individuals and families by providing equal access to housing and assistance based on clients' strengths and needs.

In addition, VCF has partnered with VSECU to expand their Member Emergency Loan program to all Vermonters who have or will experience a disruption to their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and don't have the financial capacity to care for themselves or others. The Foundation's \$110,000 mission investment will help those with lost wages due to illness, caring for a family member, or workplace closure. The funds available through this partnership are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis. For specific details on the loan program, including how to find out if you qualify, please visit <https://www.vsevu.com/memberemergencyloan> or call 802-371-5162 to speak with a member service consultant.

As of March 25, the Fund has grown to \$1.7 million thanks to contributions from organizations and businesses and donations of all sizes from Vermont residents. To stay up to date, follow the Vermont Community Foundation on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, or visit vermontcf.org/vtcovid19response.

COVID-19 supports for former foster youth

As colleges and universities close their campuses, DCF's Family Services Division and the Youth Development Program (our contracted transition and aftercare program) are working to ensure former foster youth living on campus have access to needed housing, food, health care and emotional support.

If you are a former foster youth in college and living on campus, please reach out to your local Youth Development Program (YDP) Coordinator. YDP can help you:

- access funding to live independently or with an approved, caring adult;
- navigate community housing resources and other services;
- contact your college to advocate for either staying on campus or identifying other options for housing.

For more information, see <https://vtyouthdevelopmentprogram.org/find-your-local-ypd>.

Covid-19 assistance, resources

Call 2-1-1 (the Vermont 2-1-1 database) for additional information on Covid-19 and assistance options.

FOOD

3SquaresVT: You could be eligible to receive a 3SquaresVT benefit, or to increase the benefit you already receive. To get help applying, visit www.vtfoodbank.org/nurture-people/3squaresvt, call 855-855-6181, or text VFBSNAP to 85511. You can also visit <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/3SquaresVT>.

Meal Programs for People 60 and older: You may be able to pick up meals to go or have meals delivered to your home. For more information about meals for older adults, please call the Senior Helpline at 1-800-642-5119.

Food Shelves: To find a food shelf near you, call 1-800-585-2265 or visit <https://www.vtfoodbank.org/agency-locator>.

TRANSPORTATION

Effective Immediately, Green Mountain Transit (GMT) will operate free bus service until April 1, 2020. There are changes to schedules and routes. Call GMT, 223-7287, or check schedules online at <https://ridegmt.com>.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The VT Department of Labor website has a great deal of information for employers and employees and is being updated with FAQs as questions are asked and answers are developed: <https://labor.vermont.gov/covid19>.

ASSISTANCE FOR DAIRY FARMERS

Dairy Farm Milking Assistance: NOFA Vermont is seeking volunteers who are capable of leading milkings if dairy farmers become sick. Email Bill Cavanaugh, bill@nofavt.org, with your contact information, relevant experience on farms, location, and availability.

United Way of Lamoille County responds to COVID-19

1) The United Way Lamoille County has established a COVID-19 Response Fund to help support those in Lamoille County most affected by the impacts of this disease (see companion article). As social distancing and self-quarantining become our new normal, we're facing new economic challenges. Many businesses are temporarily closing, and many workers are losing tips, wages or their jobs because of canceled events, business, school closures, and quarantines.

We are asking for donations to the Response Fund to assist our neighbors during this difficult time. Every donation will stay in Lamoille County. Every donation also helps bring funding from national sources to Lamoille County.

Once we secure enough funds, we will be able to effectively start a response. On April 1, we will announce how to access these funds. We anticipate distribution will be a combination of individual and micro grants to organizations.

You can make a donation by calling our office, 802-888-3252, or send a check to United Way of Lamoille County, 20 Morrisville Plaza, Suite B, Morrisville, VT 05661. Please write "recovery fund" in the memo section of your check.

For more information, see <https://uwlamoille.org/how-to-help/covid-19-long-term-recovery-fund.html>.

2) The United Way has reached out to our partner organizations to identify households with seniors and individuals who have compromised immune systems in our service area. We are working with the Lamoille County Food Share and Meals on Wheels to develop a volunteer service that could safely get needed items to those who cannot leave their house. We will be looking for volunteers willing to do a curbside pick-up/drop-off service with the Lamoille Food Share. If you are interested in volunteering for this or other needs that may arise, we encourage you to reach out by the phone (802-888-3252) or email (unitedway@uwlamoille.org) and let us know. Additionally, a page on our website will be available soon.

3) Our physical office maybe closed, but please do not hesitate to reach out by phone or email. We are hard at work during this difficult time, and will return calls as soon we can.

CHIROPRACTIC

- Gentle Head to Toe Care
- Unhurried Appointments
- Flexible Scheduling
- Emergency Care
- Practicing Since 1989
- Former Registered Nurse
- Nutritional Counseling
- High Quality Supplements
- Orthotic/Foot Beds
- Spinal Support Products

Kintner Chiropractic Center



397 VT Route 15, Jericho
P.O. Box 63
Underhill, VT 05489

Phone (802) 899-5400
Fax (802) 899-5497

Email:

DrMaryDC@comcast.net
www.JerichoChiro.com



Dr. Mary H. Kintner

TOWN INFORMATION

JERICHO

AED installation postponed

The installation of the six Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for Jericho public places has been temporarily postponed because of the COVID-19 crisis. The units are at the UJFD and will be installed as soon as it is safe to do so.

Community Center in Jericho closed

The JCPA Board of Directors, owners of the Community Center in Jericho, has made the difficult decision to close the Center until further notice due to the threat of the COVID-19 virus. We regret any inconvenience and disappointment this may cause, but we remain steadfast in our commitment to safely serving the community and look forward to when the Community Center may once again play host to the many positive community activities, meetings, and classes.

Jericho Listers site inspections; Homestead Declaration advice

In these uncertain times we just wanted to let our residents know that although the tax filing deadline has been extended, Vermonters are encouraged to file their Homestead Declaration as soon as possible so that when the tax rates are set for the coming year, you get the Homestead rate. We will keep you up-to-date with information on this topic as we receive it.

Due to the coronavirus epidemic, the Town of Jericho Listers' Office has made the decision to discontinue on-site inspections and will be gathering information needed via phone or email. We will follow up with site visits at a later date. We will be calling or emailing over the next few weeks and would appreciate it if you would respond as soon as possible. If you have an open permit, please reach out to us so that we can get any necessary information from you. Your cooperation is appreciated! Thank you very much.

Jericho Town Hall's response to COVID-19

Please be aware that town staff are working to put plans in place in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Our plans are being guided by the following:

- slowing the transmission of the virus;
- continuing essential municipal services; and
- ensuring the safety and health of town employees and our citizens.

Depending on the severity of this unfolding health crisis we may need to re-prioritize municipal services, which could include postponing, delaying, or cancelling some events, meetings, or other services due to safety concerns. We appreciate your understanding as we make adjustments in order to provide as many services as we can while balancing the need for staff and community safety. With this in mind, *we respectfully ask that you do your municipal business by phone, email, or our drop boxes.* We will do our best to accommodate what you need without you having to visit the Town Hall. Visit the town website <https://jerichovt.org> for contact information. Per CDC guidelines: less contact is better.

In an effort to keep people safe we have decided to close or limit the following municipal services at this time:

- access to the Town Hall conference room is eliminated except for essential meetings of municipal bodies, which will be curtailed as much as possible;
- no members of the public may visit the Highway Garage;
- all town committee meetings are canceled until further notice.

As you know, the situation is changing every day and sometimes by the minute. Town staff are not experts on COVID-19, thus we are monitoring and following the VT Department of Health and CDC recommendations and guidelines for safe operation of our services. For the latest information on the virus, please go to the VT Department of Health and CDC webpages, which are updated daily. **You can also call 211.** If you have questions regarding your health, please call your doctor.

Thank you very much for your continued patience and support as we navigate this challenging and fluid situation.

JERICHO UNDERHILL

From the Underhill, Jericho fire wardens: no burning allowed

The fire wardens of Underhill and Jericho will not be issuing any burn permits until further notice. Please, no burning at this time.

Chief Mathew Champlin, UJFD, says, "The UJFD has already had to respond to two grass fires this year. The response requires us to put many firefighters in close proximity to each other in our trucks to respond. We are doing our best to practice social distancing and ask all firefighters to not respond if they are feeling sick. Despite all of that, there is a risk when we put our firefighters in close proximity to each other and potentially spreading COVID-19 to each other. If we have to quarantine any number of our people, it limits our ability to protect the communities. The CSWD locations will take your brush, grass, and leaves for free and we consider that the safer alternative to burning during these challenging times."

UNDERHILL

Assistance for Underhill community with Covid-19

By Deb Moore
Underhill Deputy Town Health Officer

We have moved rapidly into a National Pandemic Emergency that includes schools, restaurants, bars, and event closings/cancellations. People are being asked to remain home unless critical needs have to be met or they work in the health care field or other essential work. Having hand sanitizer in your car as well as disinfectant wipes is crucial at this time. Hopefully this 15-day semi-quarantine will prove to decrease our numbers. This is uncharted territory for us all and in order to come together as a community for our vulnerable population I have a few suggestions.

1. A lot of people do not know about calling 2-1-1 to get connected and get answers. This is a confidential United Way service available to all to give information and assist with referral to health and human services, and community organizations. Please do not hesitate to call 2-1-1 with questions.

2. There are a number of local volunteers to assist those in need with meals, picking up prescriptions, grocery shopping, and urgent errands. The problem is connecting with these people who may not have computer access. I know one volunteer has given her name and number to our Town Clerk in Underhill. She has a number of volunteers standing by. Please call our Town Clerk in Underhill if you would like to connect with this volunteer or if you know someone who could benefit from this volunteer aid.

3. Lastly, take daily walks and get some natural Vitamin D from the sun. This is the best morale booster and "cabin fever" buster. It can only make us healthier.

Stay well all!

Underhill Town Office operations; meetings cancelled

Sherri Morin, Underhill Town Clerk

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Underhill Town Office is closed to the public until further notice.

The Town Office staff will remain available to assist you by phone and email during regular business hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. To reach the Town Office, call 802-899-4434.

Tax payments, dog license renewals, zoning applications, and other payments and applications can be mailed, left in the drop box next to the door, or scanned and emailed if applicable. The late fee for dog licensing has been waived until May 1, 2020.

For residents, copies of tax bills and tax status reports, lister cards, etc. can all be handled electronically or by fax. We will respond to requests via phone and email to the extent we can.

For title searchers, please call the Town Clerk to make an appointment to view the land records. We will practice social distancing by allowing just a couple of people in at a time.

The Planning Commission has decided to postpone all public hearings until further notice. This specifically includes the meetings up to and including April 9.

Thank you for your patience and understanding — these are unusual circumstances for us all, and we're all in this together.

Listen for UCU church bells each morning

The United Church of Underhill will be ringing their church bells each morning at 10:30 AM to let everyone know that they are being thought of during this extraordinary time. As you hear them let it be a time to pause, reflect, and be thankful for all we have.

WESTFORD

Westford Burn Permit System

By Dennis Angiono
Westford Fire Warden

The Westford burn permit system is now operating as normal. The snow is just about gone and burn permits are required by state law. I will close the system at the end of each day and either re-open or keep it closed the next morning after my weather reports and state advisories come in. The determination to open or close the system depends on the weather for that day. Wind conditions, dry ground fuels, and humidity are the main factors in my decision. For anyone new in town or unfamiliar with our procedures and who has any questions on what, how, and where to burn, please call me at 879-1231.

