



Building a better bridge at Mills Riverside Park

By Livy Strong

Mills Riverside Park's only entrance is through a rustic, covered bridge. During the warmer months, over 460 park visitors cross this essential span each day. The Jericho Underhill Park District (JUPD) asked Engineering Ventures, P.C. to evaluate the bridge and inform us about its condition. The evaluation recommended extensive reconstruction with a replacement of its walls, roof, and abutments.

The first phase of rebuilding will take place in early October. In this phase, the roof and walls will be removed and handrails installed to make pedestrian access safe. Essentially, our covered bridge will become uncovered with added handrails. This work will take up to three weeks to accomplish and the bridge will be closed during this time. Following this effort, park visitors will be able to walk across our newly uncovered bridge, as the decking is in excellent shape.

Future labor includes removing the deck temporarily, adding new abutments, putting the deck back and constructing new walls and a roof. This job is projected to take place in a year or two as funds become available. Bridge closure will be necessary for three to four months for this last phase of reconstruction.

JUPD has been looking for ways to keep the park open while this important bridgework is undertaken. To maintain community access to Mills Riverside Park, we determined that a second, alternative bridge would be needed. As it turns out, after seeking a solution for several months, a suitable second bridge was found locally at Jericho's Town Garage! The Selectboard approved the loan of this structure to the park and we are very thankful. Originally, this bridge spanned the Browns River in front of the Old Red Mill and along VT Rt. 15. It was removed years ago as other improvements were made. Engineering Ventures P.C. determined that the concrete and steel structure would work well because it is long enough (almost 70 feet), wide enough (7'6"), and very sturdy. It is also quite heavy at over 28 tons.

This alternative bridge will be sited about 75 yards west of our covered bridge and will remain until all work is accomplished on the park's covered bridge. A bid for the relocation and installation of this alternative bridge was just published and we look forward to awarding the work on Wednesday, August 11. In order to allow the community to continue to enjoy Mills Riverside Park, the plan is to have this structure in place before the work begins on our covered bridge in October.

The full reconstruction of the covered bridge will take several years, as funding allows. In the meantime, park visitors will be able to continue their daily walks, rides, picnicking, soccer play, and all the activities that make Mills Riverside Park so very special in our community.

Cambridge welcomes New Town Administrator Jonathan DeLaBruere

By Phyl Newbeck

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Growing up in the Newport area, Jonathan DeLaBruere was familiar with Cambridge through skiing at Smugglers' Notch and hiking the Sterling Pond trail. Back in 2018, when Cambridge first moved to a Town Administrator position, he applied but he was still finishing up his second bachelor's degree at the time. "When the position was open again," he said, "I threw my name in the ring. My fiancée was living in Jeffersonville and I was intrigued by the town's potential."

Municipal work was never on DeLaBruere's radar growing up. "Coming out of high school, I thought I would take over my father's transmission business, which had been owned by my grandfather," he said. "I was planning on going to Vermont Tech for automotive." DeLaBruere had already been accepted to VTC and had even seen his on-campus room when his grandfather called and said he thought the young man was making the wrong choice because changes in technology meant that people were buying new cars rather than repairing transmissions. DeLaBruere took those words to heart and asked the school to put his admission on hold while he enrolled in a business program at the Newport branch of CCV.

After completing his associate's degree, DeLaBruere enrolled at Champlain College and graduated with a bachelor's degree in business. In 2014, midway through that program, he moved to Winooski and was asked to join the Planning Commission. "That was my initial introduction to municipal government," he said. "I served for a year and in that time we were finishing up the rewrite of the zoning regulations, which included form-based code, as well as the municipal plan. I got to learn about development, zoning, and town government and that's what got me hooked." DeLaBruere followed his business degree with a bachelor's in environmental sciences from UVM.

It was during his time in Winooski that DeLaBruere first got involved in firefighting. He joined the Winooski Fire Department and moved up in the ranks to lieutenant. In 2018, he began teaching at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsfield. DeLaBruere intends to continue teaching there, devoting weekends and evenings without municipal meetings to that work. "It's something I really enjoy," he said. In addition, DeLaBruere has been asked by the Franklin Lamaille Fire Chief to host a regional class this fall. Thirty students have already signed up.

DeLaBruere assumed the title of Town Administrator in late June and has been really impressed with what he's seen so far. "I'd always know about the great local feel of Cambridge," he said, "but my time here has reaffirmed what I hoped I'd find in this position." On DeLaBruere's second day on the job, Select Board member George Putnam took him for a drive through town. "We were out for seven hours," DeLaBruere recalls. "We



Jonathan DeLaBruere is pictured with his fiancée, Lindsay Brown; and on the left in firefighting gear, as a member of the Cambridge Fire Department.

PHOTOS BY PHYL NEWBECK

visited each local business and George showed me the major flooding areas, the mountain bike trails, and other aspects of the town. It was a wonderful welcoming and I came home and told my fiancée I made the right choice. It's a wonderful community to work with."

DeLaBruere is looking forward to marrying that fiancée, Lindsay Brown, who is originally from Castleton, on Saturday, September 18. With roots in the Northeast Kingdom and family in Derby and Coventry, DeLaBruere grew up skiing at Jay Peak. However, the avid downhill skier is planning to spend more time on the slopes of Smuggs this winter. He also enjoys camping and has just upgraded from a tent to a pop-up camper.

DeLaBruere has a lot on his plate and is looking forward to doing what he can to help Cambridge. "There are some recurring themes," he said, noting that broadband, water, sewer, and development are issues that are often raised. Some of those issues may be addressed with incoming federal funds. DeLaBruere believes the highway department has done a great job with physical infrastructure like roads, but he wants to ensure that the social and educational structures in town are equally robust.

DeLaBruere hasn't second-guessed his decision to trade transmissions for municipal government. "Every day is different," he said, "and there are many stakeholders who have important things to say to assist in decision making."

Moving forward to Harvest Market 2021

As a general rule, the planning for the UCU Old Fashioned Harvest Market that takes place on the last full weekend in September each year begins with the opening of the Clutter Barn, and so it was this year. On the last Saturday in April, the Clutter Barn, a sort of second-hand shop sponsored by and adjacent to the United Church of Underhill, opened its doors to the public for its first Tag Sale for 2021. During the next weeks, gently used household goods, donated by our generous neighbors, was received, sorted and priced by the Clutter Barn staff/volunteers, and on June 26 a second Tag Sale was offered. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, some of the procedure and display has been a bit different than in previous years, but the quality of goods and services has remained the same. We embrace this tradition as we continue to move forward. This is the aim of the UCU: to present the Old Fashioned Harvest Market for the enjoyment of our local, and not so local, citizens, engaging the overall familiar quality and services, while some things might appear to be just a little bit different.

The line-up for the Opening Day Parade is progressing and community participation is invited and welcomed. There is always room for another unit, group, vehicle, animal, individual — and more. The start-off drumbeat will roll out at 9:00 AM on Saturday, September 25! If you wish to be a part of this Harvest Market kick-off event, simply email your intention to parade@underhillharvestmarket.com and arrive at the Browns River Middle School at 8:30 AM to receive your parade position assignment.

Are you inclined to a little friendly competition? The Old Fashioned Harvest Market has that for you, too! Watch this publication, or Front Porch Forum, and/or keep checking our website at <https://underhillharvestmarket.com> to find out how to enter the early Saturday morning Fun Run at Mills Riverside Park. Choose your category, and you'll be off and running — or walking — toward a whole weekend of excitement! Not into

running? Check information as above and consider entering the Zucchini Patch contest. Do you have zucchinis growing in your garden — or can you borrow from your neighbor's garden? Enter a zucchini — or two — in our Zucchini Patch Contest. Let your early plantings grow and enter the "biggest squash" category, or start a few seeds later for the "smallest" category. Got a squash in an odd shape that reminds you of an animal or a person or a motor vehicle? Use your imagination, dress it up! Enter a picture to earn a special prize.

All of the regular venues will be waiting for you. Visit up to 80 outdoor craft vendors (additional entries in the field this year), follow the aromas of freshly baked cookies at the Cookie Factory to the Artisan Emporium in the basement and upstairs fellowship room of the church, and sit for a spell and enjoy a variety of musical offerings featuring local musicians throughout the weekend in the sanctuary and in front of the church. The Country Store will again be offering apple pies, maple cotton candy, corn on the cob, pizza slices, T-shirts — and much more! Pick up a lunch of hot soup at the Soup Bowl or sausages or hotdogs at the Refreshment Tent and proceed to the "out of this world" French Fry Booth. Wash it all down with hot or cold apple cider at the Cider Tent or fresh-squeezed cold lemonade from the Lemonade Booth. A special area will be set aside for Children's Games: the popular jump house, beanbag toss, greased pole, and even a dunking booth. Here the kids can safely play while mom and dad make the circuit! And don't forget the Clutter Barn where the season started! Shop its Tag Sales on Saturday, August 28 and during the weekend of the Market for some amazing bargains. Check our website frequently for the most recent updates.

As we continue to move forward with our plans for the 2021 Old Fashioned Harvest Market, we emphasize that everyone is welcome to join the camaraderie. Set aside the dates on your calendar and share in the fun and excitement of our "welcome back" event!

Lions host blood drive August 11

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, August 11, 1:00 – 6:00 PM, at the Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction. The Red Cross is still experiencing a severe shortage of blood, so please consider donating. You can schedule an appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> entering COVENANT in the search bar.

If you are unable to attend this drive but would still like to donate please go to the above website and search for a drive that is more convenient to your schedule.



4-H NEWS



The Whispering Pines 4-H Club won the 4-H Club award at the Vermont 4-H Horse Show, held Thursday-Saturday, July 8-10 in New Haven, for having the highest combined scores in various contests and classes. Members, from left, front row: Emma Sibley, Milton; Paityn Paradee, Swanton. Back row: Emeri Rasco, S. Hero; Addie Ploof and Faith Ploof, both from Westford; Grace Parks, Essex; Kelsey Paradee, Swanton; and Haileigh Demers, Westford.

PHOTO BY MARY FAY, UVM EXTENSION

4-H'ers excel in 4-H horse events

Local 4-H club members recently competed in several 4-H horse events at the Addison County Fair and Field Days site in New Haven.

The 4-H'ers took part in the annual Vermont 4-H Horse Show along with hippology, judging and quiz bowl contests, all sponsored by University of Vermont Extension 4-H. The competitions, Thursday-Saturday, July 8-10, were open to 4-H'ers from throughout the state, and provided an opportunity for them to demonstrate their riding skills as well as their equine knowledge.

Competitions were arranged by age with 4-H'ers, 11-13, competing in the Junior Division and individuals 14-18 as Seniors.

Several area 4-H'ers won championships at the 4-H horse show in riding classes as well as the 4-H Division. For the latter, the 4-H'ers' scores from fitting and showmanship, quiz bowl,

judging, a general knowledge written exam and 4-H project class were combined for a final score and rankings.

Madeline Tylenda, Essex Junction, won the Open Driving Championship at the horse show. Piper Thompson, Hinesburg, was named Junior English Champion with the Junior English Reserve Championship going to Adaline Ploof, Westford.

Senior English Reserve Champion was Vivienne Babbott, Hinesburg, who also was the Senior 4-H Champion and the High Point 4-H Champion (highest overall score in the 4-H Division). As Senior 4-H Champion, Vivienne won the Paul Quinn Memorial Award, which honors a long-time supporter of the Vermont 4-H Horse Show and 4-H horse program. The 4-H'er also received the Jim Wallace Memorial Pleasure Class Award (first-place winner in this class).

Senior Reserve 4-H Champion was Faith Ploof, Westford. Her sister Adaline won the Junior Reserve 4-H Championship. Advanced Beginner 4-H Champion was Jillian Murdough, Essex Junction.

Other awards presented at the horse show included the Outstanding 4-H Member Award (for overall achievement in the 4-H horse program) and the 4-H Club Award.

Faith Ploof, Westford, received the Outstanding 4-H Member Award. Eligibility for this award includes participation in three New England 4-H Horse Shows at Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts, and selection three times for Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in Kentucky.

The 4-H Club Award went to the Whispering Pines 4-H Club, Westford. This award goes to the club with the highest combined scores in the general knowledge test and judging, quiz bowl, fitting and showmanship and 4-H project classes.

In the hippology contest, Adaline Ploof, Westford, came in sixth, and Jillian Murdough, Essex Junction, seventh, in the Junior Division.

The results for the Senior Division included Grace Parks, Essex Junction (second); Faith Ploof, Westford (third); Vivienne Babbott, Hinesburg (fourth); Haileigh Demers, Westford (sixth); and Madeline Tylenda, Essex Junction (eighth).

For the judging contest, the 4-H'ers judged Morgans, quarter horses and hunter under saddle classes. Jillian Murdough, Essex Junction, finished sixth, and Adaline Ploof, Westford, ninth, in the Junior Division.

Seniors placing in the top 10 were Grace Parks, Essex (second); Faith Ploof, Westford (third); Vivienne Babbott, Hinesburg (fifth); Madeline Tylenda, Essex Junction (seventh); Greta Friesan, Hinesburg (eighth); and Tucker Murdough, Essex Junction (ninth).

In quiz bowl, top contenders in the Junior Division were Jillian Murdough, Essex Junction (first); Adaline Ploof, Westford

(third); and Piper Thompson, Hinesburg (fifth).

Winners in the Senior Division were Chloe Barewicz, Jericho (first); Vivienne Babbott, Hinesburg (third); Haileigh Demers, Westford (fourth); Tucker Murdough, Essex Junction (fifth); and Greta Friesan, Hinesburg (sixth).

Grace Parks, Essex, and Faith Ploof, Westford, competed in a special division against the top four individual high scorers in the contest. Both Grace and Faith were members of past state quiz bowl teams that took part in national competitions so were ineligible to officially compete in this year's state contest.

In addition, Grace was a moderator for the Junior Division competitions. Adult 4-H volunteer Amanda Gifford, Fairfax, also served as a quiz bowl moderator.

To learn more about the Vermont 4-H horse program, contact the State 4-H office at 802-651-8343 or 800-571-0668 (toll-free in Vermont).

COMING EVENTS

Celebrating Vermont Open Farm Week, August 8-15

Do you love local food and farms? Want to get to know your farmer better — and get a behind-the-scenes look into Vermont's vibrant working agricultural landscape?

During the 2021 Vermont Open Farm Week, you can meet the farmers, plants, and animals that bring your favorite high-quality Vermont products to your plate.

The greatest part about Open Farm Week is that every farm is unique. Milk a cow and harvest a carrot at one farm, sit on a tractor and take in the smell of freshly cut hay at another, and then head over to another for a wood-fired pizza night and a garden tour. Events are happening all across the state, and it's a great time to get out and explore!

For more information, go online to <https://diginvt.com/events-in-vermont/vermont-open-farm-week-2021/?date=2021-08-08>.

Coming Events

IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL and SOCIALLY DISTANCED Wednesday, August 4

Red Cross Blood Drawing, 12:00 – 6:00 PM, Richmond Congregational Church, Richmond. Severe blood shortages are being reported both locally and nationally. Please consider this summertime drawing as one of your must-do activities. Grab a

Coming events continued on page 3

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Underhill tax bill overview

By Sherri Morin, Underhill Town Clerk

Underhill tax bills have been sent out. The Town Hall has gotten many calls regarding the increase in the amount owed by taxpayers and we would like to help you better understand what affects the Property Tax Bill.

First, you should compare last years bill to this year's, paying specific attention to the tax rates. The municipal and local rate went up only \$0.0008. The education rate for residents (Homestead) increased by \$0.1267 and the non-residential (non-Homestead) \$0.1137, over last year. It should be noted that the education rate is set by the State and determined by the voter-approved education spending and the common level of appraisal (CLA) of the Town. To better understand the calculation for the education rate, please visit <https://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/2020%20Education%20Tax%20Rate%20Letter.pdf>.

Secondly, have you filed your Homestead Declaration (HS-122)? When looking at your tax bill, information should be shown under the Homestead column if you are a resident. If not, the HS-122 was not filed or not received by the tax department. The benefit of filling out the form is a lower education rate.

Thirdly, have you received a state payment in the past? Are you eligible for the state payment? State payments are based on income eligibility and thresholds. If you've received one in the past and noticed that the current tax bill shows no amount, either the bottom portion of the HS-122 wasn't completed or your household income or the thresholds have changed.

