

Young farmers become first-time owners at historic Jericho farm

Community and conservation partners support growing farm business in Chittenden County
 Story courtesy of the Vermont Land Trust

A collective of five beginning farmers, known as The Farm Upstream, has taken ownership of a historic farm in Jericho, the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) announced today. The farmers worked with Martha Prince, the Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT), and VLT to buy the 52-acre Hunt Farm on Lee River Road. The first-time landowners also conserved the land with VLT, protecting farmland, woods, and a stretch of the Lee River.

Jake Kornfeld, Corinne Froning, Jacqueline Huettenmoser, Spencer Hardy, and Tucker Andrews are the farmers behind The Farm Upstream LLC, a collectively owned and operated diversified farm. They currently grow certified organic vegetables on leased land in Richmond, Warren, and Worcester, VT, selling and distributing their produce locally. They are adding the newly protected property to their operation to establish more permanent roots, shift to land they own, and expand their business.

When The Farm Upstream bought the land, Jake Kornfeld said: "We'd been looking for land for several years. Our farm business needed a permanent home and relying on rented land is just too risky. This farm is a perfect fit for us and conserving the land made it affordable. This collective farm purchase could not have happened without VLT, JULT, Intervale Center, NOFA VT, and so many more."

The protected property consists of 32 acres of open agricultural land and 19 acres of wooded land, most of which is on the south side of Lee River, which flows through the property. Under the conservation easement, the wooded area along the river will be maintained for clean water and flood protection.

Partnership effort breathes new life into historic Hunt Farm
 Maitland (Bud) Hunt and his wife Marjorie acquired the Hunt Farm from Maitland's father in the 1950s and stewarded it for decades. They used the land for their family dairy operation, and then leased it for many years to a local dairy farmer.

Bud and Marjorie's daughter, Martha "Hunt" Prince, grew up on the property and became executor to the estate after the death of her mother in 2021. She worked with The Farm Upstream and conservation organizations because she wanted to realize her parents' hope for the property to remain agricultural land forever.

"The farm has been in the family for several generations and has so much history," said Prince. "These young farmers are just the right people to take over our family farm. They're going to do what it takes to keep the farm thriving."

"We could not be more thrilled with Jake, Corrine, Jacqueline,

Spencer and Tucker buying and breathing new life into this beloved farm," said VLT's Al Karnatz. "This outcome honors the Hunt family's hard work over multiple generations, and gives the beginning farmers the stability they need to grow and expand their business."

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust got behind the effort and spearheaded a local fundraising campaign. They raised \$20,000 from over 60 donors to close a funding gap.

"Beyond protecting rich soils for farming and a scenic vista," said Olivia Strong of JULT, "this land will continue its agricultural heritage with another generation of farmers called The Farm Upstream. We are excited to watch a new beginning for an extraordinary farm."

The project was also financially supported by the Town of Jericho's new Conservation Reserve Fund and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) with matching funds from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Our Board is pleased to support this important farmland conservation project," said VHCB Executive Director Gus Seelig. "Many thanks to VLT for helping young farmers like The Farm Upstream to thrive, and for their stewardship of this land, ensuring its enduring contribution to Vermont's ag economy."

Farmstand and community events planned

The farmer collective plans to set up a roadside farmstand on scenic Lee River Road in 2024. Located less than two miles from two schools, two town centers, the tourist corridor of VT



The Farm Upstream in Jericho plans to open a roadside stand at the Lee River Road property. Pictured are the new farm's owners: Tucker Andrews (with his children), Corinne Froning, Jake Kornfeld, Jacqueline Huettenmoser, and Spencer Hardy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FARM UPSTREAM

Rt. 15, and a National Guard training site, the farmers expect that the farmstand will draw traffic for direct sales of produce and eggs, as well as for on-farm events. They plan to host community events and workdays to introduce the community to the farm.

In addition, the farmers plan to take advantage of the farm's proximity to Burlington, Essex Junction, Williston, and Richmond, and sell wholesale produce and eggs to local businesses. They are in conversation with City Market Co-op, Healthy Living, Feeding Chittenden, and area restaurants, among others.

MMUUSD community school budget meeting November 16

Please join the MMUUSD School Board Finance Committee for a discussion of the second draft of the 2024-25 school district budget. The meeting will be held at Camel's Hump Middle School, School St., Richmond on Thursday, November 16 at 6:00 PM; you can join online at <https://www.mmuusd.org>.

Learn more about how Act 127 could dramatically decrease the state's funding of MMU schools and the impact this will have on our district.

Community input is a vital component in the budget development process. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas. If you can't join physically or virtually, you can submit your comments to us by emailing mmuusd.office@mmuusd.org.

Act 127 will significantly impact MMUUSD funding: what to know

Article provided by Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District Board

Vermont Act 127, an act relating to improving student equity by adjusting the school funding formula and providing education quality and funding oversight, has significant implications for our community. It is important for all district residents to be aware of the upcoming changes, which are a result of a statewide law passed in 2022.

The MMUUSD school board has provided the information below to help build awareness for the potential impacts to our district. Community members are encouraged to stay attuned to this evolving issue over the next several months by

visiting the MMUUSD web page, attending upcoming school board meetings, and reaching out to your town's school board representatives.

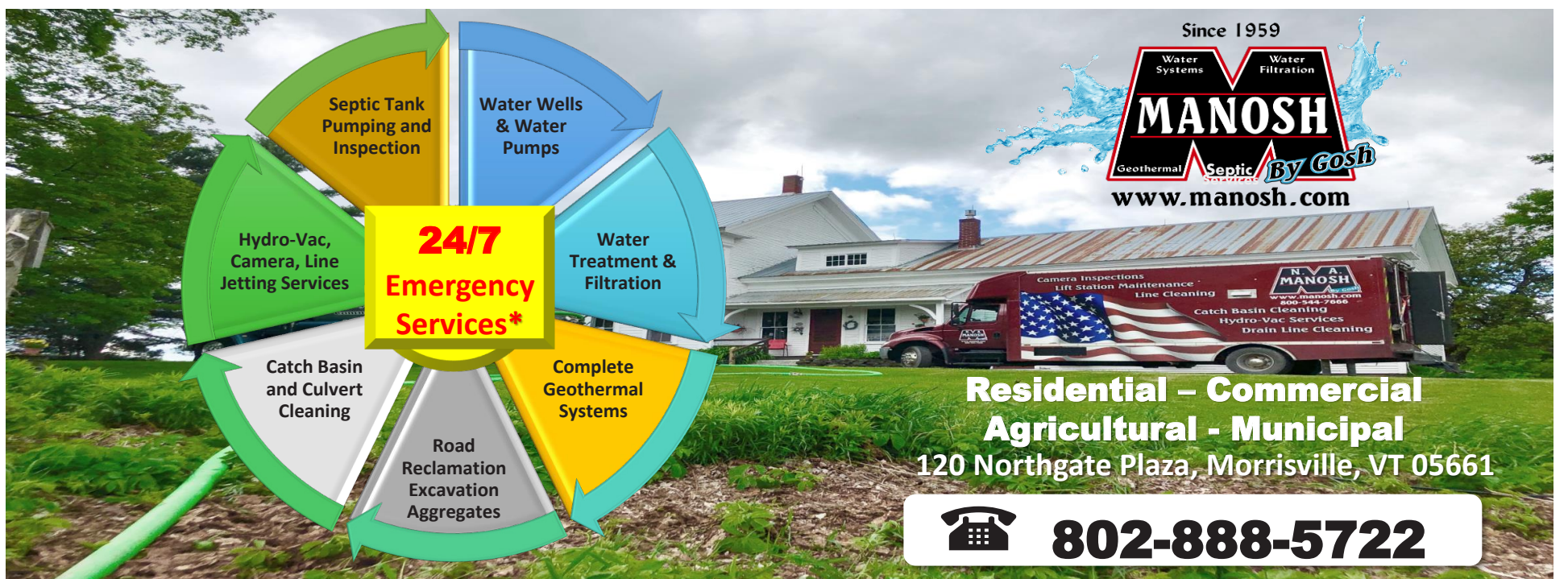
Contact information for all school board members, and details about upcoming meetings, can be found on the MMUUSD website.

Act 127: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is Act 127 and when did it become law? Act 127 was passed by the Vermont Legislature in 2022 and is defined as "An act relating to improving student equity by adjusting the school funding formula and providing education quality and funding oversight." Act 127 will take effect in July 2024 (Fiscal Year 2025).

What are the key elements of Act 127? This act overhauls education funding structures in Vermont with the goal of ensuring

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NEWS BRIEFS

Bolton town government changes, and open positions

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

I hope that my community is aware that I have submitted my formal letter of retirement as Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, and Delinquent Tax Collector to the Select Board, effective December 31, 2023.

The Select Board is seeking to appoint my replacement until Town Meeting Day 2024, at which time the positions will be open for election as two years remaining on a three-year term.

At their October 16, 2023 meeting, the Select Board voted to pursue an alternative model of Town Governance with the addition of a full time Town Administrator position (full benefits, average of 32 hours per week, not required to be a Bolton registered voter) in addition to the statutorily required Town Clerk/Town Treasurer positions. The creation of this position will relieve many of the non-statutory duties from the Town Clerk/Town Treasurer position, while maintaining that position at a full-time position (average of 32 hours per week, required to be a Bolton registered voter), with full benefits, and allow for a healthier work/life balance for my successor going forward.

For more information on both of these positions please contact the Town Office and/or see the Town website, <https://boltonvt.com/about/employment-opportunities/>.

Jericho Elementary ice rink update

By Glenn Steinman, JES Physical Education Teacher

Thank you for all the support in the initiative to build a community Ice skating rink at Jericho Elementary School. Here is where we are:

During the fund-raising phase a donor suggested that we reach out to the town, which turned out to be a great idea. The select Board, after reviewing a new proposal and seeing community interest through both the surveys and the number of donations, decided to support the rink with ARPA funds left over from COVID.

Our plan went from a hand-built rink of plywood to a kit designed for community use that will last for years. Approximately \$4000 was raised by the community and an additional \$9561.52 of APRA funds will subsidize a quality rink kit similar to the one currently in Underhill.

Phase II: Our next steps are to order the rink and assemble once the rink arrives. Keep a lookout for the community build announcement. When the weather permits Underhill Jericho FD has volunteered to flood the rink.

Phase III: I will be building a committee to help with maintaining the rink during the skating season. Many have expressed interest in helping out; all are welcome. A future posting will have more information.

Many thanks to all those who helped make this project possible, I am truly grateful. A special thank you goes out to Kevin Sweeney, who has gone above and beyond, and without his efforts and expertise the rink would not have been possible.

Kesha Ram Hinsdale, Myra Flynn to speak at Good Shepherd

Occasionally, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Jericho will invite noted individuals, regardless of their religious affiliation, to share their spiritual perspective and journey.

We will be pleased to welcome State Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale to our pulpit on Sunday, November 19 at 9:00 AM, and singer-songwriter Myra Flynn on Sunday, December 10, also at 9:00 AM. All are welcome to join us!

Jericho DRB vacancies

By Paula Carrier, Jericho Assistant Town Administrator

The Jericho Development Review Board (DRB) is looking for a member and two alternates to join their board. The DRB is primarily responsible for reviewing development proposals, which include conditional uses, site plans, subdivisions, appeals of administrative decisions, and requests for waivers and variances. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 PM (as needed). Relevant materials for each hearing will be found in the DRB Projects Section on the website. If you are interested in joining the DRB please contact Chris Flinn at cflinn@jerichovt.gov.

Westford's Winter Fest is coming back

By Carol Winfield, Westford Winter Festival

Hey, there's been snow on Mount Mansfield, and you all know what that means!

The Third Annual Westford Winter Festival is February 17, 2024. Time to start planning! Mark your calendars — if you've gotten around to getting one!

Hoping and planning for a return of all the fun stuff from last year, plus always open to new ideas for more fun! Always can use more volunteers, too, and it's never too early to start planning, so let me know if, after all the Halloween fun, you're yearning to extend those creative energies!

Can't wait!

Cambridge Greenway flood damage repairs completed

By Laird MacDowell, Chair, Cambridge Trails Committee

The FEMA-funded repairs to the 1.25-mile-long Cambridge Greenway path have been completed by Bob Edwards and Sons Excavation, as announced today by project manager Eric Boozan. The Greenway is now open for all trail users.

The repairs included armoring with rip rap rock 135 linear feet of the Brewster River embankment next to the GW Tatro Construction yard, along with installation of new safety fencing, and rock armoring over 200 linear feet of the Lamoille River embankment downstream from the VT Rt. 108 bridge underpass.

A ten-foot-wide layer of compacted surpac fine gravel has been applied to the entire path, matching the gravel used on the LVRT.

There is a dip in the path where it runs underneath the VT Rt. 15 bridge that spans the Lamoille River, to allow the VAST trail groomer to pass during the winter snowmobile season.

Jericho Selectboard votes to appoint Joe Flynn

By Catherine McMains

The Jericho SelectBoard wishes to thank Sarah Macleod, Joel Bedard, Joe Flynn, and Peter Booth, as the individuals who stepped up to serve on the SelectBoard, who took the time to answer written questions and then interview so they could introduce themselves to the public and give the community a better understanding of who they are. The Board was fortunate to have these individuals bringing different strengths to the Board. It also made the decision much more difficult.

In the end the Board voted to appoint Joe Flynn to serve.

Westford community ice rink needs volunteers to happen

By Amanda Gifford, Westford Recreation Coordinator

Do you like the Westford Community Ice Rink? Do you want to see this long-standing tradition continue? Please help! We can't do this without you!

We need a Rink Master! or possibly a couple people who will act as the Rink Master.

Someone who will organize the snow removal crew, identify when it needs resurfacing, share when the conditions are not good for use, be sure all pucks and goals have been pulled off in the evenings, etc. Someone who will ensure the board pieces are ready to set up, and call out the volunteers when it's time to take down.

Please contact recreation@westfordvt.us to offer help.

Again, the Westford Recreation Department (WRD) Committee is made up of volunteers and the WRD Co-ordinator is a part-time position; we cannot do everything. Our task is to facilitate programming and organize other volunteers. Many of us enjoy the rink and would help (and have!) but this task needs someone who is dedicated to just this task!

Cambridge Community Food Shelf temporary entrance

Due to the construction of the new walkway, Cambridge Community Food Shelf clients will need to enter the church at the front entrance on Church Street to receive the food. Please be patient as the process of taking the food out to the street will take more time.

Town of Jericho "winter rules to follow"

By Paula Carrier, Jericho Assistant Town Administrator, Jericho

Notice to local snowplow operators/homeowners: Please be reminded that it is illegal according to the following State Statute to deposit snow on or across town highways.

§ 1126a. Depositing snow onto or across certain highways prohibited

(a) No person, other than an employee in the performance of his or her official duties or other person authorized by the agency of transportation (in the case of state highways) or selectboard (in the case of town highways), shall plow or otherwise deposit snow onto the traveled way, shoulder or sidewalk of a state highway or a class 1, 2 or 3 town highway.

(b) Nothing in this section should be construed to be in derogation of any municipal ordinance regulating the deposit of snow within the limits of the town highways.

The penalty for this minimum \$41.00 to a maximum of \$1,191.00

Waiver penalty is \$70.00

You can be civilly liable for an accident caused by snow being pushed into highway.

This activity creates a potentially unsafe situation for all motorists and an additional workload for the highway crew. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in efficient, safe winter maintenance of our roads.

Winter parking ordinance

Pursuant to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59, the Selectboard of the Town of Jericho hereby adopts the following ordinance:

1. The parking of all vehicles is hereby prohibited on all Town roads within the Town of Jericho from the 15th day of November to and including the 31st day of March each year.

2. For purposes of this ordinance, vehicles shall include motor vehicles, non-motor vehicles, trailers, construction equipment, and agricultural and forestry equipment, whether registered or unregistered. Any vehicle found to be in violation of this ordinance shall be deemed to have been parked or left unattended by the person in whose name the title and/or registration was issued.

3. Any vehicle parked or left unattended on, in or adjacent to any road or street in a location that would interfere with snow removal, in violation of this ordinance may be removed by a commercial towing service upon the order of the Road Foreman, any police officer, or Selectboard member. Any vehicle so removed may be reclaimed by the owner of the vehicle upon payment of all towing and storage charges; provided, however, the towing charge and storage charge shall not exceed an amount established by the Selectboard and revised from time to time. The vehicle shall be impressed with a lien, and may be held until such charges are paid.

Originally ADOPTED October 27, 1993

Amended November 20, 2000, February 7, 2005, and February 20, 2014.

The following is a winter parking ban issuance that will be placed on cars that are in the Road Right-of-Way and will be towed at owners expense.

Notice to vehicle owner if vehicles are left in the right of way-you will receive this on your vehicle as a warning and if repeated you will be towed at your expense.

License plate #: Pursuant to the winter parking. Ordinance (which will be on the back of the warning placed on the vehicles) This vehicle must be removed from the traveled portion of the road right-of-way within the next 24 hours or it will be towed at the owners expense.

Westford Recreation board seeking new member

By Amanda Gifford, Westford Recreation Coordinator

The Westford Recreation Department has a seat open on the Board. We meet once per month on the first Tuesday for about two hours, and we have a lot of fun.

The only requirement is to be able to attend the meetings, in person or via Zoom, but if there is a program or two you want to help with or organize, that is fantastic as well.

Please email your interest with a short bio to recreation@westfordvt.us.

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the equitable distribution of funding to school districts.

Highlights of the law:

- updates student categories and student weights;
- tax rate increases to school districts disadvantaged by the law will be limited to 5% from 2025-2029;
- districts advantaged under Act 127 will experience the benefit immediately in year 1 (FY25);
- if education spending per pupil increases by 10% or more, the Secretary of Education will review and determine if the budget contains excess spending, and if so, the 5% tax rate increase limit will not apply.

