

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE

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Constable Siple running again; Maheux seeks selectboard spot

By Ted Tedford

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Town Constable Jennifer Siple got so busy she forgot to take out a petition for re-election, so she is running a write-in campaign.

No one else is running for the one-year post, so she is a shoo-in March 3.

"I've been so busy managing and maintaining three apartments I own, teaching spinning at the Sports and Fitness Edge, bookkeeping and consulting for small businesses, that I just forgot," Siple said last week. She also is in her fourth year in a Master's Degree program in companion and animal behavior psychology.

"I am running," she said, and she will continue as animal control officer.

During an interview, she said she had been caring for an abandoned dog for two weeks but it ran away Saturday and she spent much of the day wandering in woods looking for it.

As part of her write-in campaign, she said she will post a sign indicating her candidacy on David Villeneuve's lawn sign on Route 15 in Jericho.

During last November's election, voters turned down a proposal by the Selectboard that would have given Siple power to exercise law enforcement duties, specifically speed enforcement on town roads. The issue came up at last March's Town Meeting during discussion of speeders on town roads.

Siple said then she would be willing to do traffic duty only if she were given the proper training at the State Police Academy. The vote by secret ballot was nearly two-to-one in favor of prohibiting the additional duties. Voters then turned down a Selectboard request to allow her to go for training, a move made moot by the first vote.

The Selectboard has made a small change to its budget to be acted on by voters March 3.

An expense item in the Highway portion of the budget of \$16,397 for a 2008 pickup truck was inadvertently excluded. The change now means the budget will show an increase of seven-tenths of a percent instead of a decrease

of three-tenths of a percent. The revised budget totals \$1,789,594.

"We needed to account for the fact that we would be paying back a loan for a new town pickup truck that should have been included in the budget," said Walkerman. "We had the numbers, but they weren't presented (to us) correctly." He did not elaborate.

Running again for a three-year term to the Selectboard is its former chairman, Marc Maheux. He faces incumbent Dan Stein Bauer. Maheux served one term on that Board, starting in 2004. He lost to Steve Owen by 14 votes in 2007. During a recount, Maheux lost one vote, while Owen kept his original number of votes.

Maheux and Mike Timbers were defeated by incumbent Select Board Chairman Steve Walkerman at March Town Meeting a year ago. Voting for town officials in the upcoming election will be by secret, or Australian ballot.

Voters also will be asked to approve tax-exempt status for the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department and for town contracts on current use, that is, for properties put aside that cannot be developed while under contract with the town.

Voters also will be asked to approve \$11,965 to establish a foreign language program at Underhill Central School. The fund would pay for a teacher to teach Spanish and Spanish culture to children from kindergarten to Grade 4, according to John Alberghini, co-superintendent at the Chittenden East Supervisory Union. If approved it would mean all six elementary schools would have a foreign language program. Those schools are in Bolton, Huntington, Jericho (two schools), Richmond and Underhill.

On the Underhill Town Schoolboard, Chairman John LaRue is running unopposed for a two-year term and Tony Julianelle seeks re-election to a three-year term. Clifford Peterson is running unopposed for a three-year term on the Mount Mansfield Union High School Board.

ing article, Murphy said she researched state statutes and decided to place an advertisement in this issue of The Mountain Gazette correcting the problem.

She said the advertisement will change Article 2 that asks voters to act on the reports of town officers. She has added wording asking voters to approve the budget and authorize the Select Board to set a new tax rate. In Underhill, the budget is discussed and voted on the floor of the meeting.

Town Meeting is March 3, 9:00 AM at Browns River Middle School.

Cat in the Hat?



Families and students embraced the fun of learning with Dr. Seuss. It was a wonderful time that brought families together and brought the wonderful world of books alive for everyone. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Level funding for Cambridge town budget

By Katherine Quimby Johnson
Special to the Mountain Gazette

At Town Meeting on March 3, the Cambridge Selectboard will ask voters to approve a total 2009-10 budget of \$1,649,573.28. The prior year's budget was \$1,686,810.86. In a February 3 meeting with the Cambridge Finance Committee, Selectboard Chair Bernie Juskiwicz said, "We're trying to keep costs down to the taxpayer."

In a separate article, voters will be asked to approve the purchase of a dump truck and an excavator, to be paid for over a four-year period, at a cost of \$94,000 per year. The Board told the

Cambridge budget continued on page 16

Jericho Selectboard keeps budget lean

By Phyl Newbeck

Special to the Mountain Gazette

The staff at Jericho Town Hall works as a team. According to Selectboard Chair Bob Penniman, that's the key to the town's having kept its budget flat this year. "We really struggled," said Penniman, "given the economy, the present drops in income for the current fiscal year and the anticipated drops for next year."

Penniman praised Interim Town Administrator Bert Moffatt for helping the Selectboard keep the budget lean. One significant cut in the budget was made possible by years of preparation. For several years, Jericho has levied a three cent tax to provide for roads and other infrastructure. In the last two years, the town has made significant improvements in the five-year capital plan and was therefore able to reduce that amount to a single penny for this year, saving roughly \$125,000.

Vice Chair Tim Nulty also lavished praise on Moffatt for helping to keep the budget flat. "That was quite an accomplishment," he said. Despite the fact that costs are going up and the town's non-tax income from state funds, permit fees, and interest has declined, the

Westford Selectboard pares budget by \$43,000

By Phyl Newbeck

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Westford is responding to the current economic times with a bare bones budget, down \$43,000 from last year. Selectboard Chair Cheryl Dunkley said the board was "very conscious of the economic environment at this time. We looked to make the most conservative budget we could come up with." Despite the lower budget, the tax rate for Westford residents will rise just under four cents because of decreased revenues. Among

Westford budget continued on page 16

Bolton budget up 2.27%

By Phyl Newbeck

Special to the Mountain Gazette

The Bolton Town budget is up slightly this year - \$716,750 compared to \$700,845 - but that doesn't mean the Selectboard didn't work hard to ensure that rise was kept to a modest 2.27%.

Bolton Town Clerk/Treasurer Deb LaRiviere noted that there were numerous cuts to ensure that the taxpayers of Bolton would not suffer unduly. Bolton generally keeps funds on hand for a potential part-time employee. Last year, they rarely used those funds, so half of the \$10,000 line item was taken out. A more drastic cut was made in the area of road resurfacing where the line item was reduced from \$20,000 in 2008 to \$5,000 in 2009. Additionally, the Selectboard cut the reserve funds for both the general fund and the fire department fund from \$4,000 to \$2,000. Lastly, they cut the fuel budget for both the highway and fire department.

Those cuts were necessary because Bolton added one item to their budget: \$10,000 for an engineering study on Notch Road. Additionally, town employees were given 3% raises to help cover the rising costs of health care. LaRiviere said there was talk about changing health insurance plans for employees or working the additional money into that arena, but there wasn't time to complete that work. "Something has to be done about rising health care costs," she said. "The problem extends beyond the local level."

Robert (RJ) Vallie of the Bolton Selectboard agreed that costs such as health care and insurance for town staff are beyond the town's control. He noted that those costs rose 17% in the past year and hindered the town's efforts to prevent any increase in the budget. "In the past," he said, "voters have been very good in terms of accepting town budgets as well as additional appropriations which are warned as individual articles." This year, Bolton has two such articles. One is a continuation of the ¼ cent tax levy to go towards conservation funding. In the past, voters have approved this levy. This year, Bolton is adding a new warned item to the ballot, a measure calling for a 1/8 cent tax to go towards a library hardship fund. There is no town library in Bolton and residents have to pay a fee to use the libraries in Richmond (\$35 per family) and Waterbury (\$10 per person). This fund would be used to help defray the cost of library use for needy families. One last warned item on the ballot deals with property tax reductions for disabled veterans. Bolton currently allows a deduction of \$10,000 but a warned article will ask whether voters would like to raise that deduction to \$40,000.

In contrast to some other Chittenden County jurisdictions, Bolton is served by only one rescue service - Richmond. Richmond Rescue asked the town for \$11,300, a slight increase from last year, and those funds have been placed in the budget. Last year, a representative from Richmond asked for an increase in the funding allotted in the budget and voters agreed to put the extra money in, so LaRiviere thinks voters will not object to this increase. LaRiviere said it is too early to tell whether the budget will translate into a tax increase or decrease but suspects that taxes will go up by a penny or two. Still, she is "cautiously optimistic" that the budget will pass. "I think the Selectboard has worked really hard to keep the budget down," she said, "but I understand the economic conditions and times are tough."

Underhill town budget article left out of Town Report

By Ted Tedford

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Residents reading their new Town Report will find one item missing: There is no article that asks voters to approve a town budget.

Town Administrator Chris Murphy said over the weekend she inadvertently deleted the article calling for approval of a \$1,789,594 budget to run the town starting July 1.

"I put it out (the Official Warning), everyone reviewed it, but we all missed it," Murphy said.

After being informed about the miss-

See Town of Underhill OFFICIAL WARNING
March 2009 Annual Town Meeting
AS AMENDED on page 13.

Jericho budget continued on page 16

POLICE REPORT

Police responded to a complaint of a theft of gasoline at 4:40 PM on February 2, 2009 from the Cambridge Village Market. Police located the suspect vehicle and identified the operator as **Zachary Dalley**, 27, of Waterville. Dalley was released on citation for the offense of retail theft, to appear in Lamoille District Court on March 10, 2009. Case #: 09A100695. Trooper: Purdy, VSP Lamoille.

On February 5, 2009 at approximately 1:30 PM Vermont State Police was notified of a **burglary in which firearms were stolen**. The firearms were stolen from a residence on Route 15 in the town of Jericho. The amount of firearms is estimated at several dozen, to include handguns, shotguns and rifles. State Police in Williston are looking for any leads regarding this theft. Contact Trooper Paul Badger with any information at the Williston State Police Barracks, (802) 878-7111. Case #: 09A100736.

