

Mount Mansfield School District tax rates

By Edey Graning, MMUUSD Board Chair

The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) budget as approved by voters in April resulted in an increase of 2.81% in our equalized homestead tax rate (\$1.2066 last year to \$1.2405 this year). In the prior year (i.e., 2022-23), the statewide Education Fund had a surplus returned to taxpayers which helped to drive the tax rate down. The Education Fund did not have a similar surplus this year. Anticipated changes in Vermont's PreK-12 education funding model will influence school funding and tax rates in subsequent years. We continue to take great care in spending to optimize educational resources and costs.

More than the change in the school district tax rate, year to year differences in an individual taxpayer bill are highly influenced by changes in property values as shown in their town Common Level of Appraisal (CLA). Changes in household income (from two calendar years ago to the previous calendar year) also have an impact on property tax bills. Approximately two-thirds of Vermont homeowners receive a property tax adjustment on their property tax bill. As of 2023, this applied to households with incomes below \$128,000. If applicable, be sure to file a homestead declaration, property tax credit claim, and household income schedule with your annual state income tax return.

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

Town	pre-CLA	CLA	with CLA:
Bolton	\$1.2405	104.08%	\$1.1918
Huntington	\$1.2405	65.58%	\$1.8915
Jericho	\$1.2405	73.13%	\$1.6963
Richmond	\$1.2405	103.45%	\$1.1991
Underhill	\$1.2405	97.22%	\$1.2759

For more information, please see the State of Vermont *Understanding Your Property Tax Bill*, online at <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/property-tax-bill>; and the State of Vermont Equalization Study (CLA), online at <https://tax.vermont.gov/municipalities/reports/equalization-study>.

Explanation of my vote on H.887, the yield bill

By Theresa Wood, State Representative
Washington-Chittenden House District

As your State Representative, I have a responsibility to be accountable. I have received emails from constituents asking how I voted during the recent veto session, unhappy with the results of the "yield bill," which impacts local property tax rates. I also received many more emails prior to the veto session, asking me to vote to override the Governor's vetoes on several bills, including the "yield bill." I work to make decisions considering the overall impact for my constituents and the State as a whole. The one thing that I hope all Vermonters understand is that there are no simple or perfect answers to these complex issues. Below is information on H.887 – the "yield bill," as that is the one most people have asked questions about.

H.887 – This is the "yield bill" that is used in setting property tax rates across the State that help to fund education services for Vermont students. First, a few facts:

- School budgets are developed locally by each school board in every district across the state; they are voted on locally. The Legislature does not vote on school budgets, but is required to fund them.

- The Legislature needed to pass a "yield bill" otherwise an estimated \$82 million deficit would have occurred in the Education Fund.

- Property taxes are not the only funding source for education expenses:

- * homestead property taxes – fund 25% of education;
- * non-homestead property taxes – fund 41% of education;
- * sales tax and other consumption taxes – fund 32% of education;
- * lottery and other miscellaneous revenue – fund 2% of education.

- The Legislature DID NOT vote to increase property taxes; the Legislature voted to decrease property taxes from the 20% amount estimated in December down to approximately 13.8% — yes, it is still too high.

- Two-thirds of Vermonters pay their property taxes based on income; if you have not applied for income sensitivity, you can

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Free Meals

Free summer meals for children 18 and under

In partnership with the Essex Westford School District and Hunger Free Vermont, free summer meals for children 18 and under will be available on Fridays through August 16, 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM in the United Church of Underhill parking lot behind the church at 3 Park St. in Underhill; and on Thursdays, July 11-August 15, 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM at Smilie Memorial School, 2712 Theodore Roosevelt Highway (U.S. Rt. 2), Bolton.

Multi-day meal kits are available to families with children 18 and under. The box will include the equivalent of seven breakfasts and seven lunches with items like cereal, muffins, wraps, deli meats and cheese, nut butter, fresh fruits and vegetables, and a gallon of milk.

No registration is required and you don't have to reside in the area. Simply show up and request a box for each child. Children do not need to be present for the distribution. The Essex Westford School District has underscored that this distribution is for all families, regardless of need.

Please help spread the word about this opportunity, and if you plan to use it, please complete the survey at <https://bit.ly/4cyaPC6>.

More information can be found online at <https://www.ewsd.org/page/2024-vermont-summer-meals> — there are additional distribution sites in Montpelier, Waterbury, Roxbury, and Waitsfield. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

NEWS BRIEFS

Information on buyout/elevate programs for flood victims

From the United Way of Lamoille County

Are you interested in participating in the buyout program or to elevate your home due to the flooding last year? Both programs are available to homeowners.

Elevations support funding is reimbursed, not granted, to homeowners to raise their home above the flood level. All interested folks need to let towns know by Friday, August 16.

The buyout program is when the town purchases your home to create a flood buffer zone. All applications for buyouts need to be submitted and approved by your town selectboard before Friday, August 16.

Important things to know about buyouts:

- the price that you will receive is based on the day-before-the-flood appraised price of your home;
- there is no cost share for the buyouts;
- the process can take anywhere between 12-60 months.

If you are interested, please be in touch with uwlamaille.org or call Sarah (LeARN Coordinator) at 802-730-9513 to get paperwork and support.

Public meeting July 8 on proposed Underhill Center sidewalk

By Brad Holden, Underhill Town Administrator

Please join us for our second public meeting for the Underhill Center Active Transportation Scoping Study. The Town of Underhill received a grant this year through the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission to perform a scoping study to explore the potential for improving pedestrian travel through Underhill Center.

This project is looking at options to make walking and biking through Underhill Center safer and more comfortable for all ages and abilities. In this meeting we will share what we have learned so far and get input and insights from the community.

The meeting will take place upstairs at the Underhill Town Hall (12 Pleasant Valley Rd., Underhill Center) on Monday, July 8. Open House is from 6:00 – 6:30 PM, followed by a presentation from Toole Design, the firm that is carrying out the study, from 6:30 – 7:00 PM, with questions and answers from 7:00 – 7:30 PM.

For more information: <https://www.underhillvt.gov/home-page/meeting/underhill-center-sidewalk-study-meeting>. If you are unable attend, please send your input or questions to ssarepalli@ccrpevt.org.

House fire on Cloverdale Road, Underhill

On Thursday June 20, 2024 at around 17:40 (5:40 PM) the Underhill Jericho Fire department received a 911 report of smoke filling a basement of a residence on Cloverdale Road in the Town of Underhill. The Underhill-Jericho Fire Department quickly notified and requested assistance from the Cambridge, Fairfax, Essex Town, Vermont Air National Guard Fire Department, and Essex Rescue.

First units arrived at 17:48 and they were able to quickly extinguish the fire utilizing an ultra-high pressure water line, resulting in very little water damage to the building. The building has received some heat damage that was contained mostly to basement level and there is moderate smoke damage throughout the home.

The cause of the fire is accidental. Smoke alarms were installed and working at the time of the fire and aided the family with safely exiting the home and calling for help.

The Underhill Jericho Fire Department would like to remind the public to make sure that they have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on all levels of their homes, including the basement.

Questions regarding this incident may be sent to UJFD Chief Mat Champlin, chief@ujfd.org.

Underhill's Community Food Sharing Shed opens

From John Connell and the Shed Team

The Underhill Community Food Sharing Shed, located in Moore Park across from the Underhill Town Hall, enters her fourth year.

The shed welcomes all garden produce. The produce is then available to anyone wishing the food. Happy summer sharing!

Mills Riverside Park culvert replacements, other improvements

By Livy Stronsoard Chair

The Jericho Underhill Park District Board of Trustees is asking all park visitors to be aware that construction work continues at Mills Riverside Park. Please avoid any heavy equipment and comply with trail signage.

Posts will be installed as a barrier in the new parking lot and two culverts will be replaced. Our driveway entrance and exit have already been regraded and crowned to remove potholes.

Please contact the Park District, jupdistrict@gmail.com, with any questions. Thank you!

Nighttime summer fun with kids

(Ideas from Parents Magazine)

via Foster Care News – June 13, 2024)

Arm yourself with bug spray and you're ready for an evening in the night air. Here are some ideas for enjoying an evening outside.

- Camp in the backyard. Pitch a tent and bring out the sleeping bags. Sleep as a family under the stars.
- Catch lightning bugs. And then watch them flicker away into the night.
- Have a bonfire. Roast marshmallows and hot dogs. Make s'mores.
- Go to the drive-in. If there isn't a drive-in in your town, look for one nearby or at your vacation spot.
- Host an outdoor movie night. Rent or borrow a movie projector and show a movie on a white sheet draped across PVC pipe in the backyard. Or use the side of your house as the screen. Bring out sleeping bags, air mattresses, and pool rafts as the seating and enjoy the show (with popcorn of course).
- Listen to an audiobook under the stars. Your library probably has a great collection of classics and newer titles.
- Stargaze. Invite friends and make a party of it under the stars.

Brewster Uplands update: Loggers' Loop reopens, Pond Loop closes

From Annalise Carington, Vermont Land Trust

Work on the Loggers' Loop Trail network has wrapped up! The trail reopened to foot traffic only on Monday, July 1 as we allow the earthwork to settle. We will be monitoring conditions and will announce when bikes and horses are allowed back on the trail later in July.

The Pond Loop Trail was closed to the public (since Wednesday, June 26) through the end of August. Rabbit Tracks Trail Works will be completing accessibility upgrades on the entire trail loop, along with renovating the spur trail and pond overlook area. The upper parking lot on West Farm Road will be closed during construction to stage equipment and materials. The lower parking lot on West Farm Road with the kiosk will remain open all summer.