What are student categories and student weights? Vermont has determined that different types of students cost different amounts to educate. Therefore, the state has created categories and assigned different weights to a district's actual pupil count or "Average Daily Membership" (ADM). The categories include preschool, elementary, middle, high school, poverty, English Language Learners (ELL), sparsity (students living in low population areas), and small schools. Each category has a specific weight.

Adding weights increases the pupil count. For example, if a student is identified as an English Language Learner (ELL), they would get an additional weight of 2.49 students. Weights are added to the actual PreK-12 students who attend public schools. A two-year average (current and prior year) is used to calculate a school district's total weighted pupil count. After the weights are

applied, the state defines this as a district's Long-term Weighted Average Daily Membership (LTW ADM).

How will MMUUSD be impacted by Act 127? The school funding formula will now use a different pupil count to determine spending per pupil. Districts with larger percentage populations in the different weighting categories outlined in these FAQs will see an advantage in their new weighted pupil counts, whereas those districts with lower percentages will be disadvantaged in their new weighted pupil counts.

At this time, we do not know the exact influence of Act 127 on MMUUSD. However, information and modeling offered by the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) indicates MMUUSD will be disadvantaged by the law. If the law was in place this school year, MMUUSD would need to decrease education spending by approximately \$6,650,000 in order to maintain our current tax rate.

The change in the school funding formula effectively reduces the amount of education spending revenue we can receive from the state without raising the tax rate or reducing the budget. The VT Tax Commissioner's education funding estimates — due December 1 — will offer the details we need to provide our communities with more accurate estimates. We will not know the final education funding formula impacts until specific components are approved by the Vermont Legislature in the 2024 legislative session.

You can view the full-length version of Act 127 on the state legislature's website by searching for "Act 127," or by

entering this url in your browser: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/ACTS/ACT127/ACT127%20As%20Enacted.pdf>.

Jericho Craft Fair November 25 looking for vendors

The upcoming craft fair at the Jericho Community Center (on Browns Trace, Jericho Center) has space for a few more vendors! The event will be Saturday, November 25, 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM, and if you, or someone you know, would be interested in having a space to sell your wares, contact Anna at avaserstein@yahoo.com.

We have room for your ad.

Call Brenda Boutin

at 802-453-6354

for more information

or email

mtngazette@gmavt.net

4-H NEWS

Vermont 4-H Horse members compete in Kentucky

A group of Vermont 4-H horse members just returned from a whirlwind trip to Kentucky that combined national competition with some educational sightseeing and a bit of shopping fun.

The 4-H'ers traveled by chartered bus to Louisville, KY for the 2023 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup on Saturday, November 4 at Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, where they competed in hippology, quiz bowl, judging, and the communications contests. Vermont was among the 24 states that took part in this year's event.

Fourteen state teams competed in the hippology contest, which had several phases including a written exam with slides, judging, team problem solving, and stations. For the latter, the 4-H'ers visited a series of stations to answer questions on various equine-related topics. The team placed tenth overall, eighth in the written phase and ninth in stations. They did not place in the Top 10 for the judging phase.

Team members were Natalie Jackman, Vergennes; Emma Sibley, Milton; Mikayla Tobey, Fairfax; and Shyanne Wedge, Shoreham. Haileigh Demers, Essex Junction, made the team but was unable to attend, so Mikayla took her place with less than a week's notice. Jolene Fontaine, Jericho, served as the team coach.

Jasmine Akley and Elizabeth Brown, both from Vernon; Lillian Kascha-Hare, Milton; and Britney Zager, Gill, MA (member of a Windham County club) made up the quiz bowl team, which was coached by Sue Ouimet, Castleton. Vermont finished just out of the top 10 in the 15-team double-elimination competition, winning their first round against Minnesota and later losing first to Ohio, which finished second, and then in a close game to Massachusetts.

Seventeen teams and individuals from two additional states participated in the judging contest. The Vermont team finished eighth overall with a sixth place in halter classes and tenth in performance. Members were Jenna Bennett, Swanton; Viola Brown, Vernon; Seanna Erickson, Florence; and Rose Ouimet, Castleton. They were coached by Deb Danforth, Castleton, who will be stepping down this year after coaching the state judging team for 17 years.

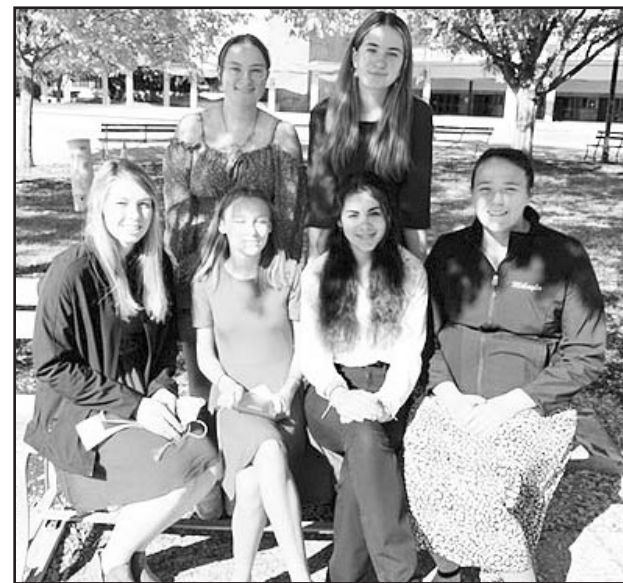
In the Communications Contest, twin sisters Lily and Samantha Provost of Milton came in sixth out of nine teams for their team demonstration. Tieghan Perry of Danville presented an individual demonstration but did not place in the Top 10. The Provosts were coached by Jessie Provost, Milton, and Tieghan by Joanne Perry, Danville.

Prior to the competition, the Vermont delegation visited two Kentucky farms that take in retired racehorses — Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Farm in Georgetown, and New Vocations in Lexington. The latter farm retrains retired thoroughbred and standard-bred racehorses for new jobs to help them get adopted. They also visited the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington to watch the National Horse Show.

After the awards ceremony, they stopped at Rod's Western Palace in Columbus, OH, a famous western apparel store. They left Vermont on Thursday, November 2, returning home four days later.

The State 4-H Horse Council, county 4-H foundations, and local sponsors helped fund the trip. Long-time 4-H volunteer Mary Fay of Westford accompanied the state delegation along with several team coaches, adult chaperones, and family members.

For more information about the Vermont horse program contact Wendy Sorrell, University of Vermont Extension 4-H livestock educator, at wendy.sorrell@uvm.edu.



Six members of the Whispering Pines 4-H Club of Westford earned a spot on the Vermont delegation to the 2023 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in Louisville, KY. They were (front row, from left): Jenna Bennett, Swanton; Samantha Provost and Emma Sibley, both from Milton; Mikayla Tobey, Fairfax. Back row: Lily Provost and Lillian Kascha-Hare, both from Milton. PHOTO BY MARY FAY

COMING EVENTS

Ongoing Events

The Jericho Historical Society meets at the Old Red Mill, VT Rt. 15, Jericho on the second Thursday of each month (December 14) at 6:00 PM. Visit our website for more information or to request a zoom invitation: <https://www.jerichohistoricalsociety.org/events.html>.

Craft Group: meets twice a month on Thursdays (November 30, December 14 and 28), 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. Open to anyone interested in coming with any craft they like: crocheting, rug hooking, knitting, needlepoint, watercolors, jewelry making, macramé... you name it! November 2 will be our "swap meet" where people can bring their surplus yarn, craft books, and other crafting materials to swap and perhaps pick up some new "goodies." Anything left over at the end of the evening will be donated to charity. If you have any questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinv@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or juliehehir@comcast.net.

Cribbage Group: meets the first Tuesday of the month (December 5), 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM in the meeting room at Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. It's okay if you're a little rusty — come join us for a friendly game.

Calvary Episcopal Church Soup and Bread Supper, on the last Thursday of the month (November 29, December 28), 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Calvary Episcopal Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Come and enjoy some great soups and fellowship with your friends and neighbors.

Bone Builders Class: at the Jeffersonville Church (Second Congregational Church of Christ, 16 Church St., Jeffersonville) from 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM on Mondays and Thursdays. It is a drop-in class, but first-timers have a couple of pages to fill out and sign. It is free, but a donation bucket is available for those wishing to reimburse the church for the use of the space. All are welcome. We have a good time — be prepared for some laughter as well as improving your strength and balance. Call Melody Tobin (802-644-2409) to discuss, or just show up.

Bone Builders Class: at St. Thomas Catholic Church, Underhill Center, on Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 9:00 – 10:15 AM. Sponsored by the United Way of Northwest VT, RSVP Bone Builders is a free exercise program for men and women, designed to prevent the negative effects of osteoporosis. For more information contact Danielle Schwer, 802-861-7821 or danielle@unitedwaynwvt.org.

Thursday Trivia nights — Thursdays, now through May 1, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Supersounds Trivia at Jericho Cafe & Tavern, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Come by for Trivia, hosted by DJ Mike Toomey. Lots of awesome prizes, and a way to ward off the winter blues.

Weekly Community Choir on Thursdays — If you love to sing (or want to join in on the piano to help folks learn parts and play accompaniment), come join *Mountainsong!* We are a volunteer-run community singing group that harmonizes together in four parts on Thursday evenings, 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (across from Packard Road). Whether you sing in the shower, sing Karaoke, or just like to sing in harmony with others, bring your voice and join us! Do you learn by ear or read music? Either way, you'll be comfortable in our group. You don't have to be a great singer — our aim is to sing for the joy of singing (no performances except for one short one for family and friends at the end of the season). We sing most weeks, and you can come as often as you are able; if you miss the first one or two (or more), no worries! Cost: \$1 a week toward space rental. We also ask for a contribution to purchase music for the group of \$7 per semester (fall and spring). Planning to come? Please email Doug Varney so that we have enough copies of music. Questions? Contact Lynne Robbins, 802-899-2436 or lar.2436@gmail.com, or Jean Archibald, 802-899-5219, or just show up on a Thursday evening!

Coming Events

Monday, November 13

Westford Seniors' Turkey Dinner, 11:30 AM, Red Brick Meeting House, Westford. Boy, do we have a good deal for you... turkey dinner with all the fixins' without the fuss of cooking and cleanup! Let our group of amazing volunteers serve you up a Thanksgiving meal amongst friends and neighbors. Any

Westford resident 55+ are welcome. We will have an AgeWell representative on hand selling restaurant meal tickets and information about upcoming community meals in our area... you might win the 50-50 raffle, a table decoration, and maybe even our true/false game! Please reach out if you have any questions or are in need of a ride. We respectfully ask folks to pass on lunch if you are having any respiratory symptoms. For more information or if you have questions, please contact one of our co-presidents: Mary Fay, 802-878-1215, or Cori Hill, 802-238-1018.

Tuesday, November 14

The Problem of Vermont's Hill Farms, 7:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Rd., Jericho. For the past 150 years, Vermont has been attempting to keep people from leaving the state, and to keep them on farms. But there was a time when state leaders took the opposite approach, planning ways to encourage — or possibly even force — farmers in places like Underhill to leave their farms. At the end of the 1920s, the Vermont Commission on Country Life, an outgrowth of the Eugenics Survey of Vermont, launched a series of studies of the problems of hill towns. Geographers, foresters, agricultural experts, religious leaders, home economists — and eugenicists — travelled through the hills conducting studies of all aspects of the lives of rural Vermonters. Most influential Vermonters agreed: some farms should be replaced with forests, and farmers should be "encouraged" to leave. But that was before the Great Depression and the rise of the young politician George Aiken. Former UVM History Professor and Underhill resident Dona Brown will address this topic with slides. All are welcome. Sponsored by the Underhill Historical Society.

Thursday, November 16

Jericho Town Plan 2024 Public Hearing, 6:30 PM, Jericho Town Hall, 67 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. At this public meeting the Jericho Selectboard will receive public comments on a draft of a new Town Plan, and will then revise the draft and warn a second public hearing before adoption. Jericho needs a new Town Plan before January 4, 2024. Alternately, residents can submit comments to Town Planner Linda Blasch in person by appointment, or by phone or email (802-899-2287, ext. 104 or lblasch@jerichovt.gov).

Saturday, November 18

Westford Turkey Trot, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Westford Elementary School, 146 Brookside Rd., Westford. This Westford Recreation event benefits and supports children and families of Westford. Pre-register for this event by Wednesday, November 1 to receive a free event shirt! Register online at <https://www.runreg.com/westford-turkey-trot>. Race Day Registration and Packet Pickup will be in the Gym from 8:30 – 9:30 AM. Tot Trot begins at 9:45 AM; 10K and 3K Races start at 10:00 AM. Post-race concessions available for purchase in the gym, hosted by the Westford Common Hall. After the last runner finishes, we'll announce the race winners (around 11:45 AM), and award raffle prizes. Race day volunteers and raffle items are still needed — if you would like to volunteer or donate a raffle item, please contact Race Coordinator Meghan Valyou Orisko, valyoum@gmail.com or 617-999-4772.

Christmas Cupboard Community Craft Fair, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, at the former Underhill ID school gym, River Rd., Jericho. Featuring the unique creations of your favorite local vendors, as well as new participants. Enjoy Christmas music and cookies while you shop and chat with neighbors. For more information contact Pam Preston, 802-488-4762 or barneynt3@aol.com.

Paint'n'Sip at the Eagles Club, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, Green Mountain #3210 Eagles Club, VT Rt. 109N (Waterville Road) Jeffersonville. Relax and enjoy an afternoon just before the holiday rush begins — it will be a fun event! Limited to 20 participants, based on the number of painting stations available; after the first 20 sign-ups, more can be added if you have your own easel. Cost: \$35 per person includes all the paint supplies and canvas. BYOB for sipping. Text or call Jen Benard, 802-777-0822, to reserve your paint station. Presented by the Green Mountain Auxiliary #3210.

AncestryDNA: Best Practices and Recent Changes, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom, VT Genealogy Library, 57 River Rd., Essex. AncestryDNA is a popular DNA testing company with over 22 million people kits being purchased. In this presentation Ed McGuire will explain all of the major features provided

to customers, from the Ethnicity Estimates to ThuLines; and most importantly, Shared Matches. Ed will discuss how best to contact genetic cousins, how to identify networks of matches that likely share DNA with you, and how to stay organized as you explore this new genetic landscape. Along the way he will clarify the limitations of each tool and demonstrate some advanced techniques that just might allow you breach a brick wall or two. Cost: \$10 Please visit our website www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Monday, November 27

Deep Economy: a talk by Bil McKibben, 6:00 – 7:30 PM. Transition Town Jericho, as part of its series of talks on resiliency topics, will host McKibben for a talk about his year eating only local food, which he wrote about in his book *Deep Economy*. Email TTJericho.vt@gmail.com to RSVP and get more details.

Saturday, December 2

Westford Craft Fair, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Westford Elementary School, 146 Brookside Rd., Westford. Join us for handmade crafts, raffle, bake sale. We have a few vendor tables available. If you are interested in reserving a table email westfordVTPTO@gmail.com.



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HEALTH NEWS

Lions sponsor blood drive December 6

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 6, 12:00 – 5:00 PM. The drive will be held at the Covenant Church at 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction.

Please consider giving the gift of life this holiday season. As always, the Lions Club will be serving pie with ice cream after you have donated.

Appointment times can be scheduled at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>, code: COVENANT.

Community updates from Copley Hospital

Copley Hospital Auxiliary is hosting its annual Thanksgiving Bake Sale — also known as the Famous Pie Sale — on Tuesday, November 21 beginning at 8:00 AM in the Art Gallery hallway. This is a popular event, and we love it when community members donate baked items. To donate a baked item please contact Lois, 802-888-3701, or Edna, 802-888-3788. Proceeds from the sale benefit Copley Hospital.

We still have openings for our Monday, November 27, blood drive. If you are interested in making an appointment for this American Red Cross drive, contact Jill, 802-888-8302.

Copley Chaplain Danny Granstaff will be joined by harpist Marie Hamilton and Friends for a Friday, December 1 Healing Concert at Jenna's House in Johnson. This is a free event beginning at 6:00 PM. All are invited.

Online meeting series to help you quit smoking

Northwestern Medical Center will be hosting a four-session online Quit Smoking clinic, available statewide, on Saturdays from November 18-December 9, 9:00 – 10:00 AM.

Join others looking for support and motivation to become — and stay — tobacco free.

Important: completing the online form (online at https://www.myhealthyvt.org/workshop_dates/online-quit-smoking-9/) is the first step in the workshop sign-up process. After completing the form, a My Healthy VT coordinator will contact you by phone or email and help you complete your registration.

Have other questions? Go online to <https://www.myhealthyvt.org/contact-us/> to connect with our team.

Age Strong VT plan released for public comment

The public is invited to share feedback on how Vermont can build an age-friendly state.

Age Strong VT is a new 10-year visionary plan with strategies for making Vermont a great place for all ages and stages of life. Age Strong VT's goals are big, touching on all aspects of aging well — a secure retirement, health and wellness, social connection, housing, transportation, community design, a coordinated system of services, family caregiver support, and balancing self-determination with safety and protection. It seeks to expand and strengthen partnerships across government, business, and communities, all while reframing aging and making Vermont livable for all.

Read the plan at <https://healthvermont.gov/agestrongvt>.

The public comment period is open now and runs through Thursday, November 30, 2023. Feedback can be provided in any of the following ways:

- online via webform at <https://healthvermont.gov/agestrongvt>;
- sent via email to agestrongvt@vermont.gov;
- sent via U.S. mail to Age Strong VT, Department of

Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, 280 State Dr., HC 2 South, Waterbury, VT 054671-2070.

Thank you for your feedback and for spreading the word about this important new plan to help Vermonters age well!