Also, due to the coronavirus the Town Office will not be giving out hard copy permits. If you do not have a computer you can call me and I will take all your information over the phone and have a hard copy already filled out waiting for you to come over and pick it up. Once again please call me if you have any questions or concerns.

WESTFORD

Westford Selectboard March 12 draft minutes

By Nanette Rogers
Westford Town Clerk

What did the Selectboard talk about at their latest meeting? Stay informed and read the minutes from the March 12 meeting at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-03-12-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Westford Town Office closed to the public

By Nanette Rogers
Westford Town Clerk

As the Coronavirus/COVID-19 continues to spread across our country and confirmed cases in Vermont increase, the Town of Westford has decided to close its Town Office to the public until further notice. This decision did not come lightly but we feel it is necessary in order to do our part in protecting the health of our community while continuing to provide town services.

Staff will be available Monday through Friday, 8:30AM – 4:30 PM to conduct as much business as they can via phone, snail-mail, and email.

Property Taxes: Payments can be mailed or dropped off at the Town Office in the drop box, which is located to the left of the front door. If you would like confirmation that your payment was received, please provide an email address or phone number with your payment. Payments with a March 16 postmark (USPS, FedEx, and UPS), or were in the drop box located to the left of the Town Office door before the office opens at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 17, will be considered timely.

Dog Licenses: Dog licenses will be issued through May 1 without a late penalty assessed. Please contact the town office by phone or email to find out if we need a rabies certificate for your dog(s). The payment and certificate(s), along with a self-addressed stamped envelope, can be mailed or dropped off at the town office in the drop box as mentioned above and we will mail your license(s) to you.

Copies of Tax Bills: You can submit a request for a copy of your tax bill to be emailed or mailed to you. If you would like a copy of your tax bill emailed to you, please send a request to townclerk@westfordvt.us, otherwise please call the office at 878-4587 and we will mail it to you.

Car Registration Renewals: Car registration renewals can be done online at <https://dmv.vermont.gov/registrations/renew>.

Zoning: Any land use and/or development applications should be submitted digitally or via the drop box located to the left of the town office front door. If you receive notice of an application as an abutter and have questions, they should be addressed via phone or email. Any general planning and/or zoning questions should also be addressed via phone or email.

Roads & Highway Department: If you have questions or feedback on road conditions, please call the Highway Department garage at 879-4306 or email John Roberts, our Road Foreman, at road_foreman@westfordvt.us.

Thank you for helping us keep prevention in the forefront of our decisions, while still making sure we can meet your needs as residents and taxpayers of Westford. Please feel free to reach out, using the contact information below, with any questions:

- Town Office 878-4587
- Town Clerk (Nanette Rogers, Callie Hamdy) townclerk@westfordvt.us
- Planning Coordinator (Melissa Manka) planner@westfordvt.us
- Zoning Administrator (Kate Lalley) zoning_admin@westfordvt.us
- Highway Department (John Roberts) road_foreman@westfordvt.us
- Listers lister@westfordvt.us
- Selectboard selectboard@westfordvt.us

For up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Vermont, please visit the Vermont Department of Health website at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>.

Let folks know you are open, email us

at

mtngazette@gmavt.net

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Central Hudson Gas & Electric, pervert, handicapped sleeper...

By Doug Boardman
Special to the Mountain Gazette

A couple of weeks before I graduated from Albany College I brought a two-door Chevrolet, which happened to be the last two-door coupe I ever had. We had two children at that time, so after we had another child, we bought cars that had the most seating capacity. One of my sons told me he always bought a car with the most cup holders.

We moved to Wappinger Falls, NY and were able to move our stuff with a small truck. We had a long couch that took superpowers to get up three flights and got stuck. Our town house was in a community where each front door was a different color. There were many townhouses and more doors than colors. That led to having the same color on one door as another house in the neighborhood. As you probably guessed by now, we had people at night that got mixed up and went to the wrong house with the same color door. We also had some guys who drank too much and went to the wrong house day and night. It was easy to get mixed up because, except for the doors, all the townhouses were built the same.

My first day on the job was definitely a white-collar job. Every accountant in the room wore white dress shirts and creased slacks or suits and ties. Everyone seemed to be busy. We had a supervisor who sat in the back and wore his glasses on the end of his nose, so he was always looking at us over his glasses! Our responsibility was figuring the cost of each job. A typical job was installing a utility pole and everything that was installed on the pole, such as insulators, wire, cables, transformers, etc. We came up with cost on labor and material. We typically got three jobs to do daily. We also had an employee union. I got a little reprimand from the head of the union on the "QT." I was anxious to make a good impression so I did my three jobs by noontime and asked one of the older accountants if I could help him. He told me to slow down and make your jobs last. Then I realized the union influence.

I also saw some of the guys going around with a clipboard pretending to be working. I tried to slow down, but I couldn't make three or four hours of work last for eight hours. There

was one accountant that had been there 35 years — right out of high school — doing the same thing every day and loved it. I helped the file clerk in the afternoons sometimes because I couldn't walk around looking busy. That is when I discovered the pervert.

I noticed that one of the accounting guys was going into the file room quite regularly right after the file girl went in (supposedly to help her file). However, he didn't help her like I did. I saw him go in and open a bottom file drawer and look across the room at the file clerk who had a great figure and short skirts! He was married also!

We also had a guy who had cerebral palsy and played an accordion at night. He always fell asleep around three o'clock in the afternoon. The accountant that sat behind him would talk to him or slap him on the back with a ruler when he saw him nodding off. I used to watch him and would talk to him to help keep him awake. He used to sit there and scratch the side of his head with sharp yellow wooden pencils and still nod off. One time he had the pencil in his right hand pointed upward and impaled his forehead when he nodded off! That woke him up quickly, but he looked like a unicorn.

One day a guy from payroll came up to one of our supervisors and asked if he could spare somebody because someone was out. My desk was in front of my supervisor's and I heard the conversation. I asked him if I could go and he said yes, so I became the "go to guy" and managed to work in a lot of departments including the gas department. Meanwhile, I did bookkeeping, income tax work at night, and worked Saturdays at a furniture store. One of my clients was a plumbing and heating company. The owner had lost her husband and tried to run the company herself. I ended up doing her bookkeeping on Saturdays, so she could leave and go downtown. I would sit there and undo most of the bookwork that she had done earlier. She would fall asleep and make all kinds of mistakes.

Next column: new house + Eureka Supply Co.

Small joys from an old woman in quarantine

By Sue Kusserow
Special to the Mountain Gazette

It is chilly, even with the sun at high noon. I hobble along to keep warm, through the flattened grasses and the skeletons of milkweed. I will try and remember the summer meadows. The dogs snooze in the newness of a wan sun, unaware that they are now labeled as vectors.

It is hard for us, with our history of invincibility, to imagine power in nothingness. How daunting that an invisible virus can so completely immobilize with disbelief and fear. Perhaps that is why the smallest of joys can be soothing. I have lived long enough at 88 to know isolation, to accept it and find its pockets of beauty through my window. Fatalism becomes a form of serenity.

Aside from the birds at my window, all of my visitors are now in voices. Voices become life; caring is floated on a whisper, a phone ringing.

A chickadee has a very business-like flight, with only a few swoops... straight from the feeder with one sunflower seed in its bill, landing on a bare branch to bang away at the husk. I wonder at the amount of energy that is used up in preparing the meal. But I guess the rich oil is worth it.

A jay sings his strident, one-note call, shifting from pine to balsam, doesn't seem to come to the openness of the red maple. I have cut off a few twigs of it to prop up in warm water to try and speed up its metamorphosis. I should know it won't work quite yet; nature has its own schedule. I need to find pussy willows down by the pond.

I scratch my arm, reaching underneath my ragged "hiking" sweater. A tiny scab rips off. I expect the usual oozing that an anti-coagulant produces. But no, it stays pink and dry... a testimony to the body's ability to heal itself. We need that now.

My son-in-law wanders in his garden following the paths of snow-melt. The tulips are up early: small spikes of folded leaves, the color of dried blood.

I hear a chattering of birds as a flock of finches flit overhead. People have said they have seen robins, but none here. The grandfather of corvids flies overhead, his song starting with a gurgle and ending in a burp... completely unmelodious. One guard crow settles in the tallest black cherry; the three others fly low to see if they can roust a chickadee from my feeder.

I move my rickety lawn chair to a sheltered spot. The lawn is littered with the detritus of two dogs not willing, in freezing weather, to venture farther than the back door. It is dangerous to watch the sun and your feet at the same time.

The sun finds a small cloud to hide behind and the wind turns chilly. It is winter again.

Snow. The eaves drip, the balsam turn into Christmas again. I can see the small hill behind our old house; we dragged stones down to outline our garden. The kids ran barefoot all summer and washed their lithe bodies in the summer rains.

Hope is in remembering.

Explore a local forest

By Ethan Tapper
Chittenden County Forester

As we isolate ourselves more and more from social and professional settings, the importance of public lands has never been more clear. Did you know that Chittenden County has more than a dozen town forests, covering over 4200 acres, all within a 45-minute drive just about anywhere in the County? These are large tracts of wild forest, each of which is hundreds of acres in size and open to you to explore as spring (my favorite time to be out in the woods) comes to our little part of the world. Each is unique and has different opportunities to offer:

- Andrews Community Forest — Richmond, off U.S. Rt. 2, just east of Richmond Village, across from Maple Wind Farm
- The Westford Town Lands — Westford, both sides of Brookside Road, Westford, with parking at the Westford School
- Hinesburg Town Forest — Hinesburg, parking areas on Haden Hill Road East and Haden Hill Road West
- LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest — Hinesburg, parking off Gilman Road
- Milton Town Forest — Milton, parking off the Milton-Westford Road
- Mobbs Farm — Jericho, parking off Fitzsimonds Road or Browns Trace (by the town garage)
- Mud Pond Country Park/Conservation Area — Williston, parking off Mud Pond Road
- Eagle Mountain Conservation Area — Milton, parking at end of Henry Road
- Saxon Hill Town Forest — Essex, parking areas off Thompson Drive and Saxon Hill Road
- Catamount Community Forest — Williston, parking off Governor Chittenden Road
- Indian Brook Reservoir Conservation Area — Essex, parking at the end of Indian Brook Road

Maybe this is the year that you finally learn to identify all those neo-tropical songbirds that flock to our woods each spring, or all those amazing spring ephemeral flowers. Happy exploring!

If you would like to be kept informed about forest and forestry-related events in Chittenden County, please let me know and I will add you to my email list.

J. Ethan Tapper, the Chittenden County Forester, can be reached at Ethan.Tapper@vermont.gov, 802-585-9099, or at his office at the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, 111 West St., Essex, VT 05452.

Gospel Singing Workshop Part 4, The End

By Sue Kusserow
Special to the Mountain Gazette

The next day, Sunday, I write a note to them all, saying I had been honored by their plaque and that I would treasure it. I go to the bakery and buy six dozen cookies for their after-service gathering. I drive through the early mists of fall in Portland, and park near the church. A woman with a shiny badge labeled USHER greets me from her car where she is having a last cigarette before assuming her duties. "Hi. Nice to see you. Are you coming to church? Glad you could join us last night. I'll see that Sister Wilder or Sister Smith gets these." She pauses, then grins and says: "And please ask us to supper. We'd come, you know."