All other trails at Brewster Uplands will remain open throughout the summer, including the West Farm Trail and the Alden Bryan Brewster River Trail.

We appreciate your cooperation as we work to improve these well-loved trails! Visit our website for more information on the work this summer: <https://vlt.org/newsroom/trail-improvements-at-brewster-uplands/>.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Cambridge-Jeffersonville July 4th Town Fair information

By Rockin' Ron Carter, Jeffersonville

The Town Fair has returned to Cambridge Elementary School Field in Jeffersonville! Presented by Cambridge Area Rotary on Thursday, July 4, it starts after the Parade at approximately 10:30 AM, and goes until 1:30 PM. Here's the lineup so far:

Music and Awards: live music by *Blackwolf*; National Anthem by Annie Rheume; Best Float Awards.

Bingo in the cafeteria — thanks Melody!

Crafts and art: Siber Sled Dogs Gifts; Karen Cayton's Creations; Bella's Hairwraps; Connie Edwards' Crafts.

Community groups: Cambridge Conservation Commission; Vermont Covered Bridge Society; Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Cambridge Area Rotary.

Food and drink: Kingdom Creamery Ice Cream; Wandering Roots Snow Cones; Rick Lansing's Daiquiri (non-alcoholic) Drinks; Green Mountain Kettle Corn; Dried N' True freeze-dried candy; Scout Troop 39's Burgers and Dogs; Mediterranean Mix.

Sponsors: Thanks to our Gold & Platinum Sponsors Height of Land Publications; Three Mountain Roofing; G.W. Tatro Construction; and Smugglers' Notch Resort.

Vendors should arrive no later than 9:30 AM to set up.

For more information contact Rockin' Ron, rcarter@smuggs.com.

Calling all Westford equestrians — to the July 4th parade

By Carol Winfield, Westford

Do you love a parade? Join in the fun on July 4th! Bring your horse, donkey, mule, or even goat or heifer, and parade twice around the Westford Common!

Line up starts at 10:30 AM at the Town Garage; the parade leaves at 11:00 AM. Please fill out the Westford Rec Department's participation form in advance, online at <https://forms.gle/fuX2FssacuF6oEfu5>.



This is our country, land that we love; our flag is one of its most powerful symbols. Long may it wave. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Wanted: 4th of July vendors at CES Fair

Cambridge Area Rotary is looking for food, craft, non-profit, and other vendors for the Town Fair at Cambridge Elementary School Field in Jeffersonville (we're back at the school) on Thursday, July 4, 2024.

Your window to vend/promote is from 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM.

To beat the parade traffic, arrive no later than 9:45 AM to set up. \$25 per vendor, and non-profits are free.

Meet those ready to vend: Bella's Hairwraps, Rick's Frozen Daiquiri Drinks (non-alcoholic), Scout Troop 39 with burgers and dogs, and The Eagles (not the Philadelphia ones, but the ones who host bingo on VT Rt. 109).

To book your dream vending gig, contact Rockin' Ron Carter at rcarter@smuggs.com.

July 4 Celebration in Jeffersonville

By Rockin' Ron Carter, Jeffersonville

Cambridge Area Rotary announces the lineup for the July 4th Celebration in Jeffersonville and at Smugglers' Notch Resort! There will also be a Town Fair at the Cambridge Elementary School (CES) field, beginning at 10:30 AM.

Here are the highlights:

10:00 – 10:30 AM: Parade — starts at GW Tatro's, ends at CES. Parade and Floats should arrive no later than 9:30 AM at GW Tatro. Theme: Create Magic! Grand Marshal: Jan Sander; marching band: Hanaford's Volunteers Fife & Drum Corps.

10:30 AM – 1:30 PM: Town Fair at Cambridge Elementary School Field, with live music by *Blackwolf*. The National Anthem will be performed by Annie Rheume. There will be vendors, games, and food!

Other town events include:

- 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Varnum Memorial Library Book Sale (hard back, paperback, children's, and more);
- 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM: Waner Lodge open house (Cambridge Historical Society);
- 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM: Visions of Vermont open house and Art Fair;
- 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Bryan Memorial Gallery open house.

Fireworks and events at Smugglers' Notch:

- 5:00 PM: Jammin' Sam is your host/DJ; food trucks;
- 5:30 – 9:30 PM: live music: *House On Fire*;
- Dusk — Fireworks!

Events are subject to change; for more information contact Rockin' Ron, rcarter@smuggs.com.

SUMMER CAMPS

Camp DREAM receives support from VT Land Trust

The DREAM Program (DREAM), a Vermont nonprofit, worked with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) to buy an island on Metcalf Pond in Fletcher, the two organizations announced on Tuesday, June 18. DREAM bought and conserved the one-acre island with funding support from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and will add it to Camp DREAM, its overnight, year-round camp for youth from low-income housing neighborhoods and rural communities across Vermont.

Located at the northern end of 71-acre Metcalf Pond, the island was privately owned and locally known as Rich Island. DREAM purchased it in January to add to Camp DREAM, their 50-acre overnight camp less than a quarter mile to the southeast.

The island will be available to about 800 youth each year, as part of the camp. Camp attendance, including all transportation, is free, to ensure access for youth from low-income households.

Lindsay Vajda from the Bennington Housing Authority said: "Opportunities for overnight camps, eco-friendly activities, introducing them to the outdoors and inspiring the next generation of environmentalists, is not an option to most of our children and youth living in subsidized housing, without Camp DREAM."

For 20 years, Camp DREAM has focused on building the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts and stewards, offering environmental programming and a safe space for youth to play, explore, and connect with the natural environment. Through no-cost programming, trusting relationships with caregivers, and committed transportation assets, Camp DREAM reduces barriers to Vermont's outdoors.

"Coming out of the pandemic, it is clearer than ever that all youth, and especially the most vulnerable, need opportunities to connect with each other, find meaning and purpose, and engage in healthy outdoor activities," shared Elise Oshlag, Camp DREAM's Director.

The island boasts a stunning marsh to the north and a boating entry on its southern shore. Its forested, wetland, and shoreline spaces provide habitat for a range of wildlife, including loons and bald eagles, and contribute to the diversity on Metcalf Pond. The island's conservation ensures the land's natural resources will remain undeveloped and be thoughtfully managed.

"This is a wonderful little island in a spectacular setting," said VLT Project Director Bob Heiser. "You just have to see a kid's

face light up at the mention of visiting an island to know the impact of ensuring this type of access for all kids, now and into the future."

Camp DREAM began in 2003 when DREAM bought and conserved 50 acres with over 600 feet of shoreline on the eastern side of Metcalf Pond. Over the years, DREAM has transformed the mostly wooded property into a place for kids to be in nature and experience the wonder and adventure it can bring. The camp welcomes youth from across Vermont and further afield who would normally not have access to an overnight camp.

DREAM plans to use the island to expand waterfront adventures for their campers and offer ecology education programs. Possibilities include transforming the small hut into a nature lodge for ecological programs, day-expeditions by canoe, and occasional, small-group overnight primitive camping.

"Among the many new adventures that this island will catalyze, it will be a special canoeing destination, create new overnight camping options, provide a unique environment for campfires and ceremonies, and act as a basecamp for marsh exploration and pond stewardship," said Mike Foote, Director of DREAM.

DREAM is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony later this summer and are currently running a campaign inviting their camp alumni and other community members to name the island.

VT Literacy Network offers camps for ages 3-5 and 6-9

This summer, Vermont Literacy Network offers eight unique, literacy-rich summer camp options, ongoing through mid-August. On alternating weeks, children ages 3-5 years and 6-9 years will immerse themselves in creative, multi-sensory reading and writing activities based on each week's topic. From the summer Olympics to pirate adventures, there is truly something for everyone!

Be sure to look at the specific dates, age ranges, and themes. Registration is required for each camp individually, so register early to secure your child's spot. Specific information and registration is available at <https://www.vermontliteracynetwork.com/summer-camps>.

Camps offered for ages 3-5 include Ocean Odyssey, Fairy Garden, Pirate Adventure, and Space Explorers; camps for ages 6-9 include Secret Agent, Superhero, Olympic Reading, and Newsroom.

The Vermont Literacy Network is located at 3391 Mountain Road, Unit 2, Stowe. Camps are offered weekly, Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Please note that snacks are not provided; please pack two healthy, nut-free snacks each day.

MMCTV Middle School TV Camp registration open

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Do you have a budding filmmaker in the house? Send them to Mount Mansfield Community TV's (MMCTV) summer TV camp to hone their skills, while having fun! Once again, the group will be tasked with recreating the scene from a Hollywood film as a part of the Crowdsourced Cinema VT project. This year's film is *Home Alone*. There are still spots available!

Due to popular demand, we are offering two sessions, one for grades 5-6 (July 8-12), and one for grades 7-8 (July 15-19).

To register online, please go to <https://mtmansfieldctv.org/youth-camps-and-workshops/>.

VTSU Johnson

Summer Athletics Camps

The Johnson Athletic Department is excited to share its upcoming Athletic Summer Camps for 2024. We have a full summer of fun for all!

All camps can be found on the official Athletics site of Vermont State University Johnson, <https://nvubadgers.com/CAMPS-CLINICS/INDEX>.

- Boys and Girls Soccer Camp, day only, three sessions, all Monday-Friday: July 8-12 (session 1), July 15-19 (session 2), July 22-26 (session 3);
- Girls Softball Camp, Sunday-Thursday July 14-18, day and overnight;
- Girls Basketball Camp, Sunday-Thursday August 11-15, day and overnight.