Now is the time to get COVID-19 and flu shots

From the VT Department of Health

Who's got time to be sick?

Luckily, we have more tools than ever to keep us healthy — like COVID and flu shots, plus new RSV immunizations. Vaccines can protect you from getting seriously ill. If you do get sick, your symptoms can be milder and not as long lasting. Together with everyday steps like handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home if you are sick could mean more time together this season!

Everyone six months and older should get this year's COVID-19 and flu vaccines. Babies and adults age 60 and older can get added protection with RSV immunizations.

Now is the time to get this year's COVID and flu vaccines! And talk to your doctor about whether new RSV immunizations are right for you or your family.

For more information, visit <https://www.HealthVermont.gov/MyVaccine>.

2024 Essex Rescue subscription drive beginning

The annual Essex Rescue subscription drive is soon to be underway. Residents can expect to see mailings arrive as soon as the second week in November. The subscription program is a way for families in the Essex Rescue service area (City of Essex Junction, Town of Essex, northern Jericho, Underhill, and southern Westford) to control the cost of emergency medical services provided by Essex Rescue while supporting this community emergency service.

The need for emergency ambulance services is often unanticipated, expensive, and necessary. Essex Rescue's subscription plan is one way patients can prepare for those unanticipated burdening costs. Emergency ambulance service costs can range anywhere from \$150 to more than \$2500 for each occurrence and not all medical insurances cover ambulance services. Billable ambulance services covered by Essex Rescue's subscription plan include both non-transport and transport services.

The cost of the basic subscription plan is \$50 per household per year. If a household subscribes to Essex Rescue and a resident of that household receives emergency ambulance services from Essex Rescue during the 2024 agreement year, the organization will bill the patient's insurance and there will be no other bill received by the patient for the ambulance costs. Essex Rescue will waive any denied coverage, co-pay, or deductible amount for which the patient would otherwise be responsible. A person may still be a subscriber even if they do not have health insurance coverage.

New subscription option for Underhill and Jericho residents:

Essex Rescue is excited to offer a new subscription option to Underhill and Jericho residents who reside within Essex Rescue's primary service area. Richmond Rescue and Essex Rescue are offering a dual subscription membership for only \$65 per year. For \$65, residents in Underhill or Jericho will receive all the same subscription benefits from either ambulance service. If Essex Rescue is on another emergency call, Richmond Rescue would be the next ambulance to respond for most areas of Jericho and Underhill. To enroll in dual subscription membership, select that option on the agreement form and enclose payment for \$65. This opportunity was only made possible through the strong working relationship between these two organizations.

Subscription terms:

- the subscription coverage period is one calendar year

(January 1-December 31) regardless of when the subscription is received;

- applies to a single household address and only the residents living there;

- covers only services provided by Essex Rescue, Inc. unless a dual subscription is elected, in which case coverage includes services provided by Richmond Rescue as well;

- non-transferrable;
- patients must be subscribers at the time of services to benefit from the subscription terms.

Interested persons can request a subscription application be mailed to them by emailing info@essexrescue.org or complete the application and payment online at www.essexrescue.org.

Essex Rescue is a private, not-for-profit organization that is not affiliated with any municipality. Essex Rescue's operational costs are covered in a variety of ways. Most of the organization's funding consists of reimbursement for emergency medical services rendered. The remainder of the organization's funding comes from donations, the annual subscription drive, and annual contributions from each town they cover.

For more information about the 2024 subscription drive, becoming a volunteer, or to learn more about our organization, please contact Executive Director Colleen Ballard, 802-878-4859 ext. 2 or cballard@essexrescue.org.

Does Thanksgiving turkey make us sleepy?

With Thanksgiving approaching, parents have been cooking up all kinds of questions about why everyone gets sleepy after a big Thanksgiving dinner. Thankfully, I can provide some information on healthy eating at Thanksgiving that will hopefully keep everyone awake.

First, let's start with that that sleepiness concern.

Turkey contains an amino acid called *tryptophan*, needed to make proteins. When eaten alone, tryptophan goes to the brain and is converted into a substance that calms us down and makes us sleepy. Yet turkey contains many other amino acids as well, which counteract the sleep effect of tryptophan in the brain.

So, what makes you sleepy if it's not the turkey?

It is all the starchy and sugar-containing foods other than turkey — like breads, potatoes, stuffing, pumpkin pie, and other desserts — which can cause fullness, and with it a desire to just rest and digest all that food. In addition, eating a big dinner may cause increased blood flow to the stomach and less to the brain, which can also produce drowsiness.

What can you do to not get sleepy on Thanksgiving?

You could try eating small, healthy meals during the day, so you do not eat one big meal at the end of the day — although that is easier said than done.

You could try limiting the amount of sugar and starch you eat.

A good walk after the big Thanksgiving meal will also aid digestion and prevent drowsiness.

And if you need some Thanksgiving safe cooking tips...

Make sure to cook the turkey at the right temperature and time based on weight. The temperature must reach 180 degrees in the innermost part of the thigh, and the center of stuffing should be 165 degrees to prevent spoilage.

When cooking, make sure your hands are clean at all times.

Never place food ready to eat on an unwashed plate that previously held raw meat or poultry.

Remember to keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold to prevent food from spoiling or transmitting bacteria that can cause indigestion and food poisoning.

Hopefully, tips like these will be easy ones to gobble up when it comes to eating healthy on Thanksgiving.

Lewis First, MD, is Chief of Pediatrics at The University of Vermont Children's Hospital and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont's Lerner College of Medicine

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mail delivery issues in Jericho

To the Editor,

Like just about everyone else in Jericho, we too have been dealing with erratic postal service these past few months due to insufficient staffing at our local P.O. — gotta think raising salaries would go a long way towards solving that problem (not sure Postmaster General DeJoy actually wants to solve any postal problems, but I'll save that for another forum).

However, at 7:00 AM this morning (October 26), drinking coffee while it was still dark outside, I spied the Post Office van making its way up and down our street, stopping at every box. Yeah, it stinks not getting our mail picked up or delivered

as frequently as we'd gotten used to, but I want to express appreciation and gratitude for the effort our Jericho postal workers are making — they are working very hard for us under tremendously difficult circumstances. Thank you.

Brian Walsh
Jericho

Secure firearm storage reminder, resources

To the Editor,

Given the tragic shooting that recently took place in Maine, I wanted to share some resources available to help keep our community safe.

Secure Storage — locking up firearms, separate from ammunition when not in use. This easy step can keep firearms out of the hands of children and prohibited persons. Free gun locks can often be found at local libraries and police stations. If you don't own firearms, but are a caregiver, it is recommended to ask about the presence of firearms in homes that your child may visit.

For more information visit: <https://besmartforkids.org/>.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) — if you know of someone in crisis who is considering harming themselves or others, you may be eligible to petition for an ERPO. This will temporarily prevent that person from accessing firearms. ERPOs go through due process via the courts.

For more information visit: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/13/085/04053>.

Here is the link to the petition form: <https://www.vermontjudiciary.org/sites/default/files/documents/400-00300-Extreme-Risk-Petition.pdf>.

By taking these steps and looking out for one another we can drastically reduce the potential for suicides by gun and mass shootings in our community.

I hope these are helpful for people during this difficult time.

Eileen Barendse Jericho

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By Kimberly Madura

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Eulogy

By Sue Kusserow

Special to the Mountain Gazette

It is mid-season. No, not a misspelling of mud season... between a healthy growth to: “whatever happened to Fall?” It is rather like looking out the windows to see the last leaf turning itself from acceptance to death. In all of us who live, there is a turning point... a time for letting go, by the natural change of osmosis, first from the top branches of a large tree to the coming from the end branches of a small tree. We know it's ending since the small windows bring us back to the memories of our past human lives.

The weight of our humanity in our last tango makes it personal, slow swirl from changing bud to glorious color, until it finally changes into a brown dead leaf.

It is mid-season: A euphemism for what happened to Fall... a turning to a wet faded brown and giving up humanity as we know it. It is a caption of a cycle, a season, a humanness. There is a midpoint in all of us where we try and choose what is the truth of leftover resignation.

The small red Maple leaf holds onto what we wish to remember, what little wind drifts downward to much of what we will hold onto and what we will forget.

The small winds grow stronger; we will remember what is helpful and good for our memories. So it will be for us, a slow dance, a tango of our last beautiful trip from glorious color to tiny bud to brittle and faded leaf. But gently moved onwards by our memory; they will be our blessings and warmth from one to another.

Celebrating my 100th

By Bernie Paquette

Please join me in celebrating what perhaps is the only occasion I will have to reach 100.

Read what motivated me to get started a few decades ago, how the seed germinated in 2016, and how during 2022 I started at one and continued through Nov 4, 2023, to reach 100. The number 100 is a milestone for me, but more important is the overall goal. For as in age, the number of years is less significant than what one does with each of those years.

Read the full story at <https://vibugeyed.blogspot.com/2023/10/celebrating-nature-inspired-comic-no.html>.

Poisoning ourselves

By Bill Schubert

I once weighed 485 pounds. I now weigh a bit over half that. My addiction to sugar and refined carbohydrates was killing me. When I understood that, I safely lost 244 pounds over the course of two years by simply abstaining from refined carbs. I also lost the craving to binge-eat, and to quit eating when I was full.

I grew up in rural Vermont at the dawn of the processed food industry. Patch's Market in Morrisville still sold locally grown, seasonal fruit and vegetables. In the cooler hung beef, lamb, and pork carcasses and a few locally shot deer in the fall. Mr. Patch custom-cut meat for his waiting customers on a large butcher block behind the counter. Two wheels of cheddar cheese sat under a cloche to protect them from flies, and Mr. Patch cut whatever size slice you wanted and wrapped it in butcher paper. The only plastic in the store was his black Bakelite telephone.

The industrial food blitz was just beginning. On the shelves were a few Campbell soup cans, Miracle Whip, Skippy peanut butter, Cheez Whiz, Heinz ketchup, and French's mustard, and a few packets of Jello, Junket, and Kool-Aid. Bunny Bread had yet to replace locally baked breads.

Today, 60 years later, we poison ourselves and our children with industrial food, much of it sourced from mono-cropped industrial farms where the push for higher yields requires the addition of chemicals such as Monsanto's Roundup (which contains, among other chemicals, glyphosate). Then there are the neonicotinoids, chlorpyrifos, ammonium sulfate, urea, and many other toxins.

“Progressive” Vermont has yet to ban the application of many toxic additives that are applied to our soils as it tries to sustain a dying dairy industry — one that produces more milk than the market can sell, dumps excess milk and whey, and relies on federal price controls to stay afloat... so much for “free market economics” and safeguarding public health.

In 1947, the year I came to Vermont, there were 11,200 small Vermont farms feeding their communities. Today there are around 500, a diminishing mix of mega-dairy farms and an encouraging number of organic and regenerative farming start-ups that focus on soil, water, and animal health while producing healthy food for local markets.

California, which grows the lion's share of domestic fruits and vegetables, has at least set out a 27-year timeframe for banning the worst of the chemicals used in pest management, while Europe is actively reviewing and outlawing many of our most commonly used soil additives.

But here at home, money talks. Industrial ag interests spent \$166M and chemical companies spent \$66M in 2022 lobbying congress and legislatures to curtail any efforts to safeguard our air, waterways, and soils, and thus the American people.

In spite of headlines like these, “An Epidemic of Chronic Illness is Killing Us Too Soon” from the *Washington Post*, the industrial food system and the ag chemical industries forge ahead given the inadequate regulatory oversight, significantly reducing life expectancy in the U.S. and making us an outlier in the developed world.

To make matters worse, according to *Politico*, far-right Republicans — championing the interests of the wealth that funds them — have put forward their plan to defang the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by reducing its already slender budget by 39%.

Meanwhile, some 80% of breast-feeding mothers have PFAS in their breast milk, passing the chemical on to their infants. PFAS is thought to be contaminating drinking water for more than 200 million Americans. Multiple studies have found rain to contain high PFAS levels, and many of our take-away paper coffee cups are lined with PFAS that leaches into the coffee we drink.

Why does it matter? Recent soil cores taken in New Hampshire showed 100% PFAS saturation. PFAS are a class of about 15,000 chemicals used to make thousands of products resistant to water, stains, and heat. Foodwrap and take-away containers are two. Scientific studies tell us that these compounds are linked, even at low levels of exposure, to cancer, thyroid disease, kidney dysfunction, birth defects, autoimmune disease, and other serious health problems. They're called “forever chemicals” because of their longevity in the environment. Yet they are still legal in this country. Some states, including Vermont, have made some efforts to control their use and to regulate the presence of PFAS in drinking water, but to little effect.

There are available resources showing how to avoid many of these applied poisons in our food supply such as the Environmental Working Group. Meanwhile, articles regularly appear with evidence of how we poison our air, water, and soil. Many explain how industrial food interests sidestep or block efforts to make our food supply safe. The Center for Science in the Public Interest has taken the FDA to task after it declared red dye 3 (Erythrosine) a known carcinogen as far back as the early '80s yet made no effort to ban it. Candy company Brach's alone sells more than 100 different candies with the dye. Red 3 is used in some varieties of Betty Crocker's Fruit by the Foot, Dubble Bubble chewing gum, Entenmann's Little Bites, and Hostess' Ding Dongs.

But still, many of us remain willing victims of this abuse. A good example is how we poison ourselves with sugar.

Andrea Grayson Ed.D of UVM Larner College of Medicine recently published *Sweet Tooth Dilemma*, an illuminating work on the impact of sugar on our physiology and its heavily marketed prevalence in our society and institutions. Her carefully researched work goes beyond the simple vilification of sugar and explains how it became so prevalent in our society and what health benefits accrue when people taper off their addiction.

A new enemy of healthy eating looms in our schools and is focused on our children. School lunch programs that used to rely on commodity-food handouts from the U.S. Dept of Agriculture (USDA) are buying into the food industry's pre-packaged (in plastic) Lunchables campaign. Vending machines selling sugar-sweetened snacks and junk food line school corridors. School administrators say they rely on the shared income with vending machine operators as part of their budgets.

The average American consumes 60 pounds of sugar a year. Imagine sitting down to eat a one-pound bag of sugar every week, then eat more. For most of human history, consumption of refined sugar was virtually zero. This slowly began to change about 2000 years ago with the discovery of sugar cane. But only in the last couple of hundred years have we escalated our consumption to what it is today. In the 1960s, anxious to protect its lucrative market, the sugar industry hired scientists to downplay the dangers of sugar consumption and shift the blame to fats, a natural part of humankind's diet.

Among the latest industrial food efforts to addict our youngest to sugar is the marketing of “Toddler Milk.” It is distinct from regulated “infant formula,” which can be safely used when breast-feeding is not possible — although scientists agree that breast-feeding is considerably more beneficial to newborns as, among other benefits, it transmits the mother's antibodies to her child. Abbott, Mead Johnson, Perrigo, and Nestle are all licensed to make “infant formula,” but now they've entered the unregulated “toddler milk” after-market to extend their franchise. The pediatric community has widely condemned this product as deleterious to children's health.

The new frontier for marketing edible toxins to young people is “influencer” dieticians. American Beverage, an industry trade group representing Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, and other beverage manufacturers in the multibillion-dollar beverage industry, has been paying dieticians to promote chemically sweetened food and beverages now deemed dangerous by scientific research. Furthermore, it is now known that beverages and water packaged in plastic often contain chemicals (BPA and phthalates) from the plastic that have leached into the beverage. An analysis by the *Washington Post* shows that companies and industry groups paid dieticians for content that encouraged viewers to eat candy and ice cream, downplayed the health risks of highly processed foods, and pushed unproven supplements — messages that run counter to decades of scientific evidence about healthy eating. The review found that among the 68 dieticians with 10,000 or more social media followers on TikTok or Instagram, about half had promoted unhealthy food, beverages, or supplements to their combined eleven million followers within the last year.

Another fascinating book is *Brain Energy* by Christopher Palmer M.D. It connects the rising tsunami of mental illness at all age levels with the environmental degradation from our dependence on chemicals in what we grow and eat. Their damage to human and animal metabolism and mitochondrial anatomy, he posits, is a common thread in all mental as well as physical illness. His work paves the way for what is being called nutritional psychiatry.

Sadly, the human instinct is to look for panaceas — take a pill. The latest are Ozempic and Wegovy, both financial gamechangers for the pharmaceutical industry. In the last three months, healthcare providers have written nine million prescriptions for them. But healthy solutions require more than a pill as I learned. What we eat matters as much as how much we eat of it.

To sum up: We face an existential choice. If we continue to prioritize profits over people, we can only expect life-expectancy, sperm count, maternal death, and physiological and mental health statistics to worsen. The Earth will survive the disappearance of our species. We're one of many species. The Earth will endure long after we've diminished human life here by poisoning ourselves. Look at the post-nuclear *Chernobyl* meltdown, which has become an unexpected haven for life now devoid of humans.

Will we be the wealthiest and most powerful people in Gaia's Cemetery of Extinct Species, or will we commit to being a beneficial contributor to the wellbeing of the planet and *all* its inhabitants? It's up to us to decide.

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Fall hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM; Sunday: 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

Sunday, November 26, 1:00 – 2:00 PM: November Artist's Reception. Art this month features the paintings of Gretchen Alexander. Please join us at the artist's reception to appreciate her works! There will be light refreshments; we hope you can stop by to check it out.

The Deborah Rawson Library Basket Raffle finishes on Thursday, November 30. Topics covered include: Breakfast Foods, Horses, Movies, Chocolates, Jams & Jellies, Books & Reading, and Coffee. If you have any questions, please contact Connie, 802-899-3034.

The library will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday-Friday, November 23-24.