As I drive home, I notice touches of color: the black woman dressed in purple with her Bible in her hand, coming out of her house where the windows and doors are trimmed with purple and pink; a bicycle is lying in the middle of the front walk, with red and blue streamers from every possible appendage. Then the gradual transition into a white neighborhood, where the lawns and hedges are clipped, the flowers kept in order, the colors restrained. A white woman jogs by on her morning run, with her dog on a leash. A hippie-type with blond dreadlocks saunters out of a local market, his flipflops dragging behind his natural gait. Living between two cultures, I wonder how successful he is in either? My anthropologist daughter would say that such a definition is up to him.

In teaching, when one is in power (as a teacher and a member of a majority culture), how does one truly reach and teach the disempowered? This experience, among many occasions in my life, makes me wonder at all the teaching I have done to the homeless, the ill, the poor, the minorities... most fitting into cultures that I don't/can't truly understand. How effective was I? Our birth into one culture obviously inculcates its expectations, its rules, norms and behaviors, its social constructs. Those early years are a total immersion that surrounds and molds us as young ones, as it did for our parents. We can open our senses to other groups, to enjoy, emulate, adapt, yet continuing to realize that living in our own culture is what gives us the necessary contrast for learning. It reminds me of an old adage: "If everything were green, we could never know what blue was like." Therefore, we need to be open to new experiences in which we are personally involved; curiosity needs to be allowed; *aha!* moments enjoyed.

Change is constant, a contrast between past and present. And even small events and observations can help us parallel the similarities and differences of two groups who stand near each other. In watching these children being acculturated into their church, their gospel singing, their religious world, I realize how little I fit, but how much I enjoy and how much I can learn. Sometimes, I wonder whether labeling ourselves teachers negates the sharing and caring that we try and preach and do? Maybe it's better to be labeled a learner!

I go to my class on Monday, wearing my red dress, telling the students all about it!

**SEND US YOUR
favorite past time photos.**

Email it to:
mtngazette@gmavt.net

Alopecia / hair loss

Parents have been asking me some hair-raising questions about what to do when their children experience excessive hair loss. Well, let me see if I can comb out some information on this topic.

What is typical and what is not

Believe it or not, we all lose about 50-100 hairs a day through excessive combing, tight braiding, or tight barrettes. Even drying hair with high heat causes a normal type of hair loss, with those hairs growing back over time. If your child is losing more than that, or if your child or teen is developing areas of almost or total complete hair loss, we call that condition alopecia and need to figure out the cause.

Infants may lose some hair and create a bald spot by rubbing their scalp against the mattress, but as they start to move more and sit up, the hair loss will correct itself.

While it is common for children and adults getting chemotherapy for cancer to experience severe hair loss, it can also occur due to other conditions. For example, if your teen has a problem with the thyroid gland in their neck, needed to regulate their daily activity, that could result in hair loss. Some medications, even ones that treat acne, or the improper use of steroids, may have hair loss as a side effect.

It may also occur following an illness from a germ like a virus or a fungus. It can also result from a teenager not eating right, such as teens with anorexia who may experience a lack of iron, zinc, niacin, or biotin, among other nutrients, all of which can result in hair loss. It may also be due to a psychological problem like anxiety or stress that results in an extreme habit of hair pulling.

Why is your child losing their hair?

My best advice is to discuss with your child's health care professional. They can examine your child's scalp, perhaps take some hair samples, and help you determine what the cause is and how to treat it.

Most importantly, should this condition occur, parents and friends need to be supportive and remember that a person is much more than just his or her hair. Focus on your child strengths and look for opportunities to boost your child's self-esteem while dealing with the hair loss. If your child is very self-conscious, consider having them wear hats or wigs until the hair grows back.

With proper treatment and/or simply over a period of weeks or months, in most cases the condition is temporary and resolves. Of course, if you are an adult like me, the hair loss just seems to get worse the older you get.

Hopefully, with tips like these you'll find that any concerns you have about alopecia will be hair today and gone tomorrow.

Lewis First, MD, is Chief of Pediatrics at UVM Children's Hospital and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at UVM

**Let folks know you
are open, email us**
at
mtngazette@gmavt.net

SCHOOL / KID NEWS

Kids at home — wise words

By Rachel Krasnow Mcentee
Underhill

I liked this post I saw from Sarah Campbell, MD (VP of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics) and thought I'd share.

I've had a few questions regarding mental health and having the kids at home. What are the things we can do to keep our kids healthy? Now these are my opinions, not medical advice, and may change in 24-48 hours as we get more details.

- For general health for everyone: 5-2-1-0 + 10.
 - 5 servings of fruits and veggies a day.
 - No more than 2 hours of screen time outside of school work.
 - 1 hour of physical activity every day.
 - 0 sugary beverages.
 - The opportunity for 10 hours of sleep a night (might be 12 for younger kids).
- Nutrition: this isn't a time to feed our stress with junk food. Also, things in moderation are okay as well. This is a great time to teach our children how to cook, meal plan, and for little ones, basics of measuring. We discussed doing some food science experiments as well. Also can do some math with measuring; i.e., take all the cups and figure out how many ounces they are. How many tablespoons in a ¼ cup. What happens with a batch of cookies if you refrigerate the dough vs. not, if you add extra flour, etc.
- Screen Time: I think we all have to figure out what is best for our families. My thoughts are: no YouTube, no PlayStation during the 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM period. Family movie or TV show time is okay during that break as we know watching movies or shows with kids can be educational. There are tons of great historical movies we can learn from.
- Exercise: This is a huge topic. An hour of being active every day. Be creative. Family walks, bikes, training for sports. For many of our adolescents, exercise is a big part of their lives. They are going to need at least an hour collectively throughout the day being active. Peloton, Beach body on demand have a lot of different options and I think they are all free for the next two months (I have not verified but heard from reliable sources). Biking, running, hiking should be all okay as long as you are not socializing with other people.
- Sleep: I CANNOT STRESS THIS ENOUGH. DO NOT ALLOW YOUR KIDS TO BECOME SECOND OR THIRD SHIFTERS. I see this all the time in summer, adolescents and older kids staying up until midnight, 2:00 AM, and sleeping until noon. This isn't good for anyone's health, especially the parents. This is a great opportunity to let our adolescents get the extra sleep their bodies crave. We use melatonin at 8:00/8:30 PM and send the kids to bed between 9:00 – 9:30 PM unless we are watching a family movie or playing a family game. More than ever, parents are going to need time while their kids are asleep — to regroup, spend time together on ourselves and our relationships.
- Disconnect from electronics: keep them out of the bedrooms. For their mental health, make your house screen free time besides a TV after 9:00 PM. Encourage parents to talk to other parents about what they think would work in their social communities.
- Talk to your kids. Every morning and afternoon, check in with your kids, with yourself. What have they read, seen, heard.
- Have fun! There are a ton of great shows on like *Making It* and *LEGO Masters* that you can adapt from home. During creative time, everyone has one hour to make (xyz). My girls did this on their own yesterday with Legos — two challenges, a 40-minute and a two-hour challenge (time can change). Creative, no electronics, had fun laughing, and didn't need our involvement. Utilize older siblings to bond with their younger ones. I promise most 14 year olds will have fun playing LEGOs with their little siblings, if the alternative involves no electronics. What about food challenges — most creative muffins, with basic ingredients and they can modify.
- A special note for our athletes. This is heartbreaking as many of them worry they will lose a season. Exercise is a great stress release for them. I'm guessing coaches will send home training plans. Even if they are depressed, don't let them stop doing what they love. We see this in concussions, that all stop of activity increases depression.
- For our scholars: reassure them that everyone is struggling with the AP classes, college credit, GPA questions. This is a national issue, and not one that we or our schools can solve. College students are also trying to figure out all of this. Colleges, grad schools, everyone will have to look at spring 2020 a little bit differently.
- A special note for our seniors. This is also heartbreaking as there are many things they are missing. There is tremendous loss and sadness and worry. Reassure them that everyone in the class of 2020 around the country is in the same boat. There will be unity around this, especially for those going to college or trade schools.

4-H provides free online enrichment programs

University of Vermont Extension 4-H is offering three exciting virtual enrichment opportunities for students while schools are closed. All are free, although registration is required at www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements.

- Youths, age 8 and older, are invited to join Vermont 4-H every Monday at 3:00 PM in the coming weeks for 4-H Distance Learning Socials. These sessions provide an opportunity to explore science, healthy living, civic engagement, and other topics, and complete some fun take-home challenges. A second weekly session will be offered on Thursdays, also at 3:00 PM, to share and discuss findings. The registration deadline is noon on Monday for the event later that day. To request a disability-related accommodation to participate, contact Allison Smith, 4-H Youth Learning Experiences coordinator, at Allison.Smith.2@uvm.edu.
 - QuaranTeen Virtual Science Cafés, open to grade 7-12 students, are scheduled for every Wednesday from 3:00 – 3:45 PM, with topics ranging from small satellite propulsion systems to the science behind maple sugaring and human cell genetic editing. Leading scientists will discuss their work and lead informal discussions about their field of expertise. Students are asked to register before each event begins. Additional cafés are being planned on infectious disease and other topics.
 - High school students thinking about college or career opportunities may register for one or all three sessions of QuaranTeen Time: Getting College and Career Ready. Online sessions will be held on April 7, 14, and 21 at 3:00 PM. Lindsay Carpenter, outreach counselor with the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, will provide tips, ticks and answer questions about finding the right college, financial aid, and alternative pathways to careers. Registrations will be accepted until noon on the day of each QuaranTeen Time session. Additional online programs in this series are currently in the works and will focus on other topics of interest to older teens.
- For the latter two enrichment opportunities, contact Lauren Traister, UVM Extension 4-H Teen and Leadership Program coordinator, at lauren.traister@uvm.edu if you need a disability-related accommodation, or with questions.

EWSD meal service plan

The Essex Westford School District's Child Nutrition Program is committed to strengthening our community by providing healthy and well-balanced meals to children year-round. EWSD schools closed beginning on Wednesday, March 18. While schools remain closed, we will continue to feed our students.

We will be preparing bagged meals (breakfast and lunch) out of our production kitchen at Essex High School, where our professional staff will prepare meals in a safe and sanitary environment. To exercise the recommended social distancing, we will provide meals initially using a drive-thru pick-up style of service.

Meals are free to all children ages 18 and under, no application or prior approval is needed. This meal service began on Thursday, March 19. Menus will follow our basic "summer meals" offerings and will soon include vegetarian and gluten-free options; please check our website for updates.

Meals will be served Monday-Friday, rain or shine, at the following pick-up locations:

- Maple Street Park, 8:00 – 10:00 AM;
- Essex Elementary School, 9:00 – 11:00 AM;
- Westford School, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Each pick-up location will provide a child with breakfast and lunch for each day.

As we move forward, we will continue to explore and develop additional drive-thru pick-up sites as well as develop a meal drop-off system to increase convenience. We will communicate any updates as they become available.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Scott Fay (sfay@ewsd.org) or call the Child Nutrition Office at 802-857-7333.

For more information and the latest updates from the District around COVID-19, please visit: www.ewsd.org/covid.

— EWSD Child Nutrition Program

MMUUSD update on schools

To the Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill community:

There has been a lot of rapid change to our lives over the past few weeks. We want to share with everyone what has been happening in our schools so that we are all informed.

As of end of school on Tuesday, March 13, all student learning has been converted to at-home learning as Gov. Scott has ordered school dismissal and cancellation of all school-related activities. We are working with families to ensure that students have what they need to continue their learning. If you would like more information, you can view the distance learning plans at <https://www.mmuusd.org/covid-19-info/distance-learning>. Please let us know about any technology issues. The technology team is available Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM to answer your support calls. To contact the helpdesk, please call 434-2400 and choose option 2. If you do not get a live person, leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. You can also email the helpdesk at helpdesk@mmuusd.org.