On December 31, 2008, Vermont State Police (VSP) at the St. Albans Barracks was notified of a fraud complaint involving an identity theft. The victim, a female from the St. Albans area, had advised that she began receiving various telephone calls from collection agencies in regards to financial matters and accounts that she, the victim, had never been associated with. The month long investigation revealed that **Jessica Hood, 22**, who had been an Arbonne consultant, was responsible for using the victim's personal information to open various financial accounts with multiple businesses. The victim had attended an Arbonne gathering during the summer, in which the victim had provided Jessica Hood with her personal information in order to become an Arbonne consultant as well.

Consequently, Jessica Hood, over the course of several months, used the fraudulent accounts to purchase thousands of dollars' worth of items. Items including financial documents and a department store charge card with the victim's name on them were located in Jessica Hood's apartment, as were various fraudulently bought properties. Jessica Hood faces a felony criminal charge of false personation. Case #: 08A206901. Senior Trooper: MacCallum.

The Mountain Gazette

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Letters Policy:

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

Letters accepted by mail or email.



Legislative breakfast well attended, informational

Monday, February 2, 2009 was the Second Annual Regional Legislative Breakfast sponsored by Lamoille North Supervisory Union, Lamoille South Supervisory Union, and Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union. Seven legislators were among the approximately 40 people in attendance to discuss educational issues. The participation of Senator Susan Bartlett, Representatives Heidi Scheuermann, Linda Martin, Floyd Nease, Richard Westman, and Peter Peltz, and House Speaker Shap Smith was greatly appreciated. The audience consisted of administrators, board members, agency partners, and community members from the three supervisory unions in Lamoille Valley.

Introductions and opening remarks were made by LNSU Superintendent Dr. Debra Taylor, followed by LSSU Superintendent Tracy Wrend, then OSSU Co-Superintendents Mark Andrews and David Ford. Dr. Taylor welcomed the group and emphasized the importance of leadership for quality education. She stated that as leaders we must be singularly focused on providing the best education for Vermont's students, high expectations for student success, 21st century learning, citizenship, continual improvement, and equitable access to resources.

Ms. Wrend and Mr. Ford described the budget process led by our school boards that focuses on student outcomes, while balancing the requirements of federal and state mandates, student entitlement programs, labor contracts, facility maintenance, community mores, and local economic conditions. Next, Dr. Taylor and Ms. Wrend offered examples of the impact of the governor's recent proposals to freeze state K-12 education revenue at FY09 levels on a per pupil basis with an option for districts to raise above-level spending on the local residential property tax. Mr. Andrews provided perspectives on the importance of offering kids with disabilities an appropriate educational program and how current state policies related to funding and accountability put a strain on the system.

Following opening remarks, legislators commented on the governor's proposal and various aspects of the educational issues presented, specifically, funding for schools and the potential for federal incentive grants. Speaker Smith indicated that he felt that the

governor's proposal was not realistic due to the timing. He recognized that local school boards make budget decisions based on our challenging economic times. In response to a question raised by Eden Central School Principal Jeff Lindgren, Representative Nease encouraged school administrators and boards to be prepared with "shovel ready projects" when federal incentive funds become available for the state. Senator Bartlett, Chair of the Appropriations Committee, discussed structural deficits where costs are increasing and revenue is in decline. She offered to continue the dialogue through a working committee of administrators and board members who will review structural issues related to current and future funding for education. A regional working group will be assembled to provide input into the decision-making process around educational funding.

UNDERHILL JERICO FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Kitty Clark

EMERGENCY CALLS:

January 29 3:51 PM Responded to 110 Orr Road, Jericho for a carbon monoxide alarm
January 30 11:40 AM EMS call on Poker Hill Road, Underhill
January 31 11:53 AM Responded Public Assist, duty officer only in Jericho on VT RT 15
February 1, Responded Public Assist on Ravin Hill, Underhill, duty officer only
February 2 8:58 AM EMS call on Poker Hill Road, Underhill
February 3 2:24 PM Responded to Fields Lane, Jericho for Public Assist.
February 4 6:09 PM Responded to a chimney fire on Irish Settlement Rd., Underhill
February 5 9:22 AM EMS call on Old Pump Road, Jericho
February 7 4:51 AM Responded to McClellan Farm Rd., Underhill for the of smoke
February 9 2:42 PM EMS call on Pleasant Valley Road, Underhill
February 11 10:30 AM Responded to Leary Rd., Jericho for a Public Assist.

MEETINGS:

February 3, Tuesday night maintenance drill held at both stations
February 10, Tuesday night drill was held at the Jericho Station, SCBA Quarterly training

SAFETY MESSAGE: "Clothes Dryers" The next time you put a load of laundry in the dryer, be sure that the lint filter has been cleaned. Never put in synthetic fabrics, plastic, rubber or foam in the dryer, they retain heat. Be sure that the dryer is properly vented to the outside and plugged into it's own outlet.

The next time you are about to leave your home, ask yourself a simple question: is there any appliance in the house that is still running. Any appliance that is left running is a fire hazard even if you think that you are using it properly.

Remember that if you should have a fire in your home no matter how small you think that it is, dial "911" immediately. Firefighters would rather find the fire out when they arrive rather than your house fully involved with fire.

ALSO: Is your home or property well marked with your locatable address, this is so important, if you number is on your house, can it be seen clearly from the road. If numbers have come off from your mailbox, take time to replace them.

Vermont February Vacation Week at Bolton Valley Kids 17 and Under Ski/Ride FREE!*

Vermont's Favorite Affordable Family Resort Just
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February vacation week is a great way to celebrate winter with the family. February 23rd thru 27th, youth 17 and under ski free* when accompanied by an adult who purchases a day lift ticket. So make the short drive to Bolton Valley and celebrate.

Free skiing/riding for kids 17 and under* and a great day of fun with the family.

*One free youth day lift ticket per adult day lift ticket purchase, good for use only on date of adult ticket purchase. Offer valid Feb 23 thru Feb 27, 2009. Details and the latest snow conditions at boltonvalley.com



THE VIEW FROM THE CENTER

By J. Harrison L. Heidel

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Our little corner of the planet is beginning to melt and I couldn't be happier. Unfrozen rain has fallen for almost 24 hours this day, and winter seems to be lifting and flushing itself away from us although it's not quite mid-February. This is when I expect winter, often beg winter to be gone, especially as I become... more mature and less cold tolerant.

My bio-existence still follows the rhythm of southern living, even though I've lived in New England and points farther north for over a decade now. Come mid-February I still look for trees to be well budded, forsythia aching to bloom, daffodils showing their sunny faces, and the sound of the lawn mower of a much too eager yard keeper off in the distance. A reliable source tells me folks are wearing flip-flops and shorts in South Carolina right now. I almost wept at that news. "We're not quite there here in the Center," I replied, "check in again in a couple of months." But I have heard birdsong, some of last fall's plowed fields are showing turned over clumps of sod, and things left tossed about the ground before the first snow fall are beginning to appear from their frozen tomb. The lids on my two compost bins no longer appear to be the entrance and exit of an igloo. I fell asleep to rain falling on my tin roof last night, dreaming of spring.

Winter's leaving and spring's return is a much slower process here. All that makes this time of year (mud season) desirable is the truth that spring follows closely. Folks who drive along the "less than paved" roads here could soon be up to their axles in the glop that replaces our snow, but we know our town road guys will soon ditch their plows and begin hauling the mud hardening concoction we count on, that keeps us on top of the road.

It's about as ugly here as this lovely place ever gets. With that, I planned a short hiatus south over the next few days. Careful consideration of personal finances showed I could make it as far south as...Boston. I know what you're thinking. Yes, there should be a limit to how ugly Boston could be this time of year with its cold and close concrete buildings, fog off the bay turning mid-day to dusk, and don't forget the friendly folks one encounters along the sidewalks of downtown Boston. None of them will be wearing flip-flops. I suppose just the thought of "getting away" created a less than accurate memory of Boston this time of year. But mine is an optimistic outlook, and I'm willing to bet (a little) that more of this place will be eager and beginning to at least conspire to slip out of dormancy when I return.

J. Harrison L. Heidel is an Episcopal priest in Underhill, lives in Underhill Center, and writes about local life.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

ART

The **Essex Art League** will hold its February meeting from 9:00 to 11:00 AM on Thursday, February 5 at the First Congregational Church at 39 Main Street, Essex Jct. Photographer and member, Ron Russotti will present a program on digital photography. For more information call 862-3014 or visit the website at essexartleague.com.

Egg Tempera Painter, Altoon Sultan speaks at **Helen Day Art Center** 5:30 PM, Thursday, February 19.

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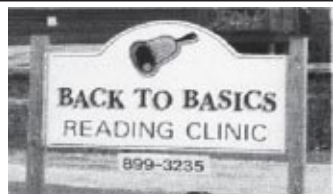
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Bird Paintings by VCS Students on exhibit at Shelburne Town Hall.

The **Fleming Museum** presents *Hugh Townley-Against the Grain* - January 13 - March 22, 2009. Hugh Townley: Against the Grain highlights the career of one of the most original sculptors of the twentieth century, who spent the last eleven years of his life in Bethel, Vermont.

More than *Bilingual: William Cordova/Major Jackson* at the Wolcott Gallery, through May 10, 2009. Although Peruvian-born visual artist William Cordova and African-American poet and UVM faculty member Major Jackson come from divergent backgrounds, both artists find inspiration and common ground in music, literature, and the urban aesthetic. More than *Bilingual* includes mixed media drawings, sculpture, and video by William Cordova and poetry by Major Jackson in response. The two artists have long admired one another's work and the Fleming Museum is pleased to bring them together for the first time in a collaborative venture.