Adult programs

Mondays and Wednesdays (except November 20 and 22), 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Seated Tai Chi. Age Well and DRML are sponsoring Seated Tai Chi for Falls Prevention for those 60+ or those who have limiting conditions who would like to improve their balance, strength, and well-being. We will learn the Sun Style Form and also through mindfulness we will learn ways to reduce stress and tension for you to apply when needed. The form can be adapted to your personal needs so all can participate fully. Join in person at DRML or on Zoom from the comfort of your home. Registration required; please contact Certified Instructor Jo Osborne, joannosborne2@gmail.com.

Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 PM: The Problem of Vermont's Hill Farms: an Underhill Historical Society talk. Vermont historian Dona Brown will explore the issue of the hill farms in Vermont. Vermont was dotted with hundreds of poor hill farms in the 19th century. After the Civil War, the young folks migrated West, and as a result the farms became more run-down. The Vermont Commission on Country Life, created in the 1920s, wanted to erase the “blot” of these poor holdings and replace them with natural forests to improve the look of Vermont, to

beautify the state and make it more appealing to tourists. A young politician and hill farmer, George D. Aiken, stepped in in the 1930s to preserve this way of life and to maintain that iconic look of the mowed fields among the mountains.

Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 PM: Deborah Rawson Book Lovers. DRBL is a monthly adult book discussion group. This month's selection is [Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine](#) by Gail Honeyman. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. For more information on how to join, contact Christine@cstaffa.com.

Thursday, November 16, 7:00 PM: Library Board of Trustees meeting, held in-person. A virtual meeting is available for those who wish to remain remote. Please contact Holly (drawsonmemlib@gmail.com) to receive the link. This month's meeting is the Jericho Underhill Library District's official budget hearing, in the DRML Program Room. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget.

Tuesday, November 28, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. We will be discussing *The Art Forger* by Barbara Shapiro. If you need a copy, call the library or request a copy on our online catalog using your library card. We meet in person in the Program Room. A Zoom link is available; email Holly, drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com for a link.

Thursday, November 30, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Crafters Group. Join us at DRML for a couple of hours of crafting and conversation with your neighbors. All are welcome, beginner to expert, in any craft you can transport. Hope to meet you there! For questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or atowerinvt@gmail.com, or Julie Hehir, 802-343-0034 or juliehhahir@comcast.net.

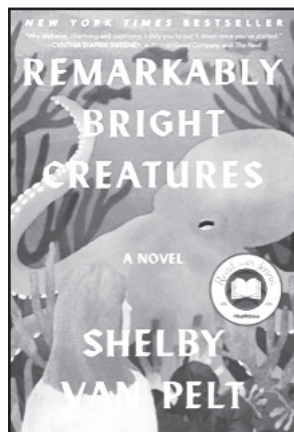
Youth programs

Ongoing

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM: Baby/Toddler Storytime [birth to PreK] This roughly half hour story time is focused on babies and toddlers. We will play finger games, do lap bounces, sing, dance,

Library news continued on page 6

Westford Public Library's Adult Book Club to meet



The Westford Public Library's Adult Book Club meets on Wednesday, November 29, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, this month reading *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt, an exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus. After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her 18-year-old son Erik

mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over 30 years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors — until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late. Shelby Van Pelt's debut novel is a gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible. Print copies available at library, ebook and audiobook available on Libby for simultaneous use.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Library news continued from page 5

and read a story or two. No registration necessary.

Fridays, 11:00 AM: Stories and Songs with Beth and David London [birth to PreK] What makes for a fantastic Friday? Coming to sing, read and play with Beth and David! We hope you can join us to enjoy the fun and meet other parents, caregivers and little ones!

Here is what's going on this month! All programs meet in person at DRML, unless otherwise specified.

Tuesday, November 14, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Dinosaur Crafts [all ages] It is Dino-ember and we are going all in on Dinosaurs! Drop in for this craft. We'll have a couple different options to suit kiddoes of any age. No registration necessary.

Wednesday, November 15, 3:30 – 5:00 PM: STEM Kit Petting Zoo [ages 5+] Did you know that the library has a bunch of different STEM kits you can borrow? Whether you knew or didn't know, join us to play around with them right here at the library. You can borrow any kit you like after the program. No registration needed.

Friday, November 17, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club [ages 6+] The holiday makes for only one LEGO club this month, but we are so grateful for it! Join us and build a turkey, a cornucopia, or whatever else you can imagine. Sign up and save your spot when you call (802-899-4962) or visit the library, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Saturday, November 18, 10:00 – 11:30 AM: Read to Wyatt [all ages] Get cozy with Wyatt and read a story together. Wyatt is a Bernese Mountain dog trained as a therapy dog. He and Ms. Sue love when you come in and read to him. Please sign up when you call (802-899-4962) or visit the library, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Saturday, November 18, starting at 2:00 PM in the gym at JES: Dinoman! [all ages] Boy howdy are we excited to partner with Jericho Elementary School and host Dinoman! With magic, merry mayhem, and magnificent props, the audience is taken on a trip throughout the Mesozoic Era. Bob and Dayna Lisiaus have been producing shows for the past 30 years and you can learn more at <https://dinoman.org/dinosaurs/>.

Tuesday, November 21, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Nintendo Switch [ages 10+] It's been a while since we broke out the Nintendo Switch to play games. We hope you can pop in before you head out for the holiday and play some Switch basketball, skateboarding, Mario Kart, or Mario Party. No sign up needed. If there are more than four players we'll take turns. No need to bring your personal switch or controller.

Tuesday, November 28, 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Minecraft Social [ages 8+] Bring your own device, hop on the library WiFi, and play some Minecraft! Play on your own server, or join a friend. Please note that there are two versions of Minecraft and they are not cross compatible. The library does have two tablets with Minecraft loaded for those who want to try out the game. No registration needed.

Thursday, November 30, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Animation Club [ages 10+] Curious about stop motion animation? The library has all the tools and software needed for you to make your own mini movies. Space is limited, and this is a really popular program so make sure you sign up when you call (802-899-4962) or visit the library, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Please visit drml.org or call 802-899-4962 for the most up-to-date information. Contact information: rawsonlibrary@drml.org; www.drml.org; 802-899-4962.

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

New hours: Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM; Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Saturdays 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. We are completely mask-optional and fully reopened.

Please be advised that our historic building is not currently ADA-accessible and has a set of four steps leading up to the building entrance. Our second floor is only accessible via a staircase.

Adults' events

Wednesdays through December 27, 9:00 – 10:00 AM: Adult Knitting Group. Calling all those who like to knit, crochet, hand sew, or craft with their hands! Join us for some crafting and conversation. We meet on the first floor of the library; drop in anytime! Bring your own yarn/ needles/ hooks/ crafting supplies or reach out to us at library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org ahead of time if you would like to borrow materials for the program.

We are trying to get two new programs off the ground here at Jericho Town Library: Family Book Club, and Youth Creative Writing Club. We would love to know what times and dates work best for your family! Please fill out this form if you are interested in either (or both) of these programs: <https://forms.gle/5YELra3PrJwbsgrV6>.

- Family Book Club: Each month, we will encourage kids and their adults to read the same book and then come to the library to discuss it over snacks. You can read the book together, listen to it as an audiobook, or each read the book on your own. Kids of all ages (and their adults) are welcome to attend, but we will be selecting books marketed to kids in grades 3-6(ish). We will discuss *The Lost Library* by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass at our first meeting. No pressure to read the entire book ahead of time, but please note that there might be spoilers during our discussion! Contact Catherine (catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org) for help locating a copy of the book.

- Youth Creative Writing Club: We'll talk about the stories that inspire us and write some of our own, using prompts and exercises to ignite our imaginations. Through sharing our work and encouraging each other, we will learn and grow as writers together!

Children's events

Wednesday, December 6, 10:30 – 11:00 AM: Read with Miss Emma! She is back at Jericho Town Library for the fall (and early winter) months — join us on the first Wednesdays for some Music & Movement. This musical storytime is fun for the whole family but designed for kids aged 0-5. Expect songs, rhymes, scarf dances, and much more! We'll meet outside, weather permitting.

Thursdays, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: Storytime Yoga.

Thursdays, 10:30 – 12:00 PM: Playgroup.

Saturdays, 9:00 AM: Baby Storytime, followed by Coffee and Conversation (for the adults).

Don't have a library card yet? Just drop by; getting a library card takes only a minute! We just need some quick contact information from you and you'll be all set, no ID or anything else needed.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram ([@jerichotownlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/jerichotownlibrary))

for regular updates on our programs, services, and collections. 802-899-4686, library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org, www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

The library will be closed on Thursday, November 23 for Thanksgiving.

Tuesdays, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: StoryTime.

Tuesdays, November 21 and 28, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Open Art Hour.

Wednesdays, 9:00 – 11:00 AM: Mobile Rural Resource Navigator.

Wednesdays, 10:00 – 10:30 AM: StoryTime.

Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Baby Rumble.

Thursdays (except November 23), 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Coffee and Conversations.

Saturday, November 18, 9:00 – 11:30 AM: Teens Teaching Technology.

Please visit <http://www.varnumlibrary.org> for calendar updates and more detailed information regarding all programs listed.

Hours: closed Sunday-Monday; Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Friday-Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

The Varnum Library, P.O. Box 198, 194 Main St., Jeffersonville, <http://www.varnumlibrary.org>, varnumrequests@gmail.com, 802-644-7112.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Seeking artists to display their work at the library. Art hangs for about three months. Contact Bree at the library (westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com) to learn more.

Have you tried Biblio+? Sign up with your library card at www.biblioplus.com to start streaming their selection of films and TV series today! The biblio+ app is available for download on Apple devices (iPhone, iPad, Apple TV), Android phone and tablet, Amazon Fire TV, and Roku, or stream directly from www.biblioplus.com.

Do you need some new puzzles to get you through the winter? The library is convening a Puzzle Swap! Drop off complete (must have all pieces) puzzles during open hours November 14-29. Bins will be available to sort at drop off. Then come back for the swap, Thursday, November 30- Saturday, December 2 during regular library hours to pick a puzzle — come early for best selection. This is completely free! Take what you will do. Kids' and adults' puzzles accepted. You do not have to drop off a puzzle to take a new one.

New Story Walk on the school trails! Enjoy *Jody's Beans* on the school trails. Story starts at the front parking lot kiosk. Late fall hiking is the best!

Spooky congratulations to Alena F. and Jude H. for winner their very own copy of *A Spoonful of Frogs* from the Westford Public Library table at the Halloween Walk. Stop by the library to claim your book. Bummed you didn't win? You can check out that book from the Westford Public Library — so you kind of are a winner!

We have two afterschool opportunities for November: Crafting Club and LEGO Club. Please sign up by email, westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com, by calling 802-878-5639, or stop by the library. These clubs tend to fill up, space is limited. More bus information will be sent to those who sign up.

- Tuesdays in November (except November 21), 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Crafting Club! For grades 3 and up; signup is required. Kids will ride the bus (with note from home and EWSD transportation form) to the library each week. Snack and all supplies included. We will work on a variety of projects using a variety of mediums — not just coloring. Perfect for kids who are focused on coloring, art, and crafts. Space is limited, so plan to attend weekly and sign up early.

- Thursdays in November (except November 23), 4:00 – 5:00 PM: LEGO Club! For grades 1-4; signup required (call or email). Kids will ride the bus (with note from home and EWSD transportation form) to the library each week. Snack included. We will do a combination of free building, building challenges, and have lots of LEGO fun! Space is limited, so plan to attend weekly and sign up early.

Thursdays, 11:30 AM: Storytime. We sing songs, read stories, move and do crafts! No sign up needed, all ages are welcome.

Wednesday, November 15, 6:30 – 7:30 PM: Space Themed PJ Storytime. Cozy up with some out of this world stories and wear your jammies to the library! We will read stories about space and get excited about the upcoming April total eclipse! Families who attend are guaranteed eclipse glasses when we pass them out closer to the April eclipse.

Tuesdays, November 14 and 28, 10:30 – 12:00 PM: Coffee and Cards. Cribbage, Euchre, Hearts, Rummy — whatever your game, we will play it. Meet with folks at the library for coffee, conversation, and cards — a great opportunity to socialize and keep those card playing skills sharp. Open to anyone, especially looking to connect with seniors.

Wednesday, November 29, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Adult Book Club, this month reading *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt, a compulsively readable exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus. After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her 18-year-old son Erik mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over 30 years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors — until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late. Shelby Van Pelt's debut novel is a gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible. Print copies available at library, ebook and

audiobook available on Libby for simultaneous use.

Thursday, November 30, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: TableTop Game Night. This new group meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month (5th Thursday this month due to Thanksgiving; December 14, 28). Hosted by avid tabletop gamers Bill and Martha McClintock, who will bring games from their extensive home game collection to share with those who come. This is a new group, so we will see how it goes. Please come to make things like this possible. Snacks provided. Bring your own beverages.

Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Maker Group. Fiber Arts is back as the Maker Group, now open to all makers — whether you knit, crochet, make jewelry, sketch, paint, paper craft, or any other art — or if you are a tinkerer — all are welcome!

We have a new website: www.westfordpubliclibrary.org. Check it out! If you are not seeing something new, make sure to clear your cache. If you bookmarked the old one, make sure to delete that and bookmark the new one.

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (December 6), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (November 17, December 16), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

Find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/WestfordVT_pl). Bree Drapa, Librarian. 802-878-5639; www.westfordpubliclibrary.org; westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Please sign up at least one week before the program date; all events free unless noted. Please contact libraryfairfax@gmail.com or 802-849-2420 to register for events!

For up-to-date information about programs, visit our website www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org where you can also find a link to the interactive Google calendar.

Youth events

Wednesday, November 8, 1:00 PM: Yarn Art. Use yarn instead of paint to create a beautiful, textured work of art! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesdays, November 15, 22, 29, 10:30 AM: Preschool Story Time. Join us for stories and songs! Children's books will be available to check out as well. Before you leave, pick up an activity to make at home!

Wednesday, November 15, 3:00 PM: 3-D Dino Puzzles. It's Dinover! Unlock your inner paleontologist and reconstruct some dinosaur skeletons! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Tuesday, November 21, 5:30 PM: D&D Club. Dragons! Danger! Dice! The library is now hosting a middle school D&D club. Join our DM Nic and create a character to take on exciting magical adventures! No prior Dungeons and Dragons knowledge is necessary, and players of all experience levels are welcome. Materials provided. Grades 5-8. Club meets every other Tuesday. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, November 22, 3:00 PM: Shaving Cream Art. Create lovely swirly designs with just shaving cream and food coloring! Materials provided. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, November 29, 3:00 PM: Mini DIY Artbook. Make a miniature book to fill with whatever art or writing you please! Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Adult events

Saturday, November 25, 11:30 AM: Canva 101. Canva is a great resource for designing personalized cards, posters, and other graphics, but it can be a bit daunting for new users. Join Elizabeth LaRosa at the library for a basic crash course on how to get started with Canva, and a step-by-step walkthrough of how to design your own greeting card. If you would like to follow along, the library does have a few laptops to loan, but bringing your own is recommended! No registration required.

Thursday, November 30, 4:00 PM: Library Book Club. The book this month is currently TBD. Book club will meet in the library. A Zoom link will be available for anyone who wants to attend remotely. If you would like to borrow a copy of the book, or request the Zoom link, please contact the library at libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call us at 802-849-2420. All are welcome!

Tuesdays, November 14, 21, 28, 5:30 PM: Mandarin Club with Keyuan Xiang. Interested in learning Mandarin, or just want to know more about Chinese culture? Join Keyuan Xiang at the library for lessons! You don't need to come to each club meeting, but registration is required for the day or days you would like to attend. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Family events

Thursday, November 16, 4:00 PM: Dinoman! Dinosaur tracks lead right to your school! Have no fear, Dinoman is here! With magic, merry mayhem, and magnificent props, the audience is taken on a trip throughout the Mesozoic era. How do we know dinosaurs were here? What is a fossil? How are they made? This program is fun and informative for all ages! No registration required.

Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM (Fridays, 4:15 PM); Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM; and Saturdays 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

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

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Trustees meetings are on the second Monday of the month via Zoom until further notice.

Save the date! The Friends of Richmond Free Library will hold this year's book sale on Friday, December 1, 5:30 – 8:30 PM and Saturday, December 2, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The bag sale will start at 2:00 PM on Saturday — all you can fit in a bag for one set price. In anticipation of the Friends sale, the library will accept donations through Friday, November 17 (the Friday before

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Thanksgiving). Please bring one box at a time to the circulation desk on the first floor for staff members to review. Materials must be in good and clean condition. We accept hardcovers with intact book jackets, paperbacks, CDs, and DVDs. We do NOT accept magazines, textbooks, condensed books, VHS or cassette tapes, software discs, encyclopedias or dictionaries, or out-of-date non-fiction items. We will return to you items we can't use.

November Art Display: Discover unique creations from Richmond artist Shanna McCabe of Vermont Fluid Art. View pieces of jewelry and wall art that were created using the technique known as "pour painting." Shanna uses fluid acrylics and shimmering mica pigments, along with unconventional tools like hair dryers, dustpans, paper towels, yarn, and more, to create one-of-a-kind designs. These pieces and more are available for purchase and gifting at www.pourlittleme.com. Shanna is always happy to talk about fluid acrylic art, so please reach out if you have any questions!

Holiday books — Our large collection of holiday picture books are on display and waiting to go home with you for some cozy winter reading. From your favorites like *The Polar Express* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* to some brand-new offerings for this year, including books celebrating the winter Solstice, Hanukkah, and the New Year ahead.

Free COVID tests: Free at-home Covid antigen tests are available at the library thanks to the VT Department of Health. Individuals may pick up four kits (eight tests) per person. Ask for them at the circulation desk.