Lastly, if you have a tax preparer, we suggest reaching out to them to discuss the situation. Out of state tax preparers and online tax services are often unaware of the HS-122 form and the filing deadline. You can also contact Taxpayers Services at the tax department to discuss. We encourage you to address the situation right away, as it could take a few weeks to correct itself.

Even if a correction needs to be made or filing was incomplete, the first installment, due Sunday, August 15, 2021, is required to be paid on time and in full. Please understand we are not able to change (HS-122) information from the tax department, but we are here to help and will provide guidance to get you through any changes that need to be made.

Link to HS-122: <https://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/HS-122-2020.pdf>.

Mount Mansfield school district tax rates increase 0.477%

By Edye Graning, School Board Chair, MMUUSD

The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) budget as approved by voters in March resulted in an increase of less than one half of one percent in our equalized homestead tax rate. However, the increase in fair market value of homes in all of our towns is "baked in" to the tax rate printed on our bills.

- \$1.4714 pre-CLA 2020-21 rate
- \$1.4784 pre-CLA 2021-22 rate
- \$0.0070 Increase

More than any change in the school tax rate, year-to-year differences in an individual taxpayer bill are highly influenced by changes in their town Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and by changes in their household income (changes from two calendar years ago to the previous calendar year). Most Vermont homeowners receive a property tax adjustment on their property tax bill. As of 2020, this applied to households with incomes below \$138,500 (be sure to file a homestead declaration, property tax credit claim, and household income schedule with your annual state income tax return, if applicable).

Education property taxes are collected statewide. To ensure that homeowners pay education taxes based on the fair market value of their homes, the VT Department of Taxes conducts an annual study of home sales and adjusts the appraised values in each town by their Common Level of Appraisal (CLA). Impact of the Common Level of Appraisal this year:

- \$1.4784 school district rate
- Town.....CLA.....Rate with CLA
- Bolton.....89.61%.....\$1.6498
- Huntington...89.88%.....\$1.6449
- Jericho.....93.09%.....\$1.5881
- Richmond.....85.65%.....\$1.7261
- Underhill.....89.37%.....\$1.6542

State of Vermont "Understanding Your Property Tax Bill": <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/property-tax-bill>
State of Vermont Equalization Study (CLA): <http://tax.vermont.gov/research-and-reports/reports/equalization-study>

Cambridge Town / Regional Plan Review — proposed RV park

By Cody Marsh, Cambridge Selectboard member

Due to the overwhelming amount of phone calls and emails received by the Cambridge Town Office, Town Administrator, and Development Review Board (DRB) Administrative Officer, I would like to take a moment to clarify some things with regards to a proposal for an RV Park along VT Rt. 108 South.

Our town's Regional Planning Board, the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC), has the responsibility to review all Act 250 permitted projects, within their region, to determine if it conforms with the Regional Plan. This is mandated by state statute under Criterion 10 within Act 250. Please see attached link for a list of the Act 250 Criteria: <https://nrb.vermont.gov/Act250-permit/criteria>. Conformance with the regional plan is only one of many criteria needed for Act 250 approval. Other criteria address issues such as traffic, aesthetics, and environmental impacts.

It is important to note that LCPC neither supports nor opposes applications or projects. The LCPC is instead tasked with commenting on conformance with the Lamoille County Regional Plan and its policies. LCPC does not issue permits and does not approve or deny a project. Projects that are found to conform with the Regional Plan must still go through the entire Act 250 process. As part of LCPC's procedure when reviewing these projects, is to reach out to the host municipality to inquire as to the Town's "perspective" regarding the project. This is to assist them with ensuring that the project does in fact meet the regional plan. Please see attached link for LCPC's full Act 250 review process for more information: [https://www.lcpcvt.org/vertical/Sites/%7B3C01460C-7F49-40F5-B243-0CA7924F23AF%7D/uploads/2016-01-26_ACT_250_and_other_permitting_for_website\(2\).pdf](https://www.lcpcvt.org/vertical/Sites/%7B3C01460C-7F49-40F5-B243-0CA7924F23AF%7D/uploads/2016-01-26_ACT_250_and_other_permitting_for_website(2).pdf).

These comments for this project were due to be received by LCPC's Plan Project Review Committee (PPR) by July 27, 2021, when they met to review these comments and whether the project met the regional plan or not. It should be noted that LCPC's meetings are all open to the public and they post their meetings, agendas, and minutes on their website: <https://www.lcpcvt.org/>.

With all of this being said, the project is still going through the Act 250 process. At this time, the permittee has not yet submitted their permit application to Act 250 for review. LCPC's regional plan review is only a small part of the process. The permittee has asked to be put on the Tuesday, August 17, 2021 Selectboard agenda in order to request the Town to review for conformance with the Cambridge Town Plan. This is the other half of Criterion 10 of the Act 250 process, conformance with Regional and Town Plans. Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting.

The Act 250 permit process is a lengthy state-run permit process that does take a lot of time, money, and resources for developers to come into conformance with. These often take several weeks or even months for a complete and thorough review.

Please refrain from reaching out to the Cambridge DRB with regards to this project. Since it is not a subdivision or new development, this project does not fall under their review. All Act 250 project information is available on the State of VT Natural Resource Board's (NRB) website: <https://nrb.vermont.gov/Act250-program>. Folks interested in becoming interested parties on any Act 250 permit applications, in our region, can contact the District 5 office at 802-476-0185 for more information.

I thank everyone for their patience and understanding.

CHITTENDEN MILLS BEVERAGE

5 ¢ OFF

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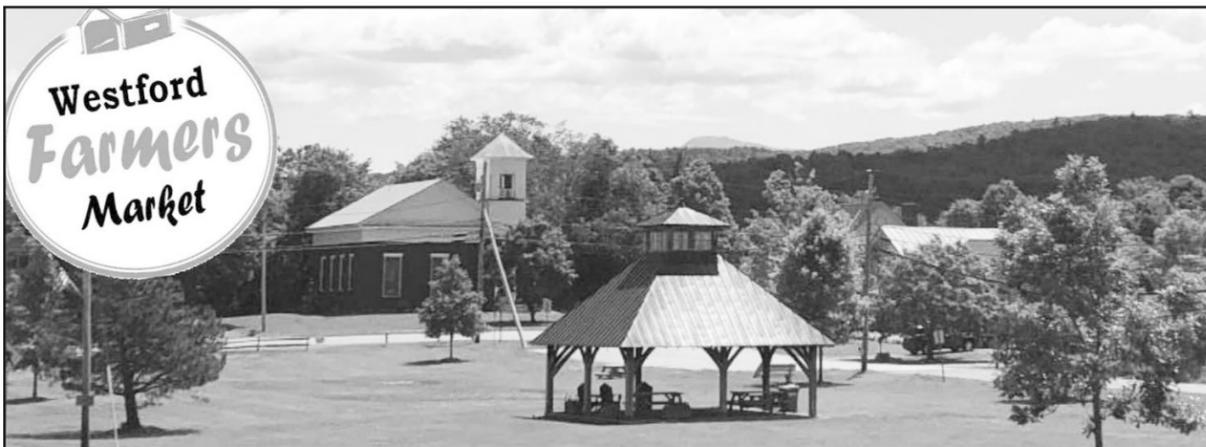
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Join the Relay for Life of Chittenden County on Saturday, August 14, 4:00 – 10:00 PM, Technology Park, S. Burlington. The Relay for Life movement is dedicated to helping communities attack cancer. Through funds donated, time given, or awareness raised, our communities are teaming up, virtually or in person, to make a difference. For more information: https://secure.acevents.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=relay_learn. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



The Town of Westford will be hosting a Summer Farmers' Market from 4:30 – 7:30 PM, Sunday, August 15. The market will take place before the Sunday Concert Series on the Town Common. If you are interested in participating as a vendor, please use link given below to complete the application. Once submitted, a coordinator will be in contact with you directly with more information: <https://forms.gle/ssuv1V2LHo75fbNA7>. Alternately, please reach out to Peter Jenkins directly to receive a vendor application: peter.jenkins341@gmail.com or 802-735-4551. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Douglas Robert Boardman, Jr.

By Douglas Boardman, Special to the Mountain Gazette

Doug Jr. was born in 1956 on the island in of Malta where I was stationed in the U.S. Navy. Since Malta was a British colony, in addition to being an American, Doug could choose to be a dual citizen of either Great Britain or Malta. We thought he would like being called "junior," but it made him feel small and young. He always wanted to be bigger and older, growing a beard to look even older. As a Boy Scout he earned lots of badges, and also played music and soccer. He was always a deep thinker and loved books. There was a huge tree across from our house where he used to sit and read. His high school English teacher was a big influence on his future.

Most children have no idea what they are going to do after high school. We decided to give our kids an opportunity to go to college and we recommended they all start college as it usually pays off in the long run. He went to Johnson State College for two years, then decided to travel. He continued writing stories and poems and worked in Sioux Falls, SD as an assistant editor for a newspaper.

In all of his writings, he spelled his name with an extra "s," Douglass R. Boardman, so he wouldn't have to write "Jr." It hurt my feelings getting rid of the Jr., but I found out that my credit record contained his school loan. It was strictly his, but they try to get their money back any way they can. He also worked as a night clerk at a hotel in Montana, a vegetable farmer in Maryland, and as a teacher to inner city kids at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

After returning to Vermont, he finished his degree and started teaching at Laraway School for troubled kids. He continued his own education by studying at Oxford University and receiving his master's degree from Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School of English. He eventually started teaching at Lamoille Union High School where he was a popular teacher, as evidenced by his being asked to speak at three-plus commencements.

Meanwhile, Doug Jr. has served on various boards including the United Way. He is an award-winning journalist, teacher, and musician. He currently is the academics coordinator for the Green Mountain Technology Center in Hyde Park, VT. He recently won a very coveted award, the Vermont Writer's Prize for 2021. The award-winning article is titled *The Barn* and is in this summer's issue of *Vermont Magazine* (p. 21).

I am extremely proud of my son for all he has accomplished, especially his recent writer's award, and the fact that he used his

real first name (Douglas) in the article! I recommend the article, not because it is loosely based on my relatives, but it is a great, interesting story about "real" down-to-earth Vermonters that we can all learn from.

I will say that you should think twice about naming your child after you. Think about when he or she grows older, and I would advise having a different middle name and initial! My son is an award-winning writer and teacher. I am a master plumber writing a column for the *Mountain Gazette*!

Legacy

By Ethan Tapper

Forests are communities, a rich mixture of organisms engaged in relationships and interactions with each other, built around the living architecture of trees. These communities parallel healthy human communities in many ways, not because they are simple and uniform but because they are messy, dynamic, diverse, and interconnected, engaged in a complex process of renewal and change that will never be completed.

Being responsible stewards of our forests forces us to take the long view, as the life span of a single generation of trees may exceed ours by centuries. Responsible forest stewardship is about building a better world for countless future generations of people and for the thousands of species that make up our forests, the millions of organisms present in a handful of forest soils. The imprint that we leave on our forests, as in our human communities, is our legacy.

The forests of Vermont are infused with the legacies of the past. Nearly all of them were cleared in the 1800s, some maintained as agricultural land for a century or more. While about 75% of Vermont is now forested, most of our forests are still in recovery, dramatically shaped by this clearing. Today, Vermont's forests are generally much younger, less diverse, and less complex than the forests that covered our state just a few centuries ago.

Like human communities, forests are multi-generational. While many of Vermont's forests are currently dominated by a single generation of trees (which took root in abandoned fields), this is a temporary condition. Over decades or centuries, the uniformity of these simple forests will break down, tree mortality — death — allowing new generations of trees to establish and grow among the old.

Also like our communities, forests leave legacies for future generations. The remnants of trees and forests of the past

Community columns continued on page 5

Green Mountain Resolutions
www.greenmtresolutions.com

The Mountain

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2:00 PM - 8:00 PM

899-3718

**Route 15,
Jeri-Hill Plaza,
Jericho**

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friend or adult child who may be a first time donor to join you. Call to check for openings in the schedule — an appointment is required. Eligible donors can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to <http://redcrossblood.org> for more information and to make a blood donation appointment. For help in obtaining an appointment, please feel free to contact Dave Thomas, dthomas@gmavt.net.

Saturday, August 7

Underhill Big Tree Contest and Forest Walk, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Crane Brook Trailhead, New Road, Underhill. Join us on this forest walk and tree measuring training at Crane Brook and then enter this town-wide contest to find the big trees of Underhill. We'll go over how to measure and record circumference, species, location, etc. Winners will be announced at Town Meeting Day and will be placed on our ongoing roster of big trees. Instructions and the submission form will be posted on FPF for you to download. Sponsored by: Underhill Conservation Commission and the Underhill Natural Resource Inventory and Mapping Committee.

Tuesday, August 10

Medicinal Weed Walk, 4:00 – 5:30 PM, Misty Meadows Trails, Westford. Join Westford herbalist Amber Kennedy of Boheme Botanika for the first in a series of Medicinal Weed Walks. The trails are home to a wide range of ecosystems and interesting plants to discover. Explore the fields, woods, and maybe some aquatic plants by the brook. Discover how to identify plants, notice what ecosystems they grow in, and learn their Latin and folk names, some botanical terminology and ID tips and tricks. Discuss how herbalists harvest, prepare, and use them for remedies and some interesting folklore and historical uses of some herbs too. For more details and to register, www.bohemebotanika.com.

Champlain Valley Hops Farm Tour, 5:30 PM, 5459 VT Rt. 116, Starksboro. Free! Join us for a unique opportunity to see, smell, and learn all about hops! Walking through the yard is like entering a different world, surrounded by walls of living plants. Whether you are an amateur hop enthusiast, home-brewer, beer lover, agriculturist, or just curious, come enjoy this guided tour of the largest hop farm in New England. Hops grow vertically up strings to the top of a massive 18' trellis. For more information contact Kim, kritchards@nbmvt.com or 802-388-1632.

Wednesday, August 11

Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:00 – 6:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction. The Red Cross is still experiencing a severe shortage of blood, so please consider donating. You can schedule an appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>. Sponsored by the Jericho-Underhill Lions Club.

Saturday, August 14

Relay for Life of Chittenden County, 4:00 – 10:00 PM, Technology Park, 55 Community Dr., S. Burlington. The Relay for Life movement is dedicated to helping communities attack cancer. Through funds donated, time given, or awareness raised, our communities are teaming up, virtually or in person, to make a difference. For more information, go online to https://secure.acevents.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=relay_learn.

Mount Mansfield Villages (MMV) shredding event, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Jeffersonville (Cambridge) at the "Silos" located at VT Rt. 15 at the roundabout (next to the Union Bank). Our members, volunteers, sponsors, and local community may bring personal papers by bag or box. A SecurShred employee will put your papers in the secure truck to be shredded. You can even watch them shred! Visit www.secureshred.com for more information. MMV members may request a service to have their papers picked up by a volunteer to bring to the shredding site or to request a ride to the site to bring your papers in person. For more information about Mount Mansfield Villages and how we can help older Vermonters, go online to www.mountmansfieldvillages.org. Sponsored by donations from our donors and Union Bank. Onsite parking is available.

Sunday, August 15

Chicken BBQ, 11:45 AM, St. Mary's Church, Cambridge. Dinner includes half chicken, coleslaw, and potato salad. \$15 per person; dine in or take to go. For more information: 644-5073.

Thursday, August 19

Homemade baked Bean supper to go, 5:00 PM, Binghamville United Methodist Church, Fletcher. Homemade baked beans, hot dogs, barbeque meatloaf, potato salad, coleslaw, roll, and pie. Adults, \$12; children under 12, \$5. Families welcome! For reservations, call Tara Swet, 802-355-0768, or Dennis Getty, 802-849-2120.