The District is providing curbside pick up of breakfast and lunch to any student at no cost Monday-Friday, 8:00 – 10:30 AM, at MMUHS, CHMS, BRMS, JES, and BPMS. The

Distance Learning at Lamoille Union High School

Principal Brian J. Schaffer
Lamoille Union High School

Lancers,
Lamoille Union has moved to distance learning, effective Monday, March 23.

Flexibility and adaptability must be at the heart of how students and teachers work together now. To the extent possible, teachers will be available for live student contact and support at certain times during the day. There are expectations for students to complete assignments and for teachers to send meaningful feedback of work on an ongoing basis. This might mean a video meeting as a class, individual teacher-student phone check-ins, or prompt email responses, based on the technological capabilities of the students and their teachers. The scheduled class time is an opportune time for this contact, but due to personal situations, the scheduled class time may not be feasible for all students or for teachers. Teachers will communicate with students about when such contact is feasible, and participation from students will be necessary for learning and growth.

It is the expectation that students continue to learn and connect, either online or through the mail, from home, or McDonald's, or a library, or a library parking lot, or a school parking lot, or a phone call with their teachers. Whatever it takes! LUHS and LUMS students will still be able to contact the IT helpdesk for support at 851-1250 or helpdesk@luhs18.org with any access needs.

Undoubtedly, this is going to be different, and it actually may be harder than being physically present in a building for 175 days during the school year. It's hard for all of us — but I need to be clear that if students don't access their education in this new way, we plan on being here for the long term. While we may have a different path in front of us, graduation requirements remain in effect. We will continue to work with every Lancer to graduate in June in stride with their class, 2020 and beyond.

Schoology will be our primary platform to ensure continuity of learning in a student's classes; teachers are spending this week receiving training, and the expectation is that every Lamoille Union High School teacher will complete weekly lesson plans using this site. Be forewarned when following video links, you may have to choose a "download" option, and that may take up more data. For any questions about *Schoology*, please contact Denise Krohn, 851-1280 or dkrohn@luhs18.org, or Lori Lisai, 851-1373 or llisai@luhs18.org.

In addition to *Schoology*, we are building additional learning resources and will communicate those to you when ready for use.

Another pathway to learning which we've seen much success over the years are Plato/Edmentum online courses. If you are interested in utilizing LUHS online coursework to continue building on your current proficiencies, please email Chris Lesauskis, Online Class Coordinator, including your name and the name of the course(s) that you would like to enroll in. If you are already enrolled in an online course, please let him know if you would like to add additional courses. He will respond to your email with your login credentials and some guidelines to help you get started. He can be reached at clesauskis@luhs18.org or 851-1317.

Many students have independent learning options, and those will continue. Please contact Lori Lisai, 851-1373 or llisai@luhs18.org with any questions.

Parents and students should expect regular communication from our teachers, by way of phone, email, Zoom, Google Hangouts; pretty much every option is on the table! If you haven't heard from your teacher, you will soon. Students should check in to their luhs18.org email accounts frequently. We know we'll learn a lot from this week, and we will need to keep all communications open.

We continue to monitor the VT Agency of Education and the VT Department of Health recommendations, and will communicate them to every family as guidance changes.

In these unprecedented and challenging times all of our lives have been disrupted in many ways. As Americans, and Vermonters, and Lancers, we have a shared history of pulling together and helping one another when the going gets tough. It is in that spirit that I wish every last Lancer the very best; if I can be of any assistance to any of our families during this unprecedented time, please do not hesitate to reach out — we'll be here.

SEND US
YOUR NEWS.

Email it to:

mtngazette@gmavt.net

District is also delivering to families who are unable to pick up food at our school-based sites. For more information regarding food service or to request meal delivery, please use this link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sepf4FYdUkHoj2Mo0c08ZCeeag9Ljjsif6RvWZEKp-8/edit>.

If you need assistance or have any questions about remote learning plans, technology, internet service, food, student services, community services, COVID-19 or child care for essential persons, please do not hesitate to contact your school administration, the District's hotline (802-434-2400), or me. You can also find important information on the District website using this link <https://www.mmuusd.org/miscellaneous-resources/covid-19-info>. We will do whatever we can to help and support you.

We are lucky to have fantastic school staff and administration in our district. They have been working together on short timelines to ensure that all students are taken care of throughout these uncharted times. The dedication and flexibility that they have all shown in this time of need is a model to our students. The board is grateful for their strong commitment to students and families.

John R. Alberghini, Superintendent

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Deborah Rawson Memorial Library is now completely closed. To help stop the spread and flatten the curve we are stopping our curbside service and following Governor Scott's order to "Stay safe and stay home."

All our online services are up and running on our webpage, www.drml.org. As we find new and exciting things we will post them on the webpage and on our FaceBook page. You can still return items in our book drop but you don't need to. You can just keep them until we reopen. You can still renew items online. Messages will be returned as soon as we can get to them.

Our WiFi will remain active and is accessible from the parking lot or other areas adjacent to the building. WiFi is available 24/7. A password is not needed to connect. Please be aware that our WiFi does not offer a secure connection.

Online resources: for a full list of online resources, including digital e-book and audio book services, classes including language courses, and compilations of filmed programs, please visit <https://www.drml.org/how-to-use-a-closed-library/>.

Contact information: email rawsonlibrary@drml.org; website www.drml.org; phone 802-899-4962.

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 library programs, call 899-4962.

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

Effective immediately and until further notice the Jericho Town Library is closed. This has been a long and trying week for the Jericho community, Vermont, and the nation at large, as we grapple with the spread of COVID-19.

Please know that we are taking this action to limit the exposure of our library patrons and community members to the virus. These decisions were made in support of the current initiatives suggested by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in an effort to reduce exposure to the COVID-19 virus. We love our community and we want to do the absolute utmost that we can to ensure your wellbeing.

The Jericho Town Library is a community hub. We are proud of the community we create and foster, but in this scenario we need to consider the inherent dangers associated with our normally vibrant sanctuary. The director of the Craftsbury library recently wrote: "I watched many groups from differing sectors of our community cross paths in the library. Under normal circumstances, this is what makes the library a powerful force in the community, but yesterday this interaction was the piece that pushed me to reconsider the relative danger of remaining open."

While the library is closed to the public, we are here to help however we can. Need a library card to access free downloadable ebooks and audio books? We can sign you up over the phone or via email! Need help figuring out how to access on-line resources? We've got you covered! And be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for regular resource updates, including educational recommendations for kiddos and families navigating their time at home.

As a one-person staff, and with looming concerns about transmitting the virus via physical library materials, we are not currently able to offer curbside, home delivery, or pick-up. Please keep your currently checked-out library materials at home. We are a no late fee library, but have also suspended immediate due dates, and have enacted auto-renewals for the items you already have checked out. Besides, what's better than reading when practicing social distancing?

Keep being kind to each other, keep reading, and keep washing your hands. With library love, Lisa Buckton, Director, Jericho Town Library

Jericho Town Library hours: Mondays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Saturdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

For more information on programs and library services, please visit our website www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org or call 899-4686.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

The Varnum Memorial Library will be closed until further notice due to the coronavirus. If you have books currently checked out, please do not worry if you get an overdue notice through your email; books will not be due back until April 13. We are currently swamped with emails and requests, so please be patient with us; we will get back to you. If you are interested in accessing audio or electronic books via Libby/Overdrive, your login information is your library card number starting with 2C14. Enter that with all the zeros and no spaces. Your pin number should be your last name, all lower case. If you are interested in using our Wifi, either on the porch or in your car outside of the library, the password is V@rNum!4

Please do not send emails regarding overdue books, but let us know if you need your Libby password reset or if you do not know your library card number. Starting on Monday, if you have special book requests, we can process them and put them in a bag for you. This does not guarantee any book will still be available. We are also offering some mystery bags or mixed bags depending on your interest, if you don't mind the librarians picking books for you. If you email us a request, we will work hard to process as quickly as possible and message you back when it is ready.

We hope this helps fill in some of the gaps and we apologize for any inconvenience. Please stay safe out there.

The Varnum Library, P.O. Box 198, 194 Main St., Jeffersonville, 802-644-2117; thevarnum@gmail.com; www.varnumlibrary.org. Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 12:00 – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays 3:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursdays 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed Sundays.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Westford Public Library will be closed until April 8. At that time, the director and board of trustees will reevaluate opening based on information from local and national sources. While we close with a heavy heart, we know we are doing our part in keeping our community safe.

The Library is committed to ensuring the safety of the community. While our building is closed, we are offering curbside pickup of library materials. The library's website, <https://westfordpubliclibrary.wordpress.com>, has more complete information about services during the closure and has links to the Library Materials Curbside Pick Up Form and a list of resources accessible during the library closure

Curbside Library Pick Up will occur Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and Wednesdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Procedure: One adult will exit their vehicle in the parking lot and pick up their package. Packages will be under the family last name. Please wait in your vehicle if someone is picking up their package. Bins will be located outside (weather permitting) or in the vestibule of the library. Do not enter the library. Items being returned should be put in the drop box.

Library Hours: Wednesday, 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursday 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Friday 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; <http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com. Like us on Facebook. 878-5639; Bree Drapa, Librarian.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

The Richmond Free Library is closed, but please take note of the following services that we can provide.

Online resources: If you have a library card, you can check out ebooks and audio books through <https://gmlc.overdrive.com/>. Not all titles will be immediately available, but you can place holds, or search titles under advanced search for "available now." You can also get ebooks free at <https://www.gutenberg.org/>.

Book pick up has been discontinued to comply with *Stay Safe, Stay Home* directives.

Book returns: All items are now due on May 1, 2020. If you can, please keep track of your items and return them.

Wifi will stay on and patrons can use our wifi from outside the building.

Communication: The library will maintain communication through our website www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org, Front

Porch Forum, Facebook page, and email newsletters. Please stay tuned as we continue to find means of providing library services.

LearningExpress is now available on our website under the Online Services tab. LearningExpress is a highly acclaimed eLearning platform that provides support to students and professionals for academic skill-building, tutorials, occupational exploration, standardized test prep, career certification test prep and more. Patrons create their own account where they can keep track of modules explored.

Open Monday and Wednesday 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 – 6:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; closed Sunday.

Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St., P.O. Box 997, Richmond, VT 05477; 434-3036; fax 434-3223; www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org.

DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY
WILLISTON

The physical library is closed until further notice to keep our patrons and staff safe but the virtual library is open!

Watch on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/pg/WDAML/videos/?ref=page_internal) or YouTube as Miss Jess opens the new Dorothy's List 2020-21 nominees that just arrived! Thursday, April 2, 10:30 AM.

Looking for something to do with the kids? Check out our Kidspace page (<https://williston.lib.vt.us/index.php/kids-page>) for some fun programs with music and story times with our very own Miss Jess and her lovable pug, Petunia.

Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, 21 Library Lane, Williston; 878-4918 or www.williston.lib.vt.us.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Fairfax Community Library, located inside Bellows Free Academy – Fairfax School, will remain closed until the school reopens.

Hours: Monday and Wednesday 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM; Friday 8:30 AM – 3:15 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org, 802-849-2420. Call or email libraryprograms@fwsu.org. For up-to-date info about programs, visit our website www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org, where you can also find a link to the interactive Google calendar.