Wednesday, November 15, 7:00 PM: Climate Action Book Discussion. Join Richmond Climate Action Committee to discuss *The Nutmeg's Curse* by Amitav Ghosh. The Nutmeg's Curse frames climate change and the Anthropocene as the culmination of a history that begins with the discovery of the New World and of the sea route to the Indian Ocean. Ghosh makes the case that the political dynamics of climate change today are rooted in the centuries-old geopolitical order that was constructed by Western colonialism. This argument is set within a broader narrative about human entanglements with botanical matter — spices, tea, sugarcane, opium, and fossil fuels — and the continuities that bind human history with these earthly materials. Copies are available to pick up at the library.

Saturday, November 18, 12:00 PM: Cookbook Club. (Meets monthly on a Saturday at noon.) On November 18, the group will be cooking and eating from *My Vermont Table*, by Gesine Bullock-Prado. The next meeting is Saturday, December 16. Email Suzanne (skrohn@richmondvt.gov) with any questions or to sign up.

Tuesday, December 12, 6:00 PM: (Mostly) Fiction Book Group. Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge to discuss *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Contact Gwen Landis, 802-434-5012 or gwenne1972@yahoo.com, for information on joining this group.

Tuesdays, through November 28, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club. We have loads of LEGOs. Periodically we offer multi-week

sessions of after-school LEGO Club. LEGO enthusiasts work together or separately to build amazing projects. No registration is necessary, just come play!

Friday, December 8, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Sculpey Pens. Youth ages 8-12 are invited to register for this fun holiday activity. Mold some oven-bake Sculpey clay onto a pen, bake it and you have a colorful, functional, one-of-a-kind work of art suitable for personal use or gift-giving. This event is free but participants must register and space is limited. To sign up, contact the library at 802-434-3036 or library@richmondvt.gov.

Take and Make Craft Kit (Holiday Candle): Pick up a kit containing everything you need to make a seasonally appropriate, simple cardboard candle decoration for your windowsill. Kits are available throughout December or until supplies run out. Stop by the library inner foyer during open hours to get a bag for your little person. Appropriate for kids ages 4-8.

Storywalk and Scavenger Hunt: *Go, Sled! Go!* A combined Storywalk and scavenger hunt will be set up in the library for the month of December. Kids of all ages can hunt for the next pages of the book *Go, Sled! Go!* by James Yang, and add stickers and stamps to their game sheet. Completed game sheets can be turned in at the youth desk for a small prize.

Weekly/monthly children's programs at the Library run from September-May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Storytime/Playgroup The good times kick off with stories and action songs in the Library Community Room and then the toys come out for free play with friends new and old. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids infant through five years and their grownups are invited to join the fun.

Mondays, 10:30 AM: Baby Laptime. This short, active storytime is for our youngest little book lovers and their grownups. We'll look at picture books, sing simple songs, do some rhyming and bouncing and sometimes get out the shakers and scarves. This program is designed for infants and early toddlers.

Saturdays, November 18 (December 16, January 20, February 17, March 16, April 20, May 18), 10:30 – 11:30 AM: Hora del Cuento (Spanish Storytime). Join native Spanish speakers, Chichi and Eva for 30 minutes of picture book stories and rhymes. This program is a great introduction to Spanish for young children and a nice way for parents of older children placed in the Spanish Immersion Program to hear the language. Join us in the Community Room on the third Saturday of every month, September-May.

Wednesday, November 22, 5:30 – 7:00 PM: Need tech help? Liam Repp will be at the library to give you some advice about your device. Bring your questions and your laptop, tablet or phone. Help is first come, first served.

What can you borrow from the Library? Borrow books (fiction, non-fiction, memoir), magazines, DVDs, Playaways, early readers, board books, graphic novels (for all ages, audiobooks on CD, Spanish language books for kids, chapter books, comic

books, Vox books (picture books that talk!), STEAM kits, storytime bags, a sewing machine, a blood pressure monitor, lawn games, snowshoes and poles, a firewood moisture meter, and an appliance voltage meter.

Library hours: open for in-person browsing and pick-up at the circulation desk on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Wednesday, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM; and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Contact us at 802-434-3036 (leave a message after hours) or rfl@gmavt.net.

Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St., P.O. Box 997, Richmond, VT 05477; 802-434-3036; fax 802-434-3223; <http://richmondfreelibraryvt.org>.

BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

Contact us at frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org or 802-878-6955.

Brownell Library, 6 Lincoln St., Essex Junction. Contact Main Desk 802-878-6955, Youth Desk 802-878-6956, Reference Desk 802-878-6957, or frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org.

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Closed Thursday-Saturday, November 23-25, for Thanksgiving.

Free Covid test kits are available for pickup in the library lobby while supplies last. No need to reserve! Up to four kits per person. No library card needed. Free gun locks, too.

Wednesday, November 29, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: PhotoVoice Gallery Opening. Photographers from Maple Ridge Lodge and Memory Care will be displaying their work. Maple Ridge staff will provide a brief introduction to the PhotoVoice project. Light refreshments will be provided. Photos will be on display through mid-December.

DIY Puzzle Swap throughout November! Puzzles must have all pieces and container must be taped closed. Check out the bench in the lobby for current selections!

Ongoing through January 6, 2024: The Giving Season. The Library is collecting diapers (size 4, 5, 6), wipes, shampoo, and toothpaste for Aunt Dot's. If you can, please support this important community resource and the people who depend upon it! Thanks!

New magazines: *Car and Driver*, *Kiplinger Personal Finance*, *Men's Health*, *Northern Woodlands*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Rolling Stone*, *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue*, and *Writer's Digest*.

Childrens' events

Tuesday, November 21, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Afterschool Rock Painting with Laurel Clark. For children and families. We encourage you to bring rocks, but there will be some available. Paint provided; you bring the creativity!

Ongoing

Exploration Station; see the blue table for this week's challenge.

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*Subject to availability and eligibility



Cambridge Recreation Board holds second annual Scarecrows in the Villages contest

The Cambridge Recreation Board's second annual Scarecrows in the Villages event kicked off with a Scarecrow Build Party at the Cambridge Community Center on Friday, October 13. There were 12 scarecrows in the villages of both Jeffersonville and Cambridge through November 4. The Cambridge Recreation Board posted photos of the scarecrows on its Facebook page and invited community members to vote by liking the photos. Eight winners (two pictured here) were each awarded \$25 gift cards, purchased from local businesses affected by the July floods. The album with pictures of all 12 is posted on the Cambridge Rec Facebook page.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JESSI JACOBS, CAMBRIDGE RECREATION BOARD MEMBER



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Mondays, 11:00 AM: Musical Mondays with Miss Noreen. Rock'n' read with Miss Noreen!

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM: Storytime with Ms. Emily. Stories and songs for young patrons.

Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club. Come and check out our great collection of LEGOs! No pre-registration necessary. Best for ages 9 and up, or 6 and up with an adult helper.

Fridays: Grab'n'Go Craft Kits, while supplies last. Storywalk ® along the back garden fence.

Adult events

Noreen's Creative Card Kits, for adults, while supplies last. Makes two cards.

Thursdays, November 16, 30, 4:00 – 6:00 PM: Come Write-In! For adults and young adults. Celebrate NaNoWriMo by joining our write-in! Bring your laptop or notebook, set your creativity loose, and settle in for some quality writing time! Coffee and hot chocolate available.

Tuesday, November 14, 6:00 – 7:00 PM: Zentangle with Julia Davenport. For adults only. This art form welcomes slowing down, taking your time, and seeing what happens. No prior art

experience required. Limited space available. Sign up on the website.

Friday, November 17, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Labor on Location by the VT Department of Labor. Career resources, job search support, business services — check out how the DoL can help you! No sign-up required.

Tuesday, November 21, 2:00 – 3:00 PM: Rock Painting with Laurel Clark. For adults. Enjoy a "craftnoon!" We encourage you to bring rocks, but there will be some available. Paint provided; you bring the creativity! Limited space available. Sign up on the website.

Thursday, December 7, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noontime Book Group, reading *On the Rooftop* by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton. A stunning novel about a mother whose dream of musical stardom for her three daughters collides with the daughters' ambitions for their own lives — set against the backdrop of gentrifying 1950s San Francisco.

Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 AM: Tech Time. Drop in with your device and your questions. We'll do our best to answer them! No appointment needed.

Tuesdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Drop-In Needlecraft Group. Enjoy chatting with other crafters as you work on your project.

Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Hand and Foot Canasta.

Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Rummikub for Adults.

Have you ventured to an exciting locale lately? How about helping others do the same? Seeking donations of travel guides (Frommer's, Fodor's, Moon, Lonely Planet, Rick Steves', Rough Guides) from 2020 or later — any country or region accepted. Must be in excellent condition, unmarked, and with any maps included.

Museum Passes are available for year 'round fun! State Parks, ECHO, Shelburne Museum and more! <http://Essexfreelibrary.org/MuseumPasses>.

Digital resources: <https://essexfreelibrary.org/DigitalResources>

Social media: check us out on Facebook & Instagram for updates on events!

Essex Free Library, 1 Browns River Rd., Essex; 802-879-0313; @essexfreelibrary; website <https://www.essexfreelibrary.org/>.



Call Laurie today to learn more. (802) 871-5808

Our Commitment Is Clear.

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MISCELLANEOUS NEWS



Holiday giving and volunteer opportunities page 11.

United Way volunteer opportunities

GET CONNECTED TO VOLUNTEERING — United Way’s Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Agencies are working hard to navigate volunteering during this time, but opportunities are increasing. Go online to the Volunteer Connection (<https://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com/>) to learn more about these and other opportunities.

DELIVER THE GOODIES – Age Well is looking for volunteers to join their incredible team that delivers over 1000 Meals on Wheels a day. Volunteers build lasting connections with their neighbors while checking in on their safety and addressing food insecurity. Sign up for a regular route, weekly or bi-weekly, or become an on-call substitute when last minute coverage is needed. Drivers are especially needed in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. Contact Erica Marks, emarks@agewellvt.org.

SUPPORTING PARENTS – Prevent Child Abuse Vermont invites volunteers to join their team of leaders facilitating virtual parent education and support groups that meet on-line. If you’re a skilled professional, an experienced parent or grandparent, or a grad student seeking field work, you can help parents learn

the skills they need to strengthen themselves and their families. Flexible scheduling. Contact familysupport@pcavt.org.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - Burlington Dismas House is in need of volunteers with a wide range of interests and skills to help make a difference in the lives of young people. Volunteers can teach computer skills or financial literacy, cook and share an evening meal, provide employment skills, provide transportation to medical appointments and job interviews, and more. Time commitments vary. Contact Holly, holly@dismasofvt.org.

MENTOR! MENTOR! – King Street Center is seeking mentors, age 21 and older, to build friendships between elementary and middle school students enrolled at the Center. Mentors share at least two hours a week with mentees in activities such as biking, apple picking, attending a sporting or music event, baking, or just chatting over a cup of hot chocolate. A one-year commitment is required, and mentors must pass a criminal background check. A great way to make a difference in the life of a young person! Contact gabriella@kingstreetcenter.org.

TAKE YOUR PICK! – C.I.D.E.R. (Champlain Islanders Developing Essential Resources) has numerous volunteer opportunities just waiting to be filled. Install a garage door opener (door is provided) for a homeowner, teach technology classes for seniors, help with light yard work and gardening (a great opportunity for a young volunteer!), visit seniors or disabled residents to provide companionship, help with minor home repairs, and more. Scheduling is flexible. Contact Maureen Burns, atresource@cidervt.org.

Lamoille Fibernet 2023 Annual Report now available

By Lisa Nolen Birmingham,

Interim Director, Lamoille FiberNet CUD Board

Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (CUD) is proud to announce that our 2023 Annual Report is now available. To learn more about this year’s activities, next year’s planned construction, and some of the reasons we chose Fidium Fiber to serve our District, check out the report. We also invite you to review our proposed 2024 budget, published with the annual report. The report is on our website at: <https://lamoillefiber.net/document/2023-annual-report/>.

We will be taking comments on the proposed budget at our Wednesday, November 15 Governing Board meeting — the public is welcome to attend. For information on how to attend meetings or about Lamoille FiberNet generally, visit our website: <https://lamoillefiber.net>.

Phase 1 construction is not planned to begin until mid-2024. We will update each town as construction plans are finalized, and when ready, post our schedule on our website. We expect areas to be served on a rolling basis, beginning early summer 2024 through the end of 2024, and addresses will be served as construction progresses.

To find out if your address will be included in Phase 1, please email our construction manager Fabian Bourgeois at fbourgeois@lamoillefiber.net. Remember, we will not know exactly when your address or road is being built until designs are finalized.

Please do not call Fidium — it is too early in the process for Fidium sales representatives to schedule installations. If you want to let Fidium know you are interested in fiber Internet service, you may put your address on their “pre-order” list via the online option:

- go to: <http://fidiumfiber.com> and click *check availability* button, top right of screen;
- enter your address and fill in the form;
- Fidium will take it from there!

Also, you can see Fidium’s product and price information by visiting: <https://www.fidiumfiber.com/fiber-internet>.

For other questions, feel free to email the Lamoille FiberNet office, info@lamoillefiber.net or visit our website: <https://lamoillefiber.net/>.

VTrans project updates

November 9, 2023

Richmond-Bolton U.S. Rt. 2 rehabilitation

Traffic impact: traffic control with one-lane of alternating travel throughout various areas. Motorists can expect moderate traffic delays during daytime hours. Please follow the posted speed limits.

Project update: Backfilled the newly installed concrete curbing west of the Richmond Village, installation a new culvert near the Riverview Cemetery; completed driveway tie-ins throughout the project.

Construction activities: The following is the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning Monday, November 13:

- Monday-Friday, 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM: backfilling the newly installed concrete curb, project clean up in preparation of winter shut down.

Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference US-2 Richmond, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Completion date: July 2024

Richmond - U.S. Rt. 2 Bridge #29 replacement

Project type: complete bridge replacement

Traffic impact: U.S. Rt. 2 traffic control will be present allowing for one-lane of alternating travel. Monday-Friday on I-89 motorists may encounter a lane closure for both southbound passing lane and northbound travel lane from 5:30 AM – 3:00 PM and the southbound and northbound right shoulders will be closed all within the project.

Project update: continued support of excavation wall for Abutment #2; formed and tied rebar for placement of concrete at Abutment #2 stem wall; stripped forms off Pier Cap; cleaned up median and removed crane from site.

Miscellaneous continued on page 10



Chittenden Solid Waste District



scan for details

www.cswd.net

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CSWD offers convenient drop-off locations for trash, recycling, food scraps, and special materials like batteries and appliances.

You’ll be surprised by all the things we can help you keep out of the landfill!

NOW OPEN Tuesday – Saturday in Essex, Milton, South Burlington & Williston from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Our dear mother **Penny M. Kistner** departed this world at peace on Sunday, October 22, 2023 in Cambridge, VT. Penny was 70 years of age. She joins her beloved partner William J. Bernath in the Kingdom of Heaven. Penny was born on November 17, 1952 in Fairfield County, Connecticut. She and her partner William moved to the Green Mountain State in 1986. She developed a deep love for her adopted home of Cambridge and its residents. Penny considered her greatest accomplishment to be her three beloved children. Her children remember her as a mother who loved without measure, accepted no excuses, and always encouraged them to do their best. Penny was blessed with two wonderful grandchildren and three granddogs. She delighted in her role as a grandmother. Professionally, Penny served her community for 43 years as a dedicated nurse. Her medical career was expansive, dutifully caring for patients at UVM Medical Center, Copley Manor, and at the Fanny Allen Campus. Her final workplace was Cambridge Elementary School. She is survived by her children, Mrs. Stephanie K. Knoblach, Ms. Susan K. Bernath, and Mr. William K. Bernath. She is also survived by her sister, Mrs. Sally Russo of Connecticut, and her brother, Mr. Richard Kistner of Arizona. A celebration of life will occur on November 17, 2023 (Penny's 71st birthday) at Cambridge Elementary School. In lieu of flowers, her children request donations in her memory to Cambridge Elementary School or Lamoille Home Health and Hospice. Please visit <https://www.avrichfuneralhomes.com/> to share your memories and condolences.



Lynne A. (Lavery) Stygles, 77, formerly of Jericho, VT, passed at the McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester, VT. She joined her husband Kenny Stygles Sr on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. Lynne and Kenny's life on the farm was always full of adventure. They loved to spend time on the deck welcoming family, friends, and animals, where everyone was assured a fun time with lots of love and laughter, where we would not be surprised to see a Jersey calf keeping warm next to the woodstove, a couple of chickens strutting through (and the rooster), as well as all of the dogs. Lynne was an accomplished horsewoman, a teaching member of the 4-H horse program at Contentment Farm, she barrel raced in gymkhanas, as well as riding her horse Petter from Vermont to Valley Forge, PA as an Outrider for the Vermont Wagon Train Team, while joining with the other Wagon Train Teams from all of the 50 states in celebration of our nation's Bicentennial Birthday, where President Gerald Ford presided over the ceremony at Valley Forge. Lynne was an early riser; she was never one to "let grass grow beneath her feet." When things needed to get done, rest assured they got done. She was kind, loving, strong, and fearless. She loved everyone with her

whole heart and was loved and admired by all who had the pleasure to know her and meet her. She maintained her lifelong friendships with her childhood friends Marsha Baldwin, Olive Gilmond, Martha (Dude) Centabar and Phyllis Ritchie Earborn, Christine (Denny) Lowell, Mike (Janet) Lavery, Emory (Marie) Lavery, as well as treasure trove of others throughout her life. Lynne is survived by her, father-in-law Ed Stygles, daughter Bonny Rocheleau, son Greg Lavery (Michelle) Stepsons, Kenny Stygles Jr. (Darla), and Dylan Stygles (Alanna); by grandchildren Tori Rocheleau, Jeff Rocheleau, Jessica McNeil, Joshua Rocheleau, Sommer Lathrop, Daniel Lavery, and Abby and Madelene Stygles; and by eight great-grandchildren. She was pre-deceased by her parents Ruth and Frederick Crady, sister Janice (Lyman) Viens, brother Greg Crady, mother-in-law Jane Stygles, son-in-law Mark J Rocheleau, and nephew Garth Viens; by Thelma Lavery and granddaughter Cecilia Stygles. May we all be inspired to live life as she showed us how. There will be no funeral service per Lynne's wishes. There will be a memorial gathering celebrating her and Kenny's love of life, friends, and family, at a later date. In lieu of cards or flowers, donations can be made to the McClure Miller Respite House or to an animal rescue shelter of your choosing.