Lake Champlain Yacht Club's Junior Sailing Camps

Lake Champlain Yacht Club's (LCYC's) Junior Sailing camps are open to children ages 8-17. Our program creates a love of sailing. Your child will learn safe on-water practices while having

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still do so until October 15, 2024, see this website: Homestead Declaration | Department of Taxes (<https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>). This will help you pay your property taxes.

- Vermont property values have skyrocketed during and since the pandemic; this is good news if you are selling your house, but not as good if your property is "undervalued" by the current town assessment of its value. The "common level of appraisal" (CLA) is set by the Department of Taxes and impacts all towns and property owners.
- The Department of Taxes completed an equalization study to determine the common level of appraisal for each town. You can see the actual sales data for every town and see how this study has impacted our communities. Here is the link to the study and data: Equalization Study | Department of Taxes (<https://tax.vermont.gov/municipalities/reports/equalization-study>)
- The Tax Department also has information on understanding your property tax bill, as it contains a lot of information. You can find that explanation here: Understanding Your Property Tax Bill | Department of Taxes (<https://tax.vermont.gov/property/tax-bill>)
- Vermont's education financing formula is complicated; it is complicated because it seeks to be as equitable as possible. Should equity outweigh the ability of citizens to understand it? Current feedback is maybe not.
- I voted in favor of H.887. To be absolutely clear, I did this with

no great joy in overriding the Governor's veto. I did it because:

- Legally the Legislature has a responsibility to fund school budgets that have been voted on by local voters. The bill fully funds school budgets that voters have approved.
- A commission on the future of public education is established, requiring public hearings in all 14 counties. This information is required to be reported back to the Legislature and will help the body make decisions to right-size our education system in a way that balances quality education with ability of taxpayers to pay for it.
- The bill reduces property taxes by applying \$69 million to do so.
- I did not agree with the Governor's late-coming proposals to utilize a lending/borrowing scheme with school districts, which the State Treasurer testified would negatively impact the State's bond rating — increasing the cost for every municipality or government entity seeking to borrow funds. It takes years to recover from a negative bond rating.
- I did not agree with the Governor's proposal to entirely deplete the education reserve fund and use significantly more one-time funds. These funds are used when a recession results in lower property values or other issues that impact the education fund. The Governor's proposal for additional use of one-time dollars could result in a 20-cent increase to property taxes next year. Again, a negative impact.

I did agree with the Governor on the use of some limited one-time dollars to offset the tax increase. The Legislature does not ordinarily utilize one-time dollars for ongoing expenses, but given the impact this year, we agreed to do so with reservation.

If we think Vermont is immune from the divisiveness of the national political scene, it is not. Day in and day out during the legislative session, representatives and senators of all parties work collaboratively, not always agreeing, but doing so respectfully. In my nine years of serving in the Legislature, I have always kept my updates non-political, opting to report on the policies, programs, and impacts on people. However, I am compelled to veer away from this as it relates to the rhetoric that is coming from the Governor's office on the yield bill. And I only do this because of the lack of complete transparency about the impact of the proposals and the name-calling by the Governor has resulted in State legislators receiving actual death threats. I get that people are upset, and I am truly sorry for that. Sometimes doing the responsible thing is not the popular thing, and such is the case on this vote.

Thank you for reading this lengthy statement. I can still be reached during the summer/fall months at my legislative email, twood@leg.state.vt.us. You will receive an "out of office" response, but I do check that email periodically, just not always daily.

HEALTH NEWS

Have a fun and safe summer

From the VT Department of Health

Sunshine and bug bites

Enjoy the sun without the burn! Protect yourself from the sun’s harmful rays with SPF 30 (or higher) sunscreen for FREE thanks to sunscreen dispensers all around the state. Wear long sleeves and pants to keep the sun, ticks, and mosquitoes at bay. Don’t forget your insect repellent and daily tick checks too! Find more tips at https://www.HealthVermont.gov/summer-safety-tips.

Swim safely

If your summer adventures include swimming, always have a buddy and watch out for cyanobacteria (a.k.a. blue-green algae) that can make you and your pet sick. Learn to spot it at https://www.HealthVermont.gov/cyanobacteria.

Stay cool and breathe easy

While we often think of summer as an outdoor season, staying indoors is sometimes the best option for our health like when there is wildfire smoke or extreme heat. Sign up for air quality alerts at https://vem.vermont.gov/VTAlert and find a map of cooling locations at https://www.HealthVermont.gov/hot-weather.

Register a booth at Substance Use Addiction Summit

From Northwestern Medical Center

Register your free booth for third annual Substance Use Addiction Summit, scheduled for Friday, July 19 at the ChamplainExposition in Essex Junction.

Over the last few years, we have seen progress on substance use addiction awareness and identifying valuable resources for help and change. We also know that there is a lot of work to do.

We welcome all organizations who have any mission related to substance use addiction recovery. Your work is important, others can learn from what you do. We provide the booth, tables, chairs, tablecloth. If your organization is large, sign up for additional attendance free.

Please sign up and reserve your space at https://bit.ly/3X4mHHt (short for https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdsWoGFZYsM7MyeUoYGSYIDAzn5yapI-52G4zvnZtzSVVoCA/viewform.)

News from Healthy Lamoille Valley

Welcome new staff: We are thrilled to welcome Carrie Patterson to the Healthy Lamoille Valley team! Carrie is stepping into Brian’s position as the Youth Substance Prevention Coordinator and we’re so glad they’re getting to overlap this month. Congratulations and best wishes to Brian as he begins his graduate school journey!!

Be prepared for summer: summertime can be filled with adventure and fun. However, for some adolescents, the departure from the structure of the school year can create opportunities to try risky behaviors such as drinking alcohol or using other substances. Check out these 5 Conversation Goals for talking to kids about alcohol and other drugs: https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/talk_to_your_kids_5_conversation_goals.pdf.

TimeWise Parent/Caregiver Guide: Attention parents/ caregivers looking to support students with how they spend their free time this summer. We have been engaging many of our local schools around helping students develop agency in their free time and make healthy and meaningful decisions through grant funding from the Roessner Family Foundation. We are happy to share these topics with you through our Live TimeWise Parent/ Caregiver Guide, so that you can discuss with your children and set some goals for their summertime activities. We also have some additional summer planning support documents. If you are interested, please reach out to alison@healthylamoillevalley.org.

Signs for summer events and outdoor spaces: Interested in signage for an existing smoke, vape, cannabis, alcohol and/or substance free public space, business, event, or agency? Healthy Lamoille Valley has smoke- and vape-free signs and can offer design and permanent signage printing for your town. We are also giving out some cigarette “bottlers” that are used to collect cigarette butts. Contact Alison, alison@healthylamoillevalley.org, for more information.

Hot cars and heat

With summer here, things are heating up, especially cars left out in the sun on a hot day. This is why I want to park some information with you about the dangers of young children being left — even for a few minutes — locked in a hot car.

A dangerous environment

Believe it or not, a car left in the sun can heat up inside by more than 20 degrees in about 10 minutes if the windows are closed and the air conditioning is off. This can start to happen when the outside temperature is as low as 57 degrees Fahrenheit.

It is also important to know that a child’s body can heat up three to five times faster than an adult’s body.

If the temperature inside a car reaches 104 degrees, a child’s major organs may start to shut down. At 107 degrees, death can occur from heat stroke.

Parents, whom I know would always want to be attentive to their children, might still forget their child is in the back seat — especially if the child is sleeping quietly in the back in the setting of a parent stopping to run an errand while focused on something other than their child.

What can you do to prevent this?

- Always check the back seat and make sure all the children are out of the car before you lock it and walk away.
• A great idea is to put a cellphone, bag, or purse in the back seat every time you load your child in the car, so you are forced to check the back seat when you get to your destination.
• Another idea is simply to open the back door whenever you park even if your child is not in the back — so this action becomes routine. A great expression to keep in your head is “Look before you lock!”
• It is also possible a child may climb into your car when it is parked but not locked and then lock themselves inside. So please keep your car locked when it is parked and make sure children do not have easy access to your car keys, which should always be stored out of reach of your children. Better yet — just teach your children that cars are off-limits for play at all times.
• If you should come upon a child alone in a car and you are concerned, please call 911 for help whether it is hot out or not.

Hopefully, tips like these will drive home the importance of never leaving a child locked in a parked car, especially on a hot summer’s day.

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 Larner College of Medicine

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Find a way to preserve the Cambridge Community Center

To the Editor,

As with so many issues these days, the vote on the town purchasing the Cambridge Community Center (CCC) was closely divided in our community. I can understand that a very narrow majority do not feel that the town should own the property. We must all respect the democratic process of voting, at whatever level of government.

That said, I very much want the CCC facility to stay in operation and I will support whatever model we can come up with. I’d pay the next five years of gym membership in advance, for example, even though at age 87 I may not live that long. Let’s find a creative solution to operate this as a non-profit so that I can continue to benefit from the physical and social aspects of its availability.

The campground adjacent to my house provided me with exercise, social contact, and a place to cool off for the past 25

years. Now that I sold it and no longer have access, I’m looking for the community center to provide all these aspects. We should have a senior center for our aging population, as well as a community meeting space. Let’s figure out the next step in providing them as part of this opportunity.

William McKone
Jeffersonville

Turtles crossing roads

To the Editor,

In my ideal world everyone would drive slowly and check the roads for slow-moving turtles that cross roads this time of year to find nesting areas. But that isn’t always the case.