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

After the most recent urging from the Governor to Stay Safe and Stay Home, Brownell has stopped all library operations. This means we will no longer be offering holds/check outs in the rear vestibule. The book drop will also be closed, so please keep your items (books, DVDs, etc.) at home. There are no overdues being sent out at this time, and we never charge fines for late items.

If you are still in need of reading materials please check out Libby or Overdrive for downloadable books: <https://gmlc.overdrive.com/>.

For Village residents, we can even offer a temporary virtual card, which will provide access to these services for the duration of our closure.

You can also still catch our digital programming on our website program calendar, just select the event for details and the meeting link to log on: <https://brownelllibrary.org/events/calendar>.

If you need help using any of these services, email us at frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org. We will also be checking voicemail periodically, and you can leave us a message at 878-6955.

Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Contact Main Desk 878-6955, Youth Desk 878-6956, Reference Desk 878-6957, or frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org.

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex. Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Saturday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. 802-879-0313; essexfreelibrary.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What should we do when "everything" is closed?

Dear Neighbors,

Schools closed, social gatherings cancelled, restaurants take-out only, ski resorts closed, what can we do?

Turn it into an opportunity!

In Vermont, we still have people who grow food, produce milk, meat, etc. Now, more than ever, we need to support our farmers. But, you can also become a producer in your own right — while downplaying your role as "good" consumer!

If you produce things, your worries about shortages of food in stores will lessen.

If we support people in our community who produce food, empty "big box" grocery shelves won't matter so much.

Focus food purchases at local farms and small businesses.

What can kids do while school attendance is curtailed?

Now is prime time to start growing some of your own food. Many people would be happy to help you get started if you need assistance. How about raised bed gardens full of vegetables front and center of your lawn — better than eating grass!

It is a little late in the season, but if you hurry, you might be able to get some sap and make a little of your own syrup. When we focus on taking care of our real needs, we have fewer "wants".

Jericho dairy farmers Gary and Tammy Davis never close! Their cows produce high quality organic milk every day and at a price that cannot be beaten. But, they are struggling to

meet the costs of production. Why not switch to this local, reliable, safe source of milk and help keep this farm going? And, if you enjoy yogurt, we can give you a buttermilk/yogurt start and you can begin making your own with a method which requires no heating — just mix ¼ cup start per quart, shake it up, leave it at room temperature for one day, then refrigerate. Easy! No more piles of plastic yogurt cups.

We have been getting Gary's milk for 25 years and consider ourselves lucky to have someone so dedicated to farming and producing high quality milk. They are located on Cilley Hill Road, just past the junction with Hanley Lane. Please call them for details — 899-2357 or (cell) 598-1675.

If you need tips on gardening or a yogurt "start," we are willing to share. Together, we all can make our community resilient and vibrant.

Sincerely,

Ann Gnagey and Tom Baribault
Birch Hill Sugarworks, Jericho Center (899-6736)

Green Up Westford

To the Editor,

Green-Up Day is still a few weeks away but there is already a lot of trash littering our beautiful country roads. If you have some downtime and go out for a walk, I encourage you to take a bag and some heavy-duty gloves (if you don't have one of those trash grabbers) along and pick up some of the trash. For bonus points, separate what can still be recycled.

Why wait until May?

Doris Bittruf, Westford

Bears are awake!

To the Editor,

Just a heads up — my wildlife camera caught a video of a gorgeous adult black bear cruising slowly through our yard at 1:00 AM this morning — the first time he/she has shown up this year. Time to take down the bird feeders if you haven't already, and secure all other potential sources of food. This particular bear was seen on Poker Hill Road near North Underhill Station Road. Last year, he/she (if it was the same bear) was on their best behavior, and moved on after a couple of weeks. Let's do our best to encourage another year of peaceful co-existence!

Mary Ehlers
Underhill

Westford May Day event cancellation

To the Editor,

With sadness I am officially announcing that the May Day event at the White Church, Westford Common, will be postponed. All the hard work that has gone into the planning of this day will be not be wasted, though, just put on hold, and will be put to good use at a later date. Watch the Town Events Facebook page and FPF for a new date!

Best wishes for all to stay healthy and sane during this tough time.

Carol Winfield
Westford

Letters continued on page 9

CHILDCARE

Childcare for Essential Persons — MMUUSD

Per Governor Scott's directive and to support Vermonters on the frontlines during this state of emergency, the Mount Mansfield School District is offering preK-8 care to the children of essential persons Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM at Richmond Elementary School and Jericho Elementary School. To find a list of essential persons as defined by the state, please use this link: <https://vem.vermont.gov/essentialpersons>.

If you are on this list and need care, Let's Grow Kids has developed a web-form (<https://webportalapp.com/webform/essentialworkers>) intended to gather information and connect essential persons with childcare in their area. Families can also call 2-1-1 ext. 6, or call 1-877-705-9008 to speak to a childcare referral specialist. Representatives from Child Care Resource will let the district know the need in our towns so we can contact families and discuss care opportunities.

If you have questions, please contact MMUUSD Pre-school Coordinator Kyle Hibbard, kyle.hibbard@mmuusd.org or 802-434-2400.

COVID-19: childcare for essential workers

The State of Vermont wants to make sure essential workers can focus on their jobs and not worry about the care and safety of their children.

Who are "essential workers" — there is an official list of people considered essential at <https://vem.vermont.gov/essentialpersons>.

How to connect to available child care resources: If you are considered "essential" and need childcare for children (up to grade 8):

Go to this new webform created for essential workers: <https://webportalapp.com/webform/essentialworkers>. Complete the form, including your contact information, and someone will be in touch within 24 hours to discuss available child care resources.

You can also dial 2-1-1 and press 6 to connect to someone about the available resources.

If you need childcare immediately, call 1-877-705-9008 to be directed to your local Child Care Support Agency.

This connection service for essential workers will be in effect while schools and general child care services are closed due to COVID-19.

Childcare at LNSU for essential workers

Lamoille North Supervisory Union (LNSU) is offering childcare, PreK through grade 8, for children of essential persons. Please copy to a browser or click on this link to complete the survey so that we can determine the needs of your family: <https://forms.gle/nJX7wjdG7zwbJjrFA>.

Little Free Library ready

The Jericho East neighborhood has stocked up its Little Free Library with books and supplies. We hope you are well! If you need something, please help yourself. If you can contribute something, that would be great. It's near 16 Packard Rd., close to VT Rt. 15.

A few things to keep in mind:

Please contribute only glass jars or cans; no food in cardboard boxes. We don't want insects or rodents chowing down in here.

Please wipe down the items before placing them in the library.

In addition, please also consider soap or paper goods.

Finally, if you need something specific, please leave a note and we will see if the neighborhood can supply it for you.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

American Pickers coming to New England

American Pickers on the History Channel is planning on returning to New England, possibly this summer, and is looking for interesting characters with interesting items and collections. Because of COVID-19, we are all facing very uncertain times and everything is changing daily. American Pickers takes the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously and will be adjusting its schedule accordingly for safety, both of their crew and for those who appear on the show, and won't be picking until everybody is safe. If a planned date isn't possible, no one's time is wasted as they will re-schedule to a date when conditions allow filming.

They look for different, unusual, and unique items too — something never seen before and with an interesting story! But note: they only pick private collections, so no stores, malls, flea markets, museums, auctions, businesses, or anything open to the public.

Those interested can reach out via 1-855-OLD-RUST (653-7878) or AmericanPickers@cinetflix.com.

Letters continued from page 8

Have we created a disaster?

To the Editor,

Have we created a disaster? We can find perhaps 90 (158) cases of virus, 95% to recover at home, out of 550,000 citizens.

Certainly the virus was part of the (9) deaths of a single 80 and a single 90 year old — who are of age to be susceptible to many things. No treatment anyway, don't go to hospital, don't go to doctor.

We have 100,000++ out of work, businesses large and small hanging on by their fingernails, families stressed to the limits.

Nobody has money enough to cruise through doing nothing for one month, to say nothing of several months.

Daycares closed, then demands they re-open for essential citizens. Panic in the stores. Panic everywhere.

Time will tell, and we will not agree on either extreme.

(Editor's note: as of press time, some numbers updated, with the writer's permission)

Doug Richmond
Underhill

Spreading the word about available resources

To the Editor,

It is my hope that we can spread the word about available resources to the most vulnerable in our communities. I have seen lots of information of how to volunteer to help and what resources are out there if you need help on social media. My concern is that some of the highest risk community members are not part of these social media platforms and may be unable to find this information.

I am hoping you may be able to help spread the word. Below is a live document that is continuing to be updated as more organizations and people coordinate to help.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/17DJMylZR_Fk7MzaCD9AU008a61VGVv0eNs4qbVk0z3E/edit

Nan Campbell
Underhill

Town Meeting UJFD question follow up

To the Editor,

At the Jericho Town Meeting it was mentioned that since the UJFD began EMS First Response on July 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020 there was 248 EMS related calls in the Underhill and Jericho Communities. The UJFD had First Responders at 238 of those calls (a 96% response rate). There was a question about how many fire calls (all other calls with no EMS need) were there during that same time period. The answer to that question is there were 57. Sorry for the delay in getting that answer out.

Harry Schoppmann
UJFD

Looking for people to sew

If you are looking for something to do in your downtime, Lise-Anne Cooledge, an amazing crafter, has started a group to sew fabric face masks. She already has already been in contact with Northwest Medical Hospital in St. Albans and North Country Hospital in Newport, who are anxiously awaiting donations. Can you help?

Lise-Anne has the pattern, which she is willing to share with anyone, from beginning to advanced crafters. Also, if you are unable to cut the pattern, Lise-Anne does have pre-cut squares she can deliver to you.

Can't sew? How about donating fabric or elastics?

An online Facebook group has been created to keep everyone informed, to communicate and to reach out to offer help. You can find it here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1297851873937679/> or search in Groups for "Covid-19 Mask Makers" — it's the one with a photo of a mask on a black pug.

Lise-Anne can be reached via cell phone (text ok) at 802-309-3115, or email lacool802@aol.com. Heather Armata can be reached at 802-338-8235 (text ok) or email CornerstoneREVT@gmail.com, though all crafty questions should go to Lise-Anne, as Heather is public relations and delivery driver.

Finding WiFi hotspots in VT

The VT Department of Public Service has released an interactive Public Wi-Fi Hot Spot Map to help Vermonters connect to publicly available internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many Vermonters do not have reliable internet access at home and will be searching for access elsewhere. The map includes the location of the Wi-Fi hot spots and valuable information about how to access them, including places where users can access Wi-Fi from outside the building or in a parked vehicle to encourage social distancing and keep Vermonters healthy.

The Department received assistance from libraries, schools, and municipal governments in creating the map, as well as support from a variety of state agencies. The map can be found at <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/announcements/public-wifi-hotspots-vermont>.

The map is still missing many locations. To fill in the gaps, we are seeking to crowd source additional sites from the public. These locations could include community centers, places of worship, recreation centers, downtown wi-fi zones, etc. Please use the following form to enter information on sites in your community: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VTWiFi>.

For more information, please contact psd.telecom@vermont.gov, but please enter all new sites via the form above.

Cambridge Food Shelf

As we are all aware, these are trying times. In light of safety and well-being, the Cambridge Community Food Shelf has made some changes and modifications in the hopes of keeping both volunteers and clients as safe as possible.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION: the Food Shelf has made a temporary change to distribution by using a "drive up" model:

- clients will be asked to remain in their cars;
- a volunteer will get family information;
- a volunteer will then bring amounts to match family size to the car;
- a volunteer will ask the client to unload the cart;
- the client will be asked to return it to outside the church, where it will be disinfected and readied for the next client in line.