The **Essex Art League** will be showing work at several venues during the months of January and February. *Bright and Bold* is the colorful theme for the show at Phoenix Books, 21A Essex Way, Essex. Meanwhile Kay Webb, Doug Hoppes, Betty Borah and Clair Aimi will show their work at the Fletcher Allen Health Care Center at 353 Blair Park in Williston. Jennifer Fay will display her art at the Essex Town Offices, 81 Main St. Essex Jct. For further information call 862-3014 or visit www.essexartleague.com.

Village Cup, Jericho, painting by Mike Smith, mirrors by David Gale.

Flour Shop, Underhill, Chris White, photography; Tim Durbrow, photography; Pam Fiaschetti, paintings; Donna Owens, photography; Lee Cordner, photography; Chris Gluck's student art from Poker Hill Arts.

Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, art for February will feature dolls collected by Donna Toneatti and water colors by Jane Sandberg.

MUSIC

"MUSIC WITH MIA" weekly musical storytime at University Mall. Kids can enjoy music, stories, and singalongs with local singer/songwriter Mia Adams. Located in the JC Penney Court every Monday at 10:30 AM. Free. Mondays, now through March 23, 2009. For more information, please call 863-1066 x11.

Tuesdays - Open Mic, 9:00 - 11:00 PM, Smuggler's Notch Inn, Jeffersonville, 644-6765.

Wednesdays - NIPS-West Open Potluck and Songs/Dance Tunes Session, Moshe's house, Essex, first and third Wednesdays; contact Moshe 879-0876 or www.groups.yahoo.com/NIPS-West. Open Mic, 8:00 PM, Overtime Saloon, St. Albans; www.overtimesaloon.com. Open Mic Night, 6:30 PM on the first Wednesday of each month, Phoenix Books, Essex Shoppes and Cinema, Essex Center.

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

Saturdays - Acoustic music session, 1:00 - 4:00 PM, Foothills Bakery, Fairfax

THEATER

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Vergennes - Vergennes Opera House - March 17, 2009 7:00 PM, Maine based veteran folk duo *Two Old Friends* (Mac McHale and Emery Hutchins) will perform an evening of Irish and American traditional music in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Tickets are \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and students, children under 12 free; available at flynnitix.org (802) 86FLYNN, Classic Stitching on Main Street in Vergennes and through the Vergennes Opera House 802-877-6737.

Gailmor named Volunteer of the year

United Way of Lamoille County (UWLC) board member, Jon Gailmor, won the Volunteer of the Year award at the Lamoille Valley Chamber of Commerce's (LVCC) Annual Meeting. Jon was nominated by fellow board members because of his many contributions to United Way, including performing personalized singing telegrams to help raise funds for use in the community.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

4-H Super Science Saturdays in March

The University of Vermont Extension's 4-H program is offering Super Science Saturdays this March to youth ages 8 to 12. Super Science Saturdays will engage youth in active investigative science experiences, but most importantly, they will be having fun.

The activities will be held in Morrisville (location TBA) from 9:30 to 11:30 AM on March 7, 14, and 21. There is no cost to register but space is limited. To register, please contact the 4-H Office at 888-4972 or email lauren.traister@uvm.edu.

AREA WORSHIP SERVICES

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A loving, caring Christian community, living and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with our neighbors."
VT Rt. 15 Jericho
Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM
Reverend J. Harrison L. Heidel, Rector
Karen Floyd, Parish Administrator, 899-2326
www.calvarychurchvt.org

COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH

"Come as You Are"
VT Rt. 15 between Jericho and Essex Center
Pastor Peter Norland, 879-4313
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 AM; Adult Sunday School 8:45 - 9:45AM
Children's Worship/Sunday School: K-6, 10:00 AM
Opportunities for Community Service, Family Events, Youth and Adult Groups; Handicapped Accessible
pastor@jerichocovenantchurch.org - www.jerichocovenantchurch.org

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

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

JERICO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

On the Green in Jericho Center
Pastor Peter Anderson and Youth Pastor Glenn Carter
Worship Services at 8:00 and 11:00 AM - Nursery care provided
Sunday school for all 9:30 AM
Youth 6:15 PM Sundays in Sunday school building
Signing for the deaf upon request
899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org

JERICO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"
VT Rt. 15, Jericho (next to Town Hall)
Rev. Charlie Yang, Pastor, 899-4288, cyang@troyconference.org.
Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 AM;
Children's Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Youth Group, Saturday 6:00 PM; Bible Study, Tuesdays, 7:00 PM
www.troyconference.org/jumc or JerichoUMC@troyconference.org

MOUNT MANSFIELD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A Liberal Spiritual Community
P.O. Box 150, Jericho, VT 05465
phone 899-5219 - website www.mmuuf.org
We gather at 9:30 AM at the Jericho Elementary School on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of September-June
beginning Sunday, September 14, 2008
for worship, reflection, growth, and support.
All are welcome.

UNITED CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

100 Raceway Rd., Jericho, VT 05465
Pastor Mike Murray - 899-2949, Monday-Friday
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Nursery and Sunday School available
Youth Fellowship Sunday nights 5:00 PM
Area Home Fellowships, Thursdays, 7:00 PM
secretary@ucavt.org
www.ucavt.org

UNITED CHURCH OF UNDERHILL

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At the Green on Route 15 - Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen - 899-1722
www.unitedchurchofunderhill.com
Sunday Worship and Sunday School: 10:30 AM
Micah's Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM third Saturday

Insurance -

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POLICE REPORT

On February 7, 2009 at 4:15 PM, Trooper Kamerling initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle on the Main Road in Huntington near Hinesburg Hollow Road for having an improperly displayed license plate. A DMV check of the operator, **Shane E. Tetreault**, 38, of Huntington, revealed that his license was criminally suspended. Tetreault was arrested without incident and transported to the Williston State Police Barracks for processing. Tetreault was cited to appear in Chittenden District Court on March 3, 2009. Case #: 09A100772. Trooper: Michael Kamerling, VSP Williston Barracks

RICHMOND / HUNTINGTON

OBITUARIES

Kerri Jane Barton, 43, passed away on February 5, 2009, following complications from heart surgery. Kerri was born in Concord, N.H. in 1965, and lived most of her life in Jericho, Vt., with her devoted parents. Kerri proudly graduated from Burlington High School and always spoke fondly of her experiences in school. She was a Special Olympian for many years, competing in bowling. Kerri had many interests throughout her life and her favorite hobbies included bowling, rug hooking, playing guitar, listening to music, and painting. She was passionate about Harley Davidson motorcycles, professional wrestling, baseball, Elvis and her bible. One of Kerri's greatest desires was to have a job, which she achieved in 2008, when she was employed at On the Rise Bakery in Richmond. Kerri loved her family and brought them much joy with her kind spirit, her infectious laughter and her endless stories. Kerri spent her life caring about others, she was truly an angel and those that were touched by her feel incredibly blessed. She developed close relationships with many of her wonderful support-givers through the years and she became instant family and a dear friend to people wherever she went. Kerri leaves behind her loving family, including her parents, Carol and Leo Barton of Jericho; her sister, brother-in-law and niece, Dori Barton, Aaron and Meadow Worthley of Huntington; her nephews, Justin and Jason Barton of Jericho; her aunts, Jane Cutting, Ethel Furlong and Sue Gay; her uncles, Harry Cutting and Clinton Gay; several cousins; her very special friends, Diane and Steve Barron (and Asa), "Julia" and "Bombard," Vicky Streeter. Kerri goes on to join her Grammy and Grampa, who she loved with all her heart, and her brother Jeffrey. Calling hours will be held at the Gifford Funeral Home on Friday evening, February 13, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Funeral services were held on Saturday morning, February 14, at 11:00 AM, in the Huntington Community Church on Main Road, Huntington Center, Vt. Reception followed service at Church Annex. Donations may be made to Howard Community Services, which provided Kerri with such an incredible opportunity to explore the world and introduced her to wonderful people that are now part of her family. Howard Center, 208 Flynn Avenue, Suite 3J, Burlington, VT 05401.



Catholic churches sponsor Lenten Mission

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish of Richmond and Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish of Williston are pleased to announce that the two parishes are jointly sponsoring a Lenten Mission entitled "Catholics... It's Time for Us to Unlock the Power" in early March. Reverend Marc Montminy, pastor of Saint Marie's and Sacred Heart Parishes of Manchester, NH, has accepted an invitation to lead the mission. He will speak at the weekend masses March 7th and 8th at each parish and then on March 9th, 10th and 11th at 7:00 PM, alternating between the two churches. On March 9th and 11th the mission will be at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Williston and on March 10th it will be held in Richmond.

Reverend Montminy has given this mission to a number of parishes throughout New England and Canada and comes highly recommended. A native of Berlin, NH, he has served the diocese of Manchester through a variety of ministries including: serving as a member and later the chairperson of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, founding and directing the Office of Worship, serving as head of the Office of Spiritual Renewal, and opening and operating a house of prayer, Joseph House.

The Mission is open to all area residents seeking spiritual renewal. For more information please call 878-4513 or 434-2531.

CAMPUS HONORS

Luke Ehinger from Richmond has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Trine University in Angola, Ind. He is a senior majoring in communications and a 2005 graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School.

Probate Perplexities

Does the probate process perhaps produce for you a plethora of perplexities? While the word "probate" may evoke a variety of reactions from different people, most experience some level of confusion with the concept. What is probate? And why can one person's experience be so different from another's?

Probate, from the Latin "probare" which means "to prove," defines the Court process that (a) seeks to validate (or "prove") a will, and (b) administers the estate of a deceased individual. A probate proceeding is mainly initiated to enforce the decedent's post-death instructions, either found in the will or by operation of state law, on assets that don't carry automatic instructions created during life. In more basic terms, it is the process used to transfer assets to the next owner.