Arlie (Sweet) Nolan Williamson, 97, of Jeffersonville, VT passed away surrounded by family on Thursday, November 2, 2023. She is survived by her children Gary and wife Shelley (Houghton) Nolan of Morrisville, VT, Dale Nolan of Hyde Park, VT, Judith "Judy" (Nolan) Blaisdell of Cambridge, VT, and Mark Nolan of Burlington, VT; by stepson Larry Williamson and Mary Skog of Jeffersonville, and stepdaughter Lois (Williamson) and husband Larry Reigret and family of Milton, VT; by 11 grandchildren: Steffany (Nolan) Mosley and husband Sean, Marcey (Nolan) Hodgdon and husband Benji, Heather (Miller) Pierce and husband Charlie, Chasity (Nolan) Fragnant and husband Dan, Rayn Nolan, Adam Blaisdell and girlfriend Krisie Farrington, Shane Blaisdell and wife Bonney (Tenny), Tamra (Blaisdell) Wesson and husband Randy, Matthew Nolan and husband Luca Richards, Kelly Nolan, Chelsea Nolan and husband Eric Lemieux; by 31 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-grandchildren; as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Arlie was predeceased by her first husband, Neil Nolan in 1982, her second husband Marvin Williamson in 2006; her parents Earl and Ethel (Barker) Sweet; son-in-law Charles Mark Blaisdell, daughter-in-law Marilyn (Medor) Nolan; two infant sisters; brothers- and sisters-in-law Arlan and Irma, Ray and Esther, Donald and Hazel, Guy and Margaret Sweet; her sister Shirley and brothers-in-law Earle Dunham and Merton Mason; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Hilda (Nolan) and

Stuart Spaulding, brother-in-law and sister-in-law John and Elizabeth ("Betty" Rooney) Nolan; a very special friend Naida (Williamson) Fink; and her special companion for many years "Ozzie" the cat. Arlie was born on August 14, 1926 to Earl and Ethel (Barker) Sweet in Fletcher, V. She lived on the family farm in Fletcher until 1939 when her family bought a farm in Jeffersonville. Arlie attended a one-room school in Fletcher through the 8th grade, and graduated high school from Cambridge High School in Jeffersonville, receiving the DAR Good Citizen Award in 1943. Arlie furthered her education at Johnson Normal School, Johnson, VT. After graduating from Johnson Normal School Arlie taught grades 1-8 in one-room schoolhouses in Newport Center and Fletcher, VT. Arlie married Neil Nolan on February 28, 1947. She was a stay-at-home mom until she started and taught kindergarten. Her house was always open to the children in the village and anyone that wanted to stop by to play in the infamous "Club House" or pop in for supper. In 1960 Arlie started the first private kindergarten in Cambridge, VT. She taught kindergarten until 1964, when she worked as a secretary for the next 26 years at Cambridge High School and Lamoille Union High School, and retired in 1988. In 1990 she started work at the Bryan Memorial Gallery. Arlie worked there under directors Jane Shaw and Mikey Myers, where she learned a lot about art and met many artists and visitors from all over the world. Arlie also worked for a home quilting company hand tying quilts for them. This is when she developed her passion for making quilts herself. Arlie loved making quilts for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren until she was unable to do it any longer. Arlie also enjoyed being with and doing special things with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved going to the casino in New York and going on bus trips with them. Arlie enjoyed country music, and recently one of her granddaughters took her to a live concert. She also was an avid bingo player at the Eagles Club in Jeffersonville and looked forward to going with her niece every Friday night. Arlie was a volunteer for many organizations in the town. She was a member of the Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville. She also taught Sunday school, was a Deacon, the Assistant Treasurer, and the Historian for the church for a number of years. Arlie joined the Jeffersonville Cemetery Association and served as treasurer. She was a member of the Cambridge Alumni Association, the Eagles Auxiliary, and the Women's Fellowship. Arlie was the Secretary for the Alumni Association and also volunteered at Second Chance in Morrisville, VT. Arlie was nominated Grand Marshall of the Cambridge 4th of July Parade in 2012. In lieu of flowers please donate to the Lamoille County Home Health, 54 Farr Ave., Morrisville, VT 05661. Visiting hours were in Fairfax at A.W. Rich Funeral Home on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. Services were held at the Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville, VT on Thursday, November 9, 2023, with celebration of her life following at the Community Center in Jeffersonville.



'Tis the season for giving in Westford

By Holly Delisle, Westford Town Administrator

As it has been done in years past, the Town of Westford is collecting monetary donations to purchase Hannaford gift cards for Westford residents in need during the December holiday season. The gift cards provide recipients with the ability to purchase food and household items as needed and according to their personal preferences.

Monetary donations will be accepted through Friday, December 15. If you prefer, you can purchase the gift cards (ones that prohibit tobacco and alcohol purchases) yourself. Please mail or deliver your donation to the Town Office. The gift cards will be mailed on Tuesday, December 19 to Westford residents only.

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Jericho Craft Fair November 25 looking for vendors

The upcoming craft fair at the Jericho Community Center (on Browns Trace, Jericho Center) has space for a few more vendors! The event will be Saturday, November 25, 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM, and if you, or someone you know, would be interested in having a space to sell your wares, contact Anna at avasenstein@yahoo.com.

Saturday, November 18
Christmas Cupboard Community Craft Fair, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, at the former Underhill ID school gym, River Rd., Jericho. Featuring the unique creations of your favorite local vendors, as well as new participants. Enjoy Christmas music and cookies while you shop and chat with neighbors. For more

Miscellaneous continued from page 9

Construction activities: The following is the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning Monday, November 13: Monday-Friday 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM:

- place concrete for Abutment #2 stem wall / bridge seats;
 - continue support of excavation wall for Abutment #2;
 - begin forming and tying rebar for Abutment #2 backwall;
 - project cleanup on the west end of the project.
- Please use caution and follow the posted speed limits!
 Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference Bridge#29, Richmond, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Completion date: September 2025
Williston Intersection Project - U.S. Rt. 2 and Industrial Avenue

Location: U.S. Rt. 2 and Industrial Avenue intersection
 Project type: Installation of new drainage improvements and full-depth reconstruction.

Traffic impact: minimal impact on the traveling motorists with possible lane shifts within the work areas.

Construction update: worked on various punch-list items.
 Here is the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning Monday, November 13:

- Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 4:30 PM: completion of some minor punch list items to complete this project.

Please follow the posted speed limits.
 Projected completion: Fall 2023

Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference U.S. Route 2, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

information contact Pam Preston, 802-488-4762 or barneynt3@aol.com.

Saturday, December 2
Westford Craft Fair, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Westford Elementary School, 146 Brookside Rd., Westford. Join us for handmade crafts, raffle, bake sale. We have a few vendor tables available. If you are interested in reserving a table email westfordVTPTO@gmail.com.

Waterville Christmas Market, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, 440 VT Rt. 109, Waterville. Plan ahead to attend the second annual Christmas Market at the Waterville Country Church. Welcome the Christmas season by browsing a variety of lovely and creative crafts and gifts. With even more vendors than last year, we look forward to their unique and special offerings! Come and visit with neighbors and friends over homemade soup and coffee — and add to the Christmas spirit!

Sunday, December 3
4th Annual Cambridge Christmas Coffeehouse, 4:00 – 7:00 PM, Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville. Join the fun! Hot drinks and goodies to enjoy while locals of all ages entertain us with secular and non secular music. A free will offering will be taken. It is a warm and cozy afternoon celebrating the coming joyful season. All are welcome! Questions? Call Annie, 802-309-8158.

Wednesday, December 6
Red Cross Blood Drive, 12:00 – 5:00 PM, Covenant Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction. Hosted by the Covenant Church at 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction. Please consider giving the gift of life this holiday season. As always, the Lions Club will be serving pie with ice cream after you have donated. Appointment times can be scheduled at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>, code: COVENANT.

Saturday, December 9
MMV Holiday Social, 12:00 – 3:00 PM, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. MMV members, volunteers, family, and friends come together for great food and good cheer!

We have room for your ad.
Call Brenda Boutin
at 802-453-6354
for more information
or email
mtngazette@gmavt.net

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

United Way holiday giving, volunteer opportunities

United Way has compiled this list of opportunities for volunteering and giving during the upcoming holiday season. Contact sonja@unitedwaynwvt.org or visit our Volunteer Connection site (<https://UnitedWayNWVT.galaxydigital.com/>) to learn more about holiday giving opportunities near you!

VERMONT CHILDREN'S TRUST FOUNDATION – Each December, we rely on the spirit of hundreds of volunteers to bring our magical journey alive for over 3600 passengers who take a ride on our Polar Express Train Ride! We need hundreds of elves to welcome passengers as they pull into the station (North Pole). Our horde of elves forms a receiving line OUTSIDE the station entrance, reaching from the first train car to the last train car and stretching as it narrows to the entrance of the station. We encourage you to hoot, holler, shout, clap, make noise, and show wild enthusiasm when the train arrives! As the families and children walk by you, kneel down and whisper Merry Christmas and be sure to use the names of the smallest children (each child will be wearing a name tag). Contact Theo Clark at theo@vtchildrenstrust.org to sign up!

BURLINGTON DISMAS HOUSE – The holiday season is quickly approaching and Dismas House is looking for volunteer cooks to cook and join us for Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner. The highlight of the day at Dismas house is when volunteers from the community join folks from Dismas house for a meal. As important as the contribution of food is, even more significant are the relationships that are forged when residents, staff and community members come together over a meal, especially during the holidays. We are looking for three or four volunteers who will each bring a part of the holiday meal and enjoy it with the Dismas community, or a group who would like to bring the meal. Contact Holly Rossi, holly@dismasofvt.org to sign up! We look forward to seeing YOU at the table!

COTS – We would be grateful for anything volunteers can provide for people, especially children, who are experiencing homelessness. Gift cards are an amazing way to allow parents to purchase gifts for their children. They are especially helpful when families move into shelter late in the season. The address to ship or drop off packages is COTS, 95 North Ave., Burlington, VT 05401. To schedule a drop-off time, call 802-343- 6903. There is also an Amazon wish list at <https://www.amazon.com/registries/guest-view/3FEO3Z7J39M72>.

HOWARD CENTER – Help is Here Client Needs Fund provides services to thousands of children, adults, and families each year, many of whom have very limited financial resources. Progress in addressing mental health, substance use, and developmental disabilities happens when basic needs have been met and when people have opportunities for personal enrichment. And so, each year we ask for gifts that will directly support clients to buy food and other basics and enable them to participate in holiday observances and cultural and educational activities that enrich their lives. Those interested in supporting can send gift cards of their choosing in whatever amount they

would like. Gift cards and checks can be mailed to: Howard Center, ATTN: Client Needs/Holiday Giving Fund, 208 Flynn Ave., Suite 3J, Burlington, VT 05401.

HANDS (Helping And Nurturing Diverse Seniors) – We are getting ready for the holiday season with a second year of "Season's Eatings," which will bring grocery gift cards along with cheery personalized cards and food resource lists to at least 1500 older Vermonters all over Chittenden County. You can help make the magic again this year! Please contact Jess Hyman at jessicahymanvt@gmail.com or 802-598-3139 to sign up or ask questions; there are several ways to help this fall and winter:

- Call seniors to confirm mailing addresses. This activity will be done during the month of November and is a great opportunity for people who love to chat. You will be helping make friendly connections and sharing important information and food security resources with older Vermonters as you verify mailing addresses.

- Address cards and envelopes. Choose from four sessions held in late November and early December (Tuesday, November 28; Wednesday, November 29; Monday, December 4; Wednesday, December 6). These fun group sessions include food and camaraderie as we write cheery notes in the cards and prepare the cards for mailing. The cards will go out via postal mail in mid-December and will also be distributed through local food pantries and partner organizations.

- Make a donation to help pay for the grocery store gift cards that will be included with the greeting cards. This is the biggest expense of the event. In past years, wonderful people like you donated non-perishable food items and gifts for holiday giftbags. This year, we are not collecting food items and invite you to use the money that you would have spent on giftbag items to donate directly for the grocery gift cards. This will allow the recipients to purchase food of their choosing for the holidays. Go to <https://www.handsvt.org/lend-a-hand-2> to make a donation via PayPal (choose Holiday Dinner), VENMO @HandsVT, or mail a check to HANDS, 13 St. Louis St., Burlington, VT 05401.

SPECTRUM YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES – Gifts With A Purpose. Bring the joy and hope of the holiday season to local youth! Local teens and young adults are desperate for a safe and warm place to go. You can provide these young people with a day of safety, warmth, and care this holiday season. Purchase a gift from the gift catalog by Saturday, December 24, and it will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$20,000. To see the catalog, go online to <https://spectrumgiftcatalog.square.site/order#12>.

STEPS TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – Steps is always looking for in-kind donations, specifically for common household items. We help about 4000 individuals each year with services, support, and the things they need to create and maintain a safe home. Be sure to check out our current needs list for items we're most in need of. More of our ongoing needs are updated on our Amazon Wish List. Ship items directly to our administrative office, and let us know so we can thank you! You can also select us as your organization of choice on smile.amazon.com and a portion of your purchase will benefit us.

Due to the nature of our secured facility, we ask donors to contact steps@stepsvt.org or 802-658-3131 to schedule a drop-

off. Thank you for your understanding! You can schedule to drop off donation items Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Please do not leave items by the door. Please do not show up to drop off items without first making an appointment.

TOYS FOR KIDS OF VERMONT – Toys for Kids of Vermont is a volunteer program sponsored by the Vermont Marine Corps League which collects new, unwrapped toys during the Christmas season and oversees their distribution to needy children in Vermont. All money collected stays in Vermont and is used to purchase age-appropriate toys to supplement donations, and for older children. As you may know, Toys for Kids is the state's largest Christmas toy collection program for kids in need that is 100% volunteer. Our signature red collection barrels with the white snowflakes on them collect toys for kids. Donations may be sent to: Toys for Kids, P.O. Box 4092, Burlington, VT 05406. For questions, contact toysforkidsvt@hotmail.com or go online to <http://toysforkidsvt.com/volunteer.php>. To join this effort:

- find a collection barrel location;
- bring new, unwrapped toy and drop it in the red barrel with white snowflakes;

- volunteers who monitor the barrels collect the toys and distribute them to other charitable organizations like the Salvation Army, Light Ministries, and various church groups.

ANEW PLACE – Sign up to provide a meal for our guests. Community members bring the evening meal every evening and we are especially looking for holiday meal providers. You'll be providing food for 12-15 people and can look for dates available here: <https://www.anewplacevt.org/meals.html>.

COLCHESTER FOOD SHELF – Donations can be made in person at the food shelf during regular hours. Donations can be brought to 245 Main St, Colchester, VT 05446. Our hours are 12:00 – 6:00 PM every Wednesday.

FEEDING CHITTENDEN – Our food shelf helps 9000-10,000 people each year to access the food they need to stay healthy and active. Food donations can be dropped off at our facility located at 228 N. Winooski Ave., Burlington. Food donations are accepted Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; for questions, contact Jon Brandom, jbrandom@cvoeo.org.

MILTON FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER – We gladly accept non-perishable food items for our food shelf all year round. Food donations can be made directly at the Milton Hannaford's, Milton Kinney Drugs, or they may be dropped off at our main office (during Office hours). Please do not leave food items on the table in the lobby. We cannot take expired, homemade, and/or open food items.

SOUTH BURLINGTON FOOD SHELF – Donations are accepted at 356 Dorset St., S. Burlington. We accept donations any time we are open (Thursdays, 4:00 – 6:00 PM; Fridays and Saturdays, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM) plus Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:30 AM.

SPECTRUM – Sign up to contribute to meals for the teenagers and young adults living in our supportive housing programs and warming shelter! We will have a total of about 30 youth

Volunteer continued on page 12

DON'T HIBERNATE. BUTTON UP.

There's no need to sleep away the winter. Button up your home with up to 75% off weatherization project costs.* You'll stay warm and cozy – save money, too.

Join us virtually for Weatherization Wednesdays throughout October to learn more!