We hope this will maintain safe distances between clients and volunteers, minimize any interaction, and keep everyone safe.

If you know any of our clients, please share this information.

CLOTHING: In order to focus on the food needs of the community, the food shelf WILL NOT be accepting clothing donations for the next four weeks. We will reevaluate this decision at that time.

If you find that you want to help, please contact Ruthanne Rust, rrust1@earthlink.net. Some food shelf volunteers are in their mid-70s and -80s and should not be put at risk. If you are in a younger demographic, please let us know! Thanks.

Richmond Food Shelf hours

Amy Grover, Town Clerk and Treasurer, Bolton

We are with you through this trying time. The Richmond Food Shelf is open. The Thrift Store is closed until further notice.

New Food Shelf hours effective immediately: Tuesday, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Thursday, 4:00 – 6:00 PM; Saturday, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Check Facebook, Instagram, and Front Porch Forum for more updates.

Please call/text us at 802-578-4283 or email richmondfoodshelfvt@gmavt.net with any and all questions.

If you are sick, or unable to leave your home and don't have someone to pick up for you please contact us.

We serve the communities of Richmond, Bolton, and Huntington twice a month and Williston once a month. If you want to learn more about our services, visit our website at www.richmondfoodshelfvt.org or call/text/email.

VT Youth Project (Icelandic Model for Adolescents)

The Chittenden East team of the Vermont Youth Project has been working diligently over the last couple of months on a plan to share with you the data and insights gained from a survey of middle school and high school aged youth in our communities late last year. Initially our plan was to host two in person meetings (March 24 and April 1) which were subsequently moved to a video conference format for all of the obvious reasons. The goal of these conversations is to spark interest and create a dialogue in the community with the eventual goal of collaborating towards strategies to best support the health of our local youth. Upon further consideration, we have postponed those meetings.

In the coming weeks our team will be sharing the information, in bits and pieces slowly and over time. The information will be made available via Front Porch Forum, Facebook, and other outlets. We will create online public forums where people can ask questions and share info with their friends and neighbors, still with the goal of engaging the community in dialogue on the topic. Eventually there will be a broader rollout of the information, but not until we have had the opportunity to gain some feedback from you all based on discussions in the coming weeks.

Please reach out directly to timothymonty@gmail.com if you have questions or if you would like to be a part of the conversation! Thanks for your patience as we have changed course some.

Destructive dogs at Mobbs Farm

To the Editor,

I have been an adjacent landowner to Mobbs Farm for about 25 years. Since I've seen much change, regulation, restrictions and really to the agenda of who is on the committee at the time. Now we have so many people using it that it's becoming a problem. I would like to request signs be posted at each entrance that dogs with mentally challenged owners must keep their owners off the property. Today (March 15) I met a nice little Siberian husky not trained, didn't listen to owner, owner only could get close to them by offering bones after it came onto my property and killed a chicken of mine. (Not the first time). Owner was not even close.

I've had enough! When is Mobbs Farm committee going to mandate that dogs must be under strict control or on leash so I as a landowner can stop the constant trespass on my property? (I know dogs can't read.) Again most have their dogs under control mostly and its not a problem, but like all the land posted in Jericho because of the one stupid hunter, I have the same going on because of the stupid dog owner. Maybe we can close the trail behind the houses on the property to maintain a decent buffer zone. If it was only the residents of Jericho using the property I don't think we would have a problem. We would probably still have snowmobiles, four-wheelers, and horseback riding going on out there and they didn't kill my animals. Plus they were all neighbors.

P.S. on March 22: The girl dropped a \$25 gift card in my mailbox for the dead chicken. Then the next day it happened again — lost 13 ducks to a flyoff due to someone's bigger husky type dog, but yelled "Call your dog!" The owner yelled and the dog responded, (but I'm) still trying to recover five ducks.

Rick Irick
Jericho

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Daily video updates on VT pandemic response

By Tim Ashe, State Senator, Chittenden District

Many in our society are “essential” but are often treated as invisible or dispensable — custodians, store clerks, child care workers, mental health counselors, and so many more. When we’re past this terrible time, let’s commit to appreciating them all the time, not just in times of crisis.

I have been hosting daily Facebook live videos to provide the most recent information concerning Vermont’s efforts to combat this virus. I have received vital information from viewers through their questions and comments, and hopefully I’ve been able to offer some useful information to the audience.

I’d like to invite you to join me for these daily Facebook Live streams each day at 5:30 PM and repeating indefinitely as long as they are helpful. To watch visit my Facebook page each day at 5:30 PM at <https://www.facebook.com/tim.ashe.77>. I will post the video after the update is concluded for anyone who cannot watch live, and welcome your comments and questions by email or on Facebook.

If you are not on Facebook, you can access the videos a little after the fact at this site, which also includes helpful info from various state agencies: <https://protem.vermont.gov/covid-19-resources>.

Thank you for all you are doing to protect yourself, your friends and family, and your fellow Vermonters.

Lesson from Irene: write it down!

By Thomas Stevens

State Representative, Washington-Chittenden

Just a reminder for folks, be you a business owner/employer, employee or what have you... Write it down!

One lesson learned from Tropical Storm Irene was that while the fever pitch of recovery was happening, people had a decreased capacity to remember things that were happening, things that had happened, and things that had to happen. I witnessed this most closely with FEMA, especially in the first week after the flood. Folks that were dealing with damage were given verbal assurances and then instructions about how things with FEMA would go, but because of the information overload coupled with deep stress reactions, things were forgotten.

I suggest starting some kind of personal system, where you write down the many steps that you’ve taken and the steps that you will take over the next few months. This way, when you need to review this time period (perhaps for FEMA, or some equivalent), you’ll have the point-in-time recaps you’ll need to apply for funds or relief.

When you have good information, it will make the next steps easier.

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF JERICO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm on WEDNESDAY, April 22, 2020 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following:

- A request to the DRB by Gardener Construction, Inc. to amend a previously approval PUD for additional construction on Lot 8A. This property is located at 45 Packard Road and Black Walnut Lane which is in the Village Zoning District.

- A request to the DRB by Gravard LLC for a final plat review for a 7-lot major subdivision. This property is located at 69 Packard Road which is in the Village Zoning District.

- A request to the DRB by Jim Carrol for conditional use review for the construction of a single-family residence on Lot 4 12 Old Orchard Lane which is located in the Forestry Zoning District.

All interested persons may appear and be heard. Additional information related to this application may be viewed at the Jericho Planning and Zoning Office during regular business hours.

Chris Flinn
Zoning Administrator
cflinn@jerichovt.gov

Lamoille legislators and COVID-19

By Rich Westman

State Senator, Lamoille District

Your Lamoille County legislators want you to know that we are taking the COVID-19 situation very seriously. We are attending both committee meetings and other legislative meetings remotely every day. We are in daily communication with legislative leaders, the Administration, each other, and you, our constituents.

During this time it is so important to watch out for each other, so please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us if we can be of any help during this state of emergency.

While we are not in Montpelier, we have continued our work together to advance bills directly related to this pandemic that will put us on a strong footing to meet the public health and economic challenge of this crisis. State and local government are working to protect the vulnerable, limiting the spread of infection, and maintaining public health and safety.

The Legislature is also working closely with the Governor’s office and our Federal Delegation in D.C. to ensure we are all working together to help Vermonters weather this crisis.

The community spread of COVID-19 that we’re now seeing puts us at a tipping point to reduce or amplify infection. The health of our state and the success of our health care system in treating this pandemic is now up to us. Please model good behavior by staying home except for absolutely necessary outings, and practice thorough and frequent hand washing. Collectively, we have the power to slow the spread and flatten the curve.

Together we will get through this. During this time we, as your legislators, are accessible. There are many ways to find and access services or get questions answered in this publication and elsewhere. However, if you have a need for service or a question you can’t find help for, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Stay healthy and be well!

In service,
Representative Lucy Rogers, Cambridge, Waterville,
LRogers@leg.state.VT.us, 730-0604
Senator Rich Westman, Lamoille County,
RAWestman@gmail.com, 338-5116

SBA emergency loans available to VT small businesses

By John Mandeville

Executive Director

Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

The Small Business Administration has approved Governor Scott’s request for a disaster declaration. Disaster assistance is available to businesses and non-profit organizations in all Vermont counties.

SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) offer up to \$2 million in assistance per business, providing economic support to overcome temporary loss of revenue. EIDLs may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses and 2.75% for private non-profit organizations, which are also eligible for EIDLs.

To apply online, visit <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>. Documents that may be requested when applying include recent federal tax return, profit-and-loss statement, and balance sheet.

For more information, contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center, 1-800-659-2955 or disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. For local SBA information, call 802-828-4422.

For more information on assistance to businesses visit the Agency of Commerce and Community Development website at: <https://accd.vermont.gov/about-us/disaster-planning/covid-19-guidance-vermont-businesses>.

For more information on Unemployment Insurance: UI Employer Services, 802-828-4344

For general Department of Labor Questions: Department of Labor Commissioner’s Office,

ACCD encourages businesses to seek professional business counseling and technical assistance before taking on additional debt. Vermont has a robust business technical assistance provider network. More information about these resources can be found online at <https://accd.vermont.gov/economic-development/resources>.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act

This recently enacted federal bill (H.R. 6201) provides free testing for coronavirus, expands funding for food security programs, and provides paid sick, family, and medical leave for employees at companies with 500 employees or fewer. Unemployment insurance is also being expanded along with increased Medicaid funding to states. The measure would provide tax credits to employers to offset the costs of providing emergency paid leave.

Stay Informed

Governor Scott’s emergency declaration includes:

- All non-essential adult elective surgery and medical and surgical procedures, including all dental procedures, are ordered to be postponed in the safest but most expedient way possible.
- Sales of “to-go” beverage alcohol is permitted with the purchase of a meal, as well as the delivery of alcohol product by licensed retail stores.
- The Department of Motor Vehicles has suspended all in-person transactions, as of Thursday, March 19. The DMV will continue to process registration and license renewals and various other services online, by mail, or via telephone.

State Responses to Covid-19

By Debbie Ingram

State Senator, Chittenden District

Folks might be interested to know that your state legislators, as well as staff of various state government agencies, are working hard on your behalf to address the million-and-one considerations that are coming up as a result of the virus. We are meeting in our committees on conference calls; there are daily all-House and all-Senate calls; and every afternoon, leadership has a call as the Joint Rules Committee. The public is welcome to “attend” any of these calls. For information on what is taking place and how to listen in, check the legislative website: legislature.vermont.gov.

Some updates I can give you in the Health Care area: insurers and Medicaid are allowed to fill prescriptions early so that a 30-day supply can be maintained, and *pharmacies are allowed to refill prescriptions that have been ongoing for maintenance of a chronic condition without a refill authorization from a provider*; telemedicine services are being expanded to make care for other illnesses more accessible; co-pays for testing, treatment, and pharmaceuticals for COVID-19 are being waived. Many modifications are being made to make enrollment and eligibility for Medicaid and qualified health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act easier, so that everyone has insurance.

In the Education realm, you’ve heard that our schools have been dismissed, but school meals are being made available through a “grab-and-go” process or by delivery; and school districts are required to provide materials or online resources to provide continuity of education for students. Childcare facilities that serve the children of essential front-line personnel like health care providers and EMS staff are allowed to stay open, but all others must be closed.