If you come upon an injured turtle, you can contact one of the VT Wildlife Rehabilitators:

- in Fairfax there is Audrey, home 802-849-6937, and work 802-849-2023;
• in Westford, you can contact Carol of VT Wildlife Rescue, 802-879-4449.

There is a statewide listing through VT Fish and Wildlife online at https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Learn%20More/Living%20with%20Wildlife/Rehabilitation/Wildlife_Rehabilitator_Locator.pdf.

Thanks to everyone who cares about our reptile neighbors.
Ann Greer
Jeffersonville

Thanks for helping the Lions Strawberry event

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Jericho Underhill Lions Club, thank you for posting notice of our June 22 Strawberry Shortcake Extravaganza in the June 20 edition of the Mountain Gazette, even though I sent it in a day late. The event was a success! Thanks again!

Chuck Cyr
Jericho Underhill Lions Club

LIBRARY NEWS

VT public libraries summer reading programs bolster family literacy

From the moment children are born, the foundations of literacy are built through the songs parents sing, the board books babies explore, and the stories families share. Vermont’s public libraries have long been champions of early childhood literacy, offering a wealth of children’s literature and programming supporting parents and caregivers in fostering a love of reading.

As summer has arrived, Vermont’s public libraries are launching their annual Summer Reading Programs, centered around the theme Adventure Begins at Your Library! These programs are essential in helping students maintain their reading skills over the summer break, preventing the “summer slide.” Research consistently shows that children who participate in summer reading programs return to school with stronger reading skills compared to those who do not.

Summer Reading Programs offer a fun and engaging way for children to develop a lifelong love of reading. Families are encouraged to visit their local libraries regularly, to check out a fresh stack of books, and to participate in library-hosted events

and programs, featuring science, music, storytelling, arts, crafts, StoryWalks®, and outdoor exploration. Public libraries also host programs for our youngest Vermonters, including rhyming and singing sessions for babies. These early literacy programs are designed to instill a love of reading and learning from an early age, setting children up for future success in school. The VT Department of Libraries supports these Summer Reading Programs through non-competitive grants of \$300 to each library through the estate of the Elva S. Smith Trust in support of youth library activities.

This year’s summer reading theme aligns perfectly with another popular service provided by the Department of Libraries: the State Parks and Historic Sites Pass Program. Each of Vermont’s 187 public libraries receives passes that allow for free day admission to state parks and historic sites for a carload of up to eight people. This program, a collaboration between the Vermont Department of Libraries, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation offers Vermonters the chance to explore and appreciate their state’s natural beauty and rich history.

Many public libraries also serve as summer meal sites, providing free meals for their communities through state and federal programs and by partnering with community organizations.

Visit your local library to learn about the exciting summer reading programs and activities planned for this year. While you’re there, don’t forget to check out a park or historic site pass and pick up a great book!

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Deborah Rawson Memorial Library has air conditioning and is listed as a cooling site, so come beat the heat with us!

Summer 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 — closed for the summer; Monday — closed.

The library is closed on Thursday, July 4.

All programs are held at the library and open to all, unless otherwise noted.

All ages

Poetry Walk, daily at Mills Riverside Park: visit the Seventh Annual Poetry Walk, a collaboration between Deborah Rawson Memorial Library and Mills Riverside Park, this year featuring the works of nine poets on the subject of summer.

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

on each visit.

Featured Artist Exhibit: works by Essex Art League artists in a variety of styles and mediums are on display in the library during July.

Thursdays throughout the summer — visit DRML and JTL at the Jericho Farmers’ Market. DRML and JTL will be taking turns at the Farmers’ Market again this summer. We will have book giveaways, some games, probably bubbles, and a lot of fun. See you there!

Saturday, July 13, 10:00 AM, Old Red Mill, VT Rt. 15, Jericho: Jericho Families in Nature. [all ages] This month we check out the Old Red Mill. Bring gear to splash around in the river with! Walks are free and open to all. They last about an hour, move at a slow pace, and happen rain or shine. Register here to let us know you’ll be there: https://bit.ly/jfin24.

Thursday, July 18, 12:00 PM: Very Merry Theater presents Finding Nemo Jr. [all ages] We are thrilled to once again host our friends from Very Merry Theatre and their all-star kid cast! If the weather is nice we’ll be on the lawn between the UID building and the library. Bring your lunch, and something to sit on! If it rains we’ll be at the Jericho Community Center. See you at the show!

Saturday, July 20, 10:00 AM: Introduction to Geocaching. [all ages] Meet at Mills Riverside Park Pavillion. Mike and Deb Weinberg and other geocachers will tell us all about the adventurous pastime of geocaching. After talking about it, we’ll split into small groups and spread out in the Park to find some caches. Please bring a small, inexpensive (\$1 or less) trinket to trade for something in the cache you find!

Adult programs

Adults ages 19 and older may pick up a Summer Reading BINGO card at the library, then complete five squares in a row vertically, horizontally, or diagonally to get BINGO. Turn in the card with your name and telephone number included for a chance to win a \$25 Amazon gift card at a drawing to be held Thursday, September 1.

Poetry Walk, daily, Mills Riverside Park, 338 VT 15, Jericho. Visit the Seventh Annual Poetry Walk, a collaboration between Deborah Rawson Memorial Library and Mills Riverside Park. This year features the works of nine poets on the subject of summer.

Tuesdays (except July 23), 7:00 – 8:00 PM: French Conversation Chez Henry. All levels of French speakers, as well as the French curious, are welcome to this informal conversation group.

Library news continued on page 5

High Quality Supplements & Nutritional Guidance
Call Dr. Mary at 899-5400 or shop: MKintner.metagenics.com
20% off your 1st online order!
Metagenics

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

College news

Rohan Basnet of Westford, VT was named to the Dean's List for Spring 2024 at Champlain College, Burlington, VT. Basnet is majoring in Finance.

Owen Bauman of Underhill, VT has been named to the spring 2024 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Bauman is in the individualized program.

Ayla Bishop of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the Spring 2024 Dean's List at Emmanuel College, Boston, MA.

Desirae Byrd of Waterbury, VT was named to the Dean's List and the Trustees' List for Spring 2024 at Champlain College, Burlington, VT. Byrd is majoring in Psychology.

Mason Combs of Jericho, VT has been named to the President's List for the Spring 2024 semester at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH. Combs's major is Elementary Ed and Youth Development.

Jada Diamond of Jericho Center, VT was named to the President's List for Spring 2024 at the College of Charleston, Charleston, SC. Diamond is majoring in Psychology.

Lily Korczykowski of Jericho Center, VT was named to the President's List for Spring 2024 at the College of Charleston, Charleston, SC. Korczykowski is majoring in Exercise Science.

Aedan Lahiff of Jericho, VT has been named to the spring 2024 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Lahiff is in the computing and information technologies program.

Avery Luther of Jericho, VT was named to the Dean's List for Spring 2024 at Champlain College, Burlington, VT. Luther is majoring in Computer Networking and Cybersecurity.

Violette Martin of Cambridge, VT has been named to the spring 2024 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Martin is in the photographic and imaging arts program.

Ari McKennedy of Jericho, VT has been named to the President's List for the Spring 2024 semester at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH. McKennedy's major is undeclared.

Piper Parks of Underhill, VT has been named to the spring 2024 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Parks is in the physician assistant program.

Connor Philbrick of Jericho, VT has been named to Dean's List for the Spring 2024 semester the Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH.

Joseph Poley of Underhill, VT was named to the Dean's List for Spring 2024 at Champlain College, Burlington, VT. Poley is majoring in Cybersecurity.

Ryan Richter of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the spring 2024 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Richter is in the software engineering program.

Reilly Stevens of Jericho Center, VT was named to the Dean's List for Spring 2024 at the College of Charleston, Charleston, SC. Stevens is majoring in Psychology.

Haily Sumner of Underhill, VT was named to the Dean's List and Trustees' List for Spring 2024 at Champlain College, Burlington, VT. Sumner is majoring in Social Work.

Ben Treybal of Underhill, VT was named to the Dean's List for Spring 2024 at Champlain College, Burlington, VT. Treybal is majoring in Graphic Design and Visual Communication.

Emmitt White of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the spring 2024 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. White is in the graphic design program.

Aidan Woods of Jericho, VT has been named to the President's List for the Spring 2024 semester at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH. Woods' major is Political Science.