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Big trucks garner big boy smiles



Up close and personal with a big rig on Jericho's Big Truck Day. The BIG event on Saturday, July 17 at the Jericho Town Library was by all measure a BIG success. Folks of all heights and ages were able to get a first-hand look at some of the biggest, loudest trucks that the Underhill Jericho Fire Department, the Jericho Highway Department, and Essex Rescue have to offer. Sirens and flashing lights included. The smallest folks were the most eager and brave, climbing dizzying heights in some of the BIGGEST trucks you ever did see. View photos and read the rest of the story at <https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2021/07/jericho-big-trucks.html>

PHOTO BY BERNIE PAQUETTE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appreciating Wells Corner Market

To the Editor,
 Three cheers to Cedric Wells and family for operating the steady, honest, local Wells Corner Market. A store such as this one helps make a community strong.
 Sending many thanks to Cedric and family for keeping us well provisioned and up to date on all local "activity."
John Connell, Underhill

Jericho zones against rental housing

To the Editor,
 On Jericho zoning:
 We all see people on Front Porch Forum struggling to find housing. They sound like great neighbors. But Jericho's zoning laws are designed to keep them out.
 You can build a 10 bedroom house with a 5 car garage in any zoning district in Jericho. Show the proper soils and road frontage, etc. and you can skip the Development Review Board and get a permit at Town Hall.
 But it's illegal to build a house with three small apartments in most of Jericho. You can't divide an old farmhouse into three apartments, either. In most of Jericho you need special permission from the Development Review Board to build a duplex. If you live in a large house and want to section off a couple apartments the Town will probably stop you.
 I once came face to face with Jericho's opposition to rental housing. My mother sold her farm to live with us in Jericho Center. The Town said it was illegal to add a third living unit onto

my Jericho Center house and accessory apartment. I could easily get a permit to add a 10,000 sq/ft addition to my own living quarters but not a 1000 sq/ft apartment for my mother.

To build a place for my mother the Town had me create a "Planned Unit Development" and build an entirely new house 20 feet away. Same seven-acre lot, same water, same septic, same curb cut, and same owner. It just had to be a new house and 20 feet away and about \$200,000 more expensive. Jericho got another single family home and one less affordable apartment.

Attached mother-in-law (accessory) apartments are good housing for lots of people but Jericho restricts them to the greatest extent allowed by Vermont law. For a typical house of 2000-2500 sq/ft an added mother-in-law apartment can be no larger than 750 sq/ft. Jericho also penalizes homeowners for adding an apartment. It is illegal to rent your house and your mother-in-law apartment at the same time. So, for example, if you take an assignment out of state you must sell your house or leave both units empty and take the financial hit.

Some Jericho zoning laws are cruel. It's illegal to offer licensed residential care in most of Jericho (also depriving care givers of a home occupation). If you are a disabled person receiving licensed care you must live at least 1000 feet from someone else getting similar care. In most of Jericho it's illegal to provide room and board for more than a week.

Jericho zones people by wealth, physical ability, family size and "character." The cumulative effect of these laws is a moat around Jericho — especially for young people. My three adult children could never get a toehold here. Apartments at any price are simply not available.

Town Plan revisions always include paragraphs on affordable housing. Last year the Town formed an Affordable Housing

Letters continued on page 6

HEALTH NEWS

WIC offers more fruits and vegetables this summer

Vermont Dept. Of Health

WIC (Women, Infants and Children) has expanded the fruit and vegetable benefit through September 2021 to include \$35 per month per participant.

WIC offers nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to other community resources. If you are pregnant or a family with a child under 5, you may be eligible for WIC and the increased fruit and vegetable benefit this summer! If you have Medicaid/Dr. Dynasaur, or 3SquaresVT, you are automatically income-eligible for WIC. All WIC appointments are currently done by phone during the pandemic.

To find out more about WIC, to apply, or to refer someone you know who may be eligible, visit our website at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/wic>.

You can start your application online at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/applytowic>, text VTWIC to 855-11, or call us at 1-800-649-4357.

Weekly Qi Gong classes in Westford

If you are interested in learning about or beginning a practice of Qi Gong, entry level classes are being offered weekly on Saturdays, 9:00 – 10:00 AM in Westford. No prior experience is necessary.

Qi Gong involves guided slow rhythmic body movements coordinated with the breath. It is widely practiced throughout China for its benefits to health and longevity. Regular practice recharges, rebalances and rejuvenates.

More information is available at <http://www.qigongvt.weebly.com> or qigongvt@gmail.com.

Cambridge Rescue Squad subscription service

Cambridge Rescue has recently enacted a subscription service for the residents of Jeffersonville/Cambridge. The intent is to provide a cost-effective alternative to traditional billing. You can subscribe for \$50 a year, and if anyone in your household is transported by Cambridge Rescue, you won't pay a dime. We'll bill your insurance, but any costs you're responsible for, such as a deductible, are covered with your subscription.

Further information, and access to our subscription plan, can be found on our website www.cambridgerescue.com.

Rocking Horse support group for women

Are you a pregnant or parenting woman struggling with substance use? Rocking Horse is a free program for women to support you in overcoming the challenges of substance use and raising a family. Child care and meals provided during program sessions.

For more information, go online to <https://www.healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drugs/services/rocking-horse>.

Medical Debt Project story collection survey

By Lucy Rogers, State Representative, Lamoille-3

The Office of Health Care Advocate (HCA), a project of Vermont Legal Aid, assists thousands of Vermonters each year with questions and problems related to health insurance and

access to care. Through this work, they have identified medical debt as a major challenge facing many Vermonters. They have launched a story collection project to deepen their understanding of medical debt and how it impacts Vermont families' health care decisions, and to help them advocate for Vermonters facing medical debt.

You can complete their 10-minute online survey to share how the cost of health care impacts your life. Participants will be entered into a raffle for \$25 VISA gift cards to thank them for their time. If you prefer to verbally share your story or if you would like a printed copy of the survey, please call 802-448-6943.

Medical Debt Survey: <https://www.vtlegalaid.org/hca-survey>. Thank you!

Drought conditions can impact health

Vermont Department of Health

Although recent rains have helped, most of Vermont continues to experience abnormally dry or moderate drought conditions. Like many changes in our climate, dry or drought conditions are expected to happen more often — and they can harm your health. But you can take steps to reduce these risks:

- If you have a well, you can manage your water supply and make sure it's safe to drink.
- Know how to stay safe in hot weather, which can increase heat illnesses and make drought conditions worse.
- Check air quality conditions near you. Dry conditions can result in increased air pollution and risk of wildfires.
- Learn what cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) looks like so you can avoid it in the water. When water levels are low, water bodies can become more easily contaminated and blooms may occur more frequently.

Find out more about drought-related health impacts and other climate and health resources at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/climate/drought>.

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Community columns continued from page 3

are what foresters and ecologists call “biological legacies.” Biological legacies may be as obvious as massive “wolf trees” or as subtle as rich soil, built on the organic material from trees long since gone by. Over time these legacies make forests richer, more diverse and more resilient, broadening the range of habitat niches available for a wide variety of organisms and buffering them against forest health threats.

To some, biological legacies may seem like a waste; our intuition tells us to value simplicity, regularity, and productivity over complexity and diversity. For example, large, old trees are sometimes called “decadent” and killed to make space for younger, more valuable “thrifty” trees. Like the elders in our human communities, while old trees may not be the fastest, most efficient, or most productive ones in the forest, they enrich our world in countless ways. Among other benefits, old trees provide unique habitat for wildlife, invertebrates (bugs), mosses and lichens, fungi and other microorganisms that don’t associate with younger trees. They are hubs in complex underground “mycorrhizal” networks in which fungi link trees together, allowing them to communicate and share resources. These connections make forests more resilient and healthier in the long term.

How do we bring these lessons about legacy into the management of our forests? We need to recognize the importance of creating and maintaining biological legacies, leaving some big trees and lots of dead wood in the woods, modeling our management on the way that forests naturally grow and develop and striving to create forests which are complex and multi-generational. We need to re-train ourselves to value diversity and complexity over simplicity and productivity.

How do we leave a better legacy for the future? In our forests, as in our human communities, we don’t get to choose the legacies we inherit; the only choice we truly have is what we’re going to do about it. When I bought my land in Bolton, I took on the legacy of centuries of mismanagement, an unhealthy forest infested with non-native invasive plants and affected by a local over-population of deer. I inherited a changing climate, an increasingly fragmented landscape, and the persistent effects of non-native invasive pests and pathogens like the emerald ash borer, Dutch elm disease, beech bark disease, and more. I can complain about how these problems aren’t my fault, or I can take responsibility for the world we have and work hard to leave a better legacy for future generations.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov or by phone at 802-585-9099. Sign up for his email list or see what he’s been up to at <https://linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester>.

Let sleeping dogs lie

By Sue Kusserow, *Special to the Mountain Gazette*

What the proverb means: if something isn’t bothering anyone, let it alone. What I mean: if our dogs, Luna (11) and Lucy (6), are sleeping on my bed, let them, literally, lie. Sooner or later I will arrive and push them to one side, so I can get a toe under the comforter.

Luna, the old one, has lost traction and strength in her hind legs. So unless I am there to push her up over the edge of the bed, she gives up and wanders over to an old lounge chair and cuddles into the retired blanket that cushions the hills and valleys of an ancient seat cushion. Lucy, being better able to jump, claims the bed until I finish my reading. Once she is settled, I have to wait until the next wiggly stretches of repositioning that then allows me the chance to sneak closer to the center of the bed. Usually, she eventually decides the comforter on the floor is a better place to be. And so do I.

But before their settling in, we have a Group Sing. If I start a monotone of a few throat clearings, Luna joins in with a bass note or two. Lucy has a higher pitch, but fulfills the percussive beat, snuffling as she tries to rearrange the comforter into a nesting circle.

You may ask why I allow dogs on my bed? And how do I tolerate their chorus of grunts, wiggles, and snorts? Some of you may already know the answer; others perhaps learned it only recently during the pandemic. In a nutshell: It is lonely all by oneself. If I can have the company of an old dog or two who follows me to bed, I feel less alone. The small sounds of their breathing let me know there is another being sharing this space.

Luna doesn’t pay attention to what she doesn’t know. She stays with *The Now*. Morning is a dream or two away. Now it is time to settle for the night, and thus to know instant contentment. I do not think a dog’s mind worries about death. Perhaps because their brain doesn’t last very long. A dog’s lifespan is shorter than some other pets. A Labrador has 10 to 12 years before the hind legs begin to play out, and stair climbing to my upstairs apartment becomes first difficult, then impossible. I make a bed for Luna in the mud room, sit with her for a bit and she collapses as close to me as she can get. And in my mind I remember Lily, the last dog who had to leave me.

On that day we gathered on the porch, the vet and I, with Lily resting her head on my lap, her eyes deep and trusting. As we sit, I try to keep in mind that I am helping her avoid pain and paralysis. The vet holds her paw and pushes a few drops of Nembutal into her vein. Her eyelids droop and her legs go limp. I continue to talk to her as the fluid goes in, and run my hands over her back. “She can’t hear you anymore,” says the vet. But I know differently. I feel we are still talking, that she will jump up on my bed tonight, that I will reach out and pat her... every night as long as I am living. I remember Lily and all her friends whom we loved in past lives: Willy, Fred, Winston, Little Bone, Perky, Missy... and in my mind I cuddle them all in the flannel comforter where she now rests. And as each old friend looks back, they see the next one, snoring contentedly on my bed, singing an inimitable song of life.

Dear Lily, do you remember when we were walking in the woods and there was a delicious smell on a new trail which forked out towards the mountain? You wanted to follow it, but somehow you knew you were too weak, too old, and so you stayed with me. But now, old friend, you can smell it again, and this time your old legs will turn young and off you go! And oh! Do you remember the time you wanted to swim in the rapids of Mill Creek, but wisely settled next to me, and we sat together and watched the foam castles bubbling over the rocks? Now you can go! And we can go together, laughing and paddling our way on this never-ending river. You and I and all the others, on another adventure, again.

Giving birth in the backyard

By Bernie Paquette

I think I mentioned that this summer I am taking my summer vacation in our backyard. And that I have walked 100 plus miles in our 1.3-acre plot observing insects, which continue to astound me.

I have seen sex, death, acrobatics, and many colors and shapes in the insects I have observed. Today there was a plethora of insects out doing their thing, including some stacked three high procreating and eating at the same time. Don’t know what the third one on the stack was doing.

However, I think the photo I took a few days back is the first birthing I have observed. See it at <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/87908882>.

Observe nature in your backyard — LIFE is going on, you just need to look carefully to see it.

Expanded public education is the best childcare

By Bill Schubart

It’s time to reimagine and redesign Vermont’s public education system. Patching up a system that’s failing us in equity, access, and quality, we’re running out of financial caulk as the cracks widen up and down the system from pre-K through our state colleges.

The new Biden budget proposes \$309B in new “Cradle-to-Career” public education funding for two years of free community college and free pre-K programs, but will this create better outcomes or simply mask critical problems rather than solve them? Money is not always the solution.

The Vermont State College System has just gotten life-support of some \$16M dollars, easing pressure to address its inherent flaws.

According to a recent legislative plan, yet to be approved, the bankrupt Vermont pension system will extract \$300M in concessions from current school employees and offer a \$150M one-time contribution by the State. But these two initiatives only stave off a situation worsening at the rate of some \$36-60M a year.

In K-12, the cost of special ed has outstripped the cost of education itself. Our schools and families are overwhelmed by a tsunami of psychological and behavioral disorders not addressed by an increasingly absent mental health community. Another pressure is the declining conviction within the home that a functioning democracy depends on a vibrant public education system.

At \$19,340 per student, we spend more per pupil on public education than all but four other states. Nationally, we’re seen as having a good educational system but when compared to other countries, the U.S. Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) ratings for the U.S. in math, science, and literacy place us 38th among 71 participating countries.

Are our investments paying off, or is it time to reimagine public education?

Our public school student population has shrunk by 21,000 since 1997, forcing school closings and consolidations. This demographic decline is expected to continue until 2030 and sets up a *Sophie’s choice* of whether to lower costs by closing local schools when that means destroying what is a vital community hub in many Vermont small towns.

We’re expending massive amounts of energy and money while not addressing the real problems in our public education system, which brings us face to face with an age-old question: Isn’t it cheaper to reimagine and then rebuild a more cost-efficient and effective system that addresses the real factors at play in education today — declining demographics, skyrocketing costs and tuitions, and technological, cultural, and economic changes?

By way of example, the current system was built on the agrarian calendar — nine months in school and then three months off to help on the farm. A further complication — most schools suffer from deferred maintenance of ageing infrastructure. The school in which I first taught French, Mount Abraham Union High School in Bristol, had just opened its doors in 1968, and today is being considered for demolition. It never envisaged digital libraries, remote learning, life-long learning, two parents in the workplace, or the additional burden placed on schools to accommodate behavioral, mental, and developmental issues.

The essence of shortsightedness is to be closing community schools while building a new “childcare” infrastructure — a duplicative and more expensive way to respond to a clear need for childcare from birth on. Experiments are underway that integrate childcare into the public education system. Why not build on this and reimagine public education as a life-long learning institution, supporting learners from six months into old age, both under the Department of Education where they belong.

Imagine if public education began at six months, after a paid family bonding leave to allow for the critical bonding of a newborn with its parents. Public education would not become mandatory until age three or four, but would be available from six months on to working parents as “public education.”

Professional early educators with specialized pediatric knowledge and family-support services would be available to assist in identifying early adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and, if needed, call in trauma-informed counselors to work with children and families to address and remediate problems that, if undetected and unaddressed, accelerate into special ed, criminal justice involvement, and often corrections in later life. The hungry child living in the back seat of their mother’s car does not come to school with learning as his or her top priority.

Vermont’s special education population currently has the largest share of students with emotional disturbance of any state in the nation — and nearly three times the averages seen in neighboring states. In 2016, on average, Vermont’s supervisory unions and school districts spent an extra \$21,840 per special-education student. That’s almost twice as much as the amount spent per special ed student in other states.

It’s also time to abandon our current educational architecture — pre-school/nursery, kindergarten, grade school, middle school, junior high, high school, and college — and see education as an agile continuum that focuses on the individual learner. These old and arbitrary divisions (and their silly graduations) defy everything we know about childhood development and distract us from the individual learner’s needs and abilities, which

develop at different ages.

Assessment of a student’s acquisition of “transferable skills” — i.e., defined proficiencies and performance indicators — is a much better advancement measurement for them and for society. Some learners are ready for college at 15, others at 35, and others attend college while completing their final year in high school. Still others take time out to travel, do internships, or work, and return to college when they’re ready.

