Town Meeting results

Video Snapshot: Town Meeting Day 2022

By Angelike A. Contis, Mt. Mansfield Community TV Here's a look at what the second year of Town Meeting Day voting without a physical town meeting looked like in our towns: https://archive.org/details/townmeeting2022.

Thanks to all who took a few minutes to talk to us.

Unable to attend a local meeting you're interested in virtually (or in-person)? Here's a handy link to watch most local board meetings live (Monday-Thursday) on MMCTV's Youtube and cable channels: http://mtmansfieldctv.org/live-streams.

WESTFORD

Below are the unofficial results of Town Meeting. Although they are unofficial, they are not expected to change.

Total ballots cast: 532

There were no contested races and the number of write-ins did not exceed the number of votes candidates received, therefore all the candidates on the ballot were elected.

Property Tax Due Dates: Yes, 506 votes; No, 3 votes; 13 undervotes; 1 overvote.

Town Budget: Yes, 438 votes; No, 72 votes; 13 undervotes; 0

Outgoing Town Clerk Nanette Rogers thanks all for their support the past 21 years. It has been an honor serving as Westford Town Clerk! Congratulations to Westford's new Town Clerk, Callie Hamdy!

UNDERHILL

All items voted by Australian ballot.

Article 1: Elect a Moderator for the ensuing year; Dan Manz, 735 votes.

Article 2: To elect all Town Officers and School Directors as required by law:

Selectboard, 3 year: Robert "Bob" N. Stone, 714 votes; Peter K. Duval, 44 votes.

Selectboard, 1 year of a remaining 3 year; Patricia Richards, 682 votes.

Treasurer: Sherri Morin, 757 votes.

Library Trustee Carolyn Greene, 692 votes.

Park District Trustee Dave Williamson, 720 votes.

MMU School Director: Write-in Lisa Pawlik, 107 votes. Write-in Krystal Granzow, 11 votes.

Article 3: Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures of \$1,256,766 of which \$939,278 shall be raised by taxes, \$317,488 by non-tax revenues, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2664? Yes, 619 votes; No, 158 votes.

Article 4 Shall the voters approve total highway fund expenditures of \$1,740,384 of which \$1,320,884 shall be raised by taxes, \$419,500 by non-tax revenue pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2664? Yes, 647 votes; No, 132 votes.

Article 5 Shall the voters authorize the purchase of a dump truck and borrow an amount not to exceed \$192,000 for a term not to exceed five years, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1786 a(b)? Yes, 623 votes: No. 158 votes.

Article 6 Shall the voters approve a full-time administrative position to support staff at the town hall? Yes, 538 votes; No,

Mount Mansfield School District Results: David Clark, Moderator 2589 votes. Pat Straughan, Clerk 2583 votes.

David Clark, Treasurer 2546 votes.

Article 2 authorization to borrow: Yes, 2380 votes; No, 514

Article 3 allocate/assign funds: Yes, 2608 votes; No, 400

Article 4 Budget: Yes, 2196 votes; No, 826 votes.

JERICHO

To view full results of Jericho's Town Meeting, go online to https://jerichovt.org/town-meeting-2022.

Of 4313 total registered voters, 652 cast ballots of which

330 were absentee ballots, as certified by Town Clerk Jessica Alexander and Justice of the Peace and BCA chair Michael Weinberg.

Moderator (select one candidate): David Barrington, 578 votes; there were a total of five write-in votes.

Town Clerk (select one candidate): Jessica Alexander, 616 votes; there were a total of four write-in votes.

Select Board (select one candidate): Wayne Howe, 544 votes; there were a total of six write-in votes.

Cemetery Commissioner (select one candidate): Robert Grandchamp, 183 votes; Bert Lindholm, 343 votes; there were no write-in votes.

Town meeting results continued on page 2



Sugar House Jewelry

By Phyl Newbeck Special to the Mountain Gazette

Erin Cohen grew up in Underhill and Jericho but went south to attend college at the Savannah College of Art and Design. Initially she wanted to be an illustrator but after taking a jewelry-making course as an elective, she changed direction and graduated in 2003 with a BFA in metals and jewelry. "I really like the technical aspect of jewelry making as much as the creative aspect," she said.

At first, Cohen just made jewelry for herself, her family, and friends. When she bought a house on VT Rt. 15 in Jericho with her husband Ben and daughter Savannah, she decided to increase her audience by opening Sugar House Jewelry in 2019. "This is what I've wanted to do all my life," she said. Cohen operates out of a converted garage in her new home. Initially she was open on Fridays and Saturdays but at this point she is open by appointment only with expanded hours around the holidays. Her dog Max is her one-canine welcoming committee.

When Cohen moved back to Vermont after college, she worked at Village Goldsmith in Shelburne for a year but when her father needed help managing his medical practice she began working with him at Vermont Orofacial Pain Associates. She still works there three days a week but since her father is nearing retirement age, she feels comfortable taking the next step with her business. "I had been making jewelry on the side including custom stuff for family and friends," Cohen said. "I had the equipment and I had done enough to keep me somewhat practiced over the years."

Cohen's favorite metal to work with is gold. "It's easier to work with and more reliable," she said. Many of her pieces also include stones and her favorite in that category is opals. "I have a variety of stones I've collected over the years," she said. "I like to find different wholesalers." Cohen has a particular fondness for the boulder opals she gets from a man who owns a mine in

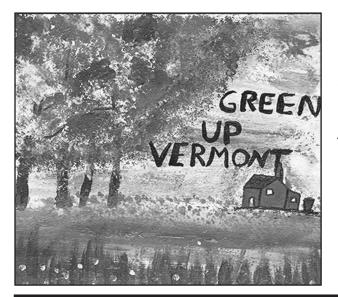
Cohen really enjoys making rings but they are harder to sell because fingers come in different sizes. Some of her designs are popular enough that she makes them in larger quantities to fit a variety of fingers. Much of her work is inspired by the natural world around her and she is more than willing to do custom work if requested.

Although Cohen invites people into her studio, the majority of her sales are from her website, Etsy, or Instagram. Customers have come from as far as California, Oregon, and Texas. Cohen hopes her store will help her reach more local shoppers. "I still don't know if Vermonters are people who really want to adorn themselves," she said. "I'm practical, too, so I understand that jewelry isn't for everyone. I know I have to reach beyond the borders of Jericho and Underhill so I'm learning how to put myself out there and network and do social media. I'm learning how to reach people in a market that is so saturated.'

Owning her own business is still a bit frightening but Cohen is making sure she takes it one day at a time. Having Sugar House Jewelry operate out of her garage is helpful in terms of overhead and she is considering adding other items. Before college, she worked at Chappelle's Florist so selling flowers is a possibility and she loves to bake so that might be an additional line of sales. For now, however, Cohen really enjoys what she does. "I make jewelry because I love the art of creating it and being artistic,' she said. "I have to give myself time and hope I'll have a big



Catch Basin Cleaning



Green Up Day 2022

Contests are now on for Green Up Day 2022! Students grades K-12 in several age categories are welcome to contribute to the contests that feature poster art, writing, video, and jingle contests! Green Up Vermont celebrates taking pride in our state's healthy, clean environments, and encourages our youth to participate in giving back to the planet and their communities. We invite all to enjoy these activities and make a difference in our environment. For lots of information and a poster template, please visit https://greenupvermont.org. Contest deadlines are: Poem or Essay entries must be received by Green Up Vermont by Tuesday, March 1; Video or Jingle entries must be emailed to Green Up Vermont by April 1. Join us for Green Up Day, Saturday, May 7, 2022! Questions? Contact 802-522-7245 or greenup@greenupvermont.org.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

NEWS BRIEFS

Food shelf distribution Good Shepherd Church March 19, April 9

The Essex Jericho Underhill Ecumenical Ministry Food Shelf will hold distributions on Saturday March 19 and Saturday April 9, 9:00 – 10:30 AM, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 273 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Registration occurs on the spot. If it is your first time please bring a piece of identification with a home address.

While the Food Shelf is sponsored by 11 local churches, it is open to all in need.

Distribution takes place outside, with pre-packed bags of staples and fresh food carried out to clients' vehicles. Thanks to many volunteers and donors who work to make the Food Shelf a reality, including local farmers and growers, like Jericho Settlers Farm, and markets like Jericho Market, Price Chopper, and Hannaford, which sponsor donations bins.

The Food Shelf is also grateful to schools, businesses,

News briefs continued on page 3

Town meeting results continued from page 1

Jericho-Underhill Library District Trustee (select one candidate): all votes were write-in votes; each received exactly one vote except Jennifer Greenwood and Nancy Karlson, who each received two votes

Jericho-Underhill Library District Trustee (select one candidate): all votes were write-in votes; each received exactly one vote except Nancy Karlson, who received two votes.

Jericho-Underhill Library District Trustee (select one candidate): Sven Lindholm (on ballot), 548 votes; there were a total of four write-in votes.

[There are still two vacant positions for Jericho Underhill Library District Trustee. Contact Librarian Holly Hall at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library for more information. Jericho voters can be appointed to these positions to fill out the terms.]

Jericho-Underhill Park District Trustee (select one candidate): Olivia Olson Strong (on ballot), 559 votes; there were a total of two write-in votes.

Mt. Mansfield Unified Union School District Board of Directors (select two candidates): Tom Cheney, 539 votes; Chuck Lacy, 495 votes; there were a total of four write-in votes. Article I: to approve the proposed FY2023 Town budget of \$3,235,269: Yes, 570 votes; No, 75 votes.

Article II: to appropriate \$409,699 of the total \$753,988 FY2023 UJFD budget: Yes, 602 votes; No, 40 votes.

Article III: authorizing the Select Board to borrow money for temporary needs of the town; Yes, 547 votes; No, 92 votes.

Article IV: authorizing the collection of Town taxes in accordance with Vermont law; Yes, 612 votes No, 23 votes.

Article V: authorizing the Town to collect taxes in installments on September 15, 2022 and March 15, 2023 with postmarks acceptable; Yes, 591 votes; No, 17 votes.

CAMBRIDGE

Ballots cast: 610.

Candidates for elected office in 2022:

Town Moderator: Jerome Cole, elected.

Town Clerk for 3 years: Dana "Donna" Warren, elected. Town Treasurer for 3 years: Dana "Donna" Warren, elected. Selectboard Member for 3 years: Jeffrey G. Coslett, elected.

Selectboard Member for 2 years: Charles J. Guyette, 199; Cody Marsh, 360, elected.

Auditor for 3 years: Jill Bryce, elected.

Lister for 3 years: Cora Conly, elected.

First Constable for 1 year: Mark Schwartz, elected.

Trustee of Public Money for 1 year: Elise Raymond, elected. Collector of Delinquent Taxes for 1 year: Dana "Donna" Warren, elected.

Library Trustee for 5 years: Jan Schilling, elected. Cemetery Commissioner for 5 years: Jennifer Bartlau, elected.

Article 3: Selectboard Pay, passed 495-106.

Article 4: Delinquent Tax Collector Compensation, passed

376-207. Article 5: Budget passed 349-245

Article 5: Budget, passed 349-245.

Article 6: Culvert Loan Clif Reynolds Rd, passed 429-164. Article 7: Culvert Loan Andrews Rd, passed 427-173.

Article 8: Greenway Path Loan, passed 471-123.

Article 9: Conservation Reserve, passed 446-151

Article 10: Cannabis Retailers, passed 348-248.

Article 11: Constable Prohibit passed 401-163

Article 11: Constable Prohibit, passed 401-163. Article 12: Collection of Taxes, passed 469-114.

SCHOOL VOTING

School Board Director: Mark Stebbins, elected.

Now accepting stock donations

The Jericho Historical Society would like to express thanks for the continued generosity of its many donors to the Old Red Mill Preservation Fund.

The Old Red Mill is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The JHS is now coordinating with *stockdo-nor.com* so that donors can easily gift stocks to us. Donating appreciated stocks can be of up to 20% more valuable than selling and donating the cash. This results in bigger financial gain for the receiver of the gift and saves on the donor's taxes.

Federal capital gains tax can be avoided by donating stock and most donors can claim an income tax deduction for the stock's full market value (state and local income tax deductions may be also available in some areas).

If you are interested in donating stock to the JHS you can go to *stockdonor.com* or contact

Louise Miglionico
68 VT RTE 125 • Jericho, VT 05465 •802-355-5382
LOUMIG@AOL.COM
The JHS is a 501©(3) approved organization.

School Board Director: Heather Hobart, elected. LNMUUSD Director: Laura Miller, elected. School Article 1: Directors pay, passed 487-111. School Article 5: Audited Fund Balance, passed 458-135.

School Article 6: Budget, passed 353-244.

ROLTON

Out of 980 voters, 179 voters participated (with 149 "Challenged" voters), 18.2%.

ARTICLE 01. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote a budget of \$1,165,162 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the town? Yes, 169 votes; No, 9 votes (1 blank): PASSED.

ARTICLE 02. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote to pay the real and personal property taxes to the Town Treasurer in four (4) installments with due dates of September 15, 2022; November 15, 2022; February 15, 2023; and May 16, 2023? Yes, 171 votes; No, 5 votes (3 blank): PASSED.

ARTICLE 03. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the Select Board to add a one quarter cent $(1/4\phi)$ addition to the tax rate to support the Conservation Fund? Yes, 122 votes; No, 48 votes (9 blank): PASSED.

ARTICLE 04. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize cannabis retailers and cannabis integrated licensee operations in the Town of Bolton pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863? Yes, 114 votes; No, 63 votes (2 blank): PASSED.

ARTICLE 05. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the purchase or lease of an Excavator for the Bolton Highway Department, price not to exceed \$110,000, to be financed over a period not to exceed ten years? Yes, 144 votes; No, 35 votes: PASSED.

ARTICLE 06. *To elect all Town Officers as required by law: One Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three (3) years: Penny Tinker.

One Select Board member for a term of two (2) years: Janet Metz.

One Select Board member for a term of three (3) years: Steven

One Select Board member for a term of three (3) years: Steven Goldfield.

One Select Board member for a term of one year remaining on a two (2) year term: Andrew Pond.

One Select Board member for a term of two years remaining on a three (3) year term: Paula Gervia.

One Town Moderator for a term of one (1) year: Leslie Pelch.
One Town Constable for a term of one (1) year: Jonathan

*As all candidates were running unopposed, all were all elected by the presiding officer declaring the slate.

"When the same number of persons are nominated for any town office as there are positions to be filled, the presiding officer may declare the whole slate of candidates elected without making individual tallies, provided each person on the slate has more votes than the largest number of write-in votes for any one write-in candidate." 17 V.S.A § 2682(f).

Westford Community Wastewater Project updates

From the Westford Planning Commission

Funding news: As you may have already heard, the Planning Commission is happy to report that the State of Vermont has committed funding of no less than \$2,377,136 for the Westford Community Wastewater Project. This is the largest grant the Town has ever been awarded and is more than we had expected; even Governor Scott mentioned this commitment to Westford in his State of the State Address! This significant State investment will greatly improve affordability for the Town and system users. And this funding is on top of the Northern Borders Regional Commission grant already awarded in the fall of 2021.

Update on Engineering Team: The Planning Commission was notified in January that Green Mountain Engineering was going to be ending their business. They, like many other businesses in the state, have found it hard to operate with a lack of staffing availability as a result of the pandemic. This creates the need to put on the brakes with the project for a while, as we work with the state to secure a new engineering project lead. We have a lot of great planning work that has already been completed, and will look for a strong team that can pick up the ball and run with it. Due to this development and delays experienced with notifications about state funding, it was necessary for us to revise the project timeline, moving a potential bond vote from Town Meeting in March, to a possible November 2022 vote opportunity. We want to make sure that we have given time and space to make the best decisions about the project and spending, so this extra time will allow for securing a new engineering team, finalizing and agreeing upon the best system design for the town, and estimate costs for taxpayers.