OBITUARIES

Marlys June Willeford joined the angels in Heaven on Saturday, June 1, 2024. She was born on April 4, 1937 in Dawson, MN, the daughter of Reuben and Gladys (Brown) Lehman. She was co-valedictorian in high school in Alexandria, MN, received her Associate's degree from Bethel College, and her Bachelor's degree from Colorado State University. She married Allen Willeford on June 6, 1964 at First Baptist Church in Alexandria, MN. She worked at Glacier National Park in Montana, in the accounting department at General Mills headquarters in Minneapolis, MN, and part-time at the U.S. Census Bureau, but was a deeply devoted full-time wife and mother as she raised her family. She was proud of her children and grandchildren, she rarely missed one of Tim's baseball or basketball games, and was especially pleased with her grandson Parker's visits to Vermont over the last few years. She designed her own dresses, loved hiking and biking, gardening, and cooking from scratch from thousands of recipes. She liked sewing, quilting, decorating, and crafting, and participated in sewing conferences around the country. She composed her own poetry to send to close friends and family through the years. She was a volunteer for many decades, teaching reading in first grade at Jericho Elementary School, as a mentor for Pioneer Girls at church, and served as church librarian for nearly 40 years with her dear friends at North Avenue Alliance Church. She was the planner and navigator of annual vacations, visiting all 48 continental United States by car together with her husband. She traveled through Europe in 1962, and again three times later in life, when she finally saw the Christmas markets in Germany and visited Prague with her granddaughters. She also visited Ecuador and the Galapagos, as well as Israel. She collected many hundreds of children's books from her visits around the world. Her largest hobby later in life was genealogy, and she proudly traced her family history back to the Mayflower in 1620, in England before that, and from German Prussia in the 1800s. She was a woman of deep faith in God, and she was a fighter, having previously survived cancer, heart disease, and stroke, until God finally called her home. She was predeceased by her son Brent in 2009, her brother Kendall in 2016, and her parents and grandparents. She is survived by her husband Allen, her son Tim, five grandchildren, and by many nieces and nephews and her cousin Carole, and their families. Visiting hours will be held at the Ready Funeral Home, Pinecrest Dr., Essex, VT, 4:00 – 7:00 PM on Wednesday, July 10, 2024. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on July 11, 2024 at North Avenue Alliance Church, Burlington, VT. Interment will follow at Jericho Center Cemetery, Jericho, VT at approximately 1:00 PM. The family would appreciate anyone attending any of the events to share their memories of Marlys with them and join in singing her favorite hymns. Arrangements are in the care of Ready Funeral & Cremation Services. To share online condolences, please visit www.readyfuneral.com.



Leonard F. Charland, age 80, a longtime resident of Richmond, VT and St. Albans Bay, VT, passed away on Friday, June 7, 2024, in the comfort of his lake house on Lake Champlain — one of his favorite places in the world. Leonard was born on August 23, 1943 in Burlington, VT, the fifth child to his loving parents Joseph and Edith (Lawrence) Charland. Leonard was a self-taught, diligent, and zealous businessman, but also a compassionate, committed and loving family man. During most of his life you

could find him hard at work for his HVAC company sunup to sundown, seven days a week. After retirement you could find him in his home shop building furniture (oak beds, hope chests, desks... anything his family asked for, he built it); relaxing with a cold Coors Light (or Crown Royal on the good days). During the summer days you could find Leonard at his lake house on Lake Champlain, whether it be gardening, napping on the porch, fishing, boating, and watching his family partake in various water sports. Leonard loved the summer and being near the water — it was his favorite time of the year. Leonard met his wife Betty (Champney) Charland in 1962 and they were married on April 25, 1964. They were happily married for 60 years and built a wonderful life together, filled with love, laughter, and adventure and went on to start a beautiful family with their two children, Jerry and Karen. Leonard was the epitome of success. At the age of fourteen he started working full time on local farms to help support his family. Even from a young age family was the most important thing to him and not only did he make it his priority, he didn't think twice about doing whatever it took to help his family. This instilled a strong work ethic and dedication to family that he strongly believed in his entire life and that he passed on to his family. Leonard enlisted in the U.S. Army and following his honorable discharge he went on to have a very successful career in HVAC, working for Vermont Heating from 1966-1975; New England Air from 1975-1983; Northeastern from 1983-1987; and from there he partnered with lifelong friend Donald "Jonesy" Jones establishing Sheetmetal Specialist in HVAC Incorporated "SSI" in 1987, where he worked until his retirement in 2009. SSI is still thriving today under the ownership of Leonard's son Jerry Charland and devoted friend David Laurie. Leonard was an avid hunter; he spent many years of his life traveling the globe with his friend Scott Thomas. He passed on the love of hunting and outdoors to his son Jerry. Leonard enjoyed long drives, traveling, and quality time with his daughter Karen. Leonard's entire life was his family, especially his granddaughters and great-grandchildren, they were the light of his life and he theirs. Leonard was more commonly known to his family and their friends as "Bubba." He never was "Grandpa," only "Bubba," and it could not have suited him better. The bond he shared with his granddaughters and great-grandchildren is something to be cherished. He was the leader of our family and a hero and idol whom we will always look up to. Leonard's daughter-in-law Kim once described Leonard as being a "silent leader" and it was the best way to describe him. He didn't say much, but what he did say was brilliant and words that you listened to and remembered. Leonard was preceded in death by his parents Joseph and Edith; siblings Phyllis (Charland) LaPlant, Lawrence "Bucky" Charland, Walter Charland, and Paul Charland. Leonard is survived by his wife Betty (Champney) Charland; daughter Karen Charland; son Jerry Charland and daughter-in-law Kim (Martin) Charland; grandchildren Anna (Charland) and husband RJ Sargent, Emily Charland and husband RJ Moore, Courtney Charland and fiancé John Keen, Katie Charland and fiancé Shawn Careau, and Allison Charland; great-grandchildren Devyn Sargent, Daxton Sargent, Izek Careau, Rosemary Careau, Harlow Careau, Kai Anne Careau and Blake Careau; along with many nieces, nephews, in-laws, and friends. His family would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region for all their support in his final care. A special thank you to his granddaughter Emily Charland, who provided respite care in his final days so that

Obituaries continued on page 9

Miscellaneous continued from page 7

How does installation work? And what about my long driveway?

You can pre-order so Fidium knows you want service. To pre-order fiber internet go to: <https://www.fidiumfiber.com/pre-order>. For additional updates on Fidium's progress, visit this webpage: <https://www.fidiumfiber.com/Expanding>. Residents with specific construction questions or concerns should call 877-769-4771.

A "drop" is the connection from the roadway pole or pedestal to your premises and is necessary to activate service in your home or business. Fidium has a very generous drop policy. Fidium's free installation policy covers all addresses with existing Consolidated facilities — poles or conduit — that Fidium can use as well as all addresses that are 500 feet or less from the access point (pole line or street). If your address is more than 500 feet from the access point and does not have existing telephone poles or conduit that Fidium can use, you will need to work with a contractor to install conduit on your property. Fidium does not cover the cost of the contractor. We will provide more information about drops and installation as the summer progresses.

VTrans construction project updates Richmond/Bolton

Richmond – U.S. Rt. 2 Bridge #29 Replacement

June 20

Traffic impacts:

- U.S. Rt. 2, Monday-Friday, 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM: traffic control present with intermittent one-lane of alternating travel.
- I-89 traffic in the Town of Richmond, south of Exit 11: northbound passing lane closed to northbound traffic between Mile Markers 75.45-76.79; southbound passing lane closed to southbound traffic between Mile Markers 77.29-75.71; beginning June 25, northbound traffic will be placed in the southbound passing lane between Mile Markers 75.45-76.79. This new lane configuration will be in effect for the next several weeks.

Northbound and southbound traffic entering the traffic control zone shall expect the zipper merge to be implemented. Please follow the direction of the traffic control signs and devices. Motorists shall follow the posted speed limit within the construction zone; Speed enforcement will be present, and fines will be doubled.

Project update: Completed Phase I steel erection and bolt torquing; set temporary barriers; site clean-up for a new traffic switch.

The following was the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning June 24, Monday-Friday, 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM: mobilize cranes and build crane pads; begin Phase II — steel erection.

Please use caution while traveling through the construction

zone and follow the posted speed limits!

Project type: Complete bridge replacement
Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference Bridge#29, Richmond, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Completion date: September 2025

Richmond - Bolton U.S. Rt. 2 Rehabilitation

June 20

Traffic impact: minimal traffic interruptions on U.S. Rt. 2 between Kenyon Road and Cochran Road Monday-Friday, 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

Project update: completed driveway tie-ins; continued project clean-up.

The following was the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning Monday, June 24, Monday-Friday, 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM (daytime work): continue with completion of punch list items and general project clean-up work.

Please use caution and follow the posted speed limits!
Please email sbarrett@coibsinc.com, reference US-2 Richmond, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Completion date: July 2024

Cambridge-Johnson VT Rt. 15 construction update

Cambridge-Johnson VT 15 Resurfacing Project

June 21

Traffic impact and duration: Monday-Friday, June 24-28, 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM, motorists can expect up to three traffic control packages on VT Rt. 15 (VT 15) in Johnson and Cambridge. There will be alternating one-way traffic controlled by flaggers within the project limits from just east of the VT 100C intersection in the Village of Johnson to the VT 15/ VT108 junction in Cambridge.

Motorists are encouraged to slow down and exercise caution while traveling within the project area. Expect traffic delays and plan extra time for travel.

Construction activities: Crews will begin paving the leveling course of asphalt on VT 15 within the Village of Johnson, starting just east of the VT 100C intersection and continuing west. During peak commuting hours (6:00 – 8:00 AM and 4:00 – 6:00 PM), crews will be off the roadway within the village limits.

Crews will continue milling the roadway on VT 15, starting near Hogback Road and moving west toward Cambridge. On Thursday, crews are anticipated to begin reclaiming the roadway on VT 15, starting just west of the Village of Johnson limits and continuing west.

Location: VT Rt. 15 from the VT 15/ VT108 junction in Cambridge, continuing 9.1 miles to a point east of the VT 100C intersection in the Village of Johnson.

Clarina Howard Nichols Center seeks donations

The Clarina Howard Nichols Center is seeking donations of the following items for their emergency shelter for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking.

The need is for toilet paper, paper towels, drawstring trash bags (13 gallon), and liquid dish soap.

Drop-off items you would like to donate at these locations:

- In Company, Stowe; daily 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM;
- Clarina's Community Center, Morrisville (to schedule, please contact info@clarina.org);
- Johnson Health Center, Johnson; Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM;
- Three Mountain Roofing, Jeffersonville; Monday-Friday, 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

It's hot... is a heat pump right for you?