I’ve written in the past about the need to also imagine a realistic 21st century curriculum. Critical to this will be the teaching of civics and community service, sadly missing for too many young people: citizens’ rights and responsibilities; an overview of political systems covering community, state, and federal government; embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion; understanding the criminal justice system; learning the essential role of education in civic participation; and the civic obligation to participate (vote and serve) and contribute.

And, in a nation obsessed with the abortion question, age-appropriate sex education is critical: family planning, reproductive physiology, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), puberty, LGBTQIA equity, privacy, and pornography.

We’re at an inflection point in public education. If we don’t join together to reimagine it as a cost-efficient institution that fulfills our constitutional obligation to provide a free and effective education to our citizens — one that embraces change — we’re flunking this test.

Students don’t need nine months in conventional classrooms. We can better apportion their time by integrating online education, learning teams, and time in the resource-rich “field laboratories” that our communities provide — natural spaces, museums, concert halls and theaters, businesses, and social-mission organizations. And any new system will have to accommodate and balance work, family, equity, and learning at all ages.

If the goal is to better serve our life-long learners, families, and communities while enriching our cultural, civic, economic and social well-being, and being better stewards of our tax dollars, it’s time to reimagine public education. And... there may be no stronger economic development strategy for Vermont than a state-of-the-art public education system.

Vermont’s river names

By Joe Nelson

Shoreham is known for its apple orchards, not for its lemons, and yet the Lemon Fair River flows right through the town from Johnson Pond in Orwell, through Shoreham, and to Otter Creek in Weybridge, but lemons can’t be found for the whole length of the stream.

Lemon Fair is a curious name for a river, among many other of Vermont’s curiously named rivers: the Lamoille, the White, the Black, the Browns, the Green, the Onion, the Dog, the Williams, the Gihon, the Walloomsac, and Joe’s Brook. How did these streams get their names?

I found that the Vermont Historical Society’s library is a good source for historic trivia. It’s there that I read about a surveyor who digs into local history in his land research. He found a possible origin of the name Lemon Fair, that Lemon Fair may be a corruption of the words “A Lamentable Affair,” a community named in commemoration of an Indian attack during the early settlement years. I wasn’t convinced, so I read on.

Maybe the actual source of the name is from the French, the first Europeans in the area. Lemon Fair is likely an English corruption of a French phrase describing a sometimes murky stream — the river flows over beds of limestone and through soils containing concentrations of hydrate of magnesium sulfate, or Epsom salts. There are enough salts in the area to flavor some of the nearby wells, and to keep the residents reasonably regular. Please don’t ask me for the corrupted French phrase.

Epsom Salts! This one I like, but I dug further into The Vermont Historical Society’s newsletter *News and Notes*. There I found an item about an 1800 census listing an Ezekiel Lemon, and a book listing William Lemmon with the names of Revolutionary War soldiers that resided in the area. “One can conclude,” the item reads, “that the Lemons used the river or trails along its banks in their comings and goings, hence the place name Lemon Fare, the trail, path or way by old usage, probably from the Old English to fare forth, or to travel.” Today, the trail would have been called Lemon Road, and I would have been curious about that!

And then there is the Walloomsac River. Did the Algonquian tribes give the name to Bennington’s river? Not according to two stories I found in the library of the Vermont Historical Society.

“At first the name of the stream was spelled Walloomsac,” wrote Alexander B. R. Drysdale in his *Bennington’s Book* (1927). It was so called, Drysdale wrote, in honor of an eccentric Dutchman named Van Vetchen Van Der Spiegel who lived on the banks of the river below Bennington. The Dutchman raised rabbits known as Walloon hares. He used to sell them door-to-door to the settlers, carrying them about in a sack. Supposedly, he became known as Walloon-sack Van Der Spiegel, and the stream he lived near was called Walloomsack’s River.

The other name-source comes from John and Caroline Merrill in their *Sketches of Historic Bennington* (1898). According to the Merrills, *Walloomsac* comes from the Dutch word *Wallumschaik*, *chaik* meaning “scrip, or patent.” The name Walloomsac then comes from “Wallum’s Patent,” the name of a grant issued by New York on June 15, 1739, about ten years before the charter under New Hampshire.

The second explanation seems reasonable, but the first is more entertaining. It’s appealing to think that an eccentric old Dutchman peddling his hares in a sack could leave his mark on a river.

Joe’s Brook flows from Joe’s Pond. Joe’s Pond was named for Captain Joe, a Nova Scotia Indian — the nearby Molly’s Pond was named for his wife. Captain Joe used to hunt and fish around the pond, and at one time he had a camp there. He was a big help to the settlers with their relations with the local Indian tribes.

During the Revolutionary War, Captain Joe fought against the English, hating them for having dispersed his people in Nova Scotia. He and Molly had the distinction of having dined at the table of George Washington. After the war, they settled in Danville on a pension granted by the State of Vermont. All of this I got from Hemenway, Abby Maria. The Vermont Historical Gazetteer - Vol. IV. Pub. by Miss A.M. Hemenway, Burlington, VT, 1877.

Today, Joe’s Pond serves as the area harbinger of spring. Each

Community columns continued on page 6

LIBRARY NEWS



Westford Trails
Passport Program
2021



The Westford Public Library, in partnership with the Westford Conservation Commission brings you a new, fun and exciting way to enjoy our town trails this summer and fall. And a bonus — there are prizes! It's easy — just pick up your Passport at the Library, Town Office, or Country Market. Hike any of the 14 featured trails, collecting stamps as you go. With eight or more stamps, you can redeem your Passport at the library and receive a Westford-themed canvas bag as your prize! You can also keep your Passport as a souvenir of your adventures on the Westford Trails. There is also a monthly raffle for a gift card prize! Depending on the month when you redeem your Passport, you will also be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift card to a local business. The more stamps you collect, the more chances you will earn in the raffle drawings. (See Passport for additional details.) Redeem by Tuesday, September 7 for chances to win a \$50 gift card to Steeple Market; redeem by Saturday, October 2 for chances to win a \$50 gift card to Sweet Clover Market. Lots of folks have already started the challenge; some have already redeemed their Passports with all 14 stamps! But it's not too late to join in. You can start anytime all summer and into the fall. Open to everyone, kids and adults, the whole family is welcome to participate. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The library is open for browsing with new hours, no appointment needed! Masks are required for everyone over the age of two because we have so many children using the library right now. Computer users do need to call for an appointment (899-4962). Everyone is asked to limit in the library time to 30 minutes. The new hours are: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. We still have curbside pick up available! Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 AM – 7:30 PM, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:00 AM – 5:30 PM, Saturdays 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM. When you visit be sure to stop by the lovely gardens both in front and around the back!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Supporting families, reducing childhood poverty

By Kesha Ram • State Senator, Chittenden District

Beginning July 15, the federal Child Tax Credit expansion will provide eligible families with monthly payments of \$250-300 per child. This plan is a part of President Biden's American Families Plan that has started to aid nearly 66 million children with the aim of cutting childhood poverty in half in the country. These credits are extended until 2025.

To qualify you must be a parent, guardian, or caregiver to children under 18 who are dependent upon you. They must have social security numbers. Your tax credit amount will depend on household income. For more information, visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/child-tax-credit/> today.

If you filed 2019 or 2020 tax returns, or signed up to receive a stimulus check from the IRS, you should automatically begin receiving these payments. If you have not filed or do not file taxes, you may still qualify for monthly payments using the IRS non-filer tool, which can be found at <http://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-non-filer-sign-up-tool> or via 844-545-5640 in the Burlington area.

If you are having any trouble accessing your credits or need additional help, you can call the Vermont Taxpayer Advocate at 802-859-1052. As always, you can also reach out to me at kram@leg.state.vt.us with any thoughts or questions.

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year a cement block is set on the ice and the spring season can't begin until the ice melts enough to let the block sink. Each year a Joe's Pond spring pool is set up and participants purchase blocks of time. Happy is the winner when the block sinks at the hoped-for day, hour, and minute.

The Gihon River is named for one of the four rivers serving the Bible's Garden of Eden. Here in Johnson, VT, at the confluence of the Lamoille and Gihon rivers, the village became a thriving mill town. Land for what was to become Johnson was first granted to a man named Brown. He had planned to name the town Brownsville, but he and his family were captured by Indians in 1780 and taken to Canada. When the charter fees weren't paid, the grant went to Samuel William Johnson in 1782. When the town was chartered 10 years later, Johnson's name was chosen, and the village grew.

The Johnson millworks have been in continuous operation since 1816. They are known for their hunting clothing, particularly the familiar red and black plaid woolen outfits that keep the wearer warm even when soaking wet.

The original deed for the mill provided water privileges from the mill dam sufficient to run a fulling mill, to nap and shear, and to dress cloth. Boosters advertised the mill as "Built on the Gihon that runneth westward from Eden," and, because the enterprise also owned a gristmill, they crowed that they "fed the hungry at one end of the dam, and clothed the naked at the other!"

The Williams River was named in honor of the Reverend John Williams, who preached the first sermon in Rockingham. After the French and Indians raided Deerfield, MA in February 1704, they took their captives on a 300-mile trek to Canada, and they camped overnight at a place where a tributary flowed into the Connecticut River. The Reverend Williams was permitted to hold services for his fellow captives on Sunday, March 5. The sermon was based on Lamentations 1:18 — "The Lord is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment: Hear, I pray you, all people, and behold my sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity."

Here is a link to the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library / Jericho Town Library video about our 2021 Summer Reading Program: *Tails and Tales*: <https://youtu.be/oXf7TUxyvE>.

Curbside hours: You may place items on hold at <https://drml.bywatersolutions.com>. You will receive an email or a phone call when your item is ready. Just let us know what day you would like to pick it up by calling 899-4962 or emailing rawsonlibrary@drml.org. Items may be returned in the book drop any time. Items are quarantined up to a week before they are checked in. Our WiFi remains 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.

To register for programs, call 802-899-4962, or email Erik (program_assistant@drml.org) for Adult Programs or Abbey (youth_librarian@drml.org) for Youth Programs.

Adult Programs

Deborah Rawson Book Lovers — always the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. DRBL is a monthly adult book discussion group. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting. For more information on how to join in, contact Christine@cstaffa.com.

Youth Programs

Summer Reading Program Information: Visit our Summer Reading Program webpage to find out about all the cool stuff we have going on this summer: <https://www.drml.org/srp2021>.

Thursday, August 5, 3:00 PM: Bird and Block Drawing Program with Birds of VT Museum. Learn how to draw some of our feathered friends. Art supplies will be provided, but you're welcome to bring your own. We'll meet on the back lawn of DRML, or if it is rainy we'll meet in the library's program room. Contact 899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org to sign up. Ages 8+

Outdoor Story Time — Tuesdays, 10:30 AM. Join Ms. Abbey on the back lawn of the library Tuesday mornings for stories and songs! This program is weather dependent. If it is a rainy morning we will not meet. If you are not sure if storytime is happening, check our Facebook page or call 802-899-4962. For the safety of all who attend, everyone must maintain six feet of social distance, and everyone over the age of two must wear a mask. Please bring a blanket or a towel for your family to sit on. Contact 802-899-4962 or youth_librarian@drml.org for more information.

Story Walk — Starting at the end of the sidewalk on the right side of the building and wrapping around the edge of the field. Look for a new story almost every month, or reread great stories on each visit.

Curbside Crafts — Pick up a *Tails and Tales* themed craft kit each Wednesday from the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library or the Jericho Town Library. Supplies are limited, so first come first served!

Summer Reading Bingo — Pick up a new BINGO sheet each month!

Visit DRML and JTL at the Jericho Farmers' Market — Thursdays 3:00 – 6:00 PM.

Summer Reading Challenge: Readers of all ages across Vermont are invited to participate in the 2021 Vermont Summer Reading Challenge, available through August 31 at vermont.beanstack.org! Read or listen to any book and track minutes using the Beanstack web or mobile app. You can help young children participate by tracking minutes when reading to or with them. Log minutes and complete activities to earn digital badges. Collect 10 badges to complete the challenge!

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

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

Jericho Town Library is fully open, no appointment needed. 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM Tuesday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Wednesday to Friday, and 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Saturday; note the special evening hours on Tuesdays! Masks required indoors for unvaccinated folks (including children 2-12); optional otherwise.

Since we are now fully reopened, we are suspending our curbside service. We're happy we were able to keep getting books into your hands throughout the past year, but now that we are essentially back to normal operations we are excited to see everyone in-person again!

Thanks so much for your patience and cooperation these past few months as we've been working to reopen safely and responsibly. We can't wait to see you!

Here is a link to the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library /

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Committee. I am impressed with its leadership and its willingness to do the work. But their biggest obstacle is a town that generally opposes smaller living units either owned or rented.

I do not advocate for apartment complexes around town. Nor am I pushing for growth. I don't like houses in the middle of fields either. I just want to end zoning preferences for single family housing. Planning Commission parlance can position renters and their homes as "out of character" in Jericho. The Town Plan uses legitimate land use and environmental objectives as cover for social and aesthetic control. It should not matter if a 3000 sq/ft house has one unit or three units.

Jericho has planned and zoned against rental housing for years — an intention confirmed in updates to Jericho Zoning in 2019 and the Jericho Town Plan in 2020. Getting rid of zoning prohibitions against small scale rental housing will not solve the housing problem. But it will be a start — and a new signal about who we want included here.

We need leadership from the Selectboard as we answer some core questions. Should Jericho be like a gated community that values exclusivity, uniformity, and suburbanism? Or should Jericho welcome people in all life stages and a range of living circumstances?

Personally, I don't want to be Stowe, Woodstock, or Nantucket. I want to be Jericho. More well-rounded, more welcoming, and less precious.

Chuck Lacy, Jericho

Abandoned fire in Mobbs

To the Editor,

I found an abandoned fire smoldering at the swimming hole in Mobbs this afternoon. As I arrived the breeze was igniting small flames on dry wood left sitting in the hot ash. Hot ash can smolder for days and the risk of wildfire is significant. If you do

Jericho Town Library video about our 2021 Summer Reading Program: *Tails and Tales*: <https://youtu.be/oXf7TUxyvE>.

Join us for storytime at 10:30 AM every Wednesday this summer! Storytime will feature some exciting picture books, crafts and other hands-on activities, and plenty of chances to get some wiggles out. Look for our canopy tent on the Town Green in front of the library. No need to pre-register or make an appointment! You are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket or towel to sit on. Note that outdoor storytime is weather-dependent; when in doubt, check our social media in the morning to see if we have canceled (we will call it by 10:00 AM). We can't wait to see you and your little ones!

You can read more about all of our summer programs on our website: <http://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org/summer-reading-program.html>. We hope to see you soon!

Jericho Town Library is going to be at the Jericho Farmers' Market every Thursday this summer, so stop by our booth for a free book, fun outdoor activities, and some other goodies you can take home with you. And if you've been meaning to get a library card, we can help you with that, too. Come say hello, get a book, and play some games!

We look forward to having everyone back, and happy reading — Gretchen Wright, Director, Jericho Town Library

Library hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please check our website and the notice boards outside of the library for updates and more information on programs and library services: www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org or 899-4686.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

The Varnum Memorial Library is open for curbside pickup and in-person browsing. Please continue to wear a mask. Our hours are: Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; Wednesdays 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Thursdays 11:30 AM – 6:00 PM; Fridays 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

If you are interested in supporting the library, our publicity and programming committee will be sharing a number of events with volunteer opportunities such as the Summer Reading Program, Varnum Music Events, and more. Our Fundraising, Finance, and Building Committees will also be sharing updates and opportunities for involvement. If you have any questions, please email us at varnumboardofdirectors@gmail.com. Join us via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/91503335327?pwd=Nkc3clpGSVNFc1ltY0VDRG1TmVYQT09>.

Please review our website for all events: <http://www.varnumlibrary.org/>.

Dates for the EB White Book Group; all meetings on Fridays, 4:00 – 5:00 PM. August 13: [Charlotte's Web](http://www.charlotteweb.com). Join facilitators Rhea Ferris and April Tuck on the Library porch to explore three of the author's most beloved stories, and learn about what inspired this shy writer to put pen to paper and bring alive the natural world around us. Refreshments will be served. If you need a copy of the book, please stop by the library. We have some copies to lend! Rhea and I look forward to hearing from you about why these are some of your favorite stories.