In Vermont, Probate Courts oversee the estate administration, from the opening of the estate to its closure. The process typically involves the appointment of a personal estate representative for the estate (aka Executor or Administrator), the payment of expenses, and the distribution of the assets. Since all estates are not equal in assets, expenses, and family dynamics, the details of the process will vary.

The following illustration may provide more clarity. *George and Martha are married and have several children. They own a joint bank account and a house in Vernon, as joint tenants. They also have life insurance, naming each other as beneficiary. George dies first, and Martha dies a few years later, without making any changes to these assets.*

Question: Is probate necessary after George's death?
Answer: Not likely; all of George's assets pass directly to Martha as the surviving joint owner or as the beneficiary.

Question: Is probate necessary after Martha's death?
Answer: Yes, as there are no automatic instructions such as a surviving joint owner or beneficiary. A Court proceeding (probate) is needed to direct the distribution of these assets, either according to a valid will she may have or by the intestacy laws of the state.

Question: Is probate still necessary if Martha signed a will?
Answer: Yes. Wills do not operate automatically; the will must be offered to the Probate Court for approval, which will then begin the probate process.

Question: How long will the entire probate process take?
Answer: It depends; if the will is valid, all parties consent, and the assets are fairly simple and modest, it could take about 6-12 months from start to finish. The process could be quite involved (a year plus) if there are issues with the construction or terms of the will, disagreements amongst the children regarding distribution of personal property or sale of assets, emergence of unknown creditors, asset location or valuation difficulties, required filing of an estate tax return, or a variety of other complexities.

If the probate process persists in producing a pinch of perplexity, please ponder this phrase: probate passes property to people, after a person has passed on.

Jennifer R. Luitjens is Certified as an Elder Law Attorney (CELA) by the National Elder Law Foundation, a non-profit organization accredited by the ABA. She lives in Jericho and practices in South Burlington with the Jarrett Law Office. This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute comprehensive or specific legal advice. The author stresses the need to engage appropriate legal and financial professionals when devising your individual estate plan or probating an estate.

COMING EVENTS

February 28
St. Ann Cabin Fever Pork & Beans, 5:30 PM, Milton. Roasted pork loin, homemade baked beans, potatoes, gravy, cole slaw, deserts and beverages. Tickets: Adults - \$8.00, Students - \$6.00, Kids under 6 - Free, Immediate Family Maximum - \$30.00. Take-outs are available. Tickets available at 893-2487 or after all of the weekend masses.

March 7
Calcutta Night, VFW, Hyde Park. Doors open 5:00 PM, dinner 6:00 PM, raffle 7:00 PM. Tickets \$60.00. To benefit Matt Mazzola Spinal Cord fund. Sponsored by Jeffersonville Eagles Club and Auxiliary. For information contact Roy Allen at 827-3124 or George LaHouiller at 644-5762.

March 14
Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, The Knights of Columbus Council 7810, St. Thomas Church in Underhill Center. 5:30 PM. The traditional fare of a St. Patrick's Day Dinner. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5.00 for children 7 to 10 years of age. Those six and under free. Take-out meals will be available. For questions or to make your reservations, please call the church rectory at 899-4632.

Internet Safety for Parents - Not for Children, Temple Sinai, 500 Swift St., South Burlington, 7:00 PM. **TEXTING & SEXTING: Is Your Child Doing It?** This talk is aimed at parents of children who use the Internet. Topics include: Statistics, What is out there?, Information, What to do? Due to the nature of the discussion, this talk is intended for parents only. Speaker: Gary Kessler is a professor of digital forensics at Champlain College and Outreach Coordinator for the Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Friday, April 3
St. Thomas Youth to Present Shadow Stations. The youth of St. Thomas Church in Underhill Center, Vermont will present the Shadow Stations on April 3rd at 7:00 PM. The events leading to the crucifixion will be presented in shadow form with a narration geared toward youth. The event is free and open to the public. For further questions please call the St. Thomas Religious Ed. Office at 899-4770.

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Wedding Planner

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

If you want a traditional church wedding then there are plenty of choices. There may be counseling or classes required by the religious denomination before you are allowed use the church. Be aware that not all churches will marry people who are not a part of their congregation. Remember also that if you are a member of a church congregation the cost may be less.

Churches

Bolton

No churches

Cambridge

St. Mary's Catholic Church
310 No. Main St., Cambridge 644-1909

Jeffersonville

Second Congregational Church of Christ
Jeffersonville 644-5533

Jericho

Calvary Episcopal Church
VT Rt. 15, Jericho 899-2326

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
273 VT Rt. 15, Jericho 899-3932

Jericho Congregational Church
331 Browns Trace, Jericho Center 899-4911

Jericho United Methodist Church
71 VT Rt. 15, Jericho 899-4288

Korean-American United Methodist Church of VT
69 VT Rt. 15, Jericho 899-4249

Mt. Mansfield Unitarian Universalists Fellowship
Meet at Jericho Elementary School, Jericho 899-1765

United Christian Assembly
100 Raceway Rd., Jericho 899-2949

United Pentecostal Church
VT Rt. 15, Jericho 899-4835

Underhill

St. Thomas Catholic Church
6 Green St., Underhill Center 899-4632

United Church of Underhill
Park St., Underhill 899-1722

Westford

United Church of Westford
VT Rt. 128, Westford 872-8272

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

Justices of the Peace

Bolton

Brenda McKeon 434-3191

Paula Gervia 434-3892
John Devine 434-3615
R.J. Vallee 434-8462

Cambridge

Mark Boyden 644-5535
Munroe Brook 644-2290
Bob Eccles 644-5195
Jan Sander 644-5487

Jericho

Mary Bassett 899-2194
Donna Boiney 899-4336
Peter Booth 899-1368
Mary Coburn 899-2242
Robert Cochran 899-4982
Willadine Cochran 899-4982
Dave Eaton 899-5054
Deborah Fitzgerald 899-4965
Janet Gallagher 899-2029
Sarah Joslin 899-4708
Tom Obbagy 899-4520
Mike Weinbery 899-3481

Underhill

Gael Baordman 899-2260
Susan Boardman-Tobin 899-4822
Josephine McClellan 899-4704
Michael McKnight 899-4185
Joe O'Brien 899-3297
Lise Wursthorn 899-3673

Westford

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

Each town has other facilities available for ceremonies and receptions that can be rented for reasonable rates; call for prices.

The Eagles Club is located on VT Rt. 109 in Jeffersonville. Call 644-5333 for information.

The Red Brick Meeting House in Westford is available for public functions. Note that there may be some remodeling going on. The cost has typically included tables and chairs to accommodate 60 guests. A kitchen with stove and refrigerator is available for use and there are restroom facilities. Call Caroline Brown, 878-8890, for information.

The Jericho Community Center is available year round for

a fee; the building will hold about 100 people. You are responsible for all amenities. Call Andrea Hook, 899-2366. The property is handicapped-accessible.

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

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

The Underhill Town Hall in Underhill Center can be rented for weddings and/or receptions. The facility has a kitchen area and is handicapped-accessible. Call Town Clerk Sherri Morin for reservations, 899-4434.

Wedding Planner continued on page 6



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Wedding Planer continued from page 5

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

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

Popular facilities

The Round Church in Richmond seats 150 guests comfortably and is reasonably priced. Reserve by calling Sally Singer, 434-3480, after May 1.

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

The Shelburne Museum on VT Rt. 7 in Shelburne has gardens and the Meeting house available for wedding ceremonies only, and three sites are available for receptions and ceremonies.

The Lake Champlain sidewheeler *Ticonderoga* has space for 150 guests at a sit-down dinner or can easily accommodate 220 for a free-flowing buffet. Cost varies, depending on whether the Museum staff has to break down the exhibit in the dining room. Second site: the Pavilion tent, which accommodates 250 for a sit-down meal. The Museum provides a dance floor and a caterers' tent. Third site: the Brick House, located in Shelburne Farms and has a lake view, accomodates up to 220 people on the terrace. The Museum does not provide a tent for the terrace nor restroom facilities, both of which must be arranged from other providers, and no shuttle serves the Brick House.

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

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

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Three Mountain Lodge



The Lodge is located on scenic and historic Smugglers' Notch Road (Route 108) in Jeffersonville, Vermont.

Originally built in 1966 by the University of Vermont for their Outing Club, the lodge has a thirty year tradition of hosting good times. It later housed the UVM & Johnson State College ski teams as well as a state-run alternative school.

In the late seventies, Smugglers' Notch Resort purchased the property, gave it the name Three Mountain Lodge, and returned it to use as a ski dorm.

In 1983, Steve and Colleen Blood came to Jeffersonville and began their operation, at first continuing the ski lodging tradition

business in winter and a restaurant the rest of the year.

In 1984 they purchased the property.

With the restaurant's continued growth, it became hard to accommodate ski groups.

To the disappointment of many loyal guests and friends, lodging had to be phased out.



RECIPES

Cranberry Pork Chops

- 4 thick cut pork chops
 - 1 can (16 ounces) whole berry cranberry sauce
 - 1 tablespoon honey
 - 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
 - 4 slices oranges to garnish (optional)
- Preheat oven to 350° F.

In a large skillet brown chops. Place in a baking pan. Mix together cranberry sauce, honey, and cloves. Pour over the pork chops. Cover and bake one hour. Garnish with orange slices. Serves four, or if hungry, serves two.