From Efficiency Vermont

Heat pumps are all the rage, but let's be real: they can be an investment. And like any investment, you want to make sure it's the right choice for you and your family before diving into something new.

Efficiency Vermont has compiled a list of five questions that can help determine whether a heat pump is right for your home's unique setup and your family's specific needs. See whether a heat pump could work for your home: <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/blog/how-to-is-a-heat-pump-heating-cooling-system-right-for-you>.

It can also be helpful to hear from homeowners who have heat pumps. We talked to three families who installed them, each for different reasons. Their stories are helping Vermonters learn what life is like with a heat pump: <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/blog/your-story/3-stories-that-show-that-heat-pump-systems-work-in-vermont-homes>.

If you've done your homework and you're ready to dive in, be sure to check out the available rebates and options to pay for the project costs monthly. Rebates start at \$350 off, plus an additional tax credit of up to 30% of cost: <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates/list>.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

Music in the Park — Mills Riverside Park in Jericho has Wednesday night concerts, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, scheduled throughout July. For all ages; free admission (cash donations accepted) and free parking. Bring chairs, blankets, and a picnic! All shows are weather permitting. Dogs are welcome but must be leashed. For more information: <https://www.millsriversidepark.org/calendar/concerts>.

July 3: *Shellhouse* is a melodic rock band, doing original tunes and rock favorites from the 1960s-2000s. All members originally come from New York City except Steve, who comes from the Chicago area; all have lived in Vermont for decades. The band is: Bob Teer, vocals, harmonica, guitar, songwriter; Andrea Teer, vocals and manditar; Marshall Breakstone, bass guitar and vocals; Dan Lurie, lead guitar; and Steve Wanderlich, drum.

July 10: *Sugar in the Pan* plays traditional music from New England, Québec, maritime Canada, and beyond, featuring lively tunes that will have folks of all ages up and dancing! These fantastic teenage musicians with the Young Tradition Vermont Touring Group — Ari Glasser, Eleanor Freebern, Eli Glasser, Emma Taylor McCallum, and Winslow Solomon — offer creative and engaging arrangements for fiddles, five-string banjo, keyboard, and harp. They have performed at the New World Festival (Randolph) and the Young Tradition Festival (Burlington), toured Cape Breton (2023) and Québec (2024); and entertained at retirement communities and schools in Vermont.

July 17: The *Smokey Newfield Project* decided that starting a band was a cheaper way to deal with their mid-life crises than therapy or buying convertibles. SNP burst onto the local music scene in 2013 playing farmers' markets, private parties, local bars, restaurants, and fundraisers. Known for rich vocal harmonies and varied instrumentation, SNP features Bill Valliere (a.k.a. Smokey Newfield) on guitar, Cathy Cameron-Muscente on guitar and bass, Tom Chadwick on drums, and Laura Chadwick on keyboard/melodica, violin, bass, mandolin, and guitar. They cover an eclectic mix of folk rock, classic rock, country, pop, and anything else that tickles their musical sensibilities.

July 24: *Mama Tried*, a four-piece Americana band with Rebecca Padula's smokin' vocals, guitar, and ukulele; Linda Kallinger on fiddle, mandolin, and harmonies; "Ukulele" Clare Innes on ukulele, banjo, and vocals; and Kathy Mulligan holding down the baselines.

July 31: *The Buck Hollers Band* returns with their eclectic mix of Americana, folk, country, R&B, rockabilly, rock'n'roll, newgrass, and Irish music — mixed with a good dose of stage banter and comedy. Dave Vallett's clean melodic acoustic guitar work, hot rockabilly electric sounds, and a little banjo mix with Steve White's rhythm guitar and sweet harmonica and Joel Snyder Jr.'s tight percussion. Local 'kids' Matt Parisi on bass and Cathy (Parisi) Weymouth on keyboard round out the group, which also features some nice a capella and four-part harmonies.

Westford's Red Brick Coffee House will meet on Friday, July 5, 7:00 – 9:00 PM for an open mic and jam for musicians and audiences, at the Red Brick Meeting House, VT Rt. 128, Westford. All forms of music or presentations encouraged. Bring a snack and/or beverage and hang out for some music and chats or BYO board/card games. All ages. Donations welcome for building maintenance support.

Underhill Food Truck Night Summer Schedule: Underhill Food Truck Nights are back for another summer of food and live music, presented by the Underhill Recreation Committee! Mark your calendars for the following dates: Friday, July 19: *King Me*; Friday, August 16: *The Buckhollers*; Friday, September 20: Blake Matteson, followed by the *Barn Rats*. All Food Truck Nights are in Moore Park in Underhill Center and are from 5:00 – 8:00 PM except for September 20, which is 5:00 – 7:30 PM. Hope to see you there!

Johnson's Tuesday Night Live kicks off a new season of free, family-friendly concerts on July 9, 6:00 – 8:30 PM with *PURPLE*, a Prince tribute band, taking over the Tuesday Night Live outdoor stage at the Legion Field on School Street with an all-star cast of musicians. The funky, good time dance party is led by Craig Mitchell, who navigates through Prince's vast catalogue of music.

Tuesday Night Live is free thanks to the support of local businesses. Just bring a blanket or chair. A variety of vendors with food, including the Historical Society with slices of homemade pie, will be on site. Parking is along School Street in the Elementary School lot and at the McClelland Building parking lot on College Hill. Rain or shine — summer showers may dampen the enthusiasm for a few minutes, but it is lightning and thunder that stops the music.

Subsequent Tuesday Night performances include: July 16, *Dipped in Moonlight*; July 23, *The Steppes*; July 30, *Beg, Steal or Borrow*; August 6, *TEKE:Teke*; August 15, Rik Palieri and George Mann; August 20, to be announced; and August 27, *Soul Project NOLA*.

Tuesday Night Live is planned and delivered by a volunteer committee of the town of Johnson. All are welcome to attend, free of charge! For more information, contact 802-635-2943.

Burlington City Arts (BCA) has two new summer exhibitions.

Essential Figure (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/essential-figure>) explores the diverse identities and narratives of people through intersections of race, class, and gender. These artists enliven and expand the figurative tradition as they simultaneously reflect shifting social and cultural perspectives. Featuring artists Sophie Cangelosi, Jennifer McCandless, Hannah Morris, Enrico Riley, Suzy Spence, and Lorenzo Triburgo and Sarah Van Dyck. *Rachel Rose: Lake Valley* (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/rachel-rose-lake-valley>) is a video installation, in which artist Rose creates a dreamlike narrative centered on isolation, imagination, and longing for personal connection using digital animation, sound, and imagery from children's literature. Save the date for our artist reception on Friday, July 12.

Weekly Burlington Literature Group meets on Tuesdays, via Zoom: Michael Sevy of Jericho co-leads this weekly virtual book group and would welcome new committed readers to our sessions. The group met for years meeting in person, but since the has met via Zoom every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. We break down interesting, challenging books into weekly segments of 60-100 pages to 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 next author is Nobel Laureate Patrick Modiano and we are reading his novel *Suspended Sentences*. Schedule: July 2: *Flowers of Ruin*.

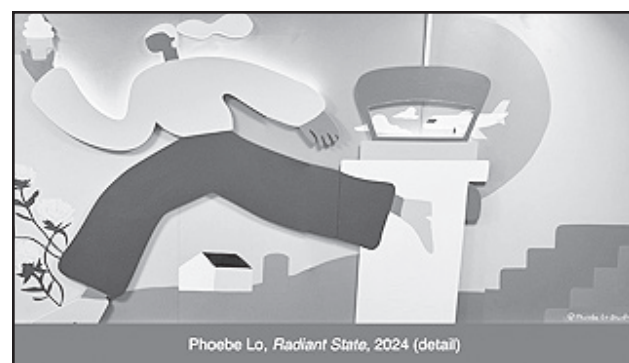
The Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jeffersonville in their 40th season presents the Legacy 2024 Collection (through Sunday, December 22 in the East Gallery) features the works of 17 contemporary artists and includes selected works by Mary Bryan and Alden Bryan. The Legacy Collection continues to honor the tradition of artists who visit Vermont and New England specifically to paint. The Bryan Memorial Gallery opened two new exhibitions this spring. The first: *New England Waterways* (through Sunday, July 7) in the Middle Room Gallery, tasks artists of all mediums to depict the waterways and shorelines around New England, lake, river or the ocean. Stop in to see the artists who successfully tackled this waterway challenge! The second: *40 Years Together* (through Sunday, August 25) in the Main Gallery, celebrates the Gallery's 40th anniversary with a vast collection of historical and contemporary works as well as a selection of Mary and Alden Bryan's original paintings. Artists were asked to create works with subject matter from this region of Vermont, highlighting Jeffersonville, Lamoille County, and the landscapes that artists have been coming to paint for over one hundred years. Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM or by appointment Mondays and Tuesdays. Additional information: Stephen Gothard, Director, 802-644-5100 or info@bryangallery.org or www.bryangallery.org.

At Bryan Fine Art Gallery in Stowe through Sunday, July 14: *Evoking Vermont's Landscape*. Six talented Vermont artists showcase their original interpretations of the state's diverse scenery, celebrating Vermont's natural surroundings in works that capture the spirit of Vermont, each artist bringing their own flair and interpretation. Participating artists: Ken Rush, Danby; David Pound, Stowe; Steve Clark, Vergennes; Kate Follett, Jacksonville; James Rauchman, Morrisville; Mathew Pardue, N. Ferrisburgh. Free admission. For more information about this and other upcoming exhibitions and events: www.bryangallery.org. Bryan Fine Art Gallery, 64 S. Main St., Stowe. Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Friday, Saturday 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM. For more information contact 802-760-6474 or info@bryangallery.org.