Volunteer opportunities include checking out books at the library, helping to shelve books, assisting with Grab-and-Go bags for kids and adults, and more! If you are interested in any of these opportunities, sign up online at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZ2QHwopFCAfImipXIFSV0IRX9MJJgbuFYHVWdZLIta1LZJQ/viewform?usp=sf_link.

Please let us know how we can assist you by emailing us at varnumrequests@gmail.com or calling us at 644-2117.

The Varnum Library, P.O. Box 198, 194 Main St., Jeffersonville, 802-644-2117; thevarnum@gmail.com; www.varnumlibrary.org.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library is back to its normal hours of operation (meaning come in and browse the shelves, use the computer, grab a DVD, etc.): Wednesdays 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursdays 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Fridays 1:00 – 7:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, no appointments needed. Patrons of all ages are welcome, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. If you feel you need curbside service, for whatever reason, please email Bree at the library and we can work something out. We want nothing to impede you from using the library.

Masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated individuals. You are welcome to continue wearing a mask as a personal choice. We are continuing to require masks for all unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated visitors while you are indoors. This includes children aged 2-11, who cannot be vaccinated at this

Library news continued on page 7

now know how to properly extinguish a fire and are not prepared to do so, then do not start it in the first place.

Chris Brown, Jericho

Adopt a Backpack fundraiser

To the Editor,

I know it's early to talk about back to school, but not too early for us to start organizing our *Adopt A Backpack* school supply drive.

We started a few years ago handing out a few supplies at the local food shelf distribution. In 2020 we filled over 75 backpacks with supplies, masks, and hand sanitizer and gave them out at our local food shelf, and to students and schools in the area. Also a dozen teachers received \$50 Staples gift cards to help buy supplies for their classrooms. My husband and I donate the backpacks and pencil cases and ask the community for donations of supplies and/or cash to fill them.

Each year that we have done this the need, as well as donations, has increased. We may not get to cover all the need, but we are trying to mitigate as much as we can. It takes about \$25 to fill a backpack. We are looking for help to fill the backpacks. It is getting expensive for our family to supply all the backpacks and pencil cases. If your business, social club or organization, or if you know of any that would be willing to help out our drive, we would greatly appreciate it.

For more information about our drive or references please reach out to us. Also if you know of families that would benefit from this donation, please let me know (kitchystrings@gmail.com). Thank you.

LuAnn and Grant Clarke, Jericho

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time. Infants and toddlers aged 2 and younger are not required to wear a mask.

Masks are not required at any of our outside programs.

The Summer Reading Program 2021: *Tails and Tales* runs through Saturday, August 14 (register on the website or our Facebook page, or at the Library). Age levels, reading goals, and prizes:

- Little Cubs, ages 0-2 (babies and toddlers). Fun activities for families to do together; stuffed animal prize at the end;
- Ages 3-8 (kids): ten books read per raffle ticket;
- Ages 9-12 (teens): three books read per raffle ticket;
- Ages 13-18 (teens): one book read per raffle ticket;
- Adults 18+ (adults): one book per raffle ticket. Adults fill out their own raffle tickets at the library as they read.

Raffle tickets will be made by Ms. Bree when reading logs are turned in; logs are due Friday, August 13. Raffle tickets will also be given for coming to programs. Prizes consist of gift certificates to Turner Toy & Hobby, Phoenix Books, Westford Country Store, and more! Prizes will be awarded at the end of the Summer Reading Program.

Summer Reading Program Events Schedule and Details — events with a * require pre-registration. All events are on the Common unless noted:

Sunday, August 8: *Mr. Chris and Friend* Concert on the Common, 7:00 PM. Sponsored by The Westford Public Library. PBS singer and Vermont Kids superstar *Mr. Chris*, known as the Mr. Rogers of Vermont, will be playing a concert to delight the whole family. Many of his “friends” are in great local bands. Food trucks, ice cream, and mini golf start at 6:00 PM. Free ice cream from Kingdom Creamery, thanks to the Library Trustees. Not to be missed!

Thursday, August 12: Magic Butterflies, drop in 4:30 – 6:30 PM. Drop in to make a rubber band powered butter that actually flies!

Friday, August 13: reading logs due. Turn in your log or fill out the online reporting form. Raffle winners will be notified.

Friday, August 13: VINS’ Super Powered Critters, 4:30 – 6:30 PM. VINS will show off some of its creatures and their awesome features! Discover the amazing adaptations animals have to be the heroes of the natural world. Get up close with two birds, a reptile, and some amazing animal artifacts.

Saturday, August 14: Summer Reading Prize Pickup
Wednesday, August 18: Adult Book Group, 7:00 PM on the Common. Discussing *All Creatures Great and Small*. Delve into the unforgettable world of James Herriot, the world’s most beloved veterinarian. For decades, Herriot roamed the remote, beautiful Yorkshire Dales, treating every patient that came his way from smallest to largest, and observing animals and humans alike with his keen, loving eye. In *All Creatures Great and Small*, we meet the young Herriot as he takes up his calling and discovers that the realities of veterinary practice in rural Yorkshire are very different from the sterile setting of veterinary school. Print copies available at the library; audiobook and ebook available on Libby. Bring your own chair to the Common!

Wednesday, August 25 is the first day of school!

Here’s another episode of *Bree on Books!* You can trust my recommendations or pick out your favorites now that we are open our regular hours. New Adult Non-fiction: https://youtu.be/pVwv_my5nc. New Adult Fiction part one: https://youtu.be/-Tlx_Zbh2YU. New Adult Fiction part two: <https://youtu.be/gGdUZvjq6hI>.

Animal Storytime: Thursdays at 11:30 AM on the Common (cancelled if the weather is bad). Every week we will read stories about animals, and sing and move, too! Take-home crafts available. We hope to have live animals at every storytime. Bring your lunch, a blanket, and be ready for fun! (No Storytime on Thursday, August 5.)

Fiber Arts Group: meets every Thursday, in person at the library, 6:30 PM.

Stretch your legs and enjoy Westford’s hiking trails! There is a Poetry Walk on the Schultz Trail, filled with animal poems to ponder. There is a Story Walk with *Minerva Louise at School* on the school trails; see the kiosk for the exact trail. And look for details to come about Westford Trail Passports, from the Westford Conservation Commission and the Library.

FREE/DISCOUNTED SUMMER FUN! Passes are available for a three-day check out. Passes may not be reserved, but are available on a first-come, first-served basis:

- Vermont State Parks (FREE family day use)
- Vermont Historic Sites (FREE family pass)
- Shelburne Farms (FREE family pass)
- Shelburne Museum (half price entrance)
- ECHO Center (\$7/person)
- Birds of Vermont Museum (BOGO)
- American Precision Museum, Windsor, VT (FREE family pass)
- Vermont History Museum (FREE family pass)
- Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (pass not needed this season: free admission for all)

- NEW! VINS (\$5 per person up to four people)
- NEW! Fairbanks Museum (FREE Family pass)

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month, 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday, 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

Find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/westfordVTpl). Bree Drapa, Librarian. 878-5639; <http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Now open with summer hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. You can browse for materials, pick up your holds, sign up for a computer session or use the Wi-Fi, print pages, or simply sit and read. If this does not meet your needs, please contact us for other options.

All programs will take place outside in person unless otherwise noted. Please sign up at least one week before the program date. All events free, unless noted. Pre-registration required; call 802-849-2420 or email libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

A new exhibit about birds in our forests has also flown in! The Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington has provided the library with a temporary Library Display exhibit called *Stories in the Forest*. Visitors can find it in the two glass cases near the

public computers. Here is part of the exhibit description: “Forests rise and fall due to climate conditions, natural disasters, and human activity. This display illustrates how forests develop from grassland expanses into mature networks of trees with distinct profiles and layers. Forest-dwelling birds use the entire forest column to satisfy their needs. Look to the trees to find *Stories in the Forest*.” Check out the display on your next visit to the library!

The Library’s Summer Reading Finale Celebration will be Friday, August 20, 4:00 – 5:00 PM — come celebrate the end of the summer reading program with food, games, music, and a drawing for the grand prizes. No need to sign up, just come to the middle school lawn ready to have a good time!

Youth events

Thursday, August 5, 2:00 PM: Animal Tracks Stamps. Make stamps that look like animal tracks! Join us on the middle school lawn for this program, and we recommend masks for the safety of those who are unable to be vaccinated. Ages 6+ Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 849-2420 to register!

Thursday, August 12, 2:00 PM: Butterfly Spinners. Make a toy butterfly that actually flies! Join us on the middle school lawn for this program, and we recommend masks for the safety of those who are unable to be vaccinated. Ages 6+ Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 849-2420 to register!

Tuesdays through August 31, 10:30 – 11:15 AM: Preschool Story Time. Theme: Animal Stories. Join us for stories and songs! We will meet outside on the middle school lawn. Please bring a blanket or something to sit on, and don’t forget to wear your masks and keep social distancing guidelines in mind! Children’s books will be available to check out as well. Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home!

Thursday, August 19, 2:00 PM: Animal Masks. Design and build your own animal mask, perfect for a costume party! Join us on the middle school lawn for this program, and we recommend masks for the safety of those who are unable to be vaccinated. Ages 6+ Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 849-2420 to register!

Adult events

Tuesday, August 10, 6:00 PM: A visit with R. J. (Becky) Batchelor, a writer and historian with a focus on WWI and WWII. She has started writing after 14 years teaching at colleges and universities; her first book *The Lost King of England* is newly published and her next, *The Last Tsar of Russia*, is in the works. Learn about the writing and publication process from a local author — if you’ve ever thought about writing or publishing your own work, drop in for advice on how to get started and get your story out into the world. No registration necessary.

Tuesday, August 24, 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Seashell Crafting. We have an abundance of seashells — stop by and make some art with them! We’ll have materials for jewelry and other kinds of decorative projects. Materials provided. This program will be hosted indoors. Please contact 849-2420 or libraryfairfax@gmail.com to register!

Thursday, August 26, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Library Book Club. This month, the book club will discuss the book *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly. Book club will meet in the library. A Zoom link will be available if you would like to attend remotely. If you would like to borrow a copy of the book, or request the Zoom link, please contact the library at fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com or 849-2420. All are welcome!

Looking for some fun walks around the state? Check out DigInVt’s Farm Walks Across Vermont online at <https://diginvt.com/trails/detail/farm-walks-across-vermont>. On this site, you’ll find easy walking trails for taking a stroll. For more summertime fun, the library also has passes to area attractions available to borrow!

Library hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

For up-to-date info about programs, visit our website www.fairfaxvlibrary.org, where you can also find a link to the interactive Google calendar. 75 Hunt Street, Fairfax; 802-849-2420.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

The Library is open for in-person browsing on an appointment basis. Appointments will be every 30 minutes. Call or email. Please continue to wear masks within the Library.

Youth Summer Reading Program: It’s going to be great! Here is how the Summer Reading Program will work this year: Visit the library foyer to pick up your *Summer Reading Record*. Upon your visit you will find clear instructions for self-serve registration. You will be invited to take a charm necklace or keychain and your first charm. You may request library books by putting them on hold through your RFL account (rfl.kohavt.org), by emailing or calling (rfl@gmavt.net/434-3036) or by filling out a “Book Bundle” request slip (available in the library foyer) and leaving it in the box provided. When books are ready for pickup they will be placed in the foyer book bin corresponding to your last name, and you will be notified. As you read books (and they don’t need to be library books), add their titles to your reading record and bring this with you when you next come to the Library. Come back each week to add stickers to your *Summer Reading Record*, to get the week’s charm for your necklace or keychain, and of course to pick up new books. Check the library’s website regularly to learn about any updated policies regarding library hours and protocols.

Youth Open Air Arts & Crafts: Join library staff for some fun crafting in the backyard this summer. We will be using natural and recycled materials as well as other craft supplies to create one-of-a-kind masterpieces. A full schedule of programs appears on our website under the youth services tab. Please call ahead to reserve your spot each week as supplies are limited and will go first to those who register. rflgmavt.net/434-3036.

Science Under the Sun: This summer we will be offering four different science programs for youth aged 3-13. Topics will include worms, birds, the color wheel, and bats, and will include stories, experiments, and hands-on learning. Check out our website for dates and times and for more information about each program. Please call ahead to reserve your spot.

A StoryWalk® is an outdoor reading experience that reveals a story page by page as the reader follows the StoryWalk route. There will be a new StoryWalk set up around the library grounds each month this summer.

VOX Audio/Picture Books for Young Children: Thanks to a generous donation we were recently able to expand our collection of VOX Books, slim audio devices that live in beautiful full-



Signed up for summer reading but not sure how to start or where to find materials? Stop by the Fairfax Community Library, 75 Hunt St., Fairfax. We can help you find all sorts of books, and there is something for every reader. We also have reading logs and stickers to help you keep track of your reading time. If you’d like to pick these up, or check out our collection, the library is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM; and Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Forgot to register for summer reading? There’s still time! Visit our website and sign up: <https://fairfaxvlibrary.org/summer-reading-program-2021.html>, then pick up your reading log and stickers at the library. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

size picture books. The permanently attached VOX Reader transforms an ordinary picture book into an all-in-one read-along with no need for computers, tablets, or CDs. Children simply push a button to listen and read. So far we have seen and heard, kids love them. Request one today for your favorite little person.

Curbside Hours have been extended: new hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Online content. Visit the Library’s web page and check out the Online Services. Download a book from Overdrive, learn a new language with Rocket Languages, pursue a new career with Learning Express, explore a new hobby or learn a new skill with Universal Class. All free with your library card!

Electric vehicle charging is available at the Library/Town Center Municipal Parking Lot. Anyone with an electric vehicle (EV) can take advantage of the Town’s new ChargePoint Charging Station, providing level-2 charging for up to two vehicles. Energy is provided “at cost,” and is equivalent to paying about \$1.50/gallon for a gas vehicle. Users can check if the chargers are in use on chargepoint.com or your favorite EV app.

Contact us at 434-3036 (leave a message after hours) or rfl@gmavt.net.

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

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

Contact us at frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org or 878-6955. Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Contact Main Desk 878-6955, Youth Desk 878-6956, Reference Desk 878-6957, or frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org.

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

Our online resources and services are always open. All you need is your library card. Don’t have a library card? Request a virtual library e-card today to access our ebook and audiobook collections. (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScH6EF1cpRRM0hjQ_O1GTNOzZ1_eJS3WJtR4BQe1aT6mYMT0A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1)

Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex. 802-879-0313; essexfreelibrary.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Virtual services at MMUUF

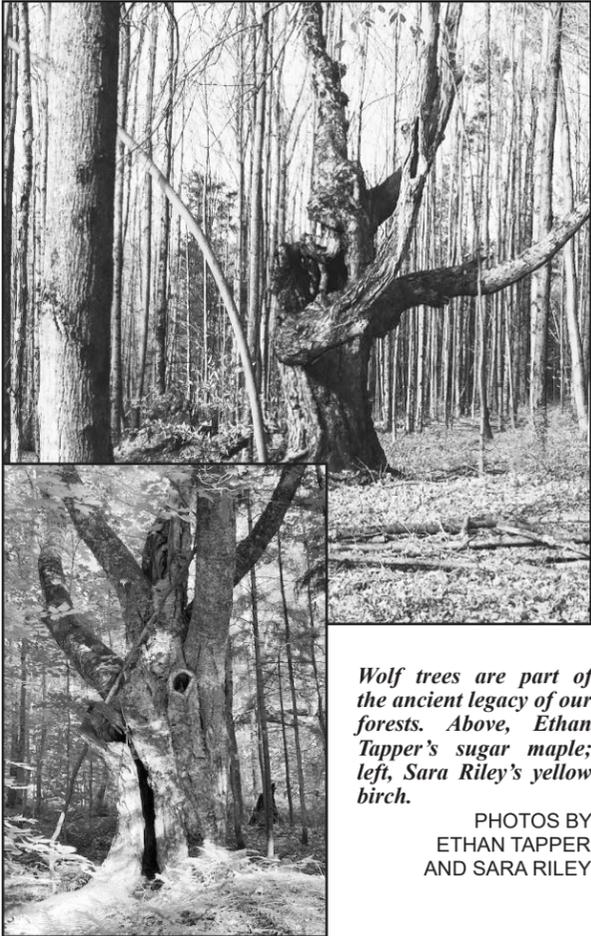
Sunday services at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship are held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Please contact president@mmuuf.org or 899-2558 for how to join. Located at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Learn more at www.mmuuf.org and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church outdoor worship service

Jericho United Methodist Church welcomes you to grow in Christ with us. We hold dear the United Methodist Church’s motto: “Open doors. Open Hearts. Open Minds.” We recognize that our faith journeys are all unique, just as we as individuals are all unique. Know that whoever you are, whatever you do, you are welcome here. We believe that we grow together or not at all. All are welcome! Join us Sundays at 10:00 AM. There will be music, prayer, and message from our pastor Rev. Sean Delmore on Zoom for virtual worship. For updates or a Zoom invitation, please contact 802-899-4288 or Jen (luitjens@yahoo.com). Located at 71 VT Rt. 15, Jericho.