These are just the tip of the iceberg, obviously. For detailed information, you can call 2-1-1 or look at some of the news providers, like VTdigger.org or vpr.org, which have links to other sources.

I know this is a very stressful and uncertain time, but I hope you will be reassured that your public servants are working hard on your behalf. We truly believe that by working together, we can all get through this crisis. Stay strong, and keep yourself safe.

MMCTV update; for lighter viewing, The Necklace

In order to keep our staff and community healthy, Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) is closed till further notice to the public for studio use/borrowing gear/editing. We are focusing at this time on recording and streaming public meetings for you.

For those in need of lighter viewing, middle school students at our February break workshop with the Richmond Free Library produced this video based on Guy de Maupassant’s classic short story *The Necklace*: <https://archive.org/details/TheNecklace03122020>.

Sign up for health insurance via Health Connect by April 17

By Trevor Squirrel

State Representative, Chittenden-3

Do you know someone who needs health insurance during this crisis? Uninsured Vermonters can sign up for Vermont Health Connect until Friday, April 17, no matter how long you’ve been uninsured. Apply now by calling Vermont Health Connect at 1-855-899-9600.

Need help? Contact a Health Care Advocate at 1-800-917-7787 or <https://vtlawhelp.org/vhc-coronavirus>.

Please feel free to send along questions/comments, and we will do our best to respond:

Trevor Squirrel – tsquirrel@leg.state.VT.us

George Till – gtill@leg.state.VT.us

Advertise in the Business Directory

2 columns x 1.5 inches
\$18.00 each
must purchase 5 - \$90.00

2 columns x 3 inches
\$23.00 each
must purchase 5 - \$115.00

2 columns x 4 inches
\$35.00 each
must purchase 5 - \$175.00

All ads must be prepaid
Contract prices available.
Email: Brenda at mtngazette.net

Outdoor activity ideas: solo or as a family

By Amy Ludwin

Bolton Conservation Commissioner

www.vtfishandwildlife.com or 802-828-1000

Sharon Murray, one of our town Sarah Holbrook Parcel Co-Stewards, passed along the following info from State Fish and Wildlife. And, "given it's now spring, we could probably all use a breath of fresh air. Thank goodness we live in a nice spot!"

While our events are paused, we can and should continue to get outside and enjoy our beloved natural resources. Below are some of our recommendations. Remember to take all safety precautions including social distancing and hand washing.

Read more on COVID-19 from the VT Department of Health at their web site, <https://www.healthvermont.gov/>.

Spring bird migration is well underway and WMAs are open!

In fact, thousands of waterfowl have flown through the Champlain Valley this week and congregated at Dead Creek WMA, Crown Point bridge, and Lemon Fair WMA. Among them were tundra swans, pintails, widgeons, black ducks, mallards, Canada geese, common mergansers, green-winged teal, buffleheads, goldeneyes, and blue-winged teal.

Pack your binoculars and explore a WMA near you. See online for our Top 10 Wildlife Management Areas for Birding.

Fishing's Never Far! It's fun to fish in the early spring, and youth under 15 years old can go without a license! Fishing offers time in nature, entertainment, and challenges. Learn more about fishing in Vermont at our website, and get started with the help of a family fishing planner. Post pictures of your adventure, your catch, and the food you made with it!

Start your Hunter Education journey online, and you'll be ready when in-person classes start again.

Learn about how Vermont's new baitfish regulations affect you.

Read the 2020-2030 Big Game Management Plan
More family activity ideas:

- Spring is a great time to look for reptiles and amphibians as they emerge from winter hibernation. As you walk through the woods, look for pools of water or listen for the calls of frogs as they wake up for the season. Make your own origami frog — find information online.

- Look for the sights and sounds of eastern wild turkeys. Spring is a great time to hear the loud gobble of the tom turkey. Find out more about this amazing animal and how to search its signs online.

- What a great time for a bird hike! See the Bird Behavior Scavenger Hunt to help guide you on your adventures (visit one of the state's WMAs linked online).

- Explore a wetland in spring, when they are teeming with life. Look for different plants and animals that are waking up! Use the Puddle Wonders data sheet or Wildlife Water Safari worksheets to help guide you on your journey!

We've created a web page with other ideas for some fresh air and a little normalcy while staying safe and taking precautions.

We'll also post more suggestions and opportunities to get some fresh air and exercise on state and public lands via Facebook and Twitter accounts. Or take a look online at: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/node/2073> and <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/> or <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/node/1927>.

Maple season strong, even without open house weekend

Vermont leads the nation by a commanding margin as the top maple producing state. Total U.S. maple syrup production in 2019 was 4.24 million gallons, with Vermont's contribution accounting for almost 2.1 million of those gallons (that's about 49% of U.S. production).

Our annual Maple Open House Weekend has been a chance for Vermont sugar makers to open the doors of their sugar houses for visitors traveling from near and far wanting to learn, taste, and explore firsthand why people should think of Vermont first when they think of maple syrup.

While we know that cancelling this year's event was the right call, there are still many ways for folks across the country to get their favorite Vermont Maple items while keeping the requisite social distance. (It's easier to stock up on Vermont maple products than it is toilet paper these days!) Find your favorite sugar maker online to get Vermont Maple delivered right to your door at <https://vermontmaple.org/buy-pure-maple/>.

While many of us are home right now, it's a great time to join Vermont Maple on Facebook for our weekly activity contests, video sharing, and more! Educational, entertaining, and a great way to win a home delivery of a Vermont Maple Resiliency Care Package.

We estimated that over 40,000 visitors toured the state for last year's event and we're working with the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, and other statewide maple associations, to create a fall maple celebration for Vermonters and tourists from near and far. When we have more specifics, we'll share them broadly so people can plan, once again, to visit Vermont's sugar makers to learn, taste and explore!

As with many local businesses, we appreciate everyone's support of Vermont Maple. We're making some great Vermont Maple Syrup for you this season and we'll all just need to be creative about how to access it!

Find more information on Vermont Maple online at www.vermontmaple.org.

The United Church of Underhill Clutter Barn

A Prelude to the UCU Old Fashioned Harvest Market

Attention: The scheduled Saturday, May 2 opening of the Clutter Barn may be delayed due to the COVID-19 virus crisis. Keep watch for updated announcements.

Folks familiar with the United Church of Underhill Clutter Barn, located adjacent to the church on Park Street at Underhill Flats, look forward to its opening soon after the robins start congregating in the area. The opening of the Clutter Barn also announces the serious beginnings of planning for the UCU Old Fashioned Harvest Market that takes place on the last weekend of September each year. The Market includes many venues. In the following months, watch for highlights of the events being offered for the enjoyment of residents of Underhill and Jericho, as well as surrounding villages and guests from outlying areas.

What is the Clutter Barn? One might label the Clutter Barn as a second-hand shop. It was born in 1975 as a Tag Sale held during the newly established UCU Old Fashioned Harvest Market. In the beginning, it was offered in the parsonage garage and known as Crocker's Clutter (after the then Pastor Richard Crocker). When the Gifford Building adjacent to the church was purchased, the project was moved to that location and identified as the Clutter Barn. While its intention in the beginning was solely to be a fundraiser for the church, it has grown over the years to a deeper Mission, and as it grew through generous donations of gently used household goods from the community residents near and far, monthly Tag Sales during the summer were introduced.

What is the purpose of the Clutter Barn: A Mission focused on serving the public to the best of our abilities, the Clutter Barn offers a place for people to deposit items that are no longer useful to them, but are still in good working condition and may be useful to another person or family. These items are then offered for sale at monthly Tag Sales. Besides raising money to assist with expenses of the Harvest Market and in-house and outreach programs of the church, items are held out during the summer for PINS (Partners in Service), articles with distinctive value are set aside for the Silent Auction at the Market, items that come in but are on the "unacceptable" list are donated to various charitable organizations (i.e. Goodwill, Salvation Army, Animal Shelters, Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, etc.), and victims of natural disasters and/or domestic situations are invited in to choose items needed for their transitional comfort. At the end of the season, after Harvest Market, the Clutter Barn is open to charities and to residents of the community for one full day to gather items free of charge (though monetary contributions are appreciated!).

When is the Clutter Barn open to the public? Traditionally, the schedule for the Clutter Barn starts the first Saturday in May each year. Beginning on that day, donations of gently used household and workshop items are received every Saturday, May-August, between 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM, except on the last Saturday of each month when the public is invited in for extraordinary Tag Sales. Donations continue to be received in September, but the Clutter Barn is closed on the next to last Saturday as the volunteers concentrate on getting ready for Harvest Market. *As noted above, please watch for updates regarding opening date this year.*

How is the Clutter Barn staffed? The United Church of Underhill is fortunate to be blessed with a great many folks who are members and regular supporters of the church — as well as some who are not associated with the church, but just want to help — who readily offer their time and energy, as they are able, to accomplish the work of this Mission. Helping hands are always needed and welcomed to assist with receiving donations, sorting, pricing, distributing, and displaying throughout the building, setting up tents at sale times, and during the Harvest Market weekend, moving "merchandise" for outdoor display, cashiering, and the ever-necessary clean-up. Volunteers, volunteers, volunteers! The Clutter Barn depends on volunteers to keep the Mission running. There are work spots for anyone and everyone, no experience necessary, no formal training sessions offered; but assistance is always available by workers who have been with us for an extended time. One may contact Sharon Damkot (899-3572), Kathy or Dave Williamson (899-3122), or Betty Wilson (363-8311) to volunteer or for other information.

It is the prayer of the Clutter Barn staff that this illness that has gripped the world is soon brought to a standstill. Our hearts go out to those who have suffered through this crisis and those who have lost loved ones. Be comforted in the knowledge that God is with us always.

Advertise in the Business Directory

2 columns x 1.5 inches
\$18.00 each
must purchase 5 - \$90.00

2 columns x 3 inches
\$23.00 each
must purchase 5 - \$115.00

2 columns x 4 inches
\$35.00 each
must purchase 5 - \$175.00

All ads must be prepaid
Contract prices available.
Email: Brenda at mtngazette.net

LRSWMD announcements

FACILITY HOURS: Hours of operation for all Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD) Drop-off locations remain normal for the time being. We are currently taking every precaution to remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic. Help us continue to offer services by taking note of the following:

- If you are feeling unwell, please alert an attendant and implement social distancing if you must continue to utilize our services. Best practice is to stay at home if you are ill.

- Attendants will direct you where to correctly place all of your materials. Attendants will be limiting the amount of handling they do of items during this time.

- Attendants will be wearing gloves to reduce the risk of exposure and contamination.

- During this time, you are not obligated to take a receipt.

- Should we need to close facilities at any time, announcements will be made through signs at facilities, announcements on Front Porch Forum, social media, WLVB, and www.lrswwd.org.

Thank you for helping us do everything we can to keep each other healthy and keep our facilities open.

HAZWASTE GRANT AWARDED: LRSWMD received over \$3500 from the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation to increase the safety and management of limited amounts of hazardous waste that are managed at our Stowe and Worcester facilities. The funds awarded through this grant will be used to upgrade dated equipment and purchase new safety containment units. To see the complete story, see <https://lrswwd.org/index.php/hazardous-waste>.

COMPOST LITERACY BOOK DISCUSSIONS: Due to the pause in library programming, we will be rescheduling and/or reformatting our book discussions. Stayed tuned to <https://www.facebook.com/lamoillesoil/> for details.