Monthly Essex Art League meeting on the first Thursdays, September-June — Artists and art lovers are welcome to join Essex Art League (EAL) and participate in our year-round, weekly *en Plein Air* gatherings. We meet each Thursday to paint in a different and beautiful location in the area. Joining EAL also avails you of opportunities for field trips to shows and galleries as well as participating in workshops. The Essex Art League has been open to artists and art lovers from throughout Vermont for 50+ years. For more information: <http://essexartleague.com/>.

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 (July 21), 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. For people of all ages who want to play folk, Americana, blues, bluegrass, Celtic, and more on acoustic instruments — no electronics except keyboard and bass. 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. Both songs and instrumentals are great. Please note this is not a performance, open mic, or lesson. Folks who want to sing, or just enjoy the gathering, are welcome. Bring snacks and drinks if you like, but no alcohol. Free. Registration is appreciated; contact CommunityJamJUVT@gmail.com.

Fall Open Studio / Underhill Art Council: There is a motion afoot to have a gathering of local artists and artisans on Saturday, October 5 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM in the Underhill Town Hall. The idea would be similar to past efforts by our artistic community; however, the focus would be to have a day to show



Burlington City Arts (BCA) in collaboration with Patrick Leahy Burlington International Airport (BTV) announce the completion of Radiant State by acclaimed artist Phoebe Lo. Unveiled in early June, the work spans over 60' across two sections, captivating viewers with its color palette, minimalist forms, and multi-layered surfaces. The work is a testament to the transformative power of travel and the cultural richness of the Greater Burlington region. Lo has fashioned an evocative tableau celebrating Vermont's vibrancy, inviting visitors and locals to immerse themselves in its radiant beauty. The artist's work reflects the essence of Vermont's spirit, offering a glimpse into the diverse narratives and vibrant landscapes that define our shared identity. Nic Longo, Director of Aviation at BTV, said "Phoebe Lo's vision encapsulates the essence of our region, serving as a testament to the transformative power of art and the boundless possibilities of travel." BCA echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the significance of public art in fostering connections and enriching communal spaces. Lo is a multidisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY and Burlington, VT, renowned for her vibrant color palettes, fluid, minimalist forms, and whimsical style. A muralist, illustrator, sculptor, and painter, Lo's work is thoughtful and original. Her projects range from individual commissions and graphic design to large community murals and public art initiatives. For more information about Radiant State and upcoming public art initiatives, please visit www.burlingtoncityarts.org.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

and sell artwork and fine craft as a part of the Vermont Open Studio supported by the Vermont Crafts Council. The intention is to make available a place for those artisans who don't have their own studio space or folks who might like to join in a collective. There may be a small nominal fee to participate. Those funds would go directly to support Open Studio. We imagine adding in food vendors and music as possible to the event. If you are interested in this potentially fun and colorful activity or have questions, please email Betsy Chapek, echapek4@gmail.com.

The Richmond Historical Society summer concert series in the Old Round Church has a concert featuring a local band on Tuesday, September 17, 7:00 PM: feature *Mama Tried*, an all-gal foot stomping bluegrass, country folk, and blues string band from Vermont. Admission by donation. For more information contact rhs@richmondvthistory.org.

The Persistence of Memory

By Kimberly Madura

The years, the waves,
come crashing down
on this moment.
That's what we
cling to, moments.

This is what
keeps us going.
All the in between,
the waiting
for this moment.
Now we
have it.

Oh how long
it took for
love to bloom
darling, how long.
Now it is
alright.

It is going to
be okay.
We can both
breathe again.

Past and present
and future
collide
into this,
melt into
this moment,
melt into
this embrace
which we can
now hold
for eternity
in our souls,
in our bodies,
in our minds.

Obituaries continued from page 8

he could remain in the comfort of his own home. In accordance to Leonard's wishes a private family memorial will take place. To know Leonard was to love him. There will never be enough words to accurately describe who he was or the impact he had on his family and friends. We are forever indebted to him and we will miss and love him for everyday that is to come. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Boston Children's Hospital (BostonChildrensHospital.org), St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org), or VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region (vermontvisitingnurses.org).

Bill Haddock of Richmond, VT passed away peacefully, surrounded by family and dear friends, on Wednesday, June 5, 2024. Although the last five years were filled with the many challenges that Alzheimer's disease brings, Bill held on to his sense of humor and would often bring a smile to people's faces. He would still delight at watching children play, much as he had when his sons Haynes, Luke, and Matt were kids. The quintessential extrovert, he would happily join a conversation in his own unique, warm style. Music was a great passion, and he continued to sing, whether it was with the Richmond, VT senior group, a special dementia singing gathering, or with family and



friends. His beautiful voice was even able to belt out *You Are My Sunshine* until close to the end. He truly found his home in Richmond and continued to enjoy walks on his beloved Snipe Ireland Road, often accompanied by friends and his loyal dog Luna. Born in Charleston, SC, Bill was proud of his southern roots. He grew up in Atlanta, GA and attended the University of Georgia, which transformed him into a lifelong Bulldogs fan. Years later he received an MA in counseling psychology from Antioch University New England. Summers were spent up at Blackrock, a family home in the north Georgia mountains, where Bill had so many happy memories. Bill's passion for music was nurtured at an early age when he was chosen through a competitive selection process to be a member of the Apollo Boys' Choir, a nationally renowned choir based in Palm Beach, FL. Modeled after the Vienna Boys Choir, the group toured throughout the country and was instrumental in developing Bill's love of classical music. After college, he spent several years in New York City, where he worked as a social worker with minority groups. In 1969 he moved to Vermont, where he would spend the next 55 years continuing to help people in various positions, including as a social service consultant for the State of Vermont and later through his own business, called Lifetypes, providing personal and vocational counseling to

individuals and couples. He also held positions as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Vermont, New England Culinary Institute, and Burlington College, teaching courses in personality theory and learning styles. During his retirement years, he enjoyed substitute teaching and loved to bring history to life for his students by talking about his experience meeting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a student at the University of Georgia. He also spent many years writing the Business Beat column for the *Times Ink*, Richmond's local newspaper. In his leisure time, Bill loved anything outdoors: camping, fly-fishing, canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing, astronomy and, of course, Georgia football. He instilled these passions for nature in his three sons. Bill leaves, Gina, his beloved wife of 34 years; his sons Haynes (Dana) of Bowling Green, KY, Luke (Emily) and Matt (Hope); grandchildren Anna and Daniel; niece Ashley LeConte Campbell, and nephews Scott Campbell and Stewart and Karl Haddock, of Atlanta; along with many dear friends who have been just like family. A celebration of Bill's life will take place on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 1:00 PM, at the Richmond Congregational Church. To celebrate Bill's life, please consider doing a random act of kindness or hug someone you love. If you wish to make a donation, gifts can be made to the Richmond Congregational Church or the Alzheimer's Association.

SCHOOL NEWS

Hosting an exchange student

By Susan Grab, Underhill

An exchange program I worked with, and had a fantastic experience with, is looking to place some students at Mount Mansfield Union High School, potentially for the next school year. Information below. And feel free to reach out to me about my exchange year, I'd love to talk about it!

Do you want to help change the world? Open your heart and home to a young adventurer! Promote international understanding through cultural exchange and host an EF High School Exchange Year student. Make international friendships and create memories to last a lifetime! Students are fully insured and have their own spending money. Host families provide room, board, a caring environment, and family.

Choose the student who fits your family. Perhaps you would enjoy:

Mathis, from Germany — "I would say that I am a well mannered and funny person. I am also very nice and open. I am talkative and adapt well to others. I am reliable and also not messy. I like all kinds of sports and I like to practice them. I like to spend a lot of time in the fresh air and to exercise. But I also like staying indoors and playing video games, with friends, my dog, and doing homework. I have been playing soccer since I was a little kid. Now I am playing in a club at state level. I train at least three times a week and almost always have a game on the weekend. Basketball is also a small part of my life."

or Lilly, from Sweden — "I appreciate nature a whole lot and

I enjoy activities like hiking, walking, etc. So my mom is a real environmentalist and works so hard to give back to mother nature. Which also inspires me to keep on fighting for our climate and she has really taught me why it's important. My mother is a very kindhearted and hardworking person and without her I would not be able to go to the U.S. and be apart of your family. I do see myself as a very grateful person and I do try to show and say that as much as I can by helping out. So you can count me in if you need my help. I am happy for this opportunity and look forward to meeting you. I just hope we can learn and teach each other new things."

For more information, please contact 802-338-2492 or gbedard920@gmail.com. For more information, please check out https://efexchangeyear.org/iec/jan-bedard/ and www.efexchangeyear.org.

SENIOR NEWS

Age Well Grab'n'Go meals

Age Well provides services to individuals 60+ and their spouse or caregivers, and a disabled person(s) living with the senior, regardless of financial status, who completes a yearly registration form; please contact Maggie Gordon, 802-434-3155, to register. Forms are updated each fiscal year, which begins on October 1.

Suggested donation is \$5 per meal. Richmond will offer Age Well Grab'n'Go meals on Thursdays, July 4 and August 1, with pickup between 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church Richmond, 64 W Main St., Richmond. Please call 802-865-0360 to order a meal by Friday before the meal is to be delivered; or contact Maggie Gordon, 802-434-3155 to register.

For more information about AgeWell and their services, visit http://www.agewellvt.org.