United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is an active, vibrant congregation. We are young and old; single, couples, and families; believers, questioners, and questioning believers. All are welcome. Some people think of us as the Harvest Market Church or the Clutter Barn Church. We gather to worship together every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. Our service is traditional but lively, with music, a children’s sermon, and much more. For instructions on joining worship from home, please see <https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/joining-worship-from-home/>. We provide many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service, but we also welcome you to come in, be still, and contemplate your faith. Located at 7 Park St., Underhill. Pastor’s office (with voicemail) 899-1722; church secretary, Tuesday and Wednesday 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM (no voicemail) 899-4583.



Wolf trees are part of the ancient legacy of our forests. Above, Ethan Tapper's sugar maple; left, Sara Riley's yellow birch.

PHOTOS BY
ETHAN TAPPER
AND SARA RILEY

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Seeking a foster home for siblings. Is it yours?

Morrisville Family Services, DCF

The story below represents children who may be in need of foster care; however, it is not of a specific child in foster care. We are recruiting for safe and caring homes of all types for a variety of children and youth. This story typifies that experience. Might you consider becoming a foster, kin, or respite care provider? As a trained care provider, you will be giving the gift of stability to a child. You will be fully supported, trained, and provided a stipend for any child or youth placed in your care. Find out more. Thank you!

Corey, Harley, and Breck will tell you they DON'T like mac and cheese, but they do.

They'll want to sleep in sleeping bags. On the floor. Like a huddle of puppies.

They will insist that they can manage just fine without you, but Breck will crawl into your lap for a bedtime story and Harley will ask for a hug at every opportunity. Corey, he's the oldest, so he is a bit more wary and protective of his younger brother and sister. He won't ask you for anything, but if you took him fishing, he'd eventually crack a smile and he might even let you bait his hook.

These are the things you'll need to know when you first meet this threesome. They are tightly bonded, fiercely protective of each other, and they come as a group.

The other thing you'll need to know as foster parent to these siblings is the effect their parents' struggles have had on them, and why foster care is the safest option for these three at this time.

Might you be the care provider who can support these children as a foster care provider? Can you support reunification with their family?

To learn more, go to <http://fostercare.vt.gov>. If you want us to

contact you, complete the form at <http://dcf.vermont.gov/foster-care-inquiry>.

You can also call your local Family Services District Office and ask to speak to the Resource Coordinator. <http://dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/contact-us/districts>.

Are you healthy? Are you in a low-risk category for COVID-19? If so, there may be a child or youth waiting who would benefit from your care. Please visit us online at <http://dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/contact-us/districts>.

KEEP LOCAL KIDS LOCAL.

United Way Volunteer Opportunities

LEND A HAND. VOLUNTEER. United Way of Northwest Vermont's mobile-friendly Volunteer Connection connects you to hundreds of local volunteer needs. Search by age, date, county, interests or causes that are important to you. Stay connected to community needs. Go online to <https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/> to learn more about these and other opportunities.

GET ON BOARD! — Milton Family Community Center is seeking new board members to support their effort to ensure families throughout our region get the resources and education they need to thrive. Join their team as they broaden the scope of programming, increase the number of families served, and develop a strategic plan. To learn more about their work, visit <https://miltonfamilycenter.org/>. Contact director Sophia Donforth for more information at sdonforth@miltonfamilycenter.org.

ON THE FARM — Vermont Youth Conservation Corps needs volunteers more than ever this year to help grow food for Vermonters through their Health Care Share program. All activities are outdoors and can include planting, harvesting, and weeding in the fields. All COVID guidelines will be followed.

Miscellaneous continued on page 9

Worship services continued from page 7

Online church services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

By Rev. Devon Thomas

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville and the Waterville Union Church would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:30 AM. We are now having weekly Zoom services and any who would like to watch can do so via our Facebook pages. So, as we like to say at the church: know that no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space! <https://www.facebook.com/watervilleunionchurch> or <https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>

Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our lives in numerous ways that we never could have imagined. Many of us are now working from home, home schooling, and in some cases, separated from those we care deeply about. We at Jericho Congregational Church want you to know that we are here for you during this unsettling time. If you need a listening ear or someone to pray with about any of the impacts of this crisis, please contact us at 858-5452 or jcchelps@gmail.com. You are not alone, and we are here to help.

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Church on VT Rt. 15, Jericho at 9:00 AM every Sunday. There are varied musical styles in worship services, including folk, contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. The building is accessible — all are welcome! In addition, Centering Prayer Meditation Practice is offered on Fridays at 8:00 AM; access information and more about the church is at <http://goodshepherdjericho.org/>. We are an open-minded Christian community with a focus on social justice issues, where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren't sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a spiritual home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. Contact Pastor Arnold Isidore Thomas for more information, 802-503-9666 or pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org.

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal Church now worships in person at the church on Sundays at 9:30 AM. Calvary Episcopal Church is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. All are warmly welcome!

Volunteer reading mentors needed

Have you always wanted to make a difference in a child's life? J.J. Flynn Elementary School is looking for reading mentors for the 2021-2022 school year. Will you volunteer one hour of your time, one day a week for the school year?

Our program is called *Everybody Wins! VT* because when you mentor a student, you both win! Students are excited to see their mentors each week. They have fun hanging out with you and they love it when you read to them!

Please consider volunteering for this school-based volunteer program.

Check out our website and fill out an application today: <https://everybodywinsvermont.org/become-a-mentor/>

We would love to have you join our team of mentors!

Free training for COVID-affected Vermonters

If you've been laid off, furloughed, or had your hours or job cut, another round of state-funded free training can help boost your resume and skills. Choose from training and classes this fall or spring at one of the institutions of the VSCS.

For more information, go online to <https://vtworkers.vsc.edu/>

VT swimming holes safety

In light of recent storms, Richmond Land Trust, owner of the Gorge, wants to remind everyone that for 48 hours after a storm or heavy rainfall it is best to stay away from swimming holes. Under normal circumstances, the river is already wild and unpredictable, but even more so after heavy rain, which can impact water levels and conditions as well as water quality.

Storms can mix in lots of debris and cause the water levels to rise and become more rough. Heavy rain can also make it easy for erosion to occur and the rocks around the river will be slippery.

Please help respect and protect our VT swimming holes by avoiding them for a few days after a storm.

Pleasant Valley Road brush and tree removal

By Sherri Morin, Underhill Town Clerk

Brush and tree removal will continue along Pleasant Valley Road from #433 (Hess) to the Cambridge town line. The road will be down to one lane; expect delays or seek an alternate route.

Sale of photo note cards supports Westford Common Hall

The Westford Common Hall is selling photo note cards at the Town Office: *Westford Icons* by Amber Haller, *Ruffled* by Kristen Keating, and now *Flower Power* by Jenny Hughes. These note cards make wonderful gifts or treat yourself to something beautiful. Notecards are \$20 for a set of 10 cards, or \$35 for two sets. All proceeds support the Revitalization Project of the Westford Common Hall.

Check out these gorgeous photo note cards on our FB page, <https://www.facebook.com/westfordcommonhall>.

Duxbury Road closure August 2-12

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

A section of Duxbury Road in Bolton is closed from 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday-Thursday, August 2-12, for culvert replacement. The affected section is from 243 Duxbury Road to the intersection of Duxbury Road and Honey Hollow Road.

There will be no accommodation for through traffic during construction, during the posted hours and dates. Please plan accordingly. Thank you.

NEWS BRIEFS

Cambridge Rescue Squad subscription service

Cambridge Rescue has recently enacted a subscription service for the residents of Jeffersonville/Cambridge. The intent is to provide a cost-effective alternative to traditional billing. You can subscribe for \$50 a year, and if anyone in your household is transported by Cambridge Rescue, you won't pay a dime. We'll bill your insurance, but any costs you're responsible for, such as a deductible, are covered with your subscription. Further information, and access to our subscription plan, can be found on our website www.cambridgerescue.com.

Westford Selectboard meeting draft minutes

By Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk

Read the draft minutes from the Thursday, July 8 Selectboard meeting here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021-07-08-Draft-Minutes.pdf>.

Bolton residents asked to respond to recreation survey

The Greater Richmond Recreation Committee needs your help! As we look to the future at potential new and improved recreational facilities for our town, we are interested to know what you, your family, and friends would like to see.

This survey considers the input of many Richmond residents from the 2015 Town Visioning Survey as well as details within the 2018 Richmond Town Plan. We hope the results from this survey will give us better insight into how we may expand recreational opportunities for all residents. All residents in Richmond, Bolton, and Huntington are encouraged to participate.

Please complete the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BDL376L>.

VT Emergency Rental Assistance

If you or someone you know is struggling to pay rent and utility bills or experiencing financial hardship caused directly or indirectly by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vermont Emergency Rental Assistance Program (VERAP) may be able to help. Call 1-833-488-3727 or go online to <https://erap.vsha.org>.

Help available for past due VELCO bills from COVID

By Charlie Van Winkle, District Representative
VT Electric Cooperative (#5), Underhill

As a Vermont Electric Co-op board member, I want to pass along a reminder: if you are a renter and have suffered financial challenges because of COVID-19, there is financial assistance available to help with past due utility bills. Visit <https://vutilityhelp.com> or call 1-833-488-3727. Even if you are not a renter, you may be eligible for similar financial help if COVID-19 has caused economic hardship for you or your business.

Learn more at <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/help-past-due-utility-bills-vermont-department-public-service> or call 1-833-295-8988. If you know of neighbors, friends or family members who might be eligible, please help spread the word. In both cases funds are limited, so it's important to act soon.

GMP: Help available for utility bills

Thousands of customers have fallen behind on their accounts during the pandemic, and there is free grant money through the VT Department of Public Service that can help pay your overdue utility balance and get you back on track. These state grants are not a loan, and the money is first come first served, so apply now!

- \$40 million is available for qualified renters to help pay your past due — and in some cases your future — utility bills: <https://vutilityhelp.com> or 833-488-3727

- \$15 million is available for homeowners, renters, businesses, and farms who have been impacted by COVID-19 to help get your utility accounts caught up; details and online application at <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/help-past-due-utility-bills-vermont-department-public-service> or 833-295-8988

- Green Mountain Power has a discount for qualified low-income GMP customers, and you can qualify through the Department for Children and Families: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/eap/GMP>

- GMP can also set you up on a no-interest payment plan, to spread your overdue balance over an amount of time that works for you

Please call if you need assistance or have questions or need help to work through the options. GMP's customer care team is ready to help and can be reached Monday-Friday, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM at 888-835-4672. A full list of resources is available at <https://greenmountainpower.com/need-help-with-your-past-due-balance-we-can-help/>.

PEOPLE - OBITUARIES



June Gilman Guyette passed away on Sunday, July 4, 2021, at Copley Hospital, Morrisville, VT. June was born May 23, 1936, in Manchester, NH, the daughter of Lewis and Abby Gilman. June attended the University of New Hampshire and completed her Associate's degree at CCV and her Bachelor's degree at Johnson State College (JSC) after moving to Vermont. Her greatest joys were her poodles and the scholar athletes whom she met and "grandparented" at UVM and JSC. She was known as the "Cookie Lady" because of her unending supply of treats for the students. She and her beloved husband Robert were proud to have been awarded plaques from both the UVM and JSC athletic departments for their loyal support and dedication. JSC made them honorary members of the Athletic Hall of Fame. June is survived by her loving husband Robert Guyette of Cambridge, VT; her daughter Elaine Winkler of Indiana; her grandson Steven McGuire, wife Brittany McGuire, and great-granddaughter Logan June McGuire of Essex Junction, VT; niece Charlotte Gilman of Reno, NV; three stepchildren: Kathleen Guyette of NH, Todd Guyette of MA, and Christopher Guyette of ME. She was predeceased by her brother Lewis B. Gilman Jr. There were no visiting hours for there will be a private funeral at the convenience of her family. You may share your memories by visiting awrfh.com.



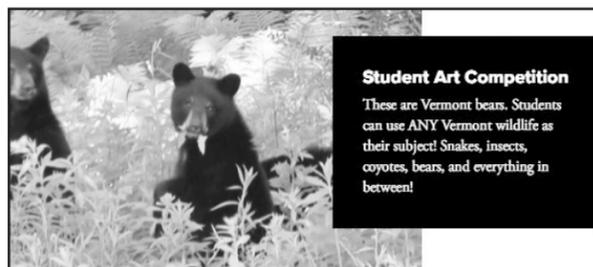
Dorothy (Dot) Irene Root of Westford, VT, was memorialized in a graveside service on Saturday, July 31, 2021 at the Westford Plains Cemetery, Plains Road, Westford, VT. Dot passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, with daughter Mary at her side.

Mary Whalley Brown, 89, of Stowe, VT passed away peacefully in her home on Monday, July 12, 2021.

Mary was born in Burlington, VT on August 18, 1931, daughter of Ruth Spear and Donald P. Whalley of Charlotte, VT. Mary was raised on a dairy farm and joined in the work of milking and haying at a young age. She graduated from Burlington High School, class of 1949, and Burlington Business College two years later. Mary was employed by Vermont Hardware and worked in the accounting department. She later worked for General Electric Company in the payroll department at their Lakeside Plant. She retired in 1961 and volunteered at the Mary Fletcher hospital for many years. She married Gerald (Jerry) Brown in 1952, lived in Burlington for



one year while looking for a home to raise a family. Mary and Jerry purchased the Baptist Parish House with five acres of meadow in Jericho Corners and lived there for 46 years before moving to Stowe. Mary was an accomplished equestrian and raised Morgan horses, one of which, *Parish Cori-B*, won the Mare's Pleasure Driving Division at the Grand National Horse Show in Oklahoma. Mary was well known for her outstanding meals and dinner parties. She was also an avid skier earning her the nickname "Mountain Mary." In the 1960s she was one of the first women to ski the Grand Promenade in France. This was a three-day, 190-mile trek across France's Alps, an adventure that made news in the French press. Summer was the season for gardening and she kept her neighbors and friends supplied with an abundance of fruits and vegetables. She also was an avid golfer but she rarely had a kind word for it. A final word must be said about Mary's love for dogs. Mary was preceded by her husband of 58 years Gerald Brown and her nephews Daniel Horsford and John Spence. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Penny and John Moore; grandson Brinton Moore, his wife Beth, their children Lily and Jackson; sister Susan Horsford; and many in-laws, nieces, and nephews. The family would like to thank Lamoille Home Health and Hospice for their support and care through this difficult time. And a special thanks to Paulette Philbrook for her many years of care and companionship. In lieu of flowers please send contributions to the North Country Animal League, 16 Mountain View Meadow Rd., Morristown, VT 05661, or Lamoille Home Health and Hospice, 54 Farr Ave., Morristown, VT 05661. Arrangements are in care of Gifford Funeral Home, Richmond, VT.



Student Art Competition

These are Vermont bears. Students can use ANY Vermont wildlife as their subject! Snakes, insects, coyotes, bears, and everything in between!

School's out for the summer, but — calling all art students in grades 7-12: The Vermont Wildlife Coalition is offering a \$1000 first prize for artwork of Vermont's wildlife (second place: \$750; third \$500; fourth \$250). The best submissions will be displayed with nationally recognized artists in an exhibition celebrating Vermont wildlife at the Highland Center for the Arts. Prizes will be awarded at a special concert for wildlife at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro on Sunday, October 17. Deadline to submit works of art: Friday, October 1. For more information and to enter the competition: <https://www.vtwildlifecoalition.org/artcontest>.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Summer

By Kimberly Madura

lying on warm almond sand
thinking of this love that keeps opening
breathing in your blackberry smoke

Miscellaneous continued from page 8

Three-hour shifts between 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 – 4:00 PM Monday-Thursday each week. Use the following site to volunteer for a shift: <https://calendly.com/vycc/volunteer>.