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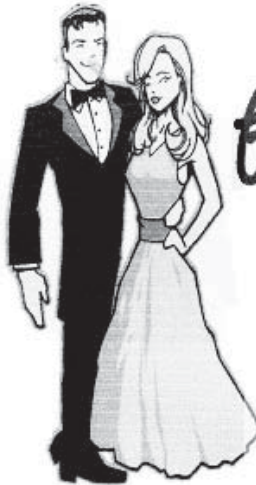
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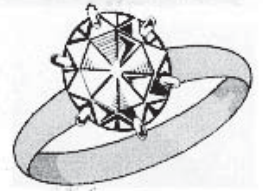
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Copley tips to avoid the silent killer

High blood pressure, also called hypertension, usually has NO symptoms; that's why it's called the "silent killer." Nationally, about one in three adults has high blood pressure and nearly a third of them don't know it. "Your only warning is by knowing your blood pressure numbers," states Copley Hospital's Wellness Center Manager Linda Shaw, RN, CCE. Left untreated, Shaw says high blood pressure can damage the heart and blood vessels and can eventually lead to several other conditions including stroke, heart failure, heart attack, kidney failure, and vision problems. "It is a lifelong disease that cannot be cured," says Shaw, "but the good news is that it can be controlled." In recognition of Heart Health Month Shaw is pleased to provide information on what blood pressure is and how to understand your readings.

Blood pressure is the force of the blood against the artery walls when the heart beats and at rest. When your blood pressure is taken, your provider always gives you two numbers. Understanding what these two numbers mean is important. "Systolic pressure, the top

number, measures when your heart beats (contracts) and forces the blood out to the body," explains Shaw. "Diastolic pressure is the bottom number, measuring when the heart relaxes between beats." High blood pressure is dangerous because it makes the heart work harder to pump blood to the body.

A normal reading includes numbers less than 120/80. Should your numbers run in the range of 120-139/80-89 you would be considered pre-hypertensive. "Someone whose blood pressure measures 140-159/90-99 is considered stage 1, and 160 and above/100 is considered stage 2." Shaw also notes that it's important to remember that blood pressure can vary during the day.

Unfortunately anyone can get high blood pressure, and as you get older, the risk for developing it increases. Risk factors that are controllable include stress, lack of exercise, drinking too much alcohol, obesity and eating too much salt. Your race, heredity (family history) and age are also risk factors. Shaw notes that women may also be at greater risk due to use of birth control pills, and during pregnancy and after menopause.

"Treatment for high blood pressure involves making changes in your lifestyle and drug therapy," she says. Lifestyle changes can include losing weight, stopping smoking, reducing stress, eating a healthy diet (such as the "DASH diet" which includes lowering sodium and increasing servings of fruit, vegetables and whole grain foods) and getting enough exercise. If your primary care physician prescribes medication, take it exactly as prescribed for as long as your provider tells you to take it. Shaw emphasizes, "Decreasing dosage or not taking the medication is dangerous."

Remember, monitoring your blood pressure is key. You cannot sense that your pressure is going up or down - you have to measure it to get the facts.

For more information on high blood pressure or any other illness or disease, contact Copley Hospital's Wellness Center at 888-8369 or the hospital's Health Science Library at 888-8347.

Practice empathy for Vermont Guardsmen and their families

By David Rocchio
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Later this year and early next year, close to two thousand Vermonters from the breadth and length of the state will be deployed to Afghanistan as part of the 86th Infantry Brigade. The *Burlington Free Press* reported recently the Guard is confident it will be ready to go. Based upon my own interviews and time with men and women in the Guard, I do not doubt they will be ready. As Major General Michael Dubie was quoted in the *Free Press* the other day, pulling a line from an earlier Vermont general signaling support to President Lincoln, "Vermont will do its full duty." I was curious though what Vermonters outside of the community of the Guard were doing and could do to support the deployment. So I called General Dubie.

Guardmen continued on page 12

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ON GOING EVENTS

ADULT ACTIVITIES

The **Essex Art League** holds monthly meetings at the First Congregational Church, 39 Main St., Essex Jct. For information, 862-3014.

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

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

The **Vermont French Canadian Genealogy Society library** is open for research Tuesdays 7:00 to 9:30 PM and Saturdays 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We offer Vermont & Canadian Catholic Parish records, Vermont Vital Records on Microfilm, census records and other resources to assist with family history research.

Genealogy Workshops: January 24, *Beginning Genealogy*; February 14, *Acadian Genealogy*; February 18, *Using Computers & the Internet*; more classes to be held in March and April.

The library is located at the Dupont Building, Hegeman Ave. across from the VT State Police building in Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester. For more information or appointment call 862-8082, 878-8081, or go online at www.vt-fcgs.org/library or email us at mail@vt-fcgs.org.

HEALTH GROUPS

Alzheimer's Support Group - Free educational support group series for families coping with a loved one with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. This series gives caregivers the opportunity to better understand and develop strategies for the future. Held monthly at The Arbors at Shelburne. For more information and to register, contact Nicole Houston, Director of Family Services, The Arbors at Shelburne, 985-8600.

Overeaters Anonymous meets 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays at the Jericho United Methodist Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho.

TOPS Chapter 145 Jeffersonville meets 6:15 PM on Thursdays at the Eagles Club, Route 109, Jeffersonville. Weigh-in 5:30 – 6:00 PM.

Healing Circle Breast Cancer Network, support group for women with breast cancer, meets first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 PM, Northwestern Medical Center, Conference Room 1. Please RSVP at 524-8479.

Franklin County Prostate Cancer Support Group, first Tuesday of each month, 5:15 - 7:00 PM, Northwestern Medical Center Conference Room #2, St. Albans. This support group offers men opportunities to educate themselves and each other; share and learn from each other's experiences; offer support to each other, a spouse or partner; and advocate early detection of prostate cancer. For information, Fern Mercure, 524-0719.

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

Statewide Quit Line, Telephone Smoking Cessation Counseling. Call 1-877-YES-QUIT (1-877-937-7848). Free.

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

Underhill Playgroup, kids ages 0-5 with their caregivers are always welcome to join us Fridays from 9:30 - 11:00 AM at Underhill Central School for playtime, crafts, stories, songs and fun! For additional information or questions, please contact Heather Lebeis at 899-4415 or Underhillplaygroup@yahoo.com.

Bolton Family Play Night, in the Smilie School gym, usually the first and third Fridays, 6:00 – 7:30 PM. Free. Mostly unstructured play with the school's equipment. Contact Tim Grover, 434-4180.

Kids' Yoga, 3-5 years & 6 years and up, classes pre-registering now for February. Toddler tumbling and new moms' groups. The Well, 644-6700.

SENIORS

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

Westford Senior lunches – Join Westford Seniors for lunch at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common the second Monday of each month. Lunch is served at 12:00 noon with a short meeting or presentation following. Call 878-7405 or 879-7382 for information or for a ride.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

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

Bolton Men's Basketball, Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Smilie School Gym. For adults and young adults, age 16 and up. Contact Bill Newton, 434-3348.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alzheimer's support group, third Wednesday, 9:30 – 11:30 AM, The Arbors, 687 Harbor Rd., Shelburne. Free education for individuals and families in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. For information and to register, contact Nicole Houston, 985-8600.

Approach Autism With Advocacy, Recovery & Education (AAWARE) in the Lamoille Valley,

third Sunday, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, Second Congregational Church of Jeffersonville Community Room, Jeffersonville. Special topics, guest speakers, resource information; playroom for kids, fenced side yard for outdoor play. For information, Terry Holden, 644-2759 (Jeffersonville) or Tina Karl, 888-3430 (Hyde Park.)

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

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

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

TOWN GOVERNMENT AND ORGANIZATIONS

Cambridge Area Rotary meets on the first Thursday of the month, rotating to local restaurants, 7:00 – 8:00 AM at 158 Restaurant, Main St., Jeffersonville. For information, call Anita Lotto, 793-0856, or Chuck Hogan, 644-8134.

Tim Nulty, Jericho Selectboard member, at the Village Cup, first and third Wednesdays, 8:00 – 9:00 AM, and at the Flour Shop, second and fourth Wednesdays, 8:00 – 9:00 AM.

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

Westford Food Shelf, open on the third Saturday of every month, 8:00 – 10:30 AM, United Church of Westford. All are welcome! Fresh produce, meat, and non-food items available.

Jericho-Underhill Water District meets first Monday of each month at the United Church of Underhill, Underhill Flats, 7:00 PM. For information, call 899-4076 or 899-3810.

Jericho Historical Society, second Thursday, 7:30 PM, Old Red Mill, Jericho.

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

Village of Jericho Board of Water Commissioners will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Old Red Mill on 4B Red Mill Drive in Jericho.

Fairfax Food Shelf has moved to the United Church on the corner of Fletcher Road and River Road, near the Foothills Bakery. The Food Shelf is open the first two Wednesdays, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon. Please use the downstairs entrance. Information, 849-6588.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Notes from Montpelier

By Rep. Bill Frank

Those of us who used Verizon for our internet services had to change our email address on February 1 when FairPoint took over Verizon's internet services. Many people had problems with the switch and even more problems when they tried to call FairPoint; lines were jammed and service poor. I was able to change my email address to FairPoint but I was not receiving mail that was sent to my Verizon address. If you have sent me an email in the last 3 or 4 weeks and have not heard from me this is the reason. Please resend the mail.

I tried for days to talk to a service representative either in person or through their chat room. Finally I got up at 1:30 AM to call and was connected after about an hour's wait. The person I talked with was about as rude as anyone I have talked to. I plan to stop using FairPoint as my internet provider and as a first step I am switching to use my own domain name for my email address. My new address is Bill@RepBillFrank.com. If you have me in your address book please make this change. As a transition for the next two months I will keep my FairPoint account so Rep.BillFrank@myfairpoint.net or Rep.BillFrank@verizon.net can still be used.

Last summer we were all reacting with shock and outrage to the violent acts committed against Brooke Bennett, the young woman from Randolph, Vermont. The horrific circumstances surrounding her abduction and death amount to one of the most heinous crimes ever committed in our state. This terrible tragedy also raises significant questions about Vermont's criminal justice system. The Senate Judiciary Committee and members of the House Judiciary and Intuitions Committees held eight committee meetings and five public hearings to address: 1) What went wrong? 2) What changes to Vermont Law on Sexual Abuse were made between 2004 and 2007? 3) Recommended changes to Vermont law.