Project spending so far: We thought it might be helpful to lay out what the project spending to date looks like. It's hard to believe that work on this project began back in 2007! Below is a summary of what's been spent to date on the project, and what the source of that spending was.

Planning Grants and Town Expenditures:

• 2007-2008 Planning Advance: The Town received a "planning advance" from the State of Vermont to fund the

first Feasibility Study. This Feasibility Study determined the status of existing wastewater systems and completed a desktop identification of suitable soils for a community wastewater system in the Town Center Area. The Feasibility Study also included recommendations for securing and utilizing grandfathered systems in the Town Center Area. The planning advance consisted of \$15,000 in State funds, which is normally repaid by inclusion in the bond amount if the system is constructed. However, the State recently proposed zeroing out this loan with a Pollution Control Grant if the system is constructed. There is no payback requirement if a community system is not constructed.

• 2012-2013: Town General Fund: The Town spent \$673 to investigate the soils and existing wastewater system at the Spiller property. This data was critical during discussions with the Agency of Natural Resources to secure the "grandfathered" system capacity that now serves the Westford Country Store and Café.

• 2013-2014 Municipal Planning Grant & Planning Commission Special Project Funds: The Town received a \$10,715 municipal planning grant. The majority of this grant was used to update the zoning bylaws for the Town Center Area, specifically developing the Form Based Code. A small portion (\$1999) was used for soil testing of municipal and community owned properties identified in 2007-2008 to investigate possible suitability for onsite wastewater. The local match requirement was \$120 paid from Planning Commission Special Project Funds. The Town's knowledge of soil conditions at the Town Office, Town Common, Brick Meeting House, and Common Hall is a result of this investigation.

• 2015-2016 Municipal Planning Grant & Planning Commission Special Project Funds: The Town secured an additional Municipal Planning Grant to investigate the soils at the Jackson Property, now known as the Maple Shade Town Forest. This involved a \$15,826 grant with \$2608 a local match requirement paid from Planning Commission Special Project Funds.

• 2017-2018 General Fund: The Town purchased a legal easement to place a proposed valve vault and dosing station on private property across the road from the proposed future wastewater area. The total cost was \$5893.

• 2018-2019 Planning Commission Special Project Funds: The Town spent \$7105 to further investigate suitable soils at the Jackson Property and develop conceptual wastewater plans. This investigation was funded from Planning Commission Special Projects Funds.

• 2020-2021 Step 1 Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund: The Town received "Step 1" approval to fund a Preliminary Engineering Report and Environmental Information Document which are required to receive additional State and Federal funding. The total cost was \$39,050, with 50% (\$19,525) funded by the State. The remaining \$19,525 has been rolled into the Step 2 Clean Water Revolving Loan (see below) and will be rolled into the total bond/grant amount if the system is constructed. If the system is not constructed this amount will be repaid per the amortization schedule from Planning Commission Special Project Funds.

• 2021-2022 Step 2 Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund: The Town received "Step 2" approval to fund final design, permitting, and other engineering necessary for an informed bond vote. The total project cost \$250,531. The first \$125,000 is structured as a fully "forgivable loan" with no payback requirements regardless of whether or not the system is constructed. At the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the Selectboard specifically directed that no part of the remaining cost be incurred prior to receiving additional funding or a positive bond vote.

Construction Grant Funding:

• 2021 Northern Borders Regional Commission/Economic Development Administration: The Town has been awarded a \$466,194 grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission/ Economic Development Administration for construction of the system.

• 2022 State of Vermont Pollution Control Grant: The Town has informally been offered a \$15,000 Pollution Control Grant in order to zero out the Planning Advance received in 2007-2008. Confirmation of said award would occur upon submission of a Step 3 Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund application for construction.

• 2022 State of Vermont American Rescue Plan Act: The State of Vermont has notified the Town that the State will award no less than \$2,377,136 in American Rescue Plan Act funds dedicated to village wastewater solutions. The details of this grant are still being worked out at the State level and additional information will be provided when available.

Since 2007, the Town has spent \$16,399 in town funds in order to leverage \$174,622 in state grants. The grant money was used to investigate potential solutions to long standing wastewater challenges in the Town Center Area. The Town has recently secured over \$2.4 million in construction grants.

Stay tuned for more updates through the coming weeks and months, and visit the project website to stay up to date: https://www.westfordsfuture.com/. You can also follow the project on Facebook, at https://www.facebook.com/WestfordsFuture.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 19

NWVt Model Railroad Association Model Train Show, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center, I89 exit 19, St. Albans. Postponed from March 12 due to winter storm! The show will feature multiple operating layouts, in addition to over 100 tables of exhibits and vendors of model railroading supplies and railroad videos and books. There will be a face painter and hands-on train activities for children. A food stand will be available at the show. Admission: adults \$6, children 6-12 years old \$2, children under 6 free. Special admission for family with an active military ID, \$6. For more information, contact Ron Piro, 802-598-0905 or ronpiro@aol. com. Website: www.nwvrailroad.org.

What is a "Reasonably Exhaustive Search?" 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom. In anything we do, failure to use standards can result in frustration or failure. For genealogists our rule is the Genealogical Proof Standard or GPS, which defines five elements to measure whether our research efforts reach sound conclusions; its first element calls on us to conduct a "reasonably exhaustive search." In this talk Joanne Polanshek, a certified genealogist, will teach us what a reasonably exhaustive search is and how we can know when we've achieved it. Using examples, she will explain how researchers can determine "what" and, just as importantly, "what not" to search. All classes at the VT Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars; cost is \$10. Please visit our website, www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

The Nuts and Bolts of Forest Management, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Hinesburg Town Forest. Join Women Owning Woodlands Vermont (WOW VT) and the Vermont Land Trust to view a forest management project being implemented in the Hinesburg Town Forest. Explore the ins and outs of this project and cover tree identification, wildlife habitat improvements, logging equipment, layout of woods roads to protect soil and water quality, marking trees using science-based principals, and any other questions you may have. WOW VT programs are tailored towards those who identify as female, but all are welcome. Trip leaders: Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester; Andrea Shortsleeve, Habitat Biologist, VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife; and Caitlin Cusack, VLT Forester. For more information and to register: https://join.vlt.org/event/the-nuts-and-bolts-of-forest-management/e394778.

Saturday-Sunday, March 19-20

VT Maple Open House Weekend #1, both days, statewide. The Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association (VMSMA) is bringing back its popular springtime event and expanding it to two weekends. Visitors are invited into sugarhouses to learn, taste, and explore VT maple. Open House activities include sugarhouse tours; sampling syrup; tours of the woods; pancake breakfasts; horse-drawn sleigh rides; sugar-on-snow parties; and plenty of maple products to taste including maple donuts, maple cotton candy, and maple creemees! For lots more information, please go online to https://vermontmaple.org/mohw.

Coming events continued on page 5



Get ready to start the bidding when our Spring Virtual Art Auction launches Friday, March 18! Online at https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/event/spring-virtual-art-auction, the auction runs through Sunday, March 27. Featuring talented local artists, this auction is a chance to support Vermont's creative community while bringing something beautiful into your life. With a wide variety of artwork spanning a multitude of mediums, techniques, and styles, there's sure to be something to delight every art lover. Proceeds directly support artists and ensure access to arts-based learning for community members of all ages, regardless of their ability to pay. We hope you will join us as we come together in support of BCA and the vibrant arts community we all love.

News briefs continued from page 2

and churches who have held recent food drives. Financial contributions can be sent to P.O. Box 65, Jericho, VT 05465, and questions to *ejufoodshelf@gmail.com*.

Westford roads are posted for mud season

By Nanette Rogers

The Road Foreman has posted all town roads in anticipation of mud season. Roads will remain posted until the Road Foreman determines that mud season is over, which will be sometime in April or May depending on the severity. Occasionally, heavy trucks are permitted on the roads with permission of the road foreman. This is determined on a case-by-case basis. Please contact John Roberts, 802-879-4306, for any questions pertaining to the roads being posted.

This is a good time to remind people of road maintenance during mud season. If you have lived in Westford for at least one mud season, you are well aware of how quickly the roads get muddy and ruts appear, and how long they stay that way.

The severity of mud season will depend on how deep the frost is and how long it takes to come out of the ground, as well as how much sun and wind there is. The Road Foreman will be checking roads to determine if there are any places that need attention. The Road Crew will be doing as much as they can to repair roads but without causing further damage, which can be caused by driving heavy dump trucks loaded with stone over unfrozen roads.

As mud season gets underway, the Town would appreciate your patience and understanding. We realize driving the back roads is difficult and hard on your cars and can be frustrating. We strongly suggest residents take the shortest route possible to a paved road even though this may not be the shortest route to your destination. Reducing travel on the gravel roads as much as possible is recommended to minimize damage to the roads.

Thank you for your understanding while we maneuver through this season together.

Mills Riverside Park Board opening for Underhill representative

The Mills Riverside Park is a shared gem, and responsibility, between the towns of Underhill and Jericho. Board members are appointed by the towns, with four from Jericho and three from Underhill. Currently Underhill is underrepresented. You do not need to be a day-to-day park user to be on the board.

We are looking for a person to bring energy and an interest in making the park a safe and enjoyable destination for members of our town as well as folks visiting from greater Chittenden County, and beyond. If you have a twinkling of interest and you want to find out more about the workings of the board, please contact Livy Strong at *jupdistrict@ gmail.com*.

Also, take a moment to visit the Park's website at http://millsriversidenark.org/.

Jericho Community Center a treasure

By Julia Blake

Jericho possesses a treasure that many communities lack: an active Community Center housed in a historic building. At present, the Center needs a large infusion of money, and a fundraising request has gone out to all local residents.

Many repairs and improvements to the 172-year-old building have been made recently, but more challenges have arisen. If you can help, please send a donation to Jericho Center Preservation Association (which owns the Community Center), P.O. Box 1018, Jericho, VT 05465. Any size donation will be appreciated.

The Community Center is run by volunteers, and all donations are tax-deductible. The building is available for rental for parties, reunions, meetings, classes, almost anything. In 2021 over 3000 visits were made to the Center, which offers a welcoming space and helps sustain this vibrant community. The CC is a valuable resource that we do not want to lose! Check it out at http://ccjvermont.com/.

Reminder to taxpayers to file HS-122

By Dale Copping, Cambridge Lister

This notification from the Town of Cambridge Listers is a reminder to file HS-122 Vermont Homestead Declaration. This form must be filed every year, by every Vermont resident whose property meets the definition of a homestead

property meets the definition of a homestead.

A Vermont Homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of

land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by a resident individual, as the individual's domicile on April 1, 2022.

If your homestead is leased to a tenant on April 1, 2022, you may still claim it as a homestead if it is not leased for more than 182 days in the 2022 calendar year. You must claim any business or rental use of the dwelling. You should also file HI-144 Household Income as you may qualify for a property tax credit.

Household Income as you may qualify for a property tax credit. The forms must be submitted by April 15, 2022 even if you file for an extension on your 2021 taxes. If filed after April 15, 2022, the Town of Cambridge will access a 3% late filing fee.

The deadline for filing these forms with the State of Vermont is October 17, 2022. If filed past this date, you will not be able to claim a homestead or be eligible for a property tax credit.

The forms are available on the Agency of Taxes website: https://tax.vermont.gov/search/node?keys=HS-122.

Richmond Rec committee seeks Bolton volunteers

By Ravi Venkataraman, Richmond Town Planner

The Greater Richmond Recreation Committee is currently looking for volunteers to serve as Bolton representatives.

The overall goals of the committee are to guide the creation and management of aesthetically pleasing, safe, healthful, and enjoyable public areas in Richmond, and to design positive, costeffective programs for children, youth, adults and seniors in the community.

The committee encourages anyone interested in serving on the committee to apply. All are welcome, and the committee needs unique perspectives.

Although this committee is known as the Town of Richmond Recreation Committee, this committee does have reserved positions for Bolton and Huntington residents respectively. This committee aims to provide programs and services for Bolton and Huntington residents as well as Richmond residents. And, this committee needs representation from Bolton and Huntington.

More information about the application process and deadlines can be found on the Town of Richmond website, http://www.richmondvt.gov/boards-minutes/vacancies-town-boards-commissions/.

Please don't hesitate to contact me, rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov, if you have any questions.

Westford news and notes

Draft Selectboard minutes from the board's February 23, 2022 meeting are now available to read at: https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-02-23-Draft-Minutes.pdf.

EWSD Annual School Meeting Vote: The Essex-Westford School Districy Annual School Meeting vote will occur on Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Based on a decision of the School Board, ballots are being mailed to all active registered voters. Their decision was based on temporary changes that were made to the election laws due to COVID. Ballots will be mailed around March 23, 2022. If you do not receive a ballot, please contact the Town Office, 802-878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us. Polls will be open at the Westford School, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, for in-person voting an April 12; the Town Office will be closed on that day. If you have any questions about the proposed EWSD budget, please visit www.ewsd.org/budget.

Dog licenses are due by Friday, April 1. A current rabies certificate is required. If you are unsure if the current certificate is on file, please call the Town Office, 802-878-4587. If you no longer have your dog or your dog has passed away, please let us know. For your convenience you may mail or drop off the fee and rabies certificate along with a self-addressed stamped envelope, and your license will be mailed to you. The fee until April 1 is \$13 for intact dogs and \$11 if your dog is spayed or neutered. Dog licenses obtained after April 1 are subject to a late fee.



Blue Mall, So. Burlington • 802-863-8306 Factory Location, Route 15, Jericho • 802-899-3373 SnowflakeChocolate.com Assessor visits: The Town of Westford has contracted with NEMRC (New England Municipal Resource Center) for assessing services. Property owners who received a building permit for this past year, or have one from a prior year, can expect a visit from the assessor. This inspection is separate from the Zoning Administrator. The assessor will stop by your property to gather the information necessary to determine the assessed value of your project. They will leave a notice letting you know they were there. Notices of Change of Appraisal will be sent in May. If you have any questions, please contact us at listers@westfordvt.us.

MUD SEASON! What you need to know about early spring road conditions:

Mud appears on gravel roads as snow thaws. Reduce your driving speeds to ensure safety and to preserve road conditions. Snow: a mix of precipitation can occur. Snow on top of muddy roads will become more slippery.

Potholes WILL appear on gravel roads. They cannot be fixed in freezing temperatures. Do your part to help reduce potholes by driving slowly and avoiding areas in poor condition if you can.

Heavy loads do damage to thawing roads. Traveling roads with heavy equipment may be prohibited at any time.

Roads are repaired as weather allows. Know that this takes time; it might take the road crew some time to get to your road. Highly traveled roads in poor condition are given priority.

Reminders: Watch for increased activity by wildlife including bears coming out of hibernation, wild turkeys and young animals navigating roads for the first time. Pedestrian and recreational use of roads will increase starting at this time of the year.

Mutual Aid Food Pantry: A huge THANK YOU for supporting the 24/7 food pantry on the porch of the Westford Country Store & Cafe. Just a reminder — canned goods and liquids will burst when left out in cold weather, so please drop those off in the bin inside the store. Boxed cereal, dried pasta, granola bars, and toilet paper are all great for the cupboard outside. Don't forget the dry pet food.

Donate Your Used Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids for Recycling
— The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club have placed collection
boxes in the Westford Library and Westford Town Clerk's
Office. The Collection Boxes are there for anyone who has used
eyeglasses and used hearing aids who wishes to donate them for
recycling. All you need to do is deposit them in the boxes and
the Jericho-Underhill Lion's Club will take care of it from there.