BLOOD DRIVE — The American Red Cross is seeking volunteers in Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle counties, age 16 and older, to help with local blood drives as Blood Donor Ambassadors. Volunteers engage with donors to promote blood donation for a long-term commitment, assist donors with re-hydrating after donation and observe for post-donation reactions, and ensure that each donor is thanked. Flexible five-hour shifts. Visit <https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer.html>.

SUMMERVALE — The Intervale Center is presenting Summervale, a celebration of farmers, community, music, and great food every Thursday in August and the first Thursday in September. Volunteers are needed to help with set up and break down, admissions, parking, and more. Volunteers receive a free slice of American Flatbread pizza! Shifts are 4:30 – 6:30 PM or 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054eada922a3fe3-summervale>.

A FRIENDLY GREETING — Ethan Allen Homestead Museum invites friendly, outgoing volunteers, age 16 and older, to serve as greeters to guests from all over the world. Volunteers welcome visitors, provide tickets, and respond to questions about the tour experience. Training provided. Contact Dan O'Neil, 865-4556 or ethanallenhomestead@gmail.com.

STITCHES IN TIME — Bayada Hospice offers to make a Memory Bear for the family of a loved one. These teddy bears are made from clothing and belongings with sentimental value and can be passed from one generation to the next. The family provides the fabric and other supplies, and Bayada provides the pattern. Volunteers can choose how many bears to make. To help provide these beautiful memories contact Beverly Hill, 448-1610 or bhill2@bayada.com.

VT Master Composter Course

This training course offers an in-depth study of backyard composting. UVM Master Gardeners and others interested in home, school, and community composting who take this course will learn about the many different ways to turn food scraps and yard trimmings into compost for healthier, nutrient-rich soil.

Please note: Registration is currently only open for Track 2 (self-paced) students and out-of-state students. Track 1 students must first fill out a volunteer application and be accepted into the program before enrolling in the course.

The fee for this course for Vermont Residents is \$50. If you are a Vermont resident and wish to register as a Track 2 (self-paced) student, enroll online at <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener/master-composter-program>. Click on the Register Here button located on the sidebar to the right.

If you live out of state (not a Vermont resident), then you must enroll in the out-of-state registration link. The fee for out-of-state residents is \$150. On the same website, click on the Register Here button located on the sidebar to the right, and click on the link for Out-of-State registration.

For more information, contact: Beret Halverson at beret.halverson@UVM.edu. To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Beret Halverson 802-656-1777 by Tuesday, August 24, for assistance.

Lamoille FiberNet welcomes new board members

Several new board members and alternates began serving on the governing board of the Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District in May.

"We are pleased to see that each of our district's member towns have an appointed representative, and in some cases, they also have not just one but two alternates," said Jane Campbell, chair of the Governing Board. "I think that we have such good participation because the eight towns and Selectboards we

represent understand how critical our work is in bringing high speed symmetrical broadband to our area."

The Communications Union District (CUD) represents eight towns: Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, Stowe, and Waterville, and representatives and alternates are appointed by each town's Selectboard.

"We are fortunate that we not only have a board that is willing to work hard but that also has such a broad range of expertise. We'd like to thank our outgoing board members: Tim Humphrey, Cambridge's Representative, Doug Molde, Johnson's Representative, and Carl Fortune, one of Morristown's Alternates, for stepping up and serving when Lamoille FiberNet was first launched," Campbell noted. "And we are delighted to welcome our newest board members from Cambridge: Teelah Hall and Fred Wadlington, and Damien DeClerk from Eden."

The new board members join these board members who are continuing their service: Carol Caldwell Edmonds, Belvidere; Jane Campbell, Morristown; Carol Fano, Hyde Park; Chris Foran, Stowe; Stephen Friedman, Stowe; Liza Jones, Eden; Sam Lotto, Cambridge; John Meyer, Morristown; Charlotte Reber, Johnson; Lucy Rogers, Waterville; Michael Rooney, Hyde Park; Jeff Tilton, Waterville; Kipp Verner Belvidere; Paul Warden, Johnson; Scott Weathers, Stowe; Jack Wool, Hyde Park. Larry Lackey of Stowe continues to serve as Treasurer, and Christine Hallquist is the CUD's Administrator.

Utility company scams

By Bill April, AARP/Fraudwatch

These are NOT scams run by the utility companies, but on the consumers. Utility scams heat up as the temperatures rise (and when they fall). In fact, the Federal Trade Commission says that utility imposters top the list of reported scams. Here's what to be on the lookout for.

How it works:

- Someone claiming to be from your utility company shows up at your home unannounced, claiming they need to inspect or repair equipment; or
- You receive a communication (phone, email, text) saying your account is past due and you must pay immediately, or they will cut off your power; or
- You get a call claiming that you overpaid your utility bill, and they ask for your banking account information to provide a refund.

What you should know:

- None of these tactics represent the way utility companies do business — they will NOT show up unannounced, they WON'T threaten to cut off your power without first mailing you notices if an account is past due, and they will not handle any overbilling this way.
- Utility scammers tend to target older adults and people who are not native English speakers.
- Requests for payment by way of purchasing a gift card and sharing the information off the back is sure-fire proof that it is a scam.
- What you should do:
 - If you get a communication from your utility provider that is out of the ordinary, look on your last statement for the phone number and call to inquire if there is an issue with your account.
 - Notify neighbors that a scammer is making the rounds — they tend to hit certain geographic areas at the same time.
 - Alert your utility company if a scammer is impersonating them.

It is important to report this activity to the utility.

You may also report any scam activity to the AARP/Fraudwatch hotline at 1-877-908-3360. This service applies to all ages!

Are you interested in joining a group of women?

Are you interested in joining a group of women who are actively making a difference in their local communities? Then

come on out and meet some of the amazing women who make up the Junior League of Champlain Valley! We are hosting four New Member Socials during the month of August. Come learn more about the League and how we help out our Vermont communities, including, but not limited to the Vermont Diaper Bank! No obligation to join! At the very least, it'll be a fun time with a great group of ladies.

All events run from 5:00 – 6:00 PM. Please RSVP through Eventbrite using the links provided below, as space is limited.

Wednesday, August 26, Winooski: Agave Taco and Tequila Casa, 28 Walnut St.; <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jlcv-new-member-social-tickets-16296687287>

Tuesday, August 10, Burlington: Zero Gravity Brewery, 716 Pine St.; <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jlcv-new-member-social-tickets-162967009713>

Monday, August 16, Winooski: Waterworks Food + Drink, 20 Winooski Falls Way; <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jlcv-new-member-social-tickets-162967388847>

Thursday, August 26, Winooski: McGillicuddy's on the Green, 18 Severance Green; <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jlcv-new-member-social-tickets-162967126061>

For more information you can also visit the following sites: <https://www.jlcv.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/JuniorLeagueofChamplainValley/>

Underhill Community Food Sharing Shed

Attention all home and commercial gardeners: If you have any extra produce, baked goods, or eggs, please consider donating to the Food Shed located across from the Underhill Town Hall. Donations are gratefully accepted any time.

This free food is available for anyone.

Is my home wasting energy?

Vehicles have miles per gallon labels, efficient appliances get ENERGY STAR ratings, and food packaging lists nutrition stickers... but why is it so hard to figure out how our homes use energy?

If you're like most Vermonters, you might use multiple sources of energy... a combination of electricity, burning wood, using oil and propane, or more. Which makes understanding whether your home is wasting energy a little unclear. Or maybe you don't know where to start?

Well, if you've ever been curious, there is a free, new tool called the *Vermont Home Energy Profile*. It can help you understand your energy costs and guide home improvement decisions. Plus you get a neat, printable profile (which can also be handy if you're thinking of selling your home).

The *Vermont Home Energy Profile* was developed by collaborators on the Vermont Energy Labeling Working Group and Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP).

Check it out: <http://www.encyvermont.com/HomeEnergyProfile>.

Seeking donations for Labor Day tag sale

The Jeff Church will be having a labor day tag sale Friday-Saturday, September 3-4, from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM at 16 Church St. Only steeple in town!

We are looking for clean saleable items, but cannot accept helmets, computers, car seats etc. We have limited space for clothing and furniture. Please do not leave outside the church. You can call Melody, 644-2409, or Becky, 644-8827, to make arrangements for drop offs.

This is an important fundraiser for the church since all others were cancelled in 2020 and this spring. We appreciate your generosity.

Wetland Sketching Treasure Hunt - Learn field sketching with Susan Abbot in an incredible day to learn techniques for field sketching and explore the natural beauty of Vermont's wetlands with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) on Sunday, August 29, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. All levels are welcome to this event presented by VLT and Milton Artists Guild (MAG). The cost for MAG and VLT members is \$5; for non-members, \$10, and families \$15. For more information and to register, go online to <https://www.miltonartistsguildstore.com/wetland-sketching-treasure-hunt>.

Essex Art League call to artists - The Essex Art League is inviting you to submit original art for an upcoming show at

**MMUUSD
CHILD FIND NOTICE 2021 - 2022**

Any individuals from birth through age 21 with disabilities currently residing within Bolton, Buel's Gore, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, or Underhill, and who are in need of special education and related services need to be identified, located and evaluated by Mt Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD). This includes children: not enrolled in school, attending private or independent schools located within the aforementioned towns, enrolled in home study programs, suspected of having a disability despite advancing from grade to grade, who are highly mobile (such as migrant children), and who are homeless or wards of the state. Any person with information about any disabled person fitting these descriptions should contact:

Special Services Director
10 River Road
Jericho, Vermont
Phone: 802-434-2128

In accordance with MMUUSD policies and with 34 CFR Part 99 (the Family Education Rights Privacy Act of 1974), this public notice informs all parents within their jurisdictions about how information is maintained when it is collected during identification, location and evaluation of all people with disabilities.

- Personally identifiable information will be protected by each school.
- Personally identifiable information about people eligible, referred or considered for special education services is maintained.
- Parents have the right to know what types of information have been designated as directory information (i.e. contained in a student's education record and is not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed). This information includes the student's name (unless otherwise requested), address, phone number, date/place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities/sports weight/height, membership in athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees/awards received, and the previous school attended.
- Parents have the right to know the types and locations of educational records kept by the school and the titles and addresses of officials responsible for the records.
- A list of the names and positions of employees within MMUUSD who have access to personally identifiable information shall be available for public inspection.
- If anyone other than an authorized MMUUSD employee looks at the educational record of a child, that person shall so indicate by signing his/her name, date and purpose for reviewing the record on a form to become part of the education record.
- Parental permission will be obtained prior to disclosing confidential information to anyone who is not an authorized employee of MMUUSD.
- Information relevant to a child's specific disability (such as: medical information, intelligence test results, social/developmental history, comprehensive evaluation report and the individualized education program) will be part of the education record.
- Personally identifiable information will be gathered from screenings, qualified diagnostic centers and other sources, as deemed necessary, to complete a comprehensive evaluation. Parents, or an eligible student, will be able to access personally identifiable information and inspect and review their education record (s) no later than 45 days after the request is made.
- Parents have the right to a response to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of the educational records.
- Parents may obtain a copy of the educational record without a fee for copying, if a fee will be a financial burden and/or will prevent them from obtaining the records.
- Parents have the right to request the education record be amended. The school district will decide whether to amend the record within a reasonable time of the request. If the district refuses to amend the record, it shall inform the parent and advise the parent of the right to a hearing. If, as a result of the hearing, it is found the educational record must be amended, the school district will amend the record and inform the parent in writing. If, as a result of the hearing, it is found the disputed information is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy right of the child, the school will inform the parent of his/her right to place in the educational record a written statement commenting on the information or stating any reasons for disagreeing with the results of the hearing. This written statement will become part of the educational record and will always be included whenever the contents of the education record is properly viewed or requested.
- Parents have the right to a hearing to challenge the educational records of their child.
- Parents will be notified prior to the school district's destruction of personally identifiable information about their child.
- The parent has the authority to inspect and review records relating to his/her child unless MMUUSD has been advised that the parent does not have the authority under applicable state law governing matters such as guardianship, separation and divorce.
- Parents have the right to file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the MMUUSD to comply with this policy.

NOTE: If there are parents within the below mentioned schools who need this information interpreted, please notify your local school.

Brewster-Pierce Memorial School 434-2074	Smilie Memorial School 434-2757
Richmond Elementary School 434-2461	Jericho Elementary School 899-2272
Underhill Center School 899-4676	Underhill ID Pre-K School 434-2962
Browns River Middle School 899-3711	Camels Hump Middle School 434-2188
Mt Mansfield Union High School 899-4690	

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

the Jericho Town Office (October-December). The paintings or photographs must reflect the properties that the Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) has conserved, which includes Mills Riverside Park, Casey's Hill, Tomasi Meadows, Kikas Farm, and Wolfrun (descriptions at www.JULT.org). This provides a wide variety of subject matter including landscapes, a covered bridge, rivers, views of Mount Mansfield, trees, wildflowers, birds, other wildlife, people enjoying the outdoors, etc.

Yearly membership to the EAL is only \$20, which includes free entry to all shows, weekly *plein air* sessions, and monthly meetings with interesting speakers.

Please reply immediately to DianaDDunn@gmail.com if you would like submission details.

Call for applications: Artist Development Grants - The Vermont Arts Council is now accepting applications for its next round of Artist Development Grants.

Artist Development Grants support artists at all stages of their careers. Grants can fund activities that enhance mastery of an artist's craft or skills or that increase the viability of an artist's business. Funding may also support aspects of the creation of new work when the activity allows the grantee to accept a rare and important opportunity.

Eligible expenses for such activities include, but are not limited to: advanced study of technique or practice with a mentor;

Listen Up: a musical based on the lives of Vermont teens! See this extraordinary piece inspired, created, and performed by Vermont youth and presented by Kingdom C o u n t y Productions and Centerpoint. It tours outdoors — all shows 7:30 PM — for just \$15 per ticket, and will be in Lyndonville (NVU Lyndon Rugby Field) Wednesday-Thursday, August 4-5; Norwich (Dresden Athletic Field) Saturday-Sunday, August 7-8; Shelburne (Shelburne Museum) Friday-Saturday, August 13-14; and Montpelier (State House Lawn) Sunday, August 15. For tickets and more information, go online to <https://www.listenupvt.org>.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

attending a professional conference to build business or artistic skills or knowledge; contracting professional services including photographic documentation of work, contract preparation or business incorporation, creation of accounting systems, developing e-commerce on a website, creation of marketing materials, etc.; marketing, planning, purchasing some materials, or renting studio space (outside of your home) to create new exhibitions or performances; or travel within the United States.

Applications are evaluated in two areas: impact and budget. Priority is given to first-time grantees and proposals for rare or unique opportunities.

Who may apply? Artists who have been residents of Vermont for a minimum of one year prior to the application deadline and are residents at the time the award is granted, are eighteen years of age or older at the time of application, have submitted all required reports on any prior Council grants, and who meet all of the above requirements and are applying as a representative of an artist group.

Who may not apply? Artists whose projects involve activities for which college credit is given; artists who have received any other Arts Council grant in the same fiscal year to support the same project; artists who have received an Artist Development Grant between September 2021-June 2022; and nonprofits and organizations.

Applicants will now be able to answer narrative questions with either written or recorded audio/video formatting options.

Thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor, we are able to increase the maximum grant amount this year to \$2000. Grant amounts range from \$250-\$2000. For examples of previously funded projects, visit our list of recent grantees.

Application deadlines: September 8, 2021 and February 14, 2022.

For full details and the online application, visit vermontartscouncil.org/artistdevelopment.

Middlebury film festival August 25 - The 7th Annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is pleased to announce its Opening Night film, the feature documentary *Storm Lake*. The film will screen on Wednesday, August 25 at 7:00 PM at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater.