ButtonUpVermont.org

*subject to eligibility and availability

 **ButtonUpVermont**

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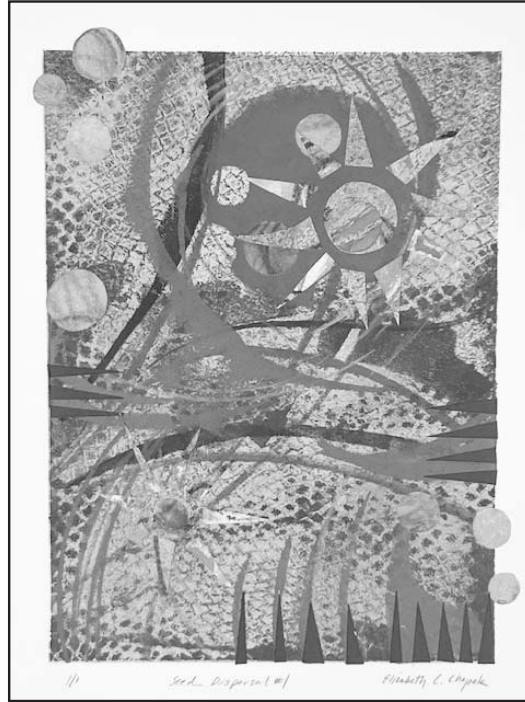


ART / MUSIC / THEATER



Bryan Memorial Gallery is delighted to welcome back our annual GEMS exhibition featuring small artworks (8"x10" or smaller) by gallery members. Pictured above is November Field by Joey Bibeau. GEMS is a visitor favorite for the holiday season, making wonderful gifts for the art lover. GEMS will be displayed in Bryan Memorial Gallery's Middle Room Gallery at their location at 180 Main St., Jeffersonville. Artworks range from landscapes to abstracts, from florals, portrait, and still-life. The exhibit will conclude on Saturday, December 23. The Gallery's hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, or by appointment. To learn more about the exhibitions visit www.bryangallery.org. For more information, contact Stephen Gothard at 802-644-5100 or info@bryangallery.org.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



The work of Betsy Chapek, an unconventional artist with a varied and eclectic style who using a variety of mediums, introduces the natural world with a new interpretation. An exhibit of Chapek's work will run at the Emile A Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Road, Jericho through Sunday, December 17; on Sundays, November 26 and December 10, Betsy will be at the Gallery demonstrating her work techniques from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Gallery hours: Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, or by appointment (802-899-3211). PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

is appreciated; contact CommunityJamJUVT@gmail.com.

Weekly Community Choir on Thursdays — If you love to sing (or want to join in on the piano to help folks learn parts and play accompaniment), come join *Mountainsong!* We are a volunteer-run community singing group that harmonizes together in four parts on Thursday evenings! We meet from 6:30 – 8:00 PM on Thursdays at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (across from Packard Road). Whether you sing in the shower, sing Karaoke, or just like to sing in harmony with others, bring your voice and join us! Do you learn by ear or read music? Either way, you'll be comfortable in our group. You don't have to be a great singer — our aim is to sing for the joy of singing (no

performances except for one short one for family and friends at the end of the season). We sing most weeks, and you can come as often as you are able; if you miss the first one or two (or more), no worries! Cost: \$1 a week toward space rental. We also ask for a contribution to purchase music for the group of \$7 per semester (fall and spring). Planning to come? Please email Doug Varney so that we have enough copies of music for our first meeting. Questions about the group? Contact Lynne Robbins, 802-899-2436 or lar.2436@gmail.com, or Jean Archibald, 802-899-5219, or just show up on a Thursday evening!

The Westford Music Series concerts will be held once a month on a Sunday, from 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall, 21 Brookside Rd., Westford. The lineup for the 2023-2024 season is as follows: December 17, *Carol Ann Jones and Friends*; January 21, *FREVO*; February 25, *Will Patton Ensemble*; March 24, *Dale and Darcy Trio*; April 7, *Heliand*; May 5, *Howling Waters*.

Flow is a new art exhibition at Burlington City Hall inspired by water and the spirit of rebuilding after disaster. Howard Center's Arts Collective's fall show *Flow* is up now at The Metropolitan Gallery in Burlington City Hall, with 50% of sales going to flood relief. This is the Collective's second annual themed show at the BCA-curated gallery. As always, each artist has put their own unique spin on the theme and the outcome is as surprising as it is delightful. Visit the gallery on the second floor of City Hall before the end of November and let the creative wonder *flow* through you!

On Thursday, November 16, 11:00 AM: **Statewide Advocacy: Vermont's Creative Sector Advocacy Priorities.** Following this summer's devastating flooding and the many crises currently facing Vermont, learn more about what the Vermont Legislature will be focusing on in 2024. We'll cover key statewide advocacy priorities for the creative sector and discuss how to ensure state representatives and senators understand the importance of the creative economy in Vermont. Presenters: Patti Komline, Government and Public Affairs, Downs Rachlin Martin; Susan Evans McClure, Executive Director, Vermont Arts Council; Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, Executive Director, Vermont Humanities.

Bryan Gallery in Jeffersonville continues in the Main Gallery, highlighting the timeless allure of landscapes in *Land & Light & Water & Air*. This year (2023) marks 16 years of Land & Light exhibitions with *A Testament to Tradition and Innovation* in a signature exhibition that pays homage to this storied tradition. Showcasing the works of over 90 talented artists, the exhibition presents an array of Vermont, New England, and Northeastern traditional landscape paintings that capture the interplay of land and light in their most picturesque moments. *Land & Light* runs through Saturday, December 23. Bryan Memorial Gallery is delighted to welcome back our annual GEMS exhibition featuring small artworks (8"x10" or smaller) by gallery members. GEMS is a visitor favorite for the holiday season, making wonderful gifts for the art lover. GEMS will be displayed in Bryan Memorial Gallery's Middle Room Gallery at their location at 180 Main St., Jeffersonville. Artworks range from landscapes to abstracts, from florals, portrait, and still-life. The exhibit will conclude on Saturday, December 23. The Gallery's hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, or by appointment. To learn more about the exhibitions visit www.bryangallery.org. For more information, contact Stephen Gothard at 802-644-5100 or info@bryangallery.org. The Bryan Memorial Gallery, 180 Main St., Jeffersonville; open Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM or Monday-Tuesday by appointment. For more information contact Stephen Gothard, 802-644-5100 or info@bryangallery.org.

Submit a poem, short story, or essay for the VT Writers' Prize: Green Mountain Power (GMP) and *Vermont Magazine* are encouraging writers to get their entries ready for one of the state's top literary contests, the Vermont Writer's Prize. The Prize was launched in 1989 to celebrate writing about Vermont and Vermonters, while honoring the literary legacy of the late Ralph Nading Hill Jr., a Vermont historian and writer and a longtime member of GMP's board of directors. Entries are being accepted now; the deadline is January 1, 2024. Winners will be selected in prose and poetry, and each winner receives \$1250 and their works will be published in *Vermont Magazine's* Summer 2024 issue. Submissions can be essays, short stories or poems that focus on *Vermont — Its People, Its Places, Its History or Its Values*. Entries must be unpublished, poems have a 40-line limit, and prose entries must be less than 1500 words long. Individuals may submit only one work. Entrants may be amateur or professional writers. Employees of *Vermont Magazine* or GMP and previous winners are ineligible. More details, including how to submit, are available online at <https://vermontwritersprize.submittable.com/submit>.

"When love and strength are united, divine grace is bestowed upon man." *The Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage* is an eight-minute-long work based on a pair of poems by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Beethoven admired the poet, whom he met in 1812, and dedicated this 1815 piece to him. The first section depicts a sailor's lament of his becalmed ship. The wind picks up before

the second section, however, with the crew rejoicing at the continuation of their voyage. We hope the chorus's dedication to Beethoven helps shed light on the composer's desire to tell his audiences who he is. These works will showcase Beethoven's feelings on existentialism, despair, elation, and hope for mankind. Tickets available at <http://www.sevendaystickets.com>.

Local Women Artist Pop-Up Gallery Show in Hinesburg: Local women artists Alexandra Haselton (<https://www.alexandrahasselton.com/>), Natasha Bogar (<https://www.natashabogar.com/>), Laurel Waters (<https://www.laurelwatersart.com/>), Gretchen Alexander (<https://www.gretchenalexanderart.com/>), and Julie Longstreth (<https://julielongstreth.com/>) will have their work on display for the month of November in Hinesburg. Collectively, their work celebrates the vibrant Vermont natural world through painting, ceramic, and felt. Need a jump start on holiday shopping? Original works, prints, cards, stickers, and more will be offered for sale. Come on out and support local artists! The gallery will be open Friday-Sunday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM through Sunday, November 26. The gallery is located at 10298 VT Rt. 116 in Hinesburg (red building near Parkside Café and Kinney Drugs). To see a sample of each artist's work, visit their websites, shown (above) along with their names.

Weekly Literature Group Meeting on Tuesdays Via Zoom: Michael Sevy of Jericho co-leads a weekly virtual book group, the Burlington Literature Group, and would welcome new committed readers to our sessions. The group has been in existence for years, meeting in a physical space, but since the pandemic has changed to online Zoom sessions occurring every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. We break down interesting, challenging books into weekly segments of 60-100 pages, and discuss form, content, and our impressions in a friendly online forum. Details can be found at <https://nereadersandwriters.com/> or by emailing info@nereadersandwriters.com. Our current book, Laurence Sterne's *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman*, is an innovative, digressive, challenging, humorous, and philosophical investigation into the relationship between literature and life. Sterne's rambling text — comprising nine volumes published over the course of several years, from 1759 to 1767 — is also an experiment in form and structure containing nested narratives and self-reflexive textual jokes, as well as bold innovations in tone and style. Schedule: November 14: Volume 5; November 21: Volume 6; November 28: Volume 7; December 5: Volumes 8 and 9. After Sterne we have scheduled César Aira and Roberto Bolaño.

The Underhill Arts Council is committed to inspiring the community by highlighting local art and craft. Our goal is to bring forward all forms of creative expression. All ages are welcome! Have something you'd like to share? Please contact John Connell, jc6greenmont@gmail.com, or Mary Hill, maryhillstudios@gmail.com.

Also, the Underhill Arts Council is looking for help painting and decorating the large hearts that are hung around town. This is a fun project. No special artistic talent is required. If you have a desire to help or have questions, please contact the council via jc6greenmont@gmail.com or 802-881-5974.

The Underhill Arts Council is hosting an Art Show of local talent at the Underhill Town Hall on Saturday January 13, 2024. Please stay tuned for details.

SongFarmers, a community music jam — a place for friends and neighbors to play music just for the fun of it. SongFarmers meets on every third Wednesday of the month (November 15, December 20), 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. This is a music jam for people of all ages who want to play folk, Americana, blues, bluegrass, Celtic, and more on acoustic instruments: guitars, banjos, mandolins, fiddles, ukuleles, bass, keyboard. No electronics except for keyboard and bass. It's a circle gathering where everyone who wants to will have a chance to lead songs. Common tunes with simple chord progressions are encouraged so that everyone can play along. If you plan to lead, please choose a song that you can play at a steady rhythm and bring a chord chart for your song. Both songs and instrumentals are great. Novice or advanced, you can have fun in a music circle. Please note this is not a performance, open mic, or lesson. Folks who want to sing, or just come and enjoy the gathering, are welcome too. Bring snacks and drinks if you like, but no alcohol. Free. Registration

Paint'n'Sip at the Eagles Club in Jeffersonville: The Green Mountain Auxiliary #3210 Eagles will be having our first Paint'n'Sip class on Saturday, November 18, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. The class has a 20 person limit, based on the number of painting stations available on a "first to sign up-first served basis;" more can be added if you have your own easel. The cost of the class is \$35 per person and includes all the paint supplies and canvas. It's a BYOB event. Relax and enjoy an afternoon just before the holiday rush begins — it will be a fun event! Text or call Jen Benard, 802-777-0822 to reserve your paint station. Please let Jen know as soon as possible. The Eagles Club is located a half-mile up VT Rt. 109N (Waterville Road) from the junction of VT Rts. 108/109N, Jeffersonville. The Green Mountain Auxiliary thanks you for your support of our first Paint'n'Sip class.

Emile A Gruppe Gallery presents the work of Betsy Chapek, an unconventional artist with a varied and eclectic style — but seriously grounded in the natural world. Using a variety of mediums including monoprint, colored pencil, and collage along with three-dimensional forms, Betsy introduces the natural world with a new interpretation. The show will run through Sunday, December 17; on Sundays, November 26 and December 10, Betsy will be at the Gallery demonstrating her work techniques from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Gallery hours are Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, or by appointment (802-899-3211). The Gallery is located at 22 Barber Farm Road in Jericho.

Burlington Choral Society Concert — all Beethoven program, Saturday, November 18, 7:30 – 10:00 PM at the Elley-Long Music Center, Saint Michael's College, Colchester. The Burlington Choral Society returns for its fall concert with a program dedicated entirely to the works of Ludwig van Beethoven. *The Mass in C Major*, composed in 1807 with a full orchestral accompaniment, has been newly arranged with pared down instrumentation to let the solo vocal and choral parts shine. With this more modern, intimate performance of the Mass, the 53 voices will speak on Beethoven's behalf as they highlight his complex beliefs on the fertile ground between the known and unknown. Composed just one year later, Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* features sparkling solo pianist Claire Black, six solo vocalists, strings, and chorus. It sets an ecstatic text that ends,

Volunteer continued from page 11

gathering for holiday meals. Holiday drop-off times: Wednesday, November 22, 12:00 – 3:00 PM; and Saturday, December 23, 12:00 – 3:00 PM. Please drop off at the Drop-In Center, 177 Pearl St., Burlington, and call or text Program Manager Christina Brown upon arrival: 802-777-3341. Notes: Please divide your donation into two or three containers/trays, as we'll be bringing food to multiple locations. Please include a list of ingredients, as some of our youth have allergies. Please label your food and include any reheating/serving instructions, if necessary. Please bring your food in a container that does not need to be returned to you. Questions? Contact Charlotte, csteverson@spectrumvt.org or 802-864-7423 x 330.

We have room for your ad.
Call Brenda Boutin
at 802-453-6354
for more information
or email
mtngazette@gmavt.net.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Sunday services at MMUUF are held at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Services will be held at our Barn, located opposite Packard Road at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, and also over Zoom; please contact info@mmuuf.org or 802-899-2558 for how to join virtually. Learn more at <https://mmuuf.org/> and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church

Jericho United Methodist Church welcomes you to grow in Christ with us. We hold dear the United Methodist Church's motto: "Open doors. Open Hearts. Open Minds." We recognize that our faith journeys are all unique, just as we as individuals are all unique. Know that whoever you are, whatever you do, you are welcome here. We believe that we grow together or not at all. All are welcome! Join us Sundays at 10:00 AM. There will be music, prayer and message from our pastor, Rev. Taeseob Cho. Please contact Rev. Cho at the church phone number, 802-899-4288, or his email, umccho@gmail.com. Located next to the Jericho Town Hall on VT Rt. 15.

United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is an active, vibrant community. We are young and old; straight and LGBTQIA; singles, couples, and families; believers, questioners, and questioning believers. We are an Open and Affirming and Reconciling church, which means all ARE truly welcome. We are the Old Fashioned Harvest Market Church, the Clutter Barn Church, and a church of fellowship, mission, and service. We gather to worship together virtually and in-person every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM for a traditional but lively service with music, and Sunday School and nursery for the children. We welcome you to join us for worship or just come in, be still, and contemplate your faith. Located at 7 Park St., Underhill. Pastor's office (with voicemail) 802-899-1722; church secretary email secretary@ucu.church. For instructions on joining worship from home, please see <https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/joining-worship-from-home/>.

Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:30 AM. Know that no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our church; or in this case, our web-space! <https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>

Jericho Congregational Church

"An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message"

On the Green in Jericho Center, VT

Senior Pastor, David Coons and Youth Pastor, Peter Anderson

Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages

Fellowship at 9:30 AM

Worship Service at 10:00 AM

Nursery care provided

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

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on VT Rt. 15 at 9:00 AM every Sunday. The building is accessible — all are welcome! There are varied musical styles in worship services, including Folk, Contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. Weekday online offerings include Centering Prayer. We are an open-minded Christian community with a focus on social justice issues, where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren't sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a spiritual home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. More information is at www.goodshepherdjericho.org or contact Pastor Arnold Isidore Thomas at 802-899-3932 or pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org.

Kesha Ram Hinsdale, Myra Flynn to speak at Good Shepherd

Occasionally, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will invite noted individuals, regardless of their religious affiliation, to share their spiritual perspective and journey. We will be pleased to welcome State Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale to our pulpit on Sunday, November 19 at 9:00 AM, and singer-songwriter Myra Flynn on Sunday, December 10, also at 9:00 AM. All are welcome to join us!

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. The Spirit is stirring in this little church. Come be a part of it! Calvary is located at 370 VT Rt. 15 in Jericho and worships Sundays at 9:30 AM. The parish administrator can be reached at calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com or 802-899-0453.

St. Thomas Catholic Church

St. Thomas Catholic Church in Underhill Center invites you to join us in person for the Holy Mass at 8:30 AM every Sunday. There is also a vigil Mass at 4:00 PM on Saturday evenings. Our priest, Fr. Richard Calapan, also celebrates Mass during the week, on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM and Fridays at 8:00 AM. Confessions are available on Tuesdays before Mass. Visit us at www.stthomasvt.com or call 802-899-4632 for more information.

Waterville Union Church

We meet in person at 9:30 AM at the church; masks recommended. Zoom is only available when there is bad weather or illness of a speaker. We do not post our recorded services to

Facebook. But information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/watervilleunionchurch>, watervilleunionchurchvt@gmail.com; 32 Church St., Waterville.

Covenant Community Church — "Come As You Are!"

What is the Covenant? The unique character of the Covenant is expressed in the design of the logo — people united in Christ, people serving people in God's name, and people bringing people to Christ. The basis of the design is symbolic of four people facing north, south, east, and west. Note that each one's arms are outstretched, indicating the church's outreach in mission and service to the world. The four are part of the whole, yet their hands do not touch, symbolizing their unity in the freedom and evangelical warmth that characterizes the Covenant. The geometric arrangement of the four figures results in a cross-like pattern, representative of the center of our faith. The center circle symbolizes the unity and the bond of fellowship which we call "the Covenant."

Sunday: Bible Study, 9:00 – 9:45 AM; Worship Service: 10:00 – 11:00 AM; Coffee Hour: 11:00 AM – ?

Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex (VT Rt.15 across from John Leo's)

Mountain Gazette 2024 deadlines and publication dates

The Mountain Gazette publishes on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. The deadline for receiving copy is Thursday, a week before publication, at 12:00 PM; the advertising deadline is Thursday, a week before publication, at 5:00 PM.