The Recreation Department is planning an Easter Egg Hunt for Saturday-Sunday, April 16-17. Watch for more details in April's Westford Newsletter.



The Mountain Gazette

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mtngazette@gmavt.net

HEALTH NEWS

Memorable Times Online and Medicare & You at CVCOA

From the Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA)

Memorable Times Online is a relaxed social time for people living with mild to moderate memory loss and their care partners, sponsored by Central Vermont Council on Aging in partnership with ABLE Libraries of the state of Vermont. Memorable Times Online meets over Zoom on the first Wednesday of the month, 10:30 – 11:30 AM, and features a different theme each month. Register to join in Memorable Times Online by calling CVCOA, 802-479-0531, or the CVCOA Helpline, 802-477-1364.

Medicare & You workshops are offered regularly to help individuals who are new to the Medicare system. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CVCOA is offering Medicare & You sessions remotely on Zoom. If you want to participate, preregister by calling 802-479-0531 or by sending an email with your name, address, phone number, and the date of the workshop you would like to register for, to medicareworkshops@cvcoa. org. We will then email you information on how to join in the workshop session on Zoom. These workshops are held monthly, with the next offering on Tuesday, March 22, 1:30 – 3:30 PM. For a full list of dates and times, please visit https://www.cvcoa.org/insurance-medicare-counseling.html.

Are you searching for rewarding employment and the

opportunity to make a difference in the lives of older adults in Central Vermont? Visit the CVCOA Employment page to learn more about open positions: https://www.cvcoa.org/employment.html

Take a deep breath but beware of inhalants

While parents of teenagers may feel they are aware of substance abuse issues, many parents have not yet heard about inhalants and their danger. In fact, inhalants are now the third-most abused substance in 12- to 14-year olds after alcohol and tobacco use, with one recent study suggesting that by age 14, one in ten eighth-graders have tried inhalants at least once.

What they are

Inhalants are common products easily accessible at home or at school, such as hair spray, nail polish remover, glue, or even felt tip markers. Teens are misusing these items by breathing them up their nose and throat into their lungs, thinking that the chemicals used in these products gives them a high. What teens don't know is that these products are addictive and can cause severe damage to the body by entering the blood through the lungs. The substances affect oxygen delivery to the brain and other organs, resulting in headaches, mood changes, depression, muscle weakness, permanent brain damage, and even death from asphyxia, choking. and fatal heart rhythms — even with a single usage.

How to tell if your child is using inhalants

You may find that their breath and clothing smells like chemicals or that there are spots and sores around the mouth. They appear to be having mood swings, have trouble paying attention, appear weak or tremulous, or seem drunk, dazed, always tired to the point of exhaustion, or glassy eyed with frequent nose running, coughing, extremely bad breath, and deny using alcohol or drugs, and are frequently nauseous with loss of appetite or quite irritable and anxious.

Treatment options

Treatment is long-term since most parents don't find out about this problem until it is an addictive habit. Treatment involves dealing with withdrawal symptoms such as sweating, headaches, and nervousness, as well as the many social problems these teenagers can have that will require professional counseling as well as assistance from your teen's health care professional.

Therefore, the best thing to do is to prevent such abuse from occurring by talking about this with your child or teen before they use these substances and watch for signs of such abuse. Build your teenager's self-esteem and confidence so they do not need drugs such as inhalants to feel good about themselves.

Hopefully, tips like these will allow parents to sniff out the problem of inhalants before it really becomes a problem. Lewis First, MD, is Chief of Pediatrics at UVM Children's Hospital and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the UVM's Larner College of Medicine.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Climate change, rural communities, and state policy

By Lucy Rogers, State Representative, Lamoille-3
March 4

Climate change is one of the greatest threats facing humanity in the twenty-first century. It is a threat so grave and severe, and so global in nature, that I have been unsure how to address it in local forums. That's one of the reasons this is my first post exclusively about climate change in four years of legislating. However, it is a conversation long overdue and one that is deeply entwined with the future of our community, so I will address it as frankly and openly as I can.

As a young person, I feel the threat of climate change deeply and personally. I am fearful for what changes I will see in my lifetime. As a scientist, I have the training to know that my fears are not unfounded.

By the end of my lifetime, the land currently inhabited by humans is projected to have warmed by an average of thirteen degrees Fahrenheit, since Earth's land is warming faster than her waters. This means that more than a third of the Earth's current population lives in a climate that within 50 years will become so hot it cannot sustain human life. The increased heat has potential to cause social unrest, agricultural crop failure, large-scale ecological changes, and mass human migration. In Vermont, like much of the world, we have already experienced stronger weather events due to climate change, and the severity of these storms is only projected to increase in the coming decades.

In the policy realm, I have primarily focused on "climate resiliency" work, meaning work to ensure that our infrastructure in Vermont is ready to withstand greater storms and flooding, and that our food, healthcare, and energy systems are designed locally enough to survive future disruptions to the global economy we so often took for granted before COVID. This "climate resiliency" work is crucial to our ability in Vermont to change with the changing world and continue to thrive in the coming generations.

Climate resiliency is something we know with certainty we can influence on a state level, so it can feel more tangible to work on this issue. In contrast, greenhouse gas emissions reduction work in Vermont can feel more abstract: despite the real and present threat of global climate change, eliminating all of Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions tomorrow would be a massive lift for the state and still not more than a rounding error in the global greenhouse gas emissions calculation.

However, I am increasingly coming to recognize and believe that if done the right way, climate resiliency work and greenhouse gas emissions reduction work are more closely linked that I had previously thought. Many of the goals that will lead us toward more local and reliable energy sources, cleaner air to breathe, better public transportation in our rural areas, and insulated homes with lower heating costs in the winter, are also the same goals that create emissions reductions as well.

I am wary of policies such as an increased fuel tax, which I have adamantly opposed each time it has come up in the Legislature, that directly pit greenhouse gas emissions reduction against cost of living in a way that most harms low- and moderate-income Vermonters. With careful planning and sound policy work,

however, I do think we can move forward with greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in a way that increases, rather than harms, the quality of life across demographic groups in Vermont. Furthermore, after having been in politics for a few years, I am more aware of the way in which Vermont policies influence national policies, and national policies influence international policies, and the impact of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in Vermont could be far more than just a rounding error when viewed holistically.

As the House Energy and Technology committee and the Legislature generally grapple with these issues and work on constructing the Clean Heat Standard bill, I anticipate that this is only an initial post, and I will be writing more on this topic in the coming weeks and months.

Let's talk! My contact information is *LRogers@leg.state*. vt.us and 802-730-0604, and please send me your thoughts about how we move forward carefully and constructively on climate resilience and climate change work in Vermont while not harming Vermonters in the meantime.

It is an honor to serve our community and to grapple with such difficult and complicated issues as these.

VT House legislative update

By Theresa Wood, State Representative Washington-Chittenden

February 25

As we moved towards the Town Meeting Break (next week) and the cross-over deadline (the date by which all bills need to be voted out of committee in order to be considered this year), there has been a great deal of activity. In the last couple of weeks, the following bills or propositions have seen action:

Proposition 2 — this proposal seeks to amend the Vermont Constitution to make it clear that slavery and indentured servitude are prohibited. This will now be on the ballot in the November election for all Vermont voters to have their say. https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/PR.2

Proposition 5 — this proposal also seeks to amend the Vermont Constitution to insure that each Vermonter has personal reproductive liberty. This will now be on the ballot in the November election for all Vermont voters to have their say. https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/PR.5

H.510— is an act pertaining to creating a child tax credit and increasing the income tax threshold for people receiving Social Security. https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.510

H.559—this bill proposes to set the annual rate of contribution for the Workers' Compensation Administrative Fund. https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.559

H.628 — this bill proposes to enable an individual to amend their birth certificate to reflect gender identity. https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.628

H.556 — this bill proposes to exempt certain lands that are owned by Vermont-recognized Native American tribes from property tax. https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.556

H.411 — this bill refers to the retrieval and use of certain animals; for some this is referred to as the "wanton waste" bill. https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.411

H.456 — this is an act that establishes strategic goals and reporting requirements for the Vermont State Colleges. https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.456

H.697 — this bill proposes to add certain reserve forest land to the Value Use Appraisal Program. https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.697

In my committee (House Human Services), we have been working on several bills including one to increase the service options for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. We are also working on a bill to provide a foundation for the use of the recent opioid settlement funds that will flow to Vermont over the next 18 years.

Thank you for catching up and for reaching out with your questions, concerns and comments. As always, I can be reached at twood@leg.state.vt.us.

Town Meeting Report

By Thomas Stevens and Theresa Wood State Representatives, Washington-Chittenden March 1

Prior to the pandemic, Theresa and I would be visiting the Town Meetings by our three towns, talking to you in person about what's happening in Montpelier this year. But once more, we are reflecting on the public safety needs and not able to meet in person. So, we'll share some of the highlights of the session

thus far. As always, please feel free to reach out with questions or if you need help with state services. It remains an honor to serve as your state representatives. Please reach out anytime with ideas, questions and concerns.

Racial Justice in Vermont's Constitution: Proposal 2 clarifies language in the anti-slavery clause of the Vermont Constitution. Although Vermont was the first state to ban slavery and indentured servitude, it did not prohibit those practices for individuals under 21 years old. Proposal 2 would amend Article 1 of the Constitution to provide that "slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited." The proposal recognizes and respects the reality of descendants of enslaved Africans brought to this country, and this state, against their will.

Proposal 5: Reproductive Liberty Amendment: The decision of whether or when to become a parent is deeply personal and central to our lives. For many decades, Vermont has recognized these reproductive choices as a fundamental right that should be free from government restrictions. Proposal 5 would enshrine reproductive autonomy and liberty into our state's constitution, ensuring that this right is preserved for future generations.

The passage of Proposal 5 has been deliberate and inclusive, including a four-year legislative process, and two public hearings in which we received testimony from groups both supporting and opposing the amendment. After hearing from these diverse voices, the House has passed Prop 5 with an overwhelming majority, sending the constitutional amendment before the voters during the 2022 November election.

Reproductive choices affect both men and women in their freedom to become a parent, to choose or refuse sterilization, or to receive contraceptive birth control. However, we have witnessed the Supreme Court threaten to overturn protections provided by *Roe v. Wade*, as well as states across the country impose harsher laws restricting abortion. The passage of Proposal 5 is a historic opportunity at a critical time for our nation.

Changing the Vermont Constitution is a four-year process. The General Assembly has done their work in passing this language in two successive biennia. Now it is your turn! These amendments go to the voters in November.

Redrawing Vermont's Legislative Districts: Every ten years, after the U.S. Census is taken, Vermont must adjust legislative districts to accurately reflect any changes in population. Our state Constitution spells out the criteria for reapportionment: districts must maintain equality of representation, have one or two Representatives, and make sense geographically.

This year, the complex and lengthy process was delayed by months because the Census was unable to deliver population numbers on time. This put our work behind schedule. The Census reported that Vermont's population grew a little, with population declining in some areas (especially in Southern and Northeast Vermont) and increasing in others (primarily in Northwest Vermont).

The Census information guided the independent Legislative Apportionment Board's work in providing recommendations for redistricting. Based on these recommendations and those of Boards of Civil Authority, the House Government Operations Committee has been preparing a final redistricting plan to present to the full House. District boundaries should be finalized sometime in April.

COVID-19 Resilience: The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact Vermont's communities. The House has taken actions to extend emergency COVID-19 policies for healthcare providers, including flexible access to tele-health for substance use and mental health counseling. Even before reconvening in January, House leadership worked to secure stronger mask policies and support for Vermonters experiencing homelessness.

After enduring the stress of the pandemic, we know many community-based human-services providers need more support. This means ensuring that compensation keeps pace with a livable wage and reflects the value of the essential services they provide to Vermont's most vulnerable.

Meanwhile, the House Human Services Committee has taken expert testimony to understand the latest COVID-19 guidance. We've confirmed that approved vaccinations for children are not only safe, but one of the single most important measures to reduce child hospitalizations nationwide. Since the fast-spreading Omicron variant has demanded rapid testing and high-quality masking, we've pushed for clear and practical guidance, especially for Vermont's childcare providers.

Vermont Welcomes Refugees: Vermont continues to welcome refugees fleeing violence in other nations. We want to ensure that our tax system supports Vermonters who step up to host refugees in their homes. H.461 would exclude the income of new refugees from the calculation of household income for the purpose of property tax relief.

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COMMUNITY COLUMNS

My experiment

By Sue Kusserow Special to the Mountain Gazette

I was thumbing through a stack of catalogues that had accumulated since the New Year. It seems I had been added to another list of pants, tees, denims, and other miscellaneous items of wear. The only one I recognized was from The Vermont Country Store... a fun one to rifle through and see the nice array of colors "for spring," which are supposed to make us think that amidst the snowy hills is a delightful outfit that will convince one that winter will soon be on it way out. Most of us smile wistfully (with a touch of sarcasm), knowing that Easter with its straw and beribboned bonnets is for countries below our boundaries.

One magazine has suggestions for dealing with anxiety that has exploded in last year; another has the Buddha cure for dukkha (suffering): meditation and mindfulness. It presents some easyto-read medical advances and a short article with an intriguing title: Hugging's Evolutionary Origins. It reminds us that a cozy embrace "is necessary to the survival of our species... we all start life being completely dependent on others to survive; we need to be comfortable and secure when we are held." Communities evolved from small groups of people, who found that banding together was a better way to multi-task this new role. Both social researchers who contributed to this article stressed the need to feel comfortable being held, as a baby's lifeline to his new role.

A small, beckoning insert, printed in electric blue, states that:
SIX SECONDS: HOW LONG YOU SHOULD HOLD A HUG TO OPTIMIZE THE RELEASE OF MOOD-BOOSTING HORMONES.

The article was written as a pleasant reading about a pleasant subject. No data was given, although both hormones — oxytocin (the bonding hormone) and serotonin (the happy hormone) were listed as the Mood Boosters.

Now it was time to establish an experimental group. I explained to each participant what I had read and why I needed to establish a base line of "normality" before I could judge if six seconds were enough to produce "mood boosting hormones." I found that most of the experimental group had no difficulty maintaining a hug for six seconds, and seemed quite willing to join any future experiments regarding hugging.

When administering an embrace, I could feel a slight pullingaway or ending to the hug, by the members of the control group. This occurred between two and three seconds. It was a tacit feeling of "thank you, but that's enough." Some people were quite formal, bending their bodies so that it mimicked an A-frame house: a warmth to the faces, but with no attempt to connect with any other part of the body. I kept count of these quasi-hugs, but eventually added them into the control group, in a separate notation called GH (Greenwich Hug). And a separate column was established for those of my friends who had a stated preference for a longer hug. (I excluded, as did the text of the article, any data that pointed to a gender bias.)

Obviously, as one can see, there needs to be more diligent research, with presently-unexplained variables (time more closely monitored, gender of participants, previous biases, childhood teachings about closeness, type of enveloping clothing, etc.) But it is hoped that NIH funding will be available in the future, so that some reasonable conclusions may be reached. As we scientists know, we cannot trust... or even use... data that has not had a more controlled and "sterner" outline. Please let me know if you wish to become part of the control group. The experimental group as enough new members, particularly since we eliminated any blood drawings to test for a change in hormone levels.

N B: All research proposals must be presented to the Ethics Review Board of the institution who supports any type of inquiry. The research team did not submit their proposal, since it was felt that this study generously rewarded participants as an integral part of the design of the study.