Storm Lake tells the story of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Art Cullen and his family as they fight to unite and inform their Iowan farming community through their biweekly newspaper, the *Storm Lake Times*. Storm Lake, Iowa, has seen its fair share of change in the 40 years since Big Agriculture came to town, as farmers spend their life savings on new equipment in hopes of keeping their livelihoods intact, and as migrant workers flock to the town for a slice of the American Dream. The people of Storm Lake confront a changing community as global forces threaten their precarious existence. Enter Art Cullen and his family members, who deliver local news and editorials on a shoestring budget for their 3000 readers. The paper is a powerful voice for its beloved hometown, and the Cullens make the most of it.

The film was directed by Jerry Risius and Beth Levison. Brooklyn-based Risius grew up on a hog farm about an hour from Storm Lake, and brings a depth of filmmaking experience along with a local perspective that very few can. Levison, who also produced the film, is an Emmy- and Peabody-winning producer/director based in NYC.

On Thursday, August 26 at 4:30 PM, Art Cullen will join several prominent Vermont journalists in a fuller discussion of the role of local newspapers in sustaining the social and cultural fabric of the community. The panel will take place at Town Hall Theater. The event is non-ticketed and open to all.

MNFF Festival Passes, Day Passes and Opening Night Tickets go on sale Monday, August 2 exclusively through the Town Hall Theater box office in Middlebury, <https://townhalltheater.org/> or 802-382-9222, Monday-Friday 12:00 – 5:00 PM.

Support film — join VTIFF - Become a member of the VT International Film Festival (VTIFF) and support in-person screenings at the upcoming festival, October 8-17, and year-round. VTIFF relies on community support! Enjoy free films, discussions, and more. Join by September 1 to win Cabot or Penny Cluse gift cards! Learn more at <https://vtiff.org/support/membership/>.

BCA Artist Market - More than 25 Vermont artist and specialty product vendors show and sell their wares at the outdoor BCA (Burlington City Arts) Artist Market every Saturday, through September 25, from 2:00 – 7:00 PM.

Art note - The Vermont Crafts Council Fall Open Studio Weekend will be Saturday-Sunday, October 2 -3. Local artists who wish to participate are asked to register with the Craft Council at vermontcrafts.com and click on Fall Open Studio.

Hear MMU Madrigal singers on YouTube - MMU Madrigal Singers perform *True Colors* arranged by Tim Brent in this YouTube video of their virtual choir. We hope you enjoy it and share it with others! Here is the YouTube link to copy and paste into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CVIg7bPesA>.

Here are more songs for your enjoyment: *Blackbird* and *Light of a Clear Blue Morning* and *Lullaby* and *Cape Breton Lullaby*. Copy the URL into your browser to go to the performances:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EayF16WF_ul
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QLXn3d3Lg4>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhaZ6rV1vek>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLhBeR_j-40

**Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District
Early Childhood
Special Education Programs
(Serving the towns of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond & Underhill)**

Children are referred for a special education evaluation by parents, caregivers, physicians, community early childhood programs, and community agencies when there is a concern or question about a child's development.

Areas of concern may include:

- Communication; speech clarity, understanding and use of language
- Motor; small and large muscles
- Personal, social-emotional and self care skills
- Cognitive skills: play and early learning skills

An early childhood special educator will contact the parent/guardian to discuss the concerns and will set up an Evaluation Planning Team Meeting to discuss next steps. All of our services are voluntary and require approval from the parent(s)/guardian(s). Early intervention services can change a child's developmental path and improve outcomes for children, families, and communities.

For more information contact Kyle Hibbard @ 802-434-2962 or kyle.hibbard@mmuusd.org or visit www.mmuusd.org/our-schools/pre-kindergartenschool

TOWN OF JERICHO- DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm on WEDNESDAY August 25, 2021 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following.

- A request to the DRB by Akshata Nayak to amend a previously approved PUD by adjusting the existing property lines. This property is located at 55 Skunk Hollow Road which is in the Rural Agricultural Residential Zone District.
- A request to the DRB by Bolger Hill LLC, C.F. Trust & Bolger Hill Farm to re-approve a conditional use review approval. This property is located at 12 Old Orchard Lane which is in the Low-Density Residential Zoning District and Forestry 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

Love the Long Trail? Show it some love on Long Trail Day

Commit to raising \$1 for every mile of the 272-mile Long Trail, and get out for a hike on Long Trail Day — Tuesday, August 28 — to celebrate the wonderful world of hiking in Vermont. Pick your favorite section or side trail!

Can't hike that day? That's okay! Raising money to support the care and protection of the Long Trail is more than enough.

The Green Mountain Club encourages hikers to get outside and hike the trail (including easier side trails) to experience firsthand the natural beauty, vistas, wildlife, and character of the Green Mountains of Vermont.

This year proceeds from Long Trail Day will benefit GMC's Long Trail Legacy Campaign developed as a response to the popularity of outdoor recreation and the need to secure the future of our trails.

To learn more about Vermont's beautiful Long Trail, go online to <https://www.greenmountainclub.org/the-long-trail/>.

Wolverine Football is back for 2021!

It takes a Wolverine to make a Cougar! Wolverine football is back! It's time to register your kiddos to join their friends on the field!

The Chittenden East Youth Football Program is for kids from grades 1-8 in the Chittenden East School District: flag football for grades 1-4, and tackle football for grades 5-8, running August-October 2021.

Please contact Andy with questions or to register by email: vizzos@myfairpoint.net.

Bike for Friends Program launched

At the Thursday, July 8 meeting of the Cambridge Area Rotary Club, the members heard from two special guests. John Williams, the Executive Director of the Richard Tom Foundation (RTF), and Matt Niklaus, co-owner of Bootlegger Bikes in Jeffersonville.

Richard Tom was an avid biker and cherished and respected leader of commercial bike tours. He was admired for his exceptional competence as a guide, his delightful disposition, and his friendliness. Richard was a devoted ambassador for cycling and was loved for his genuine warmth and enthusiasm to inspire cyclists of all ages. Most sadly, Richard lost his life when he was struck by a car while cycling near his home here in Vermont.

John presented Matt with a check for \$1000, to be used to launch the Bikes for Friends (BFF) Program. The money comes from the RTF's fundraising program, which is devoted to raising money to increase safety for vulnerable users of roads and to fulfill the RTF mission. The Cambridge Area Rotary worked with Matt to write the grant and secure the Bike for Friends funding.

In addition to the \$1000 grant, \$250 was given by a local anonymous donor.

How does Bike for Friends work?

At no cost to the recipient, the Bikes for Friends Program will provide bikes so that all may discover biking adventure and joy on roads and trails.

Bootlegger Bikes will accept good-quality bikes as donations for repair, making them user-friendly and safe for distribution to aspiring bikers who cannot afford the cost of a two-wheeler.

What can I do to donate a bike or receive one?

Anyone interested in donating a bike or getting one through the BFF Program should contact Matt Niklaus, matt@bootleggerbikes.com, or Sam Lotto of Cambridge Area Rotary, swlv57@gmail.com.

For those interested in receiving a bike, there is very short application form to fill out so we know what type of bike to rehab and get you linked up with!

Human service agencies, Town Rec Departments, school staff, and others are encouraged to reach out to Matt or Sam on behalf of those who would benefit from receiving a bike through BFF.

For information about the RTF go online to <http://www.richardtomfoundation.com>.

Underhill Rec tennis courts open

The resurfacing of the tennis courts at the Underhill Town Recreation Area at 10 Stevensville Road is complete! The surface is new, the nets are new, and the courts look great! The courts are now open and ready for play. A few things of note:

- No wheels on the court! No bikes/skateboards/rollerblades/etc. They will harm the court repairs.
- There are lines for tennis AND pickleball on both courts.
- Learn how to play pickleball: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1vPYdKZq00> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoheCHp6IDw>.
- There will be some learn-to-play-pickleball events at the courts soon. Stay tuned!

Thanks to all for your patience and enjoy the courts! — Underhill Recreation Committee

Summer 2021 Running Biathlon Races

The remaining 2021 Summer Running Race Series will take place on Thursdays, August 12, 19, and 26. The six-race summer running training biathlon race series will be open to first timers without a rifle.

The races are open to beginners age 14 and older, as well as experienced biathletes. No experience is needed and first timers with no shooting experience are welcome.

Race distance is usually 5K on mostly dirt, with some pavement. Safety clinic, instruction, and shared rifle use is available for novices. Rifles will be left on the mat.

Awards are given at the end of the six-race series and registration is on skireg; you must register before 1:00 PM on the day of race. This allows time for the list of attendees to be sent to Force Protection so you will be allowed on base.

Sport Class /Novices are required to attend a safety clinic, which are good for one year. These will be held on the day of race, 5:00 – 5:30 PM. This safety clinic is required in order to be able to race. Zero will be 5:30 – 6:00 PM. Race start is at 6:15 PM. The cost per race is \$15 and there is a discount for current EABC members. Please email questions to: eabiathlon@gmail.com.

The speed limit on base is 20 mph, and it is very important to adhere to this as we are guests on base, and nonconforming activity can lead to our lease being revoked.

SPORTS

Missisquoi Paddle-Pedal August 7

The sixth annual Missisquoi Paddle-Pedal is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, August 7 in Richford! This fun event combines 6.5 miles of paddling on the wild and scenic Missisquoi River and 5.5 miles of cycling back on the adjacent Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail.

Bring your family, gather a team of friends, or come by yourself — this community event is for all ages and abilities. Sign-up for a non-competitive recreational class or enter to race solo, tandem, relay, or as a community team. All participants will go home with a prize! \$10 boat rentals are available for advance reservation, thanks to Montgomery Adventures. Bike rentals available through the Jay Cloud Cyclery.

Learn more and sign-up today at <https://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org/get-involved/missisquoi-paddle-pedal/>.

Want to participate but not paddle? Sign up as a volunteer! Brought to you by the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee, Jay Cloud Cyclery, the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail, Rise VT, and The Town of Richford.

All proceeds will support waterway stewardship and the Northern Forest Explorers Youth program.

Johnson Girls Basketball Camp August 9-12

Come join Coach Greg Eckman and members of the NVU-Johnson Women's Basketball team for our annual Girls Basketball Development Camp. Now open to high schoolers as well! Grades 4-12. Day camp, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, August 9-12. Register online at <http://events.northernvermont.edu/Register/NVUJohnsongirlsbasketballCamp2021>.

The day camp, which runs Monday-Thursday and costs \$275, keeps the following schedule:

- 9:00 AM: Arrival
- 9:20 AM: Roll Call / Warm up
- 9:30 – 11:30 AM: Stations/Drills and Skills
- 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Lunch (we provide)
- 12:30 – 1:30 PM: Camp Contests
- 1:30 – 2:00 PM: Defensive Stations
- 2:00 – 2:30 PM: 3 v 3 games
- 2:30 – 3:45 PM: 5 v 5 games
- 4:00 PM: Depart

Please email Greg.Eckman@northernvermont.edu with any questions.



Register for NVU this fall

There is still time to enroll at Northern Vermont University, which has two campuses: NVU-Johnson (pictured above) and NVU-Lyndon. Classes start on Monday, August 23. Vermonters, don't miss out on new scholarships this fall. Find degree programs, application process, transfer credit information, and scholarship information at <https://www.northernvermont.edu/vermont-scholarships>.

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SCHOOLS

The MMU Lasagna Dinner is back!

After a year hiatus due to COVID, the MMU Academic Boosters is once again hosting its 34th Lasagna Dinner on Thursday, September 2 from 4:30 – 6:30 PM. This event allows parents, teachers, staff, community members, and students the opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal before MMU's Fall Open House.

The meal is open to the community and includes lasagna, green salad, roll or bread, a beverage, and pie for dessert. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for MMU students, \$3 for preschoolers, and \$25 for a family (two adults and two students). Tickets can be purchased in advance beginning Friday, August 13 at Palmer Lane Maple in Jericho, Beaudry's Store in Huntington, Jericho Center Country Store in Jericho Center, or at the MMU main office. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. Cash or checks (made out to MMU) are accepted. Cash or checks (made out to MMU) are accepted. Take out is available!

The dinner is the Academic Boosters' only fundraiser, supporting both students and staff at the high school. The MMU Academic Boosters is a group of parents whose goal is

to promote, recognize and reward the scholastic achievements of students, and to recognize those achievements publicly. Some of the sponsored events, which encourage a positive focus on students, include the Freshmen Honors Breakfast, Ice Cream in Celebration of Effort (very popular with the students), Recognition Night in the spring, and Honor Roll Rewards cards, a three-time per academic year community program that involves local businesses from all five towns in the district. It is a well-known fact that it takes a village to raise children, so, in both winter and spring, we also recognize the entire MMU Staff by hosting Staff Appreciation lunches! The Lasagna Dinner proceeds fund all of these activities. Donations

Schools continued on page 12

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD), including the towns of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill intends to destroy the special education records of all students who exited from any special education program during the 2015-2016 school year.

A permanent record of the student's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance record, and year completed is maintained without time limitation.

Any former student, who has reached 18 years of age, may review and/or receive these records upon request. Also, any parent of a student who is 18 years of age or older, who has retained parental rights, may obtain these records.

Please contact the MMUUSD Special Services Office at (802)434-2128 by October 31, 2021. If no student, parent, or guardian responds to this public notice prior to or by October 31, 2021, the school district will assume consent to destroy the entire record specific to the student. Destruction of these records will begin on November 1, 2021.

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Nathan Lord is NY National Guard's newest general officer



New York Army National Guard, 42nd Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Thomas Spencer promotes Brig. Gen. Nathan Lord in York, ME on Friday, July 9, 2021. Standing with Lord was his son Sam, who placed new rank on his father while his wife Sarah and daughter Elizabeth watch. Lord will serve as the deputy commander for support for the 42nd Division, which has 20,000 soldiers assigned to elements in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New Hampshire. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Nathan Lord, a Waterbury, VT resident and Afghanistan War veteran, became the New York National Guard's newest general officer during a ceremony at his family home in York, Maine on Friday July 9.

Lord was promoted to the rank of brigadier general by Major General Thomas Spencer, the commander of the 42nd Infantry Division. The ceremony was conducted with the Atlantic Ocean as a backdrop.

The 42nd Infantry Division includes soldiers from across the northeast and New England. Because the division is headquartered in Troy, NY, Lord had to transfer from the VT Army National Guard to the NY Army National Guard.

Lord, a 32-year veteran of the Army National Guard, started his military career in the 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry (Mountain) of the Maine Army National Guard in 1988.

Lord, Spencer said, "is the right man for the job. I have known Nate since 2015 and he is the type of leader who will make things happen. He will bring many unique capabilities to the Division."

Lord will serve as the deputy commander for support for the 42nd Division, which has 20,000 soldiers assigned to elements in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New Hampshire.

"You will be a great asset to the team and congrats on becoming a general," Spencer told Lord.

In his remarks, Lord thanked his family for their constant support over the years and all of his friends and mentors who have supported him through the years.

"This achievement is more because of all of you. Thank you for your confidence, support, and patience," he added. "Being a part of the historic Rainbow Division is absolutely humbling and I am honored to be a part of this team."

Lord had served as a full-time National Guard

officer. His assignments include company executive officer and company commander, operations officer at the Mountain Warfare School at Camp Ethan Allen, VT, battalion executive officer, operations officer for the 86th Troop Command, training officer and executive officer for the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and operations officer for the VT Army National Guard.

Lord commanded the 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry (Mountain) from 2006-2009, and the Army Mountain Warfare School from 2009-2011. He served as the Executive Officer for the 86th Brigade Combat Team from 2011-2013.

He then served as the Brigade Commander for the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain) from August 2017-July 2020. His most recent assignment was as the VT Army National Guard Chief of Staff from July 2020.

Lord is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, having served in Afghanistan as the Battalion Training Team Chief from 2003-2004.

His awards and decorations include (among others) the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Ram's Head Device.

Lord is a graduate of the United States Army War College, Army Mountain Warfare School, the Winter Assault Climber Course, the Sniper Course, Northern Warfare Training Center, and the Norwegian Winter Warfare School.

Lord grew up on the coast of Maine and graduated from York High School in 1986. He currently lives in Waterbury, VT with his wife Sarah, son Sam, and daughter Elizabeth.

Schools continued from page 11

are welcome at the door as well as at any of the local businesses selling tickets.

Parents and caregivers are highly encouraged

welcome to join this fun group! The meetings are held once a month and the time commitment is small. For questions, contact Leah Rowe at btvvyd2016@gmail.com.

Send your news to the Mountain Gazette at mtngazette@gmail.com

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