(Note exceptions, below, due to Monday holidays before publication dates.)

DEADLINE DATES:**THURSDAY**

December 26 - note Tuesday deadline

January 9 – note Tuesday deadline

January 25

February 8

February 29

March 14

March 28

April 11

April 25

May 9

May 30

June 13

June 27

July 11

July 25

August 8

August 27 - note Tuesday deadline

September 12

September 26

October 8 - note Tuesday deadline

October 31

November 14

November 28

December 12

PUBLICATION DATES:**THURSDAY**

January 4 - early deadline (New Year)

January 18 - early deadline (MLK Day)

February 1

*February 15

*March 7

March 21

April 4

April 18

May 2

*May 16

*June 6

June 20

July 4

July 18

August 1

*August 15

*September 5 - early deadline (Labor Day)

September 19

October 3

*October 17

- early deadline (Indigenous People Day)

*November 7

November 21

December 5

December 19

Please note: there are 3 weeks, not 2, between the *indicated publication dates. Note early deadlines: Tuesday, December 26, due to New Year's Day on Monday, January 2; Tuesday, January 9, due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 15; Tuesday, August 27, due to Labor Day on Monday, September 2; and Tuesday, October 8, due to Indigenous Peoples Day on Monday, October 14.

mtngazette@gmavt.net • www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

For information: Brenda Boutin • 802-453-6354

We have room for your ad.

Call Brenda Boutin at 802-453-6354

for more information or email mtngazette@gmavt.net.

GMP rebates for changing to renewable energy
From Green Mountain Power

GMP can help you save when you switch away from fossil fuel, with rebates and incentives that make it easier to switch to powering your life with clean electricity. Plus, many of GMP's rebates and incentives are designed to reduce costs for all GMP customers, too.

Check out rebates and incentives for your home including savings on heat pumps, geothermal systems, yard care equipment, and induction stoves. Learn more online at <http://www.greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs/home-and-yard/>.

GMP can also help you save when you drive electric, with rebates up to \$3200 on EVs, a discount home charging program, and more. GMP's EV programs are online at <http://www.greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs/electric-vehicles/>.

SCHOOL NEWS



Family Art Saturday, November 25, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, BCA Center, 4th Floor Education Studio. Drop into the BCA Center for a free all-ages art activity inspired by the work of Texture & Response artist Ann Wessmann. Explore how working with found materials can root us in appreciation for the places we call home as you create your own unique nature print using materials collected from around Burlington.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

MMUUSD community school budget meeting November 16

Please join the MMUUSD School Board Finance Committee for a discussion of the second draft of the 2024-25 school district budget. The meeting will be held at Camel’s Hump Middle School, School St., Richmond on Thursday, November 16 at 6:00 PM; you can join online at <https://www.mmuusd.org>.

Learn more about how Act 127 could dramatically decrease the state’s funding of MMU schools and the impact this will have on our district.

Community input is a vital component in the budget development process. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas. If you can’t join physically or virtually, you can submit your comments to us by emailing mmuusd.office@mmuusd.org

EWSB Board meeting November 14

Ben Dickie, EWSB Communications and Public Relations Coordinator

The Essex Westford School District (EWSB) Board will next meet on Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 – 8:30 PM in the Library at Essex High School, Educational Drive, Essex Junction. The full meeting will be available to watch on Facebook Live thanks to the Media Factory (www.facebook.com/BTVMediaFactory).

Agenda items for the meeting include:

- Literacy Data with an Equity Lens; and
- FY24 first quarter financial and personnel reporting.

To learn more about the EWSB Board, please visit: <http://www.ewsd.org/page/schoolboard>

Westford Robotics update and team survey request

By Mark Drapa

This fall we are celebrating several firsts for Westford Robotics.

- Participation doubled from last year. We had 47 students in grades 4-8 sign up for robotics. It’s official: a majority of all Westford middle school students are now on an extracurricular robotics team!

- We started offering the next level of the robotics program as an option for students in grades 7-8. Instead of LEGO Mindstorms, students are building with metal — using commercial motors and servos, designing electrical subsystems, exploring 3D modeling to fabricate parts, coding control systems, and more!

Now for a quick request: One of our four teams, the Pickle Pandas, need your help. For their innovation project, they are gathering data about robotics awareness and learning habits. Please consider taking their very short survey: <https://forms.gle/xshUQzhxhE3B43aV6> and share/repost the link with others.

Local music teachers performing in Macy’s Day Parade

Richmond resident Kim Thompson and Jericho resident Mary Bauer will march in the 2023 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade with The Band Directors Marching Band.

Kim Thompson, the band director at Williston Central School, and Mary Bauer, the band director at Mount Mansfield Union High School, have been selected to join a marching band of 400+ band directors from across the country in this year’s historic Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade®. Both teachers are clarinetists and by coincidence, grew up a few towns away from each other outside of New York City.

Following its amazing inaugural appearance in the 2022 Rose Parade,® the Saluting America’s Band Directors project is again bringing together band directors from across the country to New York City on November 23, 2023 — Thanksgiving — under the theme, “America’s band directors: We teach music. We teach life.”

The Saluting America’s Band Directors parade entry will again convey that theme to recognize the extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of band directors and music educators everywhere. Throughout their careers, the music educators in this band have collectively mentored and taught hundreds of thousands of students. These professionals not only teach and direct music, they teach about life itself.

According to Kim Thompson, “This is the only big New York City parade I haven’t performed in. I am very excited to represent Vermont and promote music education while performing.” Mary Bauer says, “Being a part of something so big in my home state of New York but representing Vermont where I live now, means so much! I’m so excited to model to my students that music is a lifelong skill and of course sharing the gift of music with everyone on Thanksgiving!” The band will be directed by nationally known music educator and innovative band director Jon Waters.

The sponsoring organization behind the Saluting America’s Band Directors project is the Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation, based in Pickerington, OH. The foundation was created to recognize and carry on the work of the late Mike Sewell, who dedicated his life to the school and community music programs in Pickerington and the Central Ohio area for almost 40 years.

Underhill/Jericho Playgroup on Wednesday mornings

Come join us at the Underhill/Jericho Playgroup! This open playgroup is held in the UID building (the old Underhill ID School, between Browns River Middle School and the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library) in the multipurpose room at 10 River Rd., Jericho every Wednesday from 9:30 – 11:00 AM. We follow the MMUUSD calendar.

Geared toward children from birth through age 5, this is a great opportunity for kiddos and caregivers to socialize and create connections within our community. There is no registration required. Bring your own snack. We will also play outside on the playground when possible, so please dress for the weather.

Email underhill.playgroup@gmail.com to sign up for reminders and updates. Hope to see you there!

Bottle drive for CES 6th grade field trip

A reminder that you can easily help fundraise for the Cambridge Elementary School (CES) 6th grade end-of-year field trip!

Drink up and drop off your returnable bottles and cans in the bin marked “6th grade field trip” near the gas pumps at Cambridge Village Market.

A big thank you to those of you who have already donated, and to Cambridge Village Market for continuing to offer the space!

Skating rink for JES

By Glenn Steinman, JES Physical Education Teacher

After a large and rapid favorable response to a survey to gauge interest, Jericho Elementary School (JES) is moving forward with putting up a skating rink at the school. This would include offering skating (weather permitting) as part of our PE program, but also community use outside of school hours.

For those who wish to contribute to the build, we have set up two ways to make a donation:

- drop off or mail a check to “Partners in Education,” Jericho Elementary School, 90 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, VT 05465; or
- make an online donation at <https://ice-skating-rink-for-jes.cheddarup.com/>.

All donations will go through Partners in Education (P.I.E.), which is our parent-teachers association. P.I.E. is a nonprofit LLC and donations are tax deductible. We hope to exceed our goal in order to make the project sustainable for years to come.

Additionally, the school will be able to lend skates (adjustable) and helmets to JES students in an effort to make the project more accessible.

Thank you for your continued support and please feel free to reach out to me at glenn.steinman@mmuusd.org with any questions; and as always, thank you for your continued support.

Nature Notes from the Cambridge Conservation Commission

BALD EAGLE PAIR frequently seen at Metcalf Pond. This summer they were dive bombing the loons with their young. Sighting last week shows they might be around for the winter. Bald eagles are making a comeback in Vermont!

BARRED OWLS are back and they are very vocal.

A flock of RED CROSSBILLS seen at West Farm. Crossbills are not common in our area, but the I.D. was confirmed by Merlin (*). Their crossed beak is an adaptation that allows them to get at the seeds in conifer cones — plenty of conifers in that little woods!

FERAL COWS running full speed through the field in a pretty densely populated neighborhood in Jeff village — a startling sight, and not just once! How will they manage as winter descends?

PORCUPINE in October and this summer — a LYNX! Lynx also seen down in Jericho/Underhill area.

DEER, DEER, and more DEER.

DOWNEY and HAIRY WOODPECKER are regular visitors at bird feeders, but a PILEATED WOODPECKER on an old maple nearby is remarkable. They are very elegant redheads, the largest of the woodpecker family (22” from crown to tip of tail).

GREY FOX seen trotting up a neighbor’s driveway. Looked like a coyote at first, but face and tail definitely fox.

GIGANTIC POOP! The photo of lumpy scat full of thistle sparked a discussion. First thought was horse, but there are no free range horses in the neighborhood. Also suggested was moose, but the lumps aren’t as pelleted as a normal moose poop. The size and shape would suggest bear, and it turns out that bear do eat thistle, but shouldn’t they be hibernating? She’ll post it on *iNaturalist* and see what comes up.

We love sharing our wildlife sightings, and hearing about yours. If you have questions, comments, or your own observations, please let the Cambridge Conservation Commission know. (* Merlin is an app for your phone, highly recommended by the editor — it records bird songs and identifies them! — Editor)

CLASSIFIED ADS

Place your classified ad in the Mountain Gazette for a nominal charge.

The first 25 words for \$6.50 and ten cents for each additional word.

Contact Brenda Boutin at mtngazette@gmavt.net to reach readers in our regular coverage area of Bolton, Jericho, Underhill, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Westford, plus Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, Essex and Essex Junction.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

This space cost \$18.00, must purchase 5 no change ads, total cost \$90.00

WELL DRILLING SERVICES

SPORTS NEWS

Kids' cross country ski programs this winter in Jericho

The Mansfield Nordic Club's BKL Youth Cross Country Ski Programs are all about having fun on skis, practicing jumping and agility, or playing games on skis! Each week we work on the basics of Nordic skiing while playing on our skis.

Programs start December 5, 2023 and go until March 14, 2024.

We have one-, two-, and three-day options, depending on skiers' age and group. Ski groups meet Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45 – 5:15 PM (three-day groups also meet one weekend day) at the Ethan Allen Training Site — “the Range” — in Jericho:

- Penguins /one-day Tuesday: PreK-grade 1;
- Jack Rabbits / two-day: grades 1-4;
- Arctic Foxes / two-day: grades 5-8;
- Racing Team / three-day: grades 5-8;
- Devo Team / three-day: grades 7-8.

Register online and get more information on the Mansfield Nordic Club website at <https://www.mansfieldnordic.org/bkl/kids/>. Multi-child discounts and scholarships are available.

For more information or if you have questions, contact bkl@mansfieldnordic.org.

Cross-country skiing on Tomasi Meadow in Underhill

With the advent of snow, let's hope we will soon once again be kicking and gliding across our local forever-conserved treasure, Tomasi Meadow. Last year the meadow's skiing made a quantum jump in enjoyment and accessibility because of the grooming and track setting by volunteer Peter Davis. Thank you, Peter! I am sure all you Nordic skiers will be glad to hear that plans are in place for Peter to continue his volunteer TLC grooming of the meadow, with the Mansfield Nordic Club (MNC) paying for the considerable expense of the cost of gas and maintenance of the grooming equipment.

Here is a nudge to sister- and fellow-Nordic skiers who enjoy skiing at Tomasi Meadows to join the Mansfield Nordic Club as a way of helping to contribute to offsetting the grooming expense. The fee is only \$25 for an individual or \$55 for a family.

To join, simply go to the MNC website, www.mansfieldnordic.org, click on the Resources tab on the black bar in the upper right-hand corner of the home page, then click on Registration where you will find the membership registration information and form.

Jericho Elementary ice rink update

By Glenn Steinman, JES Physical Education Teacher

Thank you for all the support in the initiative to build a community Ice skating rink at Jericho Elementary School. Here is where we are:

During the fund-raising phase a donor suggested that we reach out to the town, which turned out to be a great idea. The select Board, after reviewing a new proposal and seeing community interest through both the surveys and the number of donations, decided to support the rink with ARPA funds left over from COVID.

Our plan went from a hand-built rink of plywood to a kit designed for community use that will last for years. Approximately \$4000 was raised by the community and an additional \$9561.52 of APRA funds will subsidize a quality rink kit similar to the one currently in Underhill.

Phase II: Our next steps are to order the rink and assemble once the rink arrives. Keep a lookout for the community build announcement. When the weather permits Underhill Jericho FD has volunteered to flood the rink.

Phase III: I will be building a committee to help with maintaining the rink during the skating season. Many have expressed interest in helping out; all are welcome. A future posting will have more information.

Many thanks to all those who helped make this project possible, I am truly grateful. A special thank you goes out to Kevin Sweeney, who has gone above and beyond, and without his efforts and expertise the rink would not have been possible.

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Westford Turkey Trot will be November 18

By Amanda Gifford, Westford Recreation Coordinator

The Westford Turkey Trot is an annual road race on beautiful country dirt roads. This race dates back to the 1990s and has historically raised money to support the children and families of Westford. All proceeds continue to benefit this cause. Your race fee will go towards supporting the Annual Westford Town Library Baby Tea, scholarships, holiday baskets, and grocery gift cards for families in need.

This year's event will occur on Saturday, November 18 at Westford Elementary School, 146 Brookside Rd., Westford, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM. Register online at <https://www.runreg.com/westford-turkey-trot>.

Race Day Registration and Packet Pickup will be in the Gym from 8:30 – 9:30 AM. The Tot Trot will begin at 9:45 AM in the driveway, where spectators and runners line the driveway to cheer on the tots. The 10K and 3K Races start will be at 10:00 AM. Racers will line up on Brookside Road, just beyond the school drive entrance.

Post-race concessions will be available for purchase in the

gym, hosted by the Westford Common Hall. After the last runner finishes, we'll announce the race winners (around 11:45 AM), and award raffle prizes. All participants are entered into the raffle. Raffle prizes include handmade jewelry and winter hats, gift cards, maple syrup, crafts, and much more!

This is a Westford Recreation event, fully fueled by the generosity of our community. Race day volunteers and raffle items are still needed — if you would like to volunteer or donate a raffle item, please contact Race Coordinator Meghan Valyou Orisko, valyoum@gmail.com or 617-999-4772.

Hunting season at Mobbs Farm

By Pete Davis, Chair, Mobbs Farm Committee, Jericho

A reminder that hunting is allowed at Mobbs Farm.

With the Vermont Deer Hunting Season upon us, please be advised that mountain biking and equestrian activities are not allowed during the two week rifle season.

For the next two weeks, anyone visiting Mobbs Farm (pets and people) are strongly encouraged to wear blaze orange and be aware of hunting activity from through Sunday, November 26.. Thank-you!

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF JERICHO- DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will **CONTINUE** the public hearing at 7:00 pm on **WEDNESDAY** December 13, 2023 at the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following.

- A request to the DRB from G.W. Tatro for final plat review for a major subdivision and site plan review for phase one of the proposed subdivision. This property is located at 366 Vermont Route 15 which is in the Village Center and Character Based Zoning District

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

Chris Flinn
Zoning Administrator
cflinn@jerichovt.gov

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Snag your \$12 November advance tickets to Highlight, Burlington's official New Year's Eve party, before December 1, when the price goes up to \$15. Each ticket is an all-access pass to 13 hours of music, theater, comedy, food, fireworks, and more at venues across Burlington's downtown and Waterfront. Much of Highlight's lineup is generated by the Bright Ideas Project, a community-driven crowdsourcing effort powered by VESCU. Two of this year's brightest ideas include the Taylor Swift Eras Tour Dance Party, where you can shake off 2023 as DJ Love Doctor spins the entire Eras Tour setlist in Contois Auditorium. At ECHO, Big Gay New Year's Eve provides a night of queer joy, art, and allyship, featuring an amazing musical lineup curated by Abbie Morin of local grunge-pop outfit Hammydown. Head to HighlightBTV.com for more on the amazing acts that will be lighting our way into 2024! To purchase tickets or for more information, go online to <https://mailchi.mp/burlingtoncityarts/november-2023-happenings>. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



"I have four children. Two are adopted. I forget which two." - Bob Constantine

As of July 1, 2023, Vermont Act 100 allows adoptees and their descendants greater access to their original birth certificates, information about their former parents, and details about their adoptions. Contact the Vermont Adoption Registry at 802-241-0906 or visit <https://dcf.vermont.gov/registry/adoption>. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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UNDERHILL FARMHOUSE - 178 POKER HILL ROAD
50 ACRES - Time to get back to the land with YOUR OWN renovated farmhouse, numerous meadows with views, pond, woods with maple potential and an older barn. Large accessible meadows are here for your horses, beef cattle or sheep. There is a good possibility to subdivide a lot at the south end of the town road frontage well away from the farmhouse site. Underhill offers good schools and nearby conveniences just 3 miles from the village all located 20 minutes to Smuggler's Notch Ski Resort. This exceptional property is within 25 minutes from the Burlington Airport and the UVM Medical Center. Please contact Chuck Bolton for more information. \$995,000

Please contact Chuck Bolton Real Estate 802-864-0552 or chuckbolton@comcast.net for further information. A drone aerial and floor plan video are available.

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