Grandpa's Chevy

By Joe Nelson

Grandpa was proud of his old car. I didn't know why — it wasn't snazzy like Uncle's green pickup truck with GMC on the grill. Grandpa called his car Chevy, because that's what it was: a Chevrolet. He'd bought Chevy in the late '30s before our country went to war. Uncle told me you couldn't get a new car after the war started, because the factories were making jeeps and tanks instead, but they were still making trucks and machinery for the

Chevy was a black two-door sedan, with running boards and two big doors. Grandpa took all the seats out of it but the driver's seat to make room for egg crates when he took them to the stores in town. You see, he and Grandma had hundreds of chickens and were in business selling eggs and dressed chickens wholesale. Uncle ran the dairy part of the family business.

Grandpa and Grandma gathered the eggs twice a day, Grandma washed them, and peered through each of them in front of a light to be sure there was nothing in them but egg. She called it candling. Then they packed the eggs in egg crates and put the

Grandpa was what he called, economical. Rather than go through the expense of replacing a bad starter motor, Grandpa started Chevy with a crank — in that model year, General Motors still provided the feature. He turned the crank hard and Chevy started with a rattle and a roar.

Uncle just shook his head. "That car is going to kick back and break his arm one day," he said. "That's a high compression engine he's cranking.'

It never did kick back.

I remember my first ride in Chevy. Grandpa called me to the parlor from his chair in front of the radio. He had a newspaper

spread out on his lap.

"There's a Wallace Beery picture-show at the movie house in the village Saturday," he said. "He's my favorite actor. Want to

This was a stunner! Grandpa has never asked me or my sister to go anywhere with him before! He wasn't social: he just tended his chickens and listened to his radio. Well, sometimes he'd do a jig, or play a drum solo on the dining room door while singing in broken Italian, but that was mostly to annoy Grandma. She'd shout: "Sam you old fool! Act your age!"

'Sure, Grandpa," I answered quickly before he could change his mind. "I'd like to go; Beery is one of my favorites too!" I hadn't been to a movie for a long time.

Saturday morning after the milking and egg gathering, Grandpa and I were ready to go to the matinee at the village movie house. He didn't borrow Uncle's truck like I thought he would, he led me to Chevy!

"Grandpa, where do I sit? There're no seats in there!" "Why, sure there are."

He set an empty egg crate on the bare floor next to the driver's

"There you are."

'Sam!" snapped Grandma. "Don't make him sit on that! Put the old seat back, it's right there in the basement!"

Grandpa got the seat, shaking his head the while, and pinned it into place. The seat was designed to tip forward so people could get into the back seat when the back seat was there, and of course, there were no seatbelts either.

Old Chevy started with one turn of the crank, and we were off, rolling down the half-mile long driveway to the highway in second gear. Grandpa drove everywhere in second gear, and he never said why. It might be that the high gear wasn't there.

We saw the movie and had a long discussion on other movies Wallace Beery had made. I found that Grandpa could be a lot of fun to be with. I'll never forget our little trip to the movie house. Old Chevy started again with one crank, and we were on our

Community columns continued on page 6

Jericho Range to host public tours March 17, 19

The Vermont Army National Guard will host public tours of Camp Ethan Allen Training Site (CEATS) on Thursday, March 17 and Saturday, March 19. Those interested in participating in the public tour can find more information, including registration details, at www.vtguard.com/CEATS. Due to transportation constraints, each tour is limited to the first 20 registrants.

The tour will include an overview of the VT Army National Guard organization and capabilities, a visit to the construction site of a new Army Mountain Warfare School, and a stop at the renowned biathlon course.

"This tour program represents another opportunity for us to engage with our communities," said Maj. Gen. Greg Knight, VT Adjutant General. "The range has been here for a long time, but many people have never had the opportunity to see what kind of training occurs here."

Located in Jericho since the 1920s, CEATS provides training opportunities not available in any other New England state. The Army Mountain Warfare School serves as the only military mountaineering school in the United States Army, serving students from all branches of the military as well as foreign allies. The VT National Guard acts as the program manager for the National Guard biathlon program, and CEATS boasts what many consider the best biathlon course in eastern America.

Consisting of over 11,000 acres, CEATS also serves as the home to the headquarters of the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain), as well as the headquarters and Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion 172nd Infantry (Mountain). The mission of the Range is to provide equitable, effective, and efficient management of CEATS resources to support force readiness and execution of federal, state, and local missions, while improving infrastructure and preserving the environment. They are tasked to support the training of Infantry Brigade Combat Teams in individual, team, and squad validation.

To register for the tour, complete the contact form located on www.vtguard.com/CEATS. For additional questions contact VT National Guard Public Affairs Deputy 1st Lt. Nathan Rivard, 802-338-3479 or nathan.r.rivard.mil@army.mil.

Maple lovers, rejoice: VT Maple Open House Weekends return

After a two-year hiatus, VT Maple Sugar Makers' Association's sweetest event is back!

The Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association (VMSMA) is bringing back its popular springtime event and expanding it to two weekends, March 19-20 and March 26-27. The annual Maple Open House event gives Vermont's sugar makers a chance to let visitors near and far into their sugarhouse to learn, taste, and explore firsthand why people should think of Vermont first when they think of maple syrup.

Traditional Open House activities include sugarhouse tours; sampling syrup; tours of the woods; pancake breakfasts; horsedrawn sleigh rides; sugar-on-snow parties; and plenty of maple products to taste including maple donuts, maple cotton candy, and maple creemees! For many visitors, this will be their first opportunity to buy fresh 2022 products.

In the past, over 135 maple producers and partnering businesses signed up for the event and an estimated 40,000 visitors toured the state during 2019's event.

There are so many ways to celebrate maple, even if you can't join us for Maple Open House events! Call your favorite sugar maker and see if they're open to guests. Support your Vermont sugar makers by purchasing their syrup and other maple products some have robust online sites. Others might be willing to mail you just what you're looking for, so reach out and ask.

There's no time like the present for maple lovers to stock up on a gallon or two of syrup or some specialty products!

For lots more information, please go online to https:// vermontmaple.org/mohw.

Coming events continued from page 3

Tuesday, March 22

Analyzing Propaganda and Teaching Media Literacy, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Fletcher Free Library, Burlington. This educators' workshop will study the Holocaust through the lens of media, by examining propaganda deployed by the Nazis to discriminate against Jews and other minorities. Educators will gain tools to facilitate classroom discussions on the role and impact of that propaganda and enable relevant, critical analysis by their students of contemporary media. Presented in collaboration with Echoes & Reflections, a not-for-profit educational program. The \$50 cost includes materials and lunch. For more information and to register, go online to https://www.holocaustmemorial-vt. org/2022-workshop. Please register by Monday, February 28; participants for this in-person program must vaccinated and masked. If cost is an obstacle, contact info@holocaustmemorialvt.org to request one of a limited number of scholarships.

Thursday, March 24

Beyond the Honeybee: Wild Bees on the VT Landscape, 7:00 - 8:00 PM, on Zoom. Did you know there are over 300 species of wild bees that make their home in Vermont? Join the Friends of Missisquoi NWR as they welcome Spencer Hardy, a biologist with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, as he introduces us to some of these important pollinators. Learn what they are discovering through their Wild Bee Survey, what surprises they have found, and what you can do to help the native bee population right in your own yard. Free. Please register for this event at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beyond-the-honeybeewild-bees-on-the-vermont-landscape-tickets-251453894367.

Saturday, March 26

Tree Identification with the Chittenden County Forester, 1:00 - 3:00 PM, Crane Brook Conservation Area, New Road, Underhill. Whether you are a forester, landowner or enjoyer of the outdoors, being able to identify trees enriches your understanding of forests and how to take care of them. Join Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper for the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation for this tree identification walk. For more information contact Karen McKnight, kmcknight802@gmail.com.

Why Research Logs? Five Reasons and Five Options, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM, on Zoom. Research logs are necessary tools to help genealogists keep track of documents, when and where we found them, and where we've kept them. Ed McGuire will explain the major benefits of research logs, what elements they should contain and where they fit in your research process.

He'll provide examples of five different categories, from paper to cloud-based, comparing the power and complexity of each. A detailed handout with additional resources, recommendations, and easy steps you can take now to put this powerful tool to work in your family research. All classes at the VT Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars; cost is \$10. Please visit our website, www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Saturday-Sunday, March 26-27

VT Maple Open House Weekend #2, both days, statewide. The Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association (VMSMA) is bringing back its popular springtime event and expanding it to two weekends. Visitors are invited into sugarhouses to learn, taste, and explore VT maple. Open House activities include sugarhouse tours; sampling syrup; tours of the woods; pancake breakfasts; horse-drawn sleigh rides; sugar-on-snow parties; and plenty of maple products to taste including maple donuts, maple cotton candy, and maple creemees! For lots more information, please go online to https://vermontmaple.org/mohw.

Sunday, March 27

Krusch Preserve Walk, 2:00 PM, Krusch Preserve, Cambridge. The community is invited to a Hopeful Signs of Spring walk, looking at the changes of the season from winter to spring. Please email kruschpreserv@gmail.com if you are interested in walking with us!

Monday, March 28

The Abenaki of Underhill, 7:00 PM, online. Underhill has been and always will be an important place for VT Abenakis to hunt, fish, gather the bounty of the land, and trade with their neighbors. Join Professor red Wiseman as he shares his research on the Abenaki in Underhill and adjacent areas. Q&A follows the presentation. Sponsored by the Underhill Conservation Commission. For questions contact Betsy Chapek, echapek4@

Wednesday, March 30

Easter/Passover Interfaith Teach-In: Housing Insecurity and Homelessness, 6:40 - 8:00 PM, Second Congregational Church Jeffersonville, Church St., Cambridge. Housing insecurity and homelessness are two of the most pressing issues our local neighbors face. Come hear the stories of those directly impacted, alongside housing and homelessness experts, clergy, and community members who share a vision of basic needs and dignity for all. For thousands of years, people of many faiths have drawn on the stories and songs of Passover and Easter to

create a hopeful, actionable future. Learn about the region's complex housing issues and what we can do to help enhance housing and homelessness solutions happening now to ensure vibrant, healthy communities where everyone's housing needs are met. https://www.jcogs.org/event/passover/easter-interfaithteach-in---in-person--online.html

Old Forests in Plain Sight, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, online. Large, tall, majestic trees are the iconic image of old forests. But that's only part of the picture. Trees in old forests can be short, small in girth, and anything but majestic. Join the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) for a virtual tour of unusual examples of old forests in Vermont. From airy cliff brows to damp and mossy swamps, learn about some surprising settings where trees can be hundreds of years old. In addition, learn about the natural communities, plants, and animals found in these special places. Finally, learn how you can visit some of these distinctive old forests. This is the second in a series of three online events and three summer inperson events related to old forests. Presenters: Liz Thompson, Director of Conservation Science, VLT; and Bob Zaino, Natural Community Ecologist, VT Fish and Wildlife Department. To register, https://join.vlt.org/event/old-forests-in-plain-sight/ e387071.

Saturday, April 2

Planning a Research Trip, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom. Many serious genealogy researchers eventually decide they want to visit repositories in other states or even other countries. Planning well is the key to maximizing a trip's benefits. In this talk Sharon Flaherty and Ed McGuire will describe how to successfully organize a research trip. They will go over coordinating with repositories in advance, knowing what's there before you leave homem and planning so that one can quickly obtain the records and the source citations you'll need. A handout with notes from this presentation, packing lists, links to trip planning resources, helpful tools to take, and a research trip checklist will be included. All classes at the VT Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars; cost is \$10. Please visit our website, www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Friday-Sunday, April 22-24

VT Maple Festival, three days, throughout St. Albans. For information, go online to https://vermontmaple.org/vermontmaple-festival.

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The library is now open with updated hours, no appointment needed: Tuesday and Thursdays 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, and Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 PM. Everyone over the age of 2 is required to wear a mask. Please try to limit your visit to 30 minutes. Curbside pickup is still available; contact 802-899-4962 or rawsonlibrary@drml.org.

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

Art returns to DRML! Thank you to the Essex Art League for sharing beautiful pieces of framed art. Most of the pieces are for sale. If interested, please inquire at the Circulation Desk for prices and information on how to contact the artist. Many thanks to the members of the Essex Art League for sharing their talent!

Adult programs

Legislative Update — Tuesday, March 15, 6:00 PM, on Zoom. Join your local representatives George Till and Trevor Squirrell for an update on the current legislative session. Registration required, please email Erik, program_assistant@drml.org.

Mystery Book Club — Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 PM, in person and on Zoom. We will be discussing The Perfect Husband by Lisa Gardner. If you need a book, please call the library (802-899-4962) to request a copy. Due to delays with our courier you should request soon so that it has time to arrive. In person, we will be meeting in the program room; masks are required. A Zoom meeting will also be available for those who prefer a virtual option. Please contact Holly, drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com, if you would like to receive a link to the Zoom meeting.

Youth programs — ongoing

Story Time [preschool] Tuesdays, 3:00 PM. We're switching things up and testing out an afternoon story time. We hope you can join us for songs, stories, flannel board games, and more! Everyone over 2 years old must wear a mask.

Spring Scavenger Hunt — We are spring dreaming! Each time you visit the library, you can hunt for the six spring themed cutouts hiding all over the library. When you find them all, visit the front desk to enter a raffle for a spring chick finger puppet. You can play the scavenger hunt and enter as often as you like.

Youth programs — check out these great programs! All programs meet in person at DRML. Everyone over the age of 2 must wear a mask. If you would like to join via Zoom, please email youth_librarian@drml.org.

Read to Wyatt — Wednesday, March 16, 3:00 – 4:30 PM [all ages]. The goodest good boy is back! Read to Wyatt the Bernese Mountain Dog, and his handler, Ms. Sue. They would love to help you build your confidence as a reader while they listen with no judgment to whatever stories you want to share. Please pre register for a 15-minute spot. You can sign up when you visit the library, call us at 802-899-4962, or email *youth_librarian@*

Young Writers' Club — Thursdays, March 17, 31, 3:00 – 4:30 PM [tween/teen]. Stuck writing a chapter, don't know where to go next? Bring yourself and your story to Writers' Club and we'll get you unstuck with games, friendly feedback and more!

Animation Club — Thursday, March 24, 3:00 - 4:30 PM [tween/teen]. Learn some movie making skills that you can use for the rest of your life! At Animation Club we play drawing games, watch behind-the-scenes videos, and of course, animate our own short movies! To sign up visit the library, call us at 802-899-4962, or email *youth_librarian@drml.org*. LEGO Club — Friday, March 25, 3:00 – 4:30 PM [ages 6+].

Build whole worlds together or on your own. There's no wrong way to play with LEGO! This is a really popular program so make sure you sign up! You can sign up when you visit the library, call us at 802-899-4962, or email youth_librarian@drml.org.

All programs meet in person at DRML. Everyone over the age of 2 years must wear a mask. If you would like to join via Zoom,

Community columns continued from page 5 -

way back to the farm. Chevy wasn't quite the rambling wreck we'd all assumed.

Nothing lasts forever. Grandpa and old Chevy delivered eggs until, like all flesh, it and Grandpa began to fail. One spring when I came to the farm for the summer, Chevy wasn't parked in its usual place by the house, but sat without doors or wheels among the chicken coops. The old car wasn't lonely, the chickens loved it, and if you wanted eggs for breakfast, you could always find some in Chevy.

Grandpa passed on a few years later and all of the chickens are gone. My last remembrance of old Chevy was a view of it sitting all alone in the weeds among the deserted chicken houses. Rest in peace old car; Grandpa loved you, and I do too.

Pollinator plant sale to benefit JCC

By Bernie Paquette

The Community Center in Jericho and Bernie Paquette bring you the 2022 Community Plant Sale. This is a benefit sale for the Community Center in Jericho, Vermont. The sale is open to everyone in Vermont.