Age Well seeks Meals on Wheels drivers

Age Well is seeking regular and substitute Meals on Wheels volunteers in Jericho and Underhill.

Happiness knocks when you volunteer to deliver a meal! Meals on Wheels provides so much more than a nutritious meal. The moment you knock on that door, you make a connection. It might be a quick hello or a conversation, but the impact lasts a lifetime. Not just for those receiving the meal, but for you, too.

We need your help. Age Well is currently looking for folks who can:

- deliver routes regularly (every week or every other week on the same day);
• substitute in for openings throughout the month;
• serve as on-call volunteers who are able to step in in the case of last-minute cancellations.

Time commitment is based on your availability; it can vary from one day a week to two days a month (weekdays only). Delivery is typically between 9:30 - 11:30 AM. We are in particular need of volunteers in Jericho and Underhill.

For more information, please contact the Volunteer Office, volunteer@agewellvt.org or 802-662-5249, or visit https://www.agewellvt.org/giving-back/volunteer/.

Thank you so much for your help.

SPORTS NEWS

Westford Rec offers Parent-and-Me T-ball, soccer

By Amanda Gifford, Westford Recreation Coordinator Summer is finally, really, seriously here!

Be sure to register for the Westford Recreation Parent-and-Me T-ball and soccer programs. Spend an hour with your little one and other kids and parents encouraging life-long wellness! You don't need to be a sports-person to play!

Registrations are due by July 5 — fill out the form at https://forms.gle/fhNPIZrjLMsU4KBBK8 (note: gmail account sign-in required).

Fall K-League soccer registration open

Registration for fall soccer is open for Mansfield United's K-League, a youth soccer program for players born between 2016-2020.

The season runs from September 8 to October 20 and plays at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. The team divisions are:

- Pitchniks (born in 2020): Tuesdays/Sundays;
• Kicks (born 2018-2019): Tuesdays/Sundays;
• Ballers (born 2016-2017): Thursdays/Sundays.

The registration deadline is Sunday, August 18; please register at https://system.gotSPORT.com/programs/958P01938?reg_player.

For more information, please contact mountmansfieldsc@gmail.com.

Fires, swimming prohibited at fishing access areas

With the beginning of summer and anglers fishing from shore, the VT Fish and Wildlife Department reminds people that open fires and swimming are prohibited at all Vermont state fishing access areas.

Open fires and their remnants create unsafe areas for other anglers and boaters to use and enjoy. The remnants of these fires are also unhealthy for the animals and fish that live in the adjacent waters. Fish and Wildlife cleans up the toxic waste left by open fires on state lands annually at considerable expense.

Swimming at fishing access areas is prohibited due to safety concerns and because the primary uses of the fishing access areas is for launching and retrieving motorboats and for shore fishing.

The VT Fish and Wildlife Department maintains 203 developed fishing access areas on lakes and rivers throughout the state. These areas have allowed uses determined by law, and swimming is not one of them.

The access areas were purchased and are maintained with funds derived from the sale of fishing licenses and motorboat registrations, as well as a federal excise tax on fishing equipment, fishing tackle, and gasoline for motorboats. These funding sources explicitly prohibit activities that are in conflict with fishing and boating.

Fish and Wildlife regulations prohibit certain uses of fishing access areas including, but not limited to swimming, littering, camping, picnicking, making a fire, washing dogs, parking of vehicles not related to priority uses, and commercial activity.

"Vermont State Game Wardens will be strictly enforcing the rules at state fishing access areas this summer," said Col. Justin Stedman, Vermont's Chief Game Warden. "Please help keep our lands clean and open for others to enjoy, and report violations to your local warden or use the anonymous Operation Game Thief online report form (https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-regulations/operation-game-thief) or the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website at this link: https://tinyurl.com/yxv8x7tk. Reports of time-sensitive violations should be called in to a local State Police radio dispatcher who can contact a warden."

Pick-up games of Ultimate Disc (Frisbee) on Wednesdays

The Cambridge Rec Department is excited to invite you to its community program for Ultimate Frisbee this summer! Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the sport, we welcome all skill levels for a fun and active evening.

Ultimate Frisbee is a fantastic way to stay fit, meet new people, and enjoy the great outdoors. Bring a friend, bring your enthusiasm, and join us for some friendly competition and lots of fun.

Meetings are Wednesday evenings, 6:00 - 7:30 (ish) PM, through August 28 at the Town fields by Cambridge Elementary School, School Rd., Jeffersonville.

Please check for updates in case of inclement weather at http://www.facebook.com/groups/cambridgeultimate/.

Don't forget to bring water and sunscreen. We look forward to seeing you on the field!

Youth field hockey skills and scrimmages

From the Browns River Action Group (Jericho and Underhill)

GameOnVT is excited to announce our upcoming youth field hockey program designed for both girls and boys! Join us every Tuesday evening, 5:30 - 7:30 PM, from July 2-August 20 on the University of Vermont, Moulton-Winder field hockey field for an exciting session of skill development and friendly scrimmages.

Whether your child is new to field hockey or looking to enhance their skills, this program offers a supportive environment for growth and love of the sport.

There will be two one-hour sessions per night (come for one or stay for both). Learn the game, improve skills, and participate in short field matches for age groups: 9U, 11U, and 13U.

For more information and to sign up, please visit http://www.gameonvt.com. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be part of a fun and low key summer field hockey experience!

Please don't alter tennis courts at JES

By Sarah Brown, Jericho

Whoever keeps putting duct tape lines down on the Jericho Elementary School tennis courts, please stop.

When pulled up, it pulls up paint and leaves sticky marks. The courts are going to be resurfaced soon to a cost of \$30,000. Please, please do not put tape on them! The cameras are on at the school and can be reviewed to see who is doing this repeatedly. If you see someone doing this while you are there, please ask them to stop! There are signs posted asking for no tape.

We are so fortunate to have the courts — please help us maintain them to last for a long time!

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

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We store deliver copies of the paper in Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, Westford, Hinesburg,
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www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

Helping fireflies and other nocturnal animals

From Sabina Ernst and xerces.org
 In celebration of World Firefly Day (overnight, Saturday-Sunday, July 6-7) and in support of fireflies everywhere, we encourage you to consider the impact your lighting activities may have on our nighttime fauna. The theme of this year's World Firefly Day is *Fireflies, Our Cultural Heritage*. Being thoughtful about outdoor lighting can benefit not only fireflies but also other nocturnal animals such as moths and bats.

The most important step to take to protect nocturnal species like fireflies from light pollution is to reduce or eliminate unnecessary outdoor lighting. For fireflies, this is especially important in the summer when adults are active. We can strive to keep as many areas as possible dark at night, while still keeping them safe for humans.

To help fireflies in areas where lights cannot be turned off at night, consider the following options:

- swap bright light bulbs for dim red bulbs, which fireflies are less able to see, or filter existing bulbs to make them dimmer and redder;

- limit outdoor illumination to desired areas such as sidewalks or pathways;
 - place landscape lighting low to the ground to reduce the lit area;
 - shield lights so they point down, rather than radiating outward in all 360 degrees;
 - use motion-detection and/or automatic timers so lights are on only as needed;
 - limit the number of hours that lights are kept on;
 - close your curtains or blinds at night when interior lights are on in order to reduce the amount of light that shines outside of your windows.
- Many of us have fond memories of summer nights watching fireflies. Let's help our future generations have the same opportunities by taking steps to provide firefly habitat and following guidelines to keep our night skies dark.
- For more information, go online to <https://www.xerces.org/blog/world-firefly-day-keep-nights-dark>.



You can see the turning of the stars around Polaris (that is, the rotation of the Earth) but you can't count the flashes from fireflies in this long exposure photo.
 PHOTO BY MIKE LEWINSKI / FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS 2.0

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Patient Testimonial



An Eastern Painted Turtle, often called a "Painter" — is no danger to anyone. This is a big one, that has hibernated through quite a few winters. These turtles are omnivores that like ponds, lakes, marshes, and other bodies of still to sluggish water, with soft bottoms and abundant aquatic vegetation. Liam (hands pictured above) carried the turtle a ways in the direction it was already going and past any danger, and let it go on its way to the pond it was headed toward.
 PHOTO COURTESY OF LIAM RILEY

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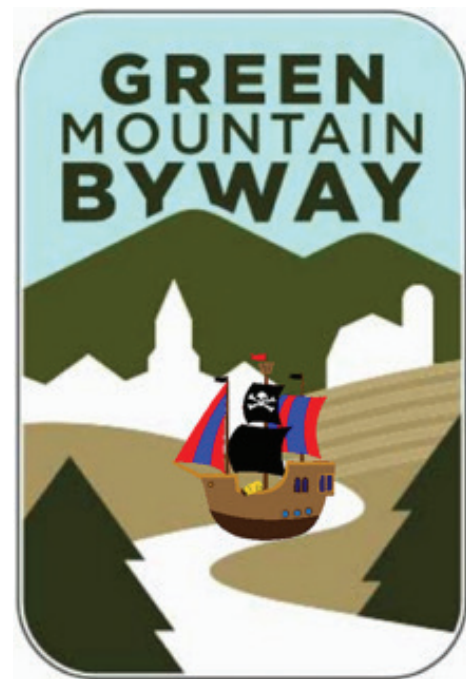
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At their meeting on Wednesday, July 10, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, the Cambridge Historical Society (49 School St., Jeffersonville) will host Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate to regale you with tales Pirates and Smugglers and to discuss the Green Mountain Byway. Free; all are welcome; the building is handicapped accessible. Refreshments will be served (homemade, of course) and COVID masks are available.
 PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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