The Committee created a 34-point comprehensive plan for Vermont's sexual abuse response system that was developed with the comments of Brooke Bennett's mother in mind when she told the Committee that her "only hope was that the Legislature would change the laws in such a way that it would protect children." The plan was used in developing Senate bill S.13, "An Act Relating to Improving Vermont's Sexual Abuse Response System." S.13 was voted out of the Senate on January 23 and was read the first time in the House on January 27. The bill was assigned to the House Judiciary Committee but different sections of the bill were reviewed by five other House committees including my committee, Human Services. I expect the bill will be voted out of committee and discussed by the full House by the time you are reading this report and hopefully on the Governor's desk before Town Meeting.

S.13 is a lengthy and comprehensive bill; there are 4 main parts and 53 sections covering many parts of Vermont's Statutes. Here are a few highlights of the bill:

- Part I – Prevention, *Sections 2-15*
 - Task the appropriate legislative committees with developing a comprehensive statewide approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse;
 - Conduct outreach efforts to raise awareness of families and communities about child sexual abuse;
 - Require school boards to ensure that all school employees receive orientation on the prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse, and that parents and caregivers receive information and education about child sexual abuse;
 - Require that licensed child care facilities ensure that all employees receive orientation on the prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse;
 - Require registered sex offenders to report whether they are living in a household with a child under the age of 16.
- Part II - Investigation and Prosecution, *Sections 16-29*
 - Fund and staff special investigation units fully and place responsibility for sex offender registry compliance with the units;
 - Upon passage of the act, require collection of DNA from any person convicted for a misdemeanor domestic violence or a misdemeanor sex offense for which registration as a sex offender is required;
 - As of July 1, 2011, require collection of DNA from any person arraigned for a felony offense;
 - Eliminate the right to take pretrial depositions of child victims in sexual abuse cases.
- Part III – Sentencing, *Sections 30-37*

Frank continued on page 11

Frank continued from page 10

- Create a new crime of sexual exploitation of a minor;
- Establish a new crime of aggravated sexual assault of a child with a mandatory 25-year-to-life sentence;
- Clarify that the general assembly did not adopt the common law definition of consent and did previously enact legislation to ensure that teenagers who engaged in consensual sexual acts would not be criminally liable, or would at least not be subject to high mandatory minimum sentences.

Part IV - Corrections and Supervision, Sections 38-48

- Require courts to review and amend conditions of probation for sex offenders as appropriate when a split sentence is imposed;
- Permit periodic polygraph examinations and supervision of computer activities as special conditions of probation;
- Require a judicial hearing prior to discharging a sex offender from probation.

Visit my web site www.RepBillFrank.com for a more complete list of purposes of the bill and a link to read the complete bill.

As always I like to hear from you, either by email at my new address Bill@RepBillFrank.com, at 899-3136, or 19 Poker Hill Rd., Underhill, 05489. I look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re-elect Dan Steinbauer for Underhill Selectboard To the Editor,

Dan Steinbauer has served the Town of Underhill as a member of the Selectboard with the kind of dedication that we all expect from our town officials. Dan presents ideas, studies proposals and listens to all who want to share their opinion. I feel our town government is effective and serves us all thanks in a big part to Dan's dedication. Please join me in voting to re-elect Dan Steinbauer to our Selectboard.

Rep. Bill Frank, Underhill

Re-elect Tim Nulty To the Editor,

Jericho voters are fortunate to have the opportunity to re-elect Tim Nulty for Jericho Selectboard. Over his past term, Tim has used his vast knowledge in the field of economics to control Jericho's budget. In fact, the town's taxes are actually being reduced this year which is certainly welcome and unusual in these difficult economic times. Tim has fostered moderate, sustainable growth in Jericho thereby attaining the balance between preservation of town character and open space while also promoting economic growth. He has evidenced belief in open and transparent government and has respectfully listened to and responded to voters' concerns. Please vote for Tim Nulty for Jericho Selectboard on March 3rd.

Louise Miglionico, Jericho

Re-elect Dan Steinbauer to the Underhill Selectboard To the Editor,

I wish to encourage the residents of Underhill to support Dan Steinbauer in his effort for re-election to the Underhill Selectboard.

I have had the pleasure of serving with Dan on the Traffic Committee, of which he is the Chair, and know that he has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life here in Underhill. The Traffic Committee was created barely one year ago by the Selectboard to address the growing concerns of residents regarding speeding, pedestrian safety, and related issues.

As a newcomer to town "committee work", I was immediately impressed with Dan's ability to create the framework necessary for the constructive efforts of this committee. In a relatively short period of time, with Dan's balanced leadership, the Traffic Committee worked quite effectively to gather information, traffic studies and engineering, and local insight and ideas necessary to assist the Selectboard in addressing these concerns.

Dan has displayed the integrity, temperament, and intellect that I believe is necessary for the discernment of today's ever-increasing, local, quality-of-life issues here in Underhill.

The residents of Underhill have a true asset with Dan Steinbauer working for their interests on the Selectboard.

Peter Czaja, Underhill

Vote for Marc Maheux To the Editor,

Town meetings are just around the corner. Please consider voting for Marc Maheux for Selectman. I think he understands the needs of our town and will do his best to serve us.

Roberts, Underhill

Maheux for Underhill To the Editor,

We encouraged Marc Maheux to stand again for a position on the Selectboard and are pleased that he is willing to offer to serve town governance with his time and experience. Over the years we have worked with Marc on a number of projects and have been impressed by his determination, competence, and dedication to the best interests of the community. Marc was raised in Underhill and his contributions are many. For years he has managed the Jericho Underhill Water District, always on call for any emergency. His service in the UJ Fire Dept earned him an honorary lifetime membership. His experience on the Metropolitan Planning Organization, which plans the transportation future of the county, and his knowledge of the issues and possibilities are invaluable. He serves as vice chair of the local Emergency Planning Committee. During his term on the Selectboard he was instru-

mental in the completion of the sidewalk in the Flats and planning of a continuation along Rte 15. For 25 years he has studied and used computer mapping and data management for business and Water District applications and he has a great respect for their usefulness in Town governance, also. Along the way he has been active in Little League and High School softball, too.

A distinct advantage for the Selectboard is that Marc is self-employed and works in the community, so he is available for daytime emergencies or consultation. His whole life has been one of service from which many of us have benefited. We hope others will join us in supporting him for selectman in this difficult time.

Ed and Betty Moore, Ed and Lu Farmer, Underhill Center

Recommends Nulty for re-election To the Editor,

Although I have been on the Selectboard a short time, I have known Tim Nulty much longer. He is thoughtful, insightful and willing to ask the hard questions. He is a good person who has been very careful to separate any personal interests from what is in the best interest of the town.

In addition, he has been willing to listen to differences in opinion and has tried to balance those views again in the overall best interests of the town. He is very mindful of the taxpayers and is frugal in spending those dollars. I recommend that Tim Nulty be re-elected to the Selectboard.

Catherine McMains, Jericho

Elect Marc Maheux To the Editor,

enjoin the residents of Underhill to support Marc Maheux for selectman. Marc has a long history of both private and public service to the residents of Underhill. His election will bring the focus back to the concerns of the local community; in particular I would like to see an effort to restart the process to build new sidewalks from Park Street to Roaring Brook. Marc was a driving force behind this project several years ago. Let's re-elect him and finish this much needed project.

S. Jennings, Underhill

Thank you from Cub Scout Pack 668 To the Editor,

Cub Scout Pack 668 of Westford would like to thank the following area businesses for their generous support during the holiday season: The Alpine Shop in South Burlington, Vermont Toy and Hobby in The University Mall, Joyce's Noodle House in Essex Outlet Shopping Center, Blockbuster, Inc. employees in Essex Outlet Shopping Center, Osh Kosh Store #165 manager in Essex Outlet Shopping Center, Mimmo's Pizza in Essex Outlet Shopping Center, Essex Outlets Cinema in Essex, and Red Clover Salon in Essex Junction.

Go show your support to Cub Scouting by visiting them. Thanks again.

Cub Scout Pack 668, Cubmaster Guy Vanzo

Keep Vermont Yankee To the Editor,

Like most Vermonters, I work hard for my money, but I don't have as much as I used to. Frankly, I cannot afford monthly power bills going up 40 percent. Please, lawmakers, do me and everyone else a favor and keep Vermont Yankee. You need to make my burden lighter, not heavier.

Bob Van Ornum, Jr., Jericho

Jericho - saving the countryside To the Editor,

Town Meeting's selectboard election brings us the second-most important voting opportunity of our generation. We'll have a choice between self-serving promotion of unbridled commercialization, gas stations and car washes in the Village Center, more strip development of the Commercial District along Route 15 between South Main Street and Orr Road, or the guidance of sustainable growth by open government.

Our incumbent Tim Nulty has been careful to recuse himself from discussion of issues where there's the least suggestion of conflict of interest (Telecom / broadband access) and worked hard at fiscal restraint. The wonderfully rehabilitated Town Office Building was accomplished at a saving largely through his efforts, and town taxes will be going down.

He and Jericho - all of us - need your vote at Town Meeting. Stuart A. Alexander, M.D.

Support Dan Steinbauer To the Editor,

I am writing to support Dan Steinbauer in his bid for a second term of service on the Underhill Selectboard. During Dan's current tenure on the Board, the Town's business has been conducted in an efficient and conscientious manner. In addition to positive developments on the Energy, Trails, and Traffic Committees, the Board has

brought in very reasonable budgets over the past few years. Upon examination of the current budget, the voter will see that the Board has brought in an almost-level-funded budget. This is good work, given the uncertain financial times, and that work should be rewarded with another term for Mr. Steinbauer.