Five plant collections for different sun/soil conditions, utilizing mostly Vermont native plants, each offered in two tray sizes, 9 plants or 21 plants. All grown in Fairfax at River Berry Farm. These carefully selected plant species collections promote diversity and season long pollinator foraging, both factors important for the health of pollinators as well as our aesthetic enjoyment.

#1 Pollinator Garden: Sun/Part, Dry/Moist

#2. Pollinator Rain Garden: Sun/Part, Moist/Wet

#3. Naturalizing Pollinator Garden For Sun/Part, Dry/Moist

#4. Naturalizing Pollinator Garden For Shade/Part, Dry/Moist - Soft-Landings Collection

#5. Monarch Garden Collection

This is a Benefit Sale to help support The Community Center, located at 329 Browns Trace, Jericho, which provides a setting for a variety of activities such as parties, meetings, and classes and hosts fun events that strengthen a sense of belonging to and caring about our community.

Read more and see the link for plant species, pricing, and other ordering details at https://jerichovermont.blogspot.com/2022/01/ community-center-pollinator-plant-sale.html.

please email youth_librarian@drml.org.

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

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM: Storytime has started again! Storytime takes place in our programming area on the second floor of the library and is intended for children aged 0-5 (though all are welcome!). We usually share a few books together and a related craft or activity. Please note that masks are required indoors for everyone over 2 years old.

Thank you for supporting Jericho Town Library's second virtual Adopt-A-Book Sale! How it works: visit our Amazon charity list and choose a book to purchase. It ships directly to us, and then you get to be the first person to read it once it's ready for circulation. You can view the list online at https://smile. amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/2S96EX5QFBM0Q/ref=smi_ext_ lnk_lcl_cl. You are more than welcome to make your purchase from another bookseller, just let us know so we can remove your book from the Amazon list. Feel free to reach out with any questions. Thanks so much for your support as we strive to keep our collection current, comprehensive, and exciting!

We continue to be open 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM Tuesday, 10:00AM – 4:00 PM Wednesday-Friday, and 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Saturday. With all this great snow we're getting, come check out some snowshoes for your family! Snowshoes are available to all Jericho Town and Deborah Rawson Memorial Library cardholders aged 18+, and we have a range of sizes that will fit your whole family.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram (@jerichotownlibrary) for regular updates on our programs, services, and collections. 802-899-4686, library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org, ierichotownlibraryvt.org.

Please check our website and the notice boards outside of the library for updates and more information on programs and library services: www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org or 802-899-4686

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

Adult fiction has been moved to the front, and kids, young adults, and adult nonfiction to the back. New releases can be found in the middle.

If you're interested in supporting the Varnum in any way, be sure to check out our Amazon Wish List! Any donations are sincerely appreciated. Our list this year includes fish tank filters, hot chocolate, crafts, and even a fireplace insert! https://www. amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2OTE5H2ÎCH0EE?ref =wl share

Please let us know how we can assist you by contacting varnumrequests@gmail.com or 802-644-2117.

The team at the Varnum: April, Carol, Carrie, Courtney, Hope, Jan, Karen, Krista, Laura, Lesley, Liv, Mark, Teelah, and Valerie.

The Varnum Memorial Library is open for curbside pickup and in-person browsing. Please continue to wear a mask. Our hours are: Tuesdays 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Wednesdays 9:00 AM 6:00 PM; Thursdays 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Fridays 9:00 AM 3:00 PM; and Saturdays 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; closed Sunday-Monday. (Note, hours at the Varnum can vary week to week; please check the website to be certain.)

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

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

We have moved back inside for the colder weather months. We require that all participants wear a mask (regardless of vaccination status). Children under 2 are exempt from this requirement. We will do our best to social distance. Crafts will be a blend of takeaways and in-person.

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

March all-month events

A new Winter Trail Hike: The Mitten will be lining the school trails in March. This story has a unique Westford connection! Park in the front school parking lot and follow the signs from the kiosk. Enjoy a walk to and around the Misty Meadows trail. Please do not walk on groomed ski tracks.

The Art of Tasha Tudor Art Show — a personal collection by Peggy Rodgers; the installation will stay up through the end of March. Peggy Rodgers grew up living next door to famed author, illustrator, and eccentric Tasha Tudor. She has many pieces that Tudor created for her and her family. Stop by anytime we are open to check out this display. Original pieces you can only see here!

Thursdays, March 17, 24, 31, 11:15 AM: Early Literacy Storytime (birth to pre-school). Storytime meets every inside the library; masks are required for all, regardless of vaccination status (children under two exempt). We will do our best to social distance. Crafts will be a blend of take-aways and in-person. March 3: The Letter M. March 10: Green. March 17: St. Patrick's Day. March 24: Sugaring. March 31: Crayons.

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

March events

Tuesday, March 15: Learn to Knit, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Taught by Marianne Bassford, a founder of the Westford Fiber Arts Group. Snack provided. Sign up required; limited to five kids; the class

Wednesday, March 23, 7:00 - 8:00 PM, on Zoom: March Book Club next meeting, discussing Faithful Place by Tana French. Print copies available at the library; audiobook copies are available on Libby. Here's a description of the book from Amazon: Back in 1985, Frank Mackey was a nineteen-year-old kid with a dream of escaping his family's cramped flat on Faithful Place and running away to London with his girl, Rosie Daly. But on the night they were supposed to leave, Rosie didn't show. Frank took it for granted that she'd dumped him — probably because of his alcoholic father, nutcase mother, and generally dysfunctional family. He never went home again. Neither did Rosie. Then, twenty-two years later, Rosie's suitcase showed up behind a fireplace in a derelict house on Faithful Place and Frank, now a detective in the Dublin Undercover squad, is going home whether he likes it or not.

Tuesday, March 29: Tasha Tudor Tea, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Enjoy tea and scones and talk with Peggy Rodgers about her special relationship with Tasha Tudor.

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (April 6), 4:30 - 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (March 19), 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

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

We are asking everyone to please wear a face mask in the library. To help meet the needs of all library users, Curbside Pickup Services will be provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays,

3:00-7:00 PM upon request. All events are free unless noted. Pre-registration required; please sign up at least one week before the program date; call 802-849-2420 or email libraryfairfax@gmail.com.

Wednesdays, March 16, 23, 30, 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, March 16, 3:00 PM: Marbled Paper DIY. Make pretty marbled paper using shaving cream! Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesdays, March 16, 23, 30, 4:30 PM: Kids Yoga with

Library news continued on page 7

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Outgoing Cambridge Town Clerk offers thanks for support

Yesterday (Tuesday, March 1) was my last day as your Clerk/ Treasurer in the Town of Cambridge. Although my six-year tenure paled in comparison to my predecessor, I am proud of our office's accomplishments over that time. Everything we accomplished would have been impossible without the support of my hardworking staff: Sally Reynolds, Jessica Warren, and especially our 17-year veteran Dana Warren (pronounced "Donna"). I am delighted that you have elected Dana to the position of Clerk/ Treasurer, and am happy that she will continue to work as a team with Jessica and an additional assistant to be hired soon.

I am thankful that the town voted yesterday to support a budget that was indeed a difficult decision. I consider this a vote of confidence in both the Selectboard and the Treasurer's office, that we have the best interests of our town in mind when we make difficult decisions and recommendations. Please remember that your elected officials are all taxpayers too, and NONE of us want to pay more taxes.

At their last meeting the Selectboard voted to create a parttime position of Finance Manager. This is a staff position that most towns in our area have had for years. I specifically asked the Selectboard to create this position in response to the everincreasing workload in the treasurer's office. I expect to be named as an interim appointment to this position at tonight's reorganization meeting, and this will assist in the transition to a new Clerk/Treasurer. At some point the Selectboard will advertise and interview for a permanent appointment to this position. Until then, I am committed to making sure that every penny of your tax dollars is spent wisely.

Thank you for the honor of serving you in Town Government.

Mark Schilling former Cambridge Town Clerk/Treasurer

UVMMC v United Healthcare dispute abandons 3000 Vermonters (including this Jericho resident)

To the Editor,

Hi neighbors. My name is Eliza Graves. I'm 34, an 8th generation Vermonter, graduated from MMU in 2005, and many of you know my mother. Martha Alexander, or one of her 10 Alexander siblings who grew up on Steeplebush Hill here in Jericho. My husband Curt Ferguson and I moved back to the area during COVID to help my beloved mom, who unfortunately has young-onset Alzheimer's.

On Thursday last week (March 3), our health insurance United Healthcare sent almost 3000 Vermonters a letter saying that UVMMC would no longer be in-network as of April 1, as UVM was refusing to renegotiate their contract. As I quickly learned, that included literally ALL of my doctors, as UVM has made it their mission over the years to buy up almost all of the local private practices in Vermont.

I was recently diagnosed with an extremely rare and aggressive cancer, that I am just trying to fight for as long as possible. This is truly the last stressor I need, and I'm just trying to get my chemo before it's too late. Curt and I will now have to travel to Dartmouth so that I can be seen in-network, as with such a rare cancer I obviously could never afford to be seen out-of-network.

I ask you as a fellow neighbor to please share this article (https://vtdigger.org/2022/03/04/unitedhealthcare-uvm-healthnetwork-dispute-could-leave-2900-patients-searching-for-care/) where VTDigger interviewed me, call or write our legislature, United Healthcare, and UVMMC and beg them to please convince UVM to renegotiate with United Healthcare due to the overwhelming monopoly the University of Vermont Medical Center has on healthcare facilities in Vermont. It isn't too late, and it will affect so many lives, mine included. Thank you, and

Jericho

WORSHIP SERVICES

Virtual services at MMUUF

Sunday services at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship are held at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June (March 27; April 10). 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 exclusively held over Zoom; please contact *info@mmuuf.org* or 802-899-2558 for how to join. Located at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Learn more at www.mmuuf.org and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church

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, <code>umccho@gmail.com</code>. Located next to the Jericho Town Hall on VT Rt. 15.

United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill is an active, vibrant congregation. We are young and old; single, couples, and families; believers, questioners, and questioning believers. All are welcome. Some people think of us as the Harvest Market Church or the Clutter Barn Church. We gather to worship together every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. Our service is traditional but lively, with music, a children's sermon, and much more. For instructions on joining worship from home, please see https://unitedchurchofunderhill.com/joining-worship-from-home/. We provide many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service, but we also welcome you to come in, be still, and contemplate your faith. Located at 7 Park St., Underhill. Pastor's office (with voicemail) 802-899-1722; church secretary, Tuesday and Wednesday 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM (no voicemail) 802-899-4583.

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 is here to help

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

All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

You are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Church on VT Rt. 15 at 9:00 AM every Sunday. The building is accessible — all are welcome! At this time, masks are worn by everyone, regardless of vaccination status. There are varied musical styles in worship services, including Folk, Contemporary, Celtic, Latin American, and traditional. In addition, weekday online offerings include Prayerful Meditation, Tuesday Evening Prayer, and Centering Prayer. Good Shepherd also offers the monthly online Racism in America Forum. Access information and more about the church is at http://goodshepherdjericho.org/. We are an open-minded Christian community with a focus on social justice issues, where people from different faith traditions, along with those who aren't sure where they belong or what they believe, seek the support of a spiritual home. We welcome you in the name and love of Christ. Contact Pastor Arnold Isidore Thomas for more information, $802\text{-}503\text{-}9666 \ or \ pastor thomas @goodshepherdjericho.org.$

Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal Church in Jericho, now worships virtually via Zoom on Sundays at 9:30 AM due to the Omicron variant's rapid spread throughout Vermont. If you would like the worship service login information, please contact the parish administrator at *calvarychurchjericho@gmail.com* or 802-899-0453. All are warmly invited!

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.

on the Ski Patrol at Smugglers' Notch Resort in Vermont for 40

The Burlington Garden Club of VT will host Theresa and Mick

The Burlington Garden Club of VT will host Theresa and Mick Levine, who will speak about Interior Landscaping on Tuesday, March 22, 1:00 PM at the Faith United Methodist Church, 899 Dorset St., S. Burlington. Theresa and her husband Mick Levine started Mother Nature's Helper in 1982. Armed with a degree in Forestry and a love of the outdoors, Theresa knew the value of green plants — they provide beauty, reduce stress, and they also minimize airborne illness. Some plants can extract harmful substances from the atmosphere. So many Vermonters enjoy the beauty of our state in their free time, but have to work inside. Theresa's goal was to bring the beauty of the outdoors into homes and workplaces. Theresa and her husband Mick have succeeded in growing Mother Nature's Helper to be the largest interior landscape business in VT. Their business also incorporates holiday decorating, fresh flower designs, and exterior plantings. Open to the public. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

COLLEGE HONORS

Paddington Krueger of Underhill, VT has been named to the fall 2021 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Krueger is majoring in exercise science.

Isabelle Pilo of Underhill, VT has been named to the fall 2021 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Pilo is majoring in biochemistry.

Cooper Pinaud of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall 2021 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. Pinaud is majoring in biomedical engineering.

Emmitt White of Jeffersonville, VT has been named to the fall 2021 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY. White is majoring in graphic design.

When will the Notch Road open? Enter your best guess!

From Cambridge Area Rotary

After a great week of ski conditions the weather warmed up considerably — and turned several times since then. The maples are starting to run, and today it feels like spring is just around the corner.

This is a perfect time to announce the Smugglers' Notch Road Reopening Celebration Raffle, sponsored by the Cambridge Area Rotary.

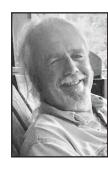
It is easy to participate. Go to http://www.OpenTheNotch.com and you can enter to guess the date and time that the Notch Road will officially reopen. Make your best guess and support the programs of your local Rotary club.

Prizes will be awarded based on the closest guesses:

WINNER: 50% of amount raised (\$500 maximum).
 TWO RUNNERS-UP: 5% of amount raised (\$50 maximum).

In the event of a tie, winners will be selected at random. The date and time of the Notch Road's first reopening will be determined by official VTrans announcement. Proceeds support the Cambridge Area Rotary Foundation, a 501c3 organization.

WORSHIP SERVICES



Mark David Archambault, 66, of Jeffersonville, VT passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. Mark was born August 30, 1955, grew up in West Hartford, CT, attending Northwest Catholic High School. He was a graduate of St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT, Class of 1977. After college, Mark adopted Vermont as his home and Vermont adopted him. Mark was the son of Helen (Murray) Archambault and Arthur Archambault, and the devoted nephew of Josephine Murray. He was cherished by his

extended family, including many cousins, and was Godfather to Julie (Egan) Briere, Julia Marie Nuzzo, and Isobel Nuzzo. Mark leaves behind numerous dear and special friends from all decades of his life. His wit, humor, candor, unique perspectives, loyalty, and kind heart endeared Mark to those fortunate enough to know him. Mark was a passionate and skillful skier and served

years. He traveled the world enjoying the challenge of skiing on many of the world's greatest mountains. He taught and mentored many young patrollers, teaching them not only the skill but the responsibilities that came with the job. He excelled at what he did — and was respected across the country and globally. During the summer, Mark enjoyed wind surfing and kayaking on Lake Champlain. He was a partner in Notch Country Construction for 30 years, and co-owned Appletree Tree Bay Resort for several years. Music and dancing were a big part of Mark's life, especially following The Grateful Dead. He traveled over 50 years to attend shows, laugh with friends, and dance to the music. Mark's love of animals started early and especially his love of golden retrievers. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to the ASPCA. A celebration of life will be held in Jeffersonville, VT on Sunday, March 27 at Smugglers' Notch Resort, 5:00 PM. Details to follow on a future service in Connecticut.