SITE HOURS CHANGING SATURDAY, APRIL 11: The LRSWMD Staff will be gathering Saturday, April 11 for a professional training. Because of this, hours will be adjusted to allow for the site attendants to attend the training. Facility hours will be adjusted as follows: Morrisville, 832 Cochran Road: 8:00 – 11:00 AM; Craftsbury, Town Garage Road: 8:30 – 11:00 AM; Worcester, 43 Calais Road: 7:30 – 11:30 AM; Johnson, 941 Wilson Road: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Stowe, 91 Dump Road: 7:30 – 11:30 AM. Regular hours of operation will resume on Sunday, April 12.

SEND US YOUR favorite past time photos.

Email it to:
mtngazette@gmavt.net

SEND US YOUR NEWS.

Email it to:
mtngazette@gmavt.net

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Award Winning Homes

- Period Design Build
- Additions
- Remodeling
- Sun Rooms
- Porches • Garages
- Baths Kitchen Remodels
- Roofing • Siding
- Flooring, Hardwood & Tile
- Window & Door Replacement
- Electrical & Plumbing
- Light Painting



23 Kristie Lane
Jericho, VT 05465

www.thurgateconstructionvt.com

ALL PHASE

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Sandling & Salting Services 24 HR Service

Lawncare & Gardens, Fences Installation/Repairs, Pressure Washing, Stone-Concrete Walkways, Wall & Patios, Firewood, Light Trucking, Driveway Installation & Repair York Raking, Brush Hogging, Snow Plowing, Salt and Sanding, Electrical & Much More

Office: 899-2919 - Cell: 734- 8247

Stephan Griffiths Jr. - owner
Fully Insured allphase87@gmail.com Essex, VT 05452

PEOPLE - OBITS



Michael E. Rappold, 77, of Cambridge, VT passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 due to complications from COVID-19. His loving wife, Rae Rappold, was at his side. Mike was one of a kind. He loved life, loved people, and was known

for his smile and the twinkle in his eyes. He lived for connecting with others and sharing a story and a laugh. He was exceedingly loyal, patient, and saw the good in everyone that he came across. He loved a good adventure, as well to enjoy good food and drink with loved ones. Above all else he loved family. His love for Rae was immeasurable, and nothing gave him greater joy than his grandchildren in recent years. Mike was born in San Mateo, CA, where he lived until the age of 5. He moved to Salt Lake City, UT where he learned to ski and lived until the age of 15, when his family relocated to Bryn Mawr, PA. Mike graduated from Malvern Prep School, making lifetime friends along the way. Mike attended Villanova University, Villanova, PA, where he was a member of the varsity football team. Football remained a favorite pastime of "Iron Mike" throughout his life. One of the favorite years of Mike's life was the time he spent with his cousin on Rainear Ranch in Wisdom, MT. He remained a cowboy at heart for the rest of his days. Back east, Mike worked for the steel workers union in Pennsylvania before embarking on a career in the skiwear industry, with stops at Danziken and Quigley, Slalom/Defini and Bogner. Later, he worked as the Distribution Manager at Genfoot America in Milton, VT from 1997-2016. Mike spent the last 29 years of his life with the love of his life, Rae, at his side. Mike and Rae spent loving years together as the best of friends, living in their home built by Mike's son Scott, spending time with family, socializing with friends, and attending UVM basketball games. Mike, a.k.a. Poppy, is survived by his wife, Rae; his two sons Mark Rappold and wife Kim, of Troy, VT, and Scott Rappold and wife, Hiedi, of

Gotha, FL; his three stepsons, Keith Atchinson and wife Jenn, of Brooklyn, CT, Joe Atchinson and wife Sara Stanley, of Rowley, MA, and Tony Atchinson and wife Beth Ash, of Bedford, NH. Mike was also survived by his sister, Antoinette Garrison and husband Robert, of Palm Beach, FL; by his grandchildren Matthew and Emily Rappold of Troy, VT, Zachary Perrault of Jay, VT, Ryleigh Rappold of Gotha, FL, Stella and Selia Atchinson of Brooklyn, CT, Jack and Avery Atchinson of Rowley, MA, and Jaden and Malia Atchinson of Bedford, NH. Additionally, he is survived by his sisters-in-law Cindy Rice of Lyndonville, VT and Jody Heath of Hartford, NY, and brother-in-law Jim Norris of Troy, VT; by many nephews and nieces and by countless close friends. Mike was pre-deceased by his parents, William and Virginia Rappold. We know that today Mike is enjoying a Jack Daniels, likely surrounded by a dog and close friends, and watching sports. The world needs more men like Mike. His family will be planning a celebration of life for a later time. Donations in Mike's name can be made to North Country Animal League in Morristown, VT. Arrangements are in the care of the Cremation Society of Chittenden County. To send online condolences to his family, please visit www.cremationsocietycc.com.

A good man has passed away. **Madison Dorman Safford** of Jeffersonville, VT left this earth peacefully at his home on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at the young age of 83, after a brief battle with cancer. He spent his final weeks surrounded by his loving family, sharing memories and a chuckle or two. A celebration of Matt's life has yet to be set. In the meantime, when you drink a Coke or eat a cookie, please think of him fondly, lovingly, and with a smile. Please visit awrfh.com for further information and to share your memories.



Community Bank now drive-through only

By Hal Wentworth
Senior VP for Retail Banking
Community Bank N.A.

At Community Bank, N.A., the safety and comfort of our customers, employees and communities will always remain our top priority. We've been closely monitoring updates and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) about the evolving situation of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Based on the current information provided, we've made the proactive decision to close all branch lobbies and operate solely through our available drive-throughs, as of Thursday, March 19. Branches without drive-through capabilities will close temporarily. All branch lobbies will be available by appointment only, including locations with and without drive-through.

The most important action we can take right now is to be proactive and precautionary. We understand the vital importance of our customers having access to their accounts. We encourage customers to continue checking cbna.com for updates as we hope to expand hours of operation at drive-through locations based on staff availability. Lobby appointments can be made by calling the branch or by emailing corpcom@cbna.com.

We'd like to remind customers that our ATMs and secure night depositories are available. Additionally, our online, mobile, and phone banking options will allow you the convenience of banking from home. Our online and mobile banking tools provide 24/7 digital account access and the ability to transfer funds, check account balances and activity, pay bills and more.

If customers aren't enrolled yet in online or mobile banking, they can visit cbna.com or contact us for assistance.

Our Customer Service can be reached at 1-866-764-8638, Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

Customers can apply to open a personal deposit account or apply for a personal loan online at cbna.com.

We will continue to closely monitor updates and recommendations from the CDC and other local, state and national authorities. Regular updates will be shared with our customers and staff, including when we may return to regular operations.

We believe this decision is both conservative and prudent considering the current information the CDC has provided about COVID-19. We appreciate our customers' continued support and understanding in this difficult time of uncertainty. Together, we can all do our part to help protect our local communities.

VT's healthcare workers need N95 face masks!

By John Mandeville

Executive Director, Lamoille Economic Development Corporation

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development is currently seeking manufacturers and construction companies as well as other companies and organizations with a supply of N95 facemasks to consider assisting in the state's response to the COVID-19 virus by making these masks available to healthcare providers immediately.

N95 facemasks are a critical tool needed to ensure our healthcare professionals are able to provide care to those most impacted by the virus. These masks have become increasingly difficult to procure, and are urgently needed in our healthcare facilities.

We understand that many manufacturers, construction companies, and others utilize these masks in a variety of tasks. If your company is able to support the state's response to COVID-19, please contact the State Emergency Operations Center as soon as possible at 800-347-0488.

Meals on Wheels update

In response to the COVID-19 situation and the recommendations for aging Vermonters, Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County will make the following changes through March (and presumably beyond — Editor).

Community Meals: Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County has decided to pause community meals in Johnson on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Morrisville on Wednesdays. You can call us and pick up a meal curbside or request a home-delivered meal 888-5011. The Lamoille Civic Center is closed to the public at this time.

Home Delivered Meals: *NEW* We are delivering on Tuesdays and Thursdays to lessen the daily exposure to our volunteers and recipients. A combination of five meals will be delivered on these two days, including weekend meals to those that have ordered them.

Well-Check Phone Calls: Well-check phone calls are made on Mondays and Fridays. We also assess needs at this time.

Please be in touch if you know of an aging Vermonter in Lamoille County who needs help with home-delivered meals during this challenging time — 888-5011.

A HUGE thank you to everyone who has reached out to help, sponsored routes, made denotations, and sent us positive thoughts. Our staff and volunteers are doing a fantastic job, and we appreciate knowing that YOU have our backs!

Lions organizing food delivery to at-risk seniors

By Michael Willard
President

Jericho-Underhill Lions Club

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club is trying to coordinate a food delivery service for at-risk seniors who are sheltering in place during this health crisis. We are still trying to figure out the logistics of how to organize this service but feel the best place to start is by gauging the need in the community. Therefore, if you, a family member, or a neighbor

are an at-risk senior in the Jericho-Underhill community and are in need of assistance with obtaining groceries, please respond michaelrwillard54@gmail.com. Please note: The club does not have the financial resources to pay for your groceries but the shopping and delivery would be free of charge.

The motto of the Lions Club is "We Serve" and we are carrying out that commitment to our community in this time of need.

Advertise in the Business Directory

2 columns x 1.5 inches
\$18.00 each
must purchase 5 - \$90.00

2 columns x 3 inches
\$23.00 each
must purchase 5 - \$115.00

2 columns x 4 inches
\$35.00 each
must purchase 5 - \$175.00

All ads must be prepaid
Contract prices available.
Email: Brenda at mtngazette.net

SEND US YOUR NEWS.

Email it to:
mtngazette@gmavt.net

Poetry for the soul in hard times

The Poetry Newsletter is a free, online e-newsletter created simply to bring us together through poetry. In response to these difficult times we are going through, The Poetry Newsletter will be publishing more frequently. The next issue will be out in a few days.

To receive it, you can subscribe by emailing Laura at bhy@beecherhillyoga.com or going to <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/4tU668b/poetry>. Feel free to pass this invitation along to your friends and loved ones. Now, more than ever, we need poetry!

A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS!

<p>Westford - \$389,900</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">New construction in beautiful new subdivision with over 24 acres of common land. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with open design, spacious rooms, vaulted ceilings to welcome you in. Large kitchen adjoins family room and beautiful great room. Full basement, 2 car garage, full deck and covered porch with winter views.</p>	<p>Fairfax - \$354,900</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">To be built 1872 5P Country Colonial on wooded 0.87 acres on 6+ acres of common land. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, open floor plan, hardwood floors. Beautiful large kitchen and adjoining family room- perfect for gathering. 2 car garage, front porch, rear deck & big backyard for enjoying your new modern home in the country!</p>
<p>Fairfax - \$259,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Brand new & ready for occupancy! Large two-car garage! Rear deck to enjoy morning coffee! One-level living! Kitchen w/ granite countertops & stainless-steel appliances. Large master bedroom with walk-in closet & full bath. 2nd bath & bedroom for guests! Room for you to finish a family room in the full basement!</p>	<p>New Price! Jericho - \$225,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">3 bedroom farmhouse in heart of Jericho Village on over acre of land! Large sunny open dining, living and first floor master with full bath nearby. 2 bedrooms and a large open den upstairs. Large enclosed porch and expansive backyard. Detached garage for winter parking. Great location on the Circle!</p>

CALL NANCY TODAY!

Nancy Jenkins Real Estate
140 Kennedy Dr, Suite 102
South Burlington, VT 05403
802-846-4888 - 888-567-4049