Dan Close, Underhill

Vote for Dan Steinbauer Letter to the Editor,

We will be voting for Dan Steinbauer for Underhill Selectboard on town Meeting Day, March 3. His thoughtfulness, thorough understanding of the issues and concerns, and respect for all of Underhill's residents is the kind of temperament that is important for a member of a selectboard tasked with both effective and forward thinking governance.

In Dan's tenure on the selectboard a new collaborative atmosphere has developed between the selectboard and long standing town committees such as the Planning and Conservation Commissions. The development of the Trails, Energy, and Traffic committees is also indicative of Dan's leadership as he works to create more opportunity for townspeople to become more actively involved in our community. Please join us in voting for Dan Steinbauer.

Trevor Squirrell & Linda Almy, Underhill

Write In Silpe for Underhill Town Constable To the Editor,

Please write Jennifer Silpe's name in for Town Constable. There is currently no one listed on the ballot, and Jen has always done a terrific job as our town animal control officer. It would be a pity to lose her.

Pam Parshall, Underhill

Marc Maheux for selectboard Letter to the Editor,

We would like to express our support for Marc maheux for the office of selectman town of Underhill. This would be a three year term.

Marc has the knowledge and experience to make a good town officer. In these times of uncertainty we need a strong leader.

Marc has lived in Underhill 41 years and has been very active in community projects. Se is self-employed and works in the Underhill Jericho area. Also he is chief systems operator of the Jericho Underhill Water District.

We would appreciate your vote at town meeting March 3, 2009. Thank you.

William and Emily Durbrow, Underhill

WELCOME HOME

Jeffersonville (Roy) Priscilla

(Winslow) and Philip Roy had a son, Phineus Zephyr Roy, on November 8, 2008 at the Fletcher Allen Health Center in Burlington, Vt.



EXPERIENCE WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

"I've had carpal tunnel in both wrists. I went to Mansfield Orthopaedics at Copley where I met Dr. Eric Mullins. After discussing causes, risks and expected recovery time, we scheduled the surgeries. Today, I am pain free. I've since returned and had him do surgeries for a nerve in my arm as well as [shoulder] rotator repair. Dr. Mullins was great. There is no reason anyone should live with orthopaedic pain. I've had great success and am pleased with my surgeries."

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You Could Win!

Underhill Hair Styles will be holding 2 drawings for the month of March.

One for a \$35.00 Gift Certificate to Jacob's Family Market and another for a \$25.00 Gift Certificate the Flour Shop Bakery.

Please enter your name only once. Drawing to be held April 1.

Watch for our April Specials for your next chance to win more stuff!

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BROWNS RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Penguin Plunge a Success! On Saturday, Feb. 7, 53 brave BRMS staff, students and community members had raised more than \$12,000 to benefit the Special Olympics of Vermont. By so doing, they had the "privilege" of jumping into chilly Lake Champlain. And chilly it was! Even though the temperature was warmer than in past years, the wind coming in off the lake was brutally cold! A big heartfelt thank you to Bryant Pless for once again organizing this event at BRMS with special thanks to the following people for their commitment: the Uerz family (Bob, Lori and Zach), Shelley Salzar, Martha Erickson, Jackie Stoner, and Tamara Pless. Plungers this year were: Sara Ahlers (3); Caroline Anderson (4); Eli Armstrong (3); David Barody; Sam Boylson, Lindsey Brand (2); Roshi Brooklyn (4); Amy Bruce; Kevin Burdet (3); Mullein Carbone; Riley Carbone (3); Kayla Carew; Jeremy Carter (4); Nate Carter (4); Oonagh Cavanagh (2); Daniel Champlin (2); Brigitte Charlebois (2); Dakota Deady (4); Lillian Devereaux (2); Acadia Dinardo (2); Jennifer Drager; Anna Dunphy (2); Kyle Dunphy (3) Martha Erickson (4); Nathan Goldman; Michael Johnson; Hana Kallen; Ben Kleptz;

Sam Lewis (2); Maddie Light (2); Lisa Mackenzie (4); Jay Meadows; Will Myers (3); Elena Newbrough (2); Lexi Orsky; Alec Peyton (2); Bryant Pless (6); Alice Russell; Shelley Salzar; Justin Sanguinetti; Shannon Springer; Carter Smith (3); Jackie Stoner; Addy Stricker (3); Lydia Stricker; Kyle Szymanskas (2); Luke Taylor (3); Shelby Van Winkle (2); Helen Wagner (6); Hailey Ward; Jeff Warren (3); Joe Warren; Grace Yang. Number in parentheses denotes number of years.

2008 NECAP Results - This past October, all students in Vermont took part in the NECAP testing. Below are the grade level results for our students compared to statewide scores. Overall, our students continue to perform higher than the state average. We are very proud of their performance.

Assistant Principal Search: Mrs. Sandy Gilliam has announced her plans to retire at the end of this school year and the search is underway for her replacement. Interviews took place at BRMS Feb. 10, 11 and 12 with finalists spending a day at the school Feb. 16, 17 and 18. Search Committee members were: Jen Botzjorns, Maria Germano, Joan Savaglio, Greg Martin, Dwight DeCoster, Sandy Pucillo, Linda Wilmott, Blythe Leonard, Jerome Mendicino and Nancy Guyette, with Pat Connelly as the coordinator.

5th Annual BRMS International Festival: Mark your calendars for the 5th annual Browns River Middle School International Festival. BRMS is hosting this fun event at the school on Friday, March 20th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. The evening will be a celebration of different nations and cultures, with international games, food, music, dancing and crafts. During the evening, guests are invited to visit booths hosted by members of our community and BRMS students, watch an exciting performance by an international music/dance group, play a game, make a craft, enjoy a delicious sampling of international dishes, learn a dance, and view cooking demonstrations. If you are interested in helping to plan this event or have a craft or game to share, please contact Anne Wright Shank at rightbeech@yahoo.com.

LUHS Fundraising for Project Graduation

The Class of 2009 at Lamoille Union High school is fundraising for their Project Graduation, an end of high school celebration.

The students have adopted the Ecophone Project to help them raise funds.

This project protects the environment by asking people to donate their used cell phones, inkjet printers, laptop computers, iPods, digital cameras and digital video cameras. These items will be recycled in accordance with EPA regulations, refurbished and sold.

Please do your part to help our environment and help the LUHS Class of 2009 enjoy a fun, substance-free event to celebrate the end of their high school years. 100% of the proceeds will go to support Project Graduation.

Collection boxes have been set up at Curves, Ward's, Copley Hospital, WLYB, Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District office, Hyde Park Village Market, Hyde Park Town Clerk's office, Hyde Park Library, Uncle Bill's in Eden, VT Electric Coop, Johnson Transfer Station, Waterville Town Clerk's office, Stowe Transfer Station and Kinney Drug in Cambridge.

For more information, contact Maryanne Newsom-Brighton at 888-6954, e-mail brightnews@pshift.com or visit the Project Graduation website at <http://www.ecophones.com>.

Guardmen continued from page 9

"If our neighbors and our coworkers are aware of what we will be sacrificing, that will be the first step of support," he told me in a phone interview. "Be empathetic."

Empathy: to put yourself in someone else's shoes; to pay attention to what is going on. This is good advice. It is sometimes hard to do.

The Vermont Guard was all but invisible to me before I began focusing on it for these columns. Occasionally we see the convoys on the interstate, notice the armories, see a soldier in fatigues buying a cup of coffee on his or her way to work. Furthermore, the news of the wars is now old and it is not good; we find ourselves skipping over the articles in the paper about another bombing, election, or deployment; we turn instead to read about another drop in the Dow, more job losses, another trillion dollars pumped into the economy. What can we do to be more empathetic?

General Dubie had some very pragmatic advice: simply notice a friend, colleague or neighbor is serving and notice when they are gone; offer to shovel a driveway when it snows; commit "varying levels of support as an individual sees fit, but everything from mowing the lawn, babysitting, and other random acts of kindness" will go a long way. "If you are in the war zone and you hear about these random acts of kindness it makes the soldier feel better about being away," said General Dubie.

The Guard does have a very robust family support network. On the Guard's website are listed many ways to help and to support the troops deployed. These range from a foundation raising money to build a tribute to the men and women of the Guard to a foundation dedicated to emergency relief. You can search around through the link <http://www.vtguard.com/famread/faq.htm> and find lots of ways to help out. There is no limit to what we can do, and many are already doing it.

"It will warm your heart to see how people step up," said General Dubie. He has talked with builders who simply go and fix a roof. Restaurants throughout the state offer to prepare meals and host fundraisers for families of those deployed. The list goes on. "Businesses can support us in a million different ways," said General Dubie. It is only a question of getting information about who is going from your community and then being creative to support the soldiers.

General Dubie put it well: "Sometimes it's been characterized that the military is at war but America is not. I would say in the broadest sense it would be good for America to maybe remember there are many citizens that are directly or indirectly participating in these wars."

General Dubie also noted two things Vermonters can do to help troops prepare to come home. "I would say our employers can do a lot to allay the fears of our soldiers. We know the employers will experience a hardship with people leaving - especially small shops and

businesses - and we appreciate that; when the people come back it is helpful for them to know they will have a place. I am not talking about the law - I am talking about an appreciation and sense of support regardless of the requirement of the law." Well said.

Finally, in a year, when the troops come home we will confront different challenges. General Dubie pointed out that "people react differently to their experience overseas. It is helpful for communities to realize when people do return it is an adjustment to the 'new normal.' The reintegration process after a year in a war zone can take a little while to get back into your normal community routines. The culture shock coming home is more than the culture shock of going." For regular army soldiers they return to, you got it, the Army. When Guardsmen return they are disconnected from the experience they have just lived. "It is different than regular Army. When our troops reintegrate they are the only ones who've had this experience," said the General.