Library news continued from page 6

Jessica Turner. Join Jessica for weekly kids' yoga classes! These classes will be held virtually, so keep an eye on your email for the Zoom link. Ages 4+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Saturdays, March 12, 19, 26, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Pin Making. Design your very own pins! No registration required. Kids and adults of all ages encouraged!

Wednesday, March 23, 1:00 PM: Finger Knitting. Learn how to knit with your fingers, no knitting needles required! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

Thursday, March 24, 3:15 PM: Read with Henry. Sign up for a 15-minute slot to read to Henry, a big friendly Newfoundland

Wednesday, March 30, 3:00 PM: Make Your Own Ice Cream. Learn how to make ice cream with nothing fancier than some plastic bags, ice, and your own two hands! Materials provided. Ages 8+ Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register!

49-2420 to reş Adult events

Thursday, March 17, 4:00 PM: Financial Literacy Workshop with Cody Fiala on Fraud Awareness. The library will host a program on personal finance topics with a financial literacy expert. This month's program theme is Fraud Awareness. The sessions will provide participants with information they can act upon to manage, protect their money, and to work towards their financial goals. Handouts will be provided at each session, capturing the major points of the presentation, providing additional resources. Each session will be strengthened by the questions people ask! Join us at the library or attend remotely via Zoom. Please email libraryfairfax@gmail.com or call 802-849-2420 to register and for the Zoom link!

Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 AM - 5:30 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. 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.

2420. RICHMOND LIBRARY

Mask up, please. Everyone over the age of two entering the Library is required to wear a facemask regardless of vaccination status. As a community library, we value the privacy and safety of all our patrons.

Library hours: 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. Our webpage, Facebook, and email reflect this information.

Colección Española: If you have a child enrolled in the Spanish immersion program at Richmond Elementary School, you may be interested in our new collection of Spanish language resources. Books in the collection range from the simplest of board books to more complex language resources appropriate for intermediate students. Ask to be directed to the shelf where the collection is currently being held.

Youth Programs are currently ongoing with COVID precautions in place as needed. Program details are below. Weekly youth programs at the Library run September-May and follow the MMUUSD school district schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

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

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Storytime and Playgroup. The good times kick off with stories and songs in the Library Community Room and then it's outdoor play time with old and new friends. For Storytime, families will spread out in the spacious community room. After Storytime we will move outside to the playground for playtime as weather allows. Cosponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids from 0-5 and

their grown ups are invited to join the fun.

Mondays, 5:00 PM in the Community Room: Kaiut Yoga with Caroline Sheftel. The Kaiut Yoga method applies biomechanical, integrative, and therapuetic techniques in the practice. Every individual class is designed with the purpose to increase freedom of movement and integration between body and mind. Caroline believes that yoga is for everyone, and finds this universal accessibility in Kaiut Yoga. Bring a yoga mat, a yoga bolster (or equivalent), and strap (or equivalent). By donation; proceeds will be given to charitable organizations.

Free Tong Ren sessions Molly Lawney leads a free bimonthly community energy healing class. She practices a form of energy healing called Tong Ren, which works well in a group setting and it's contact-free, so it also works well for social distancing purposes. For more information, contact *molly@openchannelsenergy.com*.

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; www.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

Our online resources and services are always open. All you need is your library card. Don't have a library card? Request a virtual library e-card today to access our ebook and audiobook collections. (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScH6EFIcpRRmOhjQ_O1GTNOzZ1_eJS3WJtR4BQe1aT6mYMT0A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1)

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

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Spring Bulb Fundraiser benefits Meals On Wheels

Believe it or not, spring is around the corner!

Order your spring bulbs today & get ready for beautiful blooms, butterflies, and fragrant waves of fresh air coming in the windows. Half (50%) of each purchase will support your local Meals On Wheels programs.

To place your order, go online to http://www.mowlc.org and click on FUNDRAISING to find the link.

100% quality guarantee!

All Spring website orders due by May 15; shipping begins April 1.

Current scam samples (and more from the MG editor)

By Bill April, AARP/Fraudwatch fraud fighter

This is a list of current SCAMS I have received recently. Do NOT open or click on any link in them or call a phone number listed or respond. They want to steal your money AND/OR your personal information.

\$\$ New 15YR Rate Adjustment - you can potentially shave

thousands off your mortgage interest \$\$ ATTENTION: COVID-19 Relief Fund - Dear Beneficiary!! Google LLC has decided to give out cash as COVID-19 Relief.

\$\$?????? - Good day please can you hold a transitions?

\$\$ System critically infected! Contact Support Immediately! -This message was sent from a trusted sender.

\$\$ To Whom It May Concern. Compliment of the season. In the spirit of brotherhood as a fellow U.S citizen ...

\$\$_VIRUSES_FOUND_IN_DEVICE - Viruses Found (5) || Click here to Scan and Remove Virus

\$\$ Your Device Is Heavily Damaged By Four Virus! | Renew Your Subscription Immediately! Your Computer at Risk

\$\$ INVESTMENT PROPOSAL - I am Mr. William Chalmers from Lloyds Banking Group UK. I want to invest legitimate funds with you in your country.

\$\$ Attn: "Your Name" [Reviewed & Approved] This is a follow-up to your request for a mortgage rate quote that you submitted

\$\$ Hello - Hi I'm Rose by name 32years old single lady, born and raised in london Can we be friends?

\$\$ Please I need your help - Please I need your help, Please

forgive me for stressing you with my predicaments ... \$\$ New Update - Today Feb 26, 2022, we're granting a major

wish! Your 2.76% refi package is enclosed below \$\$ Sister Anna Kone - Bless You My Dear, I am Mrs. Anna

Kone, I am married to Dr. Kone Akoma From Ivory Coast .. \$\$ Missouri Lotto W i n n e r - We'd like to inform you that your email address has won Five million nine h u n d r e d

thousand

\$\$ PLEASE, READ THE ATTACHED FILE AND GET BACK VERY URGENT - PLEASE, VIEW ATTACHED FILE FOR MORE DETAILS

\$\$ Hello good day. - I am Barrister Amadou Benjamin by name, with due respect, I am contacting you to help get the deposit 10.5 million Dollars

No one wins a lottery if you do not buy a ticket. No one gives you the chance to hold money for them when they are a stranger. Random emails with attachments are always dangerous. (*) No one solicits for mortgage refinancing by email. No anti-virus program sends you an email saying you are infected. No one looks to be friends with a stranger unless it is a scam. Forewarned is forearmed!

From the Mountain Gazette editor:

(*) even if the email appears to be from someone in your contact list. Your friend's contact list has almost certainly been illegally accessed, stolen, and sold.

Älso — I have repeatedly received emails from "System Administrator" telling me that I'm almost out of room on my email account and I need to "click here" to purchase more. Call your Internet service provider to check, if you like, but this is a

Also — Social Security and Medicare NEVER call you. Ever.

Getting rid of old computers?

Unwanted computers and monitors and other electronics can be disposed of for free at any of the CSWD Drop-Off Centers. More information can be found online at https://cswd.net/ recycling/electronics/.

Brenda's weatherization story

From VT Dept. For Children And Families

When Brenda called the State of Vermont to see if she qualified for the Weatherization Assistance Program, she couldn't believe her good fortune.

"I live on a fixed income and though I'm getting older, I want to stay in my home as long as possible. But just like me, my home is aging. It needed work — work I couldn't really afford. Then, my neighbor told me about Vermont's Weatherization Program. She qualified and said I should look into it. So I did. I qualified too!"

Brenda, like many Vermonters, didn't realize she was eligible for Vermont's Weatherization Assistance Program. And that qualifying for assistance meant she could get weatherization services at absolutely no cost to her.

"I don't think I've ever, ever come across such detailed, generous, efficient guys in all my life. I can't say enough good things about them. They didn't miss a thing. They did everything and stayed right with it. They worked on the furnace. They made sure the airflow was in order. They fixed my vents and sealed



Springtime and Jazz! The perfect combination brings Lewis Franco and The Missing Cats to the Westford Music Series on April 3, 4:00 PM, to the Westford Common Hall. Vocalist, songwriter, guitarist Lewis Franco will be joined by The Missing Cats — Will Patton (mandolin) and Dono Schabner on guitar to complete the acoustic-jazz combo band. Known for their harmony instrumentals of the finest and most gifted Vermont musicians, they also will delight with the strong vocals. Expect originals as well as gypsy and jive swing tunes from the 1930s and 1940s, featuring close three-part harmonies and rhythms. Franco has been a fixture on the Vermont acoustic music scene for years, entertaining audiences of all ages with clever and occasionally profound lyrics, delight tuneful melodies, and fun-loving presence. Plan on a fun time. Free will donation. Mask required. For more information call Mike Kirick, 802-PHOTO CONTRIBUTED *363-0930*.

them. They put insulation in. Checked my plumbing. Took care of the heat tape. They were wonderful. On a scale of 1 to 10, the weatherization crew is an 11!"

For Brenda, hearing about the program from her neighbor and then seeing an ad about it prompted her to call.

"I wanted to know if I was eligible for the program. I live by myself. I'm 72. I can only do so much. Prior to these guys, I had some work done that wasn't done well. I wanted to feel comfortable. These guys did that. I can't believe they did it at no charge. And they cleaned up after themselves, never left any messes. I can't say enough good things about them. They are over the top!

The Weatherization Assistance Program improves the energy efficiency of hundreds of Vermont homes every year. Applying is easy. Local weatherization agencies can answer your questions and help you apply.

'My furnace is quieter now. It kicks on much less frequently than before, and the cost to maintain my home is less. I'm anxious to see how much fuel I save over the winter. I have a feeling I'm going to be very happy. The Weatherization program is worth its weight in gold, and I am so grateful for their help. I've told everybody I know they've got to apply!'

Learn more at https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/weatherization.

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATE SHEET 2022

6558 VT RTE 116, STARKSBORO, VT 05487 802-453-6354 mtngazette@gmavt.net www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

The Mountain Gazette is the hometown newspaper for Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill and Westford, Vermont.

We store deliver copies of the paper in Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, Westford, Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, Fairfax, Essex and Essex Junction.

TOTAL REGULAR CIRCULATION - 4500

(During the pandemic it has varied at the present time we are back up to 3500 and rising. We plan to be back to full circulation by May 2022.)

OPEN RATE \$8.25 COLUMN INCH Column width 1 7/16 Listings below are measured width x height

Business card - \$33.00 1/4 page - \$170.00 3 1/4" x 2" 3 1/4" x 12" 5" x 8" 1/16 page - \$49.50 6 1/2" x 6' 3 1/4" x 3" 1/2 page - \$290.00 1/12 page - \$66.00 10 1/4" x 8" 3 1/4" x 4" 5" x 15 1/2" 1/8 page - \$99.00 Full page - \$390.00 3 1/4" x 6" 10 1/4 " x 15 1/2" 5" x4"

Business directory ads: \$18 each, must buy 5 consecutive issues (\$90.00 pre-paid) No changes. Size 3 1/4" x 1 1/2"

Classified ads: \$6.50 for 25 words, 10 cents for each additional word

Prepaid contracts available - Save up to 20% Purchase six ads of any size and run within 12 month.

Call Brenda Boutin, advertising manager at 802-453-6354 for details

Subscriptions \$35.00 per year - 24 issues

Inserts 1-4 pages, 8 1/2" x 11" Cost \$45.00 prepaid per 1000 Must purchase full circulation

> Publication First and Third Thursday/Month Deadlines: Thursday before publication Copy - 12:00 Noon Advertising 5:00 PM

The Mountain Gazette, 6558 VT RTE 116, Starksboro, VT 05487 Phone: 802-453-6354 mtngazette@gmavt.net www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com

Where do I buy an EV?

By Ruth Machell Julianelle

Energy Committee Member, Underhill

The Underhill Energy Committee is continuing to answer answers people have about electric vehicles. These FAQs are not intended to be a binding, finally definitive document, but should give enough information and resource websites that a reader can get a general appreciation of facts. If a reader wants updated or detailed information, they should talk directly to dealerships and reference web sites with updated information.

This week: Where do I buy an EV? Major dealerships in Vermont are good places to buy or lease EVs. There are over 60 dealerships in Vermont that sell EVs listed on the site https:// www.driveelectricvt.com/find-your-ev/find-a-dealership, spread across Vermont from St. Albans to St. Johnsbury to Bennington to Brattleboro.

Tesla does not have traditional dealerships, but has showrooms. Typically, a customer would book a test drive at a showroom and then order online. There are no Tesla showrooms in Vermont There are showrooms in the Boston area, southern Connecticut, and New York.

The cars are delivered via a third-party trucking service to your house, or to a delivery center. If you are unable to test drive a vehicle ahead of time, you may return your car within a few days. A delivery fee of \$750-1000 is likely to be applied.

When looking for a used car in Vermont, check with Mileage Smart (https://www.mileagesmartvt.org/cars). They can help with finding vehicles and financing.

> Happy St. Patrick Day

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

MMU Theatre presents *The Drowsy Chaperone*: The Theatre Department at Mount Mansfield Union High School presents the hilarious, wild, raucous, and racy musical The Drowsy Chaperone. Join the fun on Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2 at 7:30 PM, and Sunday, April 3 at 2:00 PM -LIVE ON STAGE at Mount Mansfield Union High School, 211 Browns Trace, Jericho. Tickets are \$7 for students and children; \$9 for general admission; available at mmudrowsy.bpt. me. MMU's production of The Drowsy Chaperone is a multimedia performance incorporating video projections as part of the show. Check out a trailer for the production at tinyurl.com/ mmudrowsy. The Drowsy Chaperone is a musical journey back to the Roaring Twenties, while keeping one foot firmly planted in the 21st century. As the show begins, the audience is invited into the apartment of a character known only as "the man in the chair," who turns on his record player to share his favorite old musical, The Drowsy Chaperone. (In the 1920s, "drowsy" meant tipsy.) The story unfolds inside the man's apartment, which transforms into a ditsy old dowager's estate for the destination wedding of a Broadway starlet to a young oil tycoon. The man in the chair, a theatre aficionado, shares his insights into the story as well as gossip and trivia tidbits about the famous actors who portray the characters. Once you step into the exciting world that exists inside the man's apartment and see the play through his eyes, you may never want to leave.

Westford Coffee House — first Fridays (by Michael Kirick): It looks like the recent wave of covid has significantly passed and I am cautiously looking to have a coffee house session on the first Friday of the month (to avoid the many holiday conflicts that I've found with last Fridays), making the next Coffee House on Friday, April 1, 7:00 PM at the Red Brick Meeting House. Dust off those rusty strings just one more time...

The Missing Cats come to Westford Music Series on Sunday, April 3: The Westford Music Series returns on Sunday, April 3: Springtime and Jazz! The perfect combination brings Lewis Franco and The Missing Cats to the Westford Music Series on Sunday, April 3, 4:00 PM to the Westford Common Hall. Vocalist, songwriter, and guitarist Lewis Franco will be joined by *The Missing Cats* — Will Patton (mandolin) and Dono Schabner (guitar) — to complete the acoustic-jazz combo band. Known for their harmony instrumentals, they also will delight with strong vocals. Expect originals as well as gypsy and jive swing tunes from the 1930s and 1940s, featuring close three-part harmonies and rhythms. Franco has been a fixture on the Vermont acoustic music scene for years, entertaining audiences of all ages with clever and occasionally profound lyrics, tuneful melodies, and fun-loving presence. His fellow band members add to the strength of the band with their gifted musical sensibilities to wrap around a dynamic performance. Plan on a fun time. Free will donation; mask required. For more information call Michael Kirick, 802-363-0930.

The Drowsy Chaperone: The Theatre Department at Mount Mansfield Union High School presents the hilarious, wild, raucous, and racy musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Join the fun on Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2 at 7:30 PM, and Sunday, April 3 at 2:00 PM — LIVE ON STAGE at Mount Mansfield Union High School, 211 Browns Trace, Jericho. Tickets are \$7 for students and children; \$9 for general admission; available at mmudrowsy.bpt.me. MMU's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* is a multi-media performance incorporating video projections as part of the show. Check out a trailer for the production at tinyurl.com/mmudrowsy.

Jericho Town Hall Art: Tracks. The latest exhibit of art within the Jericho Town Hall, *Tracks*, is now hung. It is open to all to view during regular Town Hall hours. The Town Hall does require masks to be worn inside the building. The show will run through April. Stop by to see how various artists viewed the theme. To pique your interest, Angelike Contis of MMCTV has created a short video of the work at https://archive.org/details/jericho-art-tracks-jan-2022. The video will also be posted on the Join in Jericho site.

VT arts and cultural organizations get digital support: The digital programming space — super-charged by the pandemic — is here to stay as audiences have grown used to being entertained, informed, and enlightened via the screen. But arts and cultural organizations have varying levels of readiness to deliver this content. The Vermont Arts Council has launched a new grant program to address the digital divide, thanks to \$1.15 million in funding approved by the Vermont legislature last year to help build the virtual capacity of Vermont cultural organizations.

The Council is now accepting applications for its new Digital Capacity Grant Program, which aims to support Vermont's arts and culture organizations as they navigate the transition to digital by providing skills, equipment, and expertise to serve their audiences and community. The grant program is open to Vermont-based 501 (c)(3) cultural organizations whose missions center arts and culture, including museums, historical societies, arts centers, and nonprofit theaters and galleries. The application deadline is April 20, 2022. Two types of grants are available: organization grants and collaborative grants.

Organization grant awards from \$5000-30,000 are available to support the creation, distribution, and marketing of digital content for public audiences. A broad range of activities is supported, such as enhancing an organization's website, establishing a social media marketing strategy, purchasing equipment for digital content, paying for streaming platforms, training staff, and more.

A limited number of larger collaborative grants will be funded. These multi-year grants for \$60,000-150,000 will support collaborative efforts designed to increase the digital capacity of a cultural community in a particular region or focused on a particular area or type of cultural organizations, for example, a group of museums partnering on a virtual exhibition initiative.

In addition to the grant program, the Council is offering a variety of free workshops on topics including inclusive and accessible digital programming, production and editing, website analytics and e-commerce, and social media marketing in partnership with Inclusive Arts Vermont, the Media Factory and the Vermont Small Business Center. The Council has also invested funds in nonprofits that provide services and support to artists across the state to deliver digital training addressing the specific needs of artists in their networks.

Information about the Arts Council's digital capacity programming can be found at https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/programs/digital-capacity.



Come celebrate the best of summer at the Mills Riverside Park Summer Concert Series! All performances are on Wednesdays and start at 6:00 PM and end at 8:00 PM. Bring a picnic and relax to excellent music in a beautiful, natural setting! July 6: Shellhouse; July 13: Vermont's Freedom & Unity Chorus; July 20: The Stragglers; July 27: The Buck Hollers Band; and August 3: The Robin Gottfried Band.

March Art "Marathon" — art and a great cause! Westford EcoArtist Anne Cummings is teaming up with the Central Vermont Refugee Action Network (CVRAN), along with many other VT artists, to create work each day in March and share their process and creations with their donors. You can be one of them!

This CVRAN fundraiser will support the resettlement of Afghan evacuees as new VT residents, share what's special about the place we live with new Vermonters, inspire new work by many well-known Vermont artists, and connect artists to their community!

To participate, go online to https://cvran.org/my-place-is-your-place-is-your-place-portraits-of-the-mountains-of-vermont/ and make a donation of any amount.

You may donate through my page or choose any one or more of the participating artists (including Westford resident Orah Moore) at https://cvran.org/march-arts-marathon-2022-participants/. Starting in March, donors will receive exciting updates showing what artists are creating!

For more information or questions contact EcoArt, annecummingsecoart@gmail.com or visit the CVRAN website, https://cvran.org/

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is pleased to announce the return of MNFF Selects, its monthly in-person screening series at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, through May 2022. For this festival, MNFF Selects presents *Humans and Animals: Shared Experiences, Intersecting Worlds*. The series illuminates the deep connections between human beings and animals whose lives are intimately intertwined. Passes: individual tickets \$16 (under 12, \$7) available at *www. middfilmfest.org*, *www.townhalltheater.org*, by calling 802-382-9222, or in person at the THT box office, Monday-Friday, 12:00 – 5:00 PM. COVID-19 protocol: All attendees 12 and over must be vaccinated; and all attendees, including children under 12, must wear masks while inside the theater.

Upcoming films in the Series:

Buck [PG] Thursday, March 24, 7:00 PM. Directed by Cindy Meehl; winner of the 2011 Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival, Buck is a revealing examination of the life of acclaimed "horse whisperer" Buck Brannaman, who recovered from years of child abuse to become a well-known expert in the interactions between horses and people.

Grizzly Man [R] Thursday, April 21, 7:00 PM. Director Werner Herzog delivers a heartrending docudrama that centers on amateur grizzly bear expert Timothy Treadwell, who periodically journeyed to Alaska to study and live with the bears. He was killed, along with his girlfriend Amie Huguenard, by a bear in October 2003. Winner of the 2006 Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Documentary, Grizzly Man is an epic tale of the profound and fraught relationship between a man and the animals he dared to befriend.

The Rider [R] Thursday, May 12, 7:00 PM. The highly acclaimed second feature from Oscar-winning director Chloe Zhao tells the poignant story of a young rodeo cowboy who, after suffering a near fatal head injury, begins a search for new identity, seeking to know what it means to be a man in the heartland of America. Focusing on life in the indigenous community of the Pine Ridge reservation, Zhao offers a penetrating vision of masculinity and humility set in a world where humans and animals intimately co-exist.

For more information about MNFF Selects and the Festival: http://www.middfilmfest.org.

Burlington City Arts will offer a summer camp, and

Burlington City Arts will offer a summer camp, and registration is now open for their half- or full-day camps and aftercare; full and partial scholarships are available. For more information, see BCA's digital summer camp catalog at https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/adult-youth-and-family-classes.

BCA's spring exhibitions are open Wednesdays-Fridays 12:00 – 5:00 PM, and Saturdays 12:00 – 8:00 PM. First floor: Headwater, a new series (https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/eric-aho-headwater) of monumental paintings by Eric Aho. Second floor: What Still Remains (https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/exhibition/sarah-trad-what-still-remains) is comprised of single- and multi-channel videos by Lebanese-American artist Sarah Trad.

BCA is gearing up for another year of amazing summer programming in City Hall Park, and will present a large number of concerts and events in the park, June-September. With a focus on finding new VT talent and presenting a diverse lineup, we want to hear from you if you're a performer, have a great band, or are a DJ that hasn't worked with us before. Drop a line and a link to Zach Williamson, zwilliamson@burlingtoncityarts.org.

Mills Riverside Park Summer Concert Series 2022

Summer is around the corner, and Mills Riverside Park has already scheduled the 2022 Summer Concert Series! Place these dates on your July and August calendar, and plan for fabulous music for our community!

Come celebrate the best of summer at the Mills Riverside Park Summer Concert Series! All performances are on Wednesdays and start at 6:00 PM and end at 8:00 PM. Bring a picnic and relax to excellent music in a beautiful, natural setting!

July 6: Shellhouse does melodic rock originals and classic rock covers. The group consists of Bob Teer, songwriter, guitar, vocals; Andrea Teer, vocals and manditar; Marshall Breakstone, bass guitar and vocals; Steve Wanderlich, drums; and our latest addition, Dan Lurie on guitar.

July 13: Vermont's Freedom & Unity Chorus formed in 2019 to create a safe place that welcomes all

ate a safe place that welcomes all voices regardless of age, race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, national origin, disability, and sexual orientation. We sing a variety of music: pop, folk, rock, soul, gospel... even Broadway! We are united in the fight for freedom and equality for all, and are steadfast in the hope that there are better days ahead. We guarantee that audiences will recognize a song or two and leave uplifted and inspired to make the world a better, more welcoming place to be. Learn moreat vermontsfreedomandunitychorus.org.

July 20: The Stragglers will be bringing their "Old- and New-Time String Band Sound" to Mills Riverside Park this summer. Their repertoire ranges from Appalachian fiddle tunes through vintage country, bluegrass, and their own varied original compositions. Their sound has been described by Seven Days as both "urelentingly mature" and "tastefully evocative." Come see for yourself! The Stragglers are: Eric Bushey, banjo, electric guitar, vocals; Rusty Charpentier, fiddle, guitar, vocals; Preston Randall, mandolin, electric/acoustic guitar, vocals; and Justin Bedell, fretless bass, vocals.

July 27: The Buck Hollers Band is a high-energy group that loves connecting with audiences. They offer an eclectic mix of popular and little-known rock-n-roll, R&B, folk, country, bluegrass, newgrass, Americana, and Irish music. Decades of musical experience are blended with guitar, banjo, bass, harmonica, percussion, keyboard, and four-part harmony into a professionally engineered sound mix and a good dose of humor that appeals to all ages. They've delivered tight rhythms, sweet harmonies, head-turning a capellas, witty lyrics, and great comedy throughout northern Vermont and New York since 2015.

August 3: The Robin Gottfried Band offers memorable song craftsmanship and recognizable vocals, all brought together by soulful and interpretive playing that makes the music from the Robin Gottfried band worth hearing again and again. The paradox of chops cultivated in New York City but nurtured within the beauty of Vermont offers listeners a full and enlivened experience of sound and emotion. There is a strong individual identity derived from 11 released albums, yet hints of early Steely Dan, Little Feat, Joni Mitchell, Sting, Bruce Hornsby, or The Beatles, to name a few, can't be denied. Veteran musicians Brad Sourdiffe, bass, and Ian Koeller, drums invoke a vitality that resonates as sincere and infectious. It's clear Robin Gottfried and his band enjoy the music they make and the fellowship of the creative process!



Cartoons and Comic Art by members of the Vermont Comic Creators Group will open Sunday, March 20 at the Emile A Gruppe Gallery in Jericho. The Gallery is open 10:00 – 3:00 PM. The show will be held through Sunday, April 24. Featured will be items from the antique cartoon collection of Robert Bru nelle.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

We have room for your ad.

Call Brenda Boutin
at 802-453-6354
for more information
or email mtngazette@gmavt.net

SCHOOL NEWS

MMU Project Grad online auction has begun

Mount Mansfield Union High School's (MMU's) Project Graduation Online Auction has begun! Go online to https://mmuprojectgrad22.betterworld.org/auctions/mount-mansfield-union-project-gr to see all the amazing items to bid on. Check out the many local restaurants and businesses that have donated gift cards for services and products. You will also find tickets to plays, comedy shows, baseball games and the movies, beauty products, food baskets, maple syrup, art, and much more. If you are interested in donating to this great cause without bidding in the auction, there is a link for that on the auction site as well. Thank you for helping MMU's class of 2022 have a fun overnight event that will keep them safe, as it is drug and alcohol free!

Cambridge Elementary Early Childhood Program registration

Will your child be turning 3 or 4 by September 1, 2022? Cambridge Elementary Early Childhood Program is now enrolling children for our pre-kindergarten program for the school year 2022/2023. Our 5 STARS program offers a session for 3-year-olds Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 AM-12:30 PM; and a session for 4-year-olds Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 7:30 AM-12:30 PM.

Pre-register your child at https://www.lnsd.org/community/universal-prek. To inquire about our program, please call 802-521-5613.

Underhill seeks Road Crew Member

The Town of Underhill seeks a qualified candidate for the position of Road Crew Member. This full-time position requires driving trucks with manual transmissions, snow plowing, operating a loader, excavator and other equipment, and physical labor. Applicants must possess a Class B CDL (Class A preferred) and a clean driving record, and must be able to respond to emergencies and snow removal outside of regular work hours withing one hour. Underhill provides an excellent pay and benefit package (including health, dental, vision, life and disability insurance, a clothing allowance, winter on-call pay, and a retirement plan. Drug test required.

Applications due by 3/31/2022.

See a complete job description and application form at www.underhillvt.gov. To apply submit a resume or completed application to H.R. Administrator by email at <code>jsilpe-katz@underhillvt.gov</code>, in person at Underhill Town Hall (12 Pleasant Valley Road, Underhill), or by mail to P.O. BOX 120, Underhill, VT 05489. The Town of Underhill is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Mount Mansfield Union High School's Project Graduation Online Auction will run from Tuesday, March 1 through Sunday, March 12. Go online to https://mmuprojectgrad22. betterworld.org/ to view all the fantastic items to bid on. Items include gift cards to many local restaurants and stores, ski tickets, art, photography, maple syrup, chocolate, entertainment, massages, car services, skin and hair care, a Vermont Teddy Bear, gourmet cookware, and much more! There is also a link to donate to the event on the website if you are not interested in bidding in the auction, but would like to support MMU's seniors. Project Graduation began in Maine in 1979 after the tragic alcohol related deaths of seven recent graduates during the commencement season. It has spread throughout the country as an alcohol- and drug-free overnight event, typically on graduation night. MMU has participated in this tradition for the past 28 years. The graduates will have a fun night filled with activities, food and entertainment to create a memorable end to their high school careers.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Weekend leadership program for high school sophomores

The Cambridge Area Rotary will be sponsoring two students to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA). Students currently enrolled in their high school sophomore year are eligible.

The RYLA is a nationally recognized honor that focuses on developing leadership skills, communication abilities, and team-building tools. This unique opportunity brings young people from Vermont, New Hampshire, and Québec together to share, evolve and learn to be more effective and self-confident

leaders in their schools, teams, communities, and other facets of everyday life.

The program will be held on the Lyndon campus of Northern Vermont University, Friday, June 24-Sunday, June 26. Over these two and a half days, participants can expect to learn by experience and actions, learn about personality traits and how to bring out everyone's talents, learn about their own traits and talents, and they have FUN while doing this! The weekend will include a service project where participants will personally make a difference for someone that they do not know.

Please share this information with any high school sophomores that you know. The application can be found on the Cambridge Area Rotary Facebook page: http://facebook.com/CambridgeAreaRotaryVT. Alternately, those interested may contact rachaelvw@gmail.com for a link to the application.

For more information on RYLA from a student perspective: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGEF5ludjX0.

CCV Open House for high school students and their parents

The Community College of Vermont (CCV) is offering several virtual open house sessions for high school students and their parents!

Go online to https://admissions.ccv.edu/portal/CCVopenhouse to follow links for the session(s) you are interested in and to complete the registration form and sign up. Once the form has been submitted, you will receive an email with an access link and more instructions.

Interested in more than one session? You can select multiple events on the registration form. The sessions are:

- Paying for College Tuesday, March 22, 6:00 PM. CCV offers a high-quality education at the lowest cost of any college in Vermont and we are here to help you apply for and receive financial aid. This session explores CCV's comprehensive financial aid program to help you pay for your education through grants, loans, and scholarships.
- Free Opportunities for High School Students Tuesday, March 29, 6:00 PM. This session presents the many opportunities for Vermont high school students to attend college for free while also earning credit towards graduation from high school.
- Great Opportunities for High School Graduates Tuesday, April 5, 6:00 PM. This session explores attending CCV after high school, the application process, the student/adviser relationship, academic support, and career services.

NVU in-person open houses March 26

When: Mar 26, 2022, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Northern Vermont University invites prospective students to Admissions in-person open house events on both the Johnson and Lyndon campuses, Saturday, March 26, from 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM.