Empathy. Our neighbors and friends are heading off soon to live a dramatic year. While they prepare to go, while they are gone, and when they come back, simply being aware will go a long way to making the experience easier.

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Vermont Commons students take the plunge, raise \$3,300 for Special Olympics

Seventeen students and faculty from Vermont Commons School donned superhero costumes for the Penguin Plunge on Saturday, February 7, 2009. Wonder Woman, Batman, The Joker, and even a Flying Turtle (the VCS mascot) were part of the group that took the plunge in Lake Champlain to raise more than \$3,300 for the Special Olympics. "I'm really proud of our students," said faculty member Mark Cline Lucey, who has organized the school's Penguin Plunge team for the past 5 years. "We had representatives from every class in grades 7 - 12. Next year, I'm hoping the whole school will take the plunge!"

Burlington Technical Center Honor Roll

These Mount Mansfield Union High School students earned an A- or better in their Burlington Technical Center programs placing them on the Burlington Technical Center Honor Roll for the first semester: April Hoyt, Design & Illustration I, Luke Moultrou, Aviation Technology II.



Cambridge Crossroads completes first community event

The Community Center Committee, a Cambridge Crossroads subcommittee, sponsored a snowshoe trek on Saturday, January 31. David Schilling, a local guide and son of Cambridge Crossroads Committee members Jan and Mark Schilling, led a group of 12 enthusiastic townspeople on a snowshoe walk. The walk began above the barricade to Smugglers' Notch, where the group was then led up and over the guardrail, and down into the valley below where a beaver pond nestles. During the course of the trek the walkers observed evidence of black bear and numerous animal tracks in the snow.

This event is the first of many that will be offered by the Community Center Committee in their quest to gain local interest in meeting the goal of locating a building within the town of Cambridge to house a community center. The next event is scheduled for Saturday, February 28 at Brown & Jenkins Coffee Roasters. More information on this and other activities can be found at cambridgecrossroads.net.

Volunteer lacrosse coach needed

Mount Mansfield Girls Lacrosse Club is a non-profit organization aimed at teaching girls in grades 4 - 8 the game of lacrosse. Our season runs from the end of March through the second week of June. We practice two days per week on Mondays and Wednesdays, with games on Sundays during the month of May and the first two weekends in June. We are seeking a volunteer to assist in coaching. Please feel free to call Melissa Mutolo at 899-1456 or email melissamutolo@live.com.

Jericho Spring baseball signups

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

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF JERICHO - DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 7:00 PM** in the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following:

- A request by O'Brien Fay South, LLC for Sketch Plan Review for a 4 lot subdivision. Said property is located adjacent to Vermont 117, Barber Farm Road and Tarbox Road and is in the Agricultural and River Districts.

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



Players from Waterville (white) and Hyde Park (maroon) wait for a rebound during the 36th Annual Cambridge Invitational Tournament. A total of eight teams, including those from Cambridge, Eden, Wolcott, Westford, Fairfax and Albany, participated in the two-weekend tournament. The championship match was played too late to meet the press deadline.

PHOTO BY KATHY JOHNSON

LEGAL NOTICE

Town of Underhill OFFICIAL WARNING March 2009 Annual Town Meeting AS AMENDED

Article I To elect a moderator for one year.

Article II To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers, and vote a budget to meet expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.

Article III Shall the Town authorize all taxes be paid to the Town Treasurer as provided by law?

Article IV Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

Article V Shall the voters of the Town continue to grant the Selectboard the general authority to negotiate Land Contracts with landowners as authorized by 24 VSA §2741?

Article VI Shall the voters approve an increase from \$10,000 of appraised value to \$40,000 of appraised value in the property tax exemption available for a veteran of any war or a veteran who has received an American Expeditionary Medal, his or her spouse, widow, widower, or child or jointly any combination of them, if one or more of them are receiving disability compensation for at least 50% disability, death compensation, dependence and indemnity compensation, or pension for disability paid through any military department or the veterans administration, all as authorized by 32 V.S.A. §3802(11)?

Article IX To transact any other business thought proper when met.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT QUESTIONS

Article VII To elect all Town Officers as required by law.

Article VIII Shall the voters of the Town continue to exempt the property of the Underhill Jericho Fire Department from taxation for municipal and school purposes for a period of 5 years as authorized by 32 V.S.A. § 3840?

Select Board Members:

Stephen Walkerman, Chair Daniel Steinbauer Steven Owen

Pursuant to a 2008 change in the law, public discussion of ballot issues and all other issues appearing on the warning, can be discussed at Town Meeting, except for the election of candidates. 17 VSA § 2640(c). Since discussion of ballot issues is permissible at Town Meeting, the public hearing normally scheduled 10 days before will take place at Town Meeting.

CAMPUS HONORS

Kurt A. Vesosky of Jericho has been selected for the Dean's List for academic achievement during the fall semester at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. To be eligible for the Dean's List a student must have completed at least four semester units and have an academic average of 3.6 (based on a perfect 4.0) for the semester.

Vesosky is a graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho. Indoor track is among the activities that Kurt has participated in on campus.

CLASSIFIEDS

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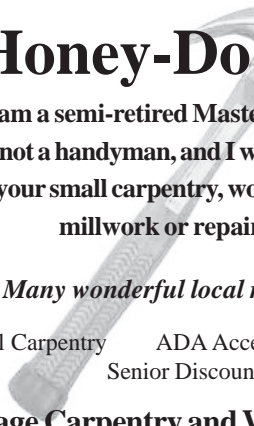
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Westford budget continued from page 1

other drops, interest revenue is lower and there are fewer incoming fees from building permits, town records, etc.

The budget was cut in several areas. The first was the Town's building reserve fund. For the first year in a long time, no money has been added to the reserve which means there will be no improvements to municipal buildings or other infrastructure.

Another cut comes in the form of an unfilled position. Last year, the budget had a part-time road crew position built in and the town planned to advertise the position in December.

Westford contracts with the Vermont State Police and the Chittenden County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement. This year's budget reduces the amount given to these two organizations by 25%, going from \$20,000 to \$15,000.

Another cut was made in rescue services. Essex Rescue has always been the primary service for Westford residents, but recently the town began contracting with Fairfax Rescue for the northern portion of town.

Dunkley said the library was one of the first groups to come in to discuss their budget. The Selectboard expressed their concern regarding spending so the library board actually presented three budgets: one which was extremely austere, one which featured what they really wanted, and one in between.

Most parts of the budget are unchanged. No positions have been cut and no town services have been reduced with the exception of law enforcement and printing the newsletter.

Westford always holds an informational meeting in January to get town input on the budget. This year, since the town will be voting via Australian ballot for the first time, the meeting was very well attended.

Dunkley noted that at the informational meeting, residents seemed to appreciate the Selectboard's efforts in creating "the most austere budget we could without cutting services."

Cambridge budget continued from page 1

Cambridge Finance Committee that the 2009 payment on the bond would be partially offset by a portion of the \$57,000 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds that came to the town as a result of the July 19, 2008 storm and tornado.

Dana Sweet, Selectboard member, said that the truck purchase will be a replacement for a 1996 vehicle that is facing repairs. "We'll replace it with a single axle," he explained.

The budget changes from 2008 to 2009 occur in several areas. A \$20,000 increase in the cost of insurance caused Finance Committee member Terry McCuin to ask why.

The other major additional increase in the budget is for the State Police contract, which rises from \$20,290 for 2008 to \$47,520 for 2009. Juskiewicz clarified the services received for that price: 72 hours a month at \$55 per hour.

The Recreation Board budget went from \$6,790 to \$12,218, but Juskiewicz explained, "In 2007 they didn't use all their money, so last year they didn't ask for as much.

One item in the budget is now revenue neutral. Twenty thousand dollars in "town notes" is debt that was incurred last year as a result of the storm and tornado.

The proposed budget contains no allocation for new equipment. In 2008, that was funded at \$161,000. The total actually spent, on a tandem, was \$145,800.

In response to a question from the Finance Committee about funds going to non-profit organizations outside of town, the Selectboard responded that they committed only to those organizations that had received funds in past years.

Before the meeting adjourned, Juskiewicz asked the members of the Finance Committee to sign a letter endorsing the budget. Joe Rogers, Fred Boyden, Howard Cary, and Terry McCuin signed.

Selectboard member David Vaughn explained that the board is "thinking two years out. We're looking to level fund the next several years." Juskiewicz added, "This town is behind. All this stuff is coming down the pike.

Juskiewicz will not be seeking re-election this year. To date no candidates have announced their interest in serving on the Selectboard.

Juskiewicz stated, "It's been a great four years. We've come a long way. We have a development review board and a capital plan."

Jericho budget continued from page 1

defray their growing expenses without creating an undue burden on taxpayers. And although the numbers are small, as a gesture all three members of the Selectboard agreed to take only half of the money allotted to them in the 2008 budget.

Penniman said he believes Jericho is unique in the number of outside agencies funded by the town. He said Moffatt asked all those agencies to consider decreased, or at the very least, level funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

For the last two years, voters in Jericho have debated rescue services at Town Meeting Day. Jericho is served by both Essex and Richmond Rescue. Last year, the Selectboard decided to give \$8,000 to Essex and \$7,000 to Richmond.

Although Penniman believes that state funding for infrastructure, roads and business is likely to drop in the next fiscal year, he is hopeful that Jericho will still be able to secure funding for ongoing projects such as the planned upgrade of Barber Farm Road.

Nulty noted that Jericho has been innovative in its approach to road and bridge repairs. Often, the town has found that it is cheaper to tackle a project itself rather than work with the federal and state government.

Penniman said it is hard to provide an exact calculation regarding the tax impact on Jericho residents due to variables like the Common Level of Appraisal, but he predicts there will be a slight decrease in taxes.

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