Meet with faculty, staff, and current students to learn about programs, the admissions process, student life, athletics, and financial aid.

Register for the Open House you'd like to attend online at https://NorthernVermont.edu/OpenHouse.

The NVU-Lyndon Open House will also feature the NVU Learning and Working Community Symposium. All are welcome to learn about the fantastic experiences NVU students are having through hands-on, experiential projects, jobs, and internships. NVU's Learning and Working Community connects students with local businesses and organizations to build connections, energize student learning, and strengthen our communities. Representatives from area businesses and organizations are invited to attend to learn more and how to get involved. Please register to attend at https://NorthernVermont.edu/LWSymposium.

Questions? Reach out to Admissions@NorthernVermont.edu.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management) and 11990 (Wetlands) and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides final notice of its decision to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for an action located in a floodplain and near a wetland. Funding would be provided through Vermont Emergency Management to the Town of Underhill to demolish a vulnerable structure to mitigate flood damage, improve floodplain capacity, and reduce risk to homeowners.

The action is located near Roaring Brook on Dumas Road in Underhill, VT. The project is to acquire and demolish a private residence and its outbuildings that have been subject to several flood events. Impervious structures (i.e., driveway, foundation) would be removed, municipal water and sewer lines would be capped, and filling, seeding, and grading would occur.

The project is within a mapped special flood hazard area (100-year floodplain) and approximately 10 feet from a riverine wetland area. Temporary disturbance would be mitigated by implementing sedimentation and erosion control management measures during construction. A map of the area of available upon request.

Demolishing the home was the preferred option because it was a permanent, cost-effective solution to the continued flood risk in the area. Elevating the residence above the Base Flood Elevation was not practicable. Grant conditions will require compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, including coordination with the local floodplain administrator.

Map requests and comments about this project and potential floodplain/wetland impacts should be submitted within 15 days of the date of this publication to:

Karen Vale, Environmental Protection Specialist Federal Emergency Management Agency, Boston, MA karen.valevasilev@fema.dhs.gov; (202) 699-0650

 $\quad \text{and} \quad$

Eric Kuns, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist Federal Emergency Management Agency, Boston, MA eric.kuns@fema.dhs.gov; (202) 805-9089

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.

SCHOOL NEWS

Westford School news

Our Robotics Teams

Westford School is proud to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of our Robotics Teams. This year, the Muddy Pandas won the overall award for Robot Design and Programming, an amazing accomplishment, especially for a rookie team. The Periodic Pandas placed second, while Save the Pandas and Muddy Pandas both placed in the top five. Panda-Monium also brought home a ninth place finish.

In fact, Westford teams were all over the top Robot Game scores this year. Our scores, when compared to other state championships from around the country, would have placed within the top five scores in most states such as California, Colorado, Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, etc. That means our students are competitive nationally against thousands of teams!

Registrations

Prekindergarten Registration Information, Westford School Based Program: Eligible students reside in Essex Junction, Essex Town, or Westford and are at least three years old on September 1, 2021. A lottery drawing will be held in March to determine placement, and the district will respond to all requests in April.

Act 166: Registration for Act 166 for the 2022/23 school year is open (there is no deadline for Act 166 registration). More information and links to the forms can also be found on the EWSD website. Questions regarding all EWSD pre-K programs can be directed to Johanna Simmons in the Office of Student Support Services, jsimmons@ewsd.org.

Assessments

A student's learning requires ongoing instruction and assessment as well as solid communication among team members. We have set up a series of opportunities to provide ongoing communication with parents about their student's learning experiences throughout the year. Please note that midyear process reports were sent home in January and parent conferences are scheduled for Friday, March 18.

Local Assessments — Our winter assessments serve as a midyear check providing information concerning student progress in literacy and math. They allow us to adjust both individual student plans and school-wide action steps. The EWSD Comprehensive Local Assessment Plan outlines the winter assessment that students recently completed.

State Assessments - Math and English/Language Arts Assessment: All students in grades 3-8 are required each spring to take the state test called the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). SBAC is a computer-adaptive assessment measuring each student's performance against the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and English/Language Arts. The SBAC assessment window is Mid-March to early June. Once our teams determine grade specific days for testing, we will communicate this to families. It is likely that each team will have a designated week in May for morning assessments.

Free college and career planning sessions to view online

High school students and parents, what's next? Whether you're college-bound, thinking of training or apprenticeships, or not sure, VSAC's free one-day Saturday event is for you.

This year's event was held virtually on Saturday, March 5 — but the sessions were recorded and are now available for viewing. Review virtual workshops, discover free resources, get expert advice, and meet with local representatives from colleges and training programs across the state.

The sessions available to view include:

- College Options for Students with Developmental Disabilities and Autism;
- Financial Aid and Managing College Costs;
- · Money After High School;
- Navigating the Admissions Process;
- Non-Degree Pathways to a Great Career: Short-Term Training and Apprenticeships;
- Strategies for the SAT and ACT;
- The College Search: Finding the Right Fit.
- · Exploring Career and Education Pathways with MyFutureVT: • I Wish I Knew That! Programs to Pursue Before You
- Graduate;
- Navigating the College Search for Students Who Learn
- Scholarships: Free Money!
- Supporting Your Teen's Career Search;
- Writing the Admissions Essay.

For more information, go online to https://www.vsac.org/plan/ college-career-pathways.

New at Audubon Vermont: Early Release Wednesdays

Following the MMUUSD calendar, one Wednesday each month will provide an opportunity for children in grades K-4 to get outside at Audubon, to explore and ramble with nature as our guide. Brewster Pierce Memorial School students can ride the bus to Audubon (arrives approx at 1:15 PM), but we welcome others to join us from 1:00 - 5:00 PM! Come to one or all. Cost: \$20/day for Audubon Members, \$24/day for the general public.

For more information, go online to https://vt.audubon.org/ programs/afterschool-audubon-vermont.

Cambridge CC Buck Lake Camp scholarships still available

Scholarships are still available. Camp spots are filling fast so act now if interested!

Are you looking for something for your child to do this summer? Do they love the outdoors? The Cambridge Conservation Commission (CCC) would like to help send your child to the VT Fish and Wildlife's Green Mountain Conservation Camp at Buck Lake.

Camp runs in one week sessions in June, July, and August for boys and girls, ages 12-14. Please send an email to Conservation Commission Member Tim Larned, timlarned@myfairpoint.net, stating why you would like to go and what you love about the outdoors, to be considered for this scholarship. The amount of the scholarship will be determined by the number of applicants. Scholarships will be awarded until finds are depleted. Camp spots fill fast so please respond ASAP.

Campers will meet game wardens, foresters, fisheries and wildlife biologists, and others who work in the outdoors. Some of the fun activities that take place include learning about forestry, wetland ecology, orienteering, outdoor safety skills, fly fishing and spin casting, fly tying, archery, hiking and camping, canoeing, swimming, firearm safety, and much more... Opportunities for new friendships abound! Campers will receive both their State Hunter Education and Bow Hunter Certifications at the completion of the week.

For more information about the camp and specific dates, go to www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Lamoille Natural Resource **Conservation Summer Camp**

It may be cold and snowy, but it's not long until kids will be out of school for summer. Registration is now open for Lamoille Nature Center Summer camps!

At the camp, located on Cole Hill Road in Morrisville, kids will spend the days learning through hands-on exploration at our 40 acres forest reserve. Camp groups are capped at 10-12 kids and run from $9\!:\!00$ AM $-3\!:\!00$ PM. The cost per camper \$225 for LCCD members and \$275 for non-members; scholarships are available. This year we are offering:

- Layers of Life (5-8 year olds, July 11-14);
- Guardians of the Watershed (8-12 year olds, July 18-22); and • Wild Art, a collaborative camp with River Arts (8-12 year
- olds, July 25-29)

For more information and to register, go online to https:// lcnrcd.com/summer-camps/.

Winona Smith Scholarship opportunities now open

The League of Women Voters of Vermont Education Fund is now accepting applications for its Winona Smith Scholarship program. Created in 1998 to honor the legacy of League leader Winona Smith, the scholarship is awarded annually to local high school seniors who embody the characteristics and qualities Smith displayed, of civic participation and community service.

Four \$1500 scholarships will be awarded to students who demonstrate financial need, scholastic achievement, and come highly recommended by their teacher. Scholarship details can be found at https://bit.ly/LWVScholarshipDetails.

Applications, due on Sunday, May 1, can be completed online at https://bit.ly/lwvScholarship. Students need to submit two essays (500 words), one on issues concerning voting rights, and the other on the impact of a recent civic, national, or world event. A letter of recommendation from a teacher is also required, https://bit.ly/LWVTeacherRec.

The scholarship can be applied towards continuation of education in an accredited vocational-technical or trade school and two- or four-year college or university. Scholarship recipients will be announced on Wednesday, June 1

Last year, LWV scholarships were awarded to students from Winooski, Burr and Burton Academy, Otter Valley and Missisquoi Valley Union High Schools.

Questions can be directed to Becky Miller, lwvofvt.edfund@

Growing Works of Art contest calls for tree stories

Grade K-8 students, including homeschoolers, are invited to share their appreciation for forests and trees by creating an original story and artwork for the Growing Works of Art contest. The deadline to enter is Friday, March 11.

The theme of this year's contest is Sharing your TREEmendous story. Students are asked to write a short story (one to three paragraphs) about a meaningful experience or memory about trees, and then create a work of art to illustrate their story. Entries will be judged on creativity and originality (50%) and how well the story is told through writing and art (50%).

All art must be original and no larger than 11"x17". Any medium may be used, including pen, pencil, crayon, pastels, paint, cloth, collage, photography, or computer-generated art.

Entries may be submitted by mail or email but must include the official entry form, which can be found at http://go.uvm.edu/ growingart along with contest rules and submission guidelines. Past winning entries also are available to view on this website.

The winner in each age group will receive a Vermont State Park punch pass and will appear on Across the Fence, UVM Extension's weekday program on WCAX-TV (if possible, in 2022). Winning entries will be announced on Vermont's Arbor Day, which is Friday, May 6 this year, and will be featured on the contest website.

The contest is sponsored annually by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, a partnership between University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, as part of its Arbor Day activities.

For more information contact Gwen Kozlowski, gwen. kozlowski@uvm.edu or 802-651-8343, ext. 506.

VFN Conference on Wrightslaw Spec. Ed. Law and Advocacy

Registration has opened for Vermont Family Network's annual in-person conference on Thursday, April 14, 9:00 AM -4:30 PM (exhibits open at 8:00 AM) at Delta Hotel by Marriott Burlington.

VFN's goal is to bring inspiring speakers and practical information to families of children and youth with disabilities or special health needs and the professionals who serve them. Pete Wright, Esq. from Wrightslaw will focus on Special Education Law and Advocacy. This program should meet the needs of parents, educators, health care providers, advocates, and attorneys. It will focus on Special Education Law; Rights and Responsibilities; Tests and Measurements to Measure Progress and Regression; SMART Individual Education Plans (IEPs); and

Nicole Fortier named MMUUSD **Director of Finance**

Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Nicole Fortier as the Director of Finance and Operations for the district. Nicole Fortier received her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and her Master's Degree in Accounting/

and Operations

Professional Accountancy (cum laude) from Daemen College in Amherst, NY. With over 11 years of experience in both public and private accounting roles, Ms. Fortier has risen through the ranks from Staff Accountant to Senior Accountant to Accounting Manager, to her most recent role as

welcoming Ms. Fortier to our school community. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Introduction to Tactics and Strategies for Effective Advocacy.

the Controller at Lake Champlain Chocolates. Please join us in

If you have questions, contact Rachel Boyers, 802-876-5315 or rachel.boyers@vtfn.org. For an agenda, CEUs, scholarships, and to register, please visit https://www.vermontfamilynetwork. org/what-we-do/resources/annual-conference/.

Parent/Guardian registration fee \$80; Professional registration fee \$150. The fee includes breakfast, lunch, and three hardcopy books needed for the training. There will be the opportunity for parents to chat during lunch.

EWSD FY'23 budget and voting information

By Ben Dickie, EWSD Communications and Public Relations Coordinator

On February 15, the Essex Westford School District Board (EWSD) approved the FY'23 recommended budgets for the EWSD and Center for Technology, Essex, which will be presented to voters in April.

Learn more about the budget with presentations, videos, meeting minutes, and more by visiting http://www.ewsd.org/

Upcoming dates to remember: Tuesday, April 5: Public Informational Meeting at Essex High School, 6:30 PM; and Tuesday, April 12: Voting, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM (Westford residents vote at Westford School).

EWSD Budget Information: Budget Work Sessions with slides/ minutes/video at www.ewsd.org/budget; text of the approved warning: https://www.ewsd.org/cms/lib/VT02217845/Centricity/ Domain/124/2022%20EWSD%20Annual%20Meeting%20 Warning%20-%20For%20Publication.pdf.

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SPORTS NEWS

Contest encourages kids to move more

Do you like to jump rope? Swim, sprint, or do yoga? If you are age 18 or younger, enter the Move Together Contest! for a chance to win great prizes.

Military Kids Vermont and University of Vermont Extension 4-H are sponsoring the contest in conjunction with the Month of the Military Child. This celebration, held every April since 1986, recognizes the contributions and challenges of the children of military families.

No military affiliation is required to take part, although all activities must be completed between April 1-29. The drawing for prizes will be held on Friday, May 6.

Go to www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements for contest details, including the check-off list of activities. To submit your entry, scan, take a photo, or email a written list of completed activities to allison.smith.2@uvm.edu by Friday, April 29. Include your name, age, phone number, and mailing address.

You will earn one ticket for every activity completed. Most of the 20 activities are based on the military physical fitness tests — with a few just for fun. Activities include crunches, biking, push-ups, walking on a treadmill, and doing jumping jacks. You also can earn tickets by wearing purple on Friday, April 15 for the Month of the Military Child, or telling a family member or friend about your favorite activity that gets you moving.

Although not required for prize eligibility, participants are encouraged to take a photo of an activity in action and tag @MKVermont on Facebook and use #purpleupvt2022.

If questions or to request a printed copy of the activities list, contact Allison Smith at *allison*. *smith*.2@uvm.edu.

Mt. Mansfield Lacrosse Tiny Sticks, boys registration online

The Popular Tiny Sticks program is back for 2022, with sign-ups online, open to girls in grades K-3 and boys in grades K-2. Practice begins the first weekend of May and ends first weekend of June.

Boys Lacrosse is open to boys in grades 3-8, with the season running from the beginning of April (weather dependent) to the second week of June.

For more information about these youth lacrosse programs, contact Craig Benson, *mmboyslacrosse@gmail.com*.

Mount Mansfield Girls' Lacrosse Club registration is open

Welcome to the 2022 season of middle school girls' lacrosse — Mount Mansfield Girls' Lacrosse Club.

This program is for girls in grades 4-8. The season starts at the end of March (depending on snow) and runs through the first week of June.

Practice is held Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. Games are Sundays in May and the first Sunday in June.

Please email *melissamutolo@live.com* for registration.

Bolton - \$985,000 Charlotte - \$748,000 Charlotte - \$748,000 Fletcher - \$55,000 WHO YOU HIRE MATTERS... CALL OUR TEAM TODAY! NANCY JENKINS REAL ESTATE 140 Kennedy Dr, Suite 102 South Burlington, VT 05403 802-846-4888 - 888-567-4049



Cambridge Youth Soccer spring soccer registration

Cambridge Youth Soccer is excited to announce that registration is now open for our Spring season. Teams for girls and boys are offered from pre-K through U16, depending on enrollment. For more information please go online to https://system.gotsport.com/programs/842N25686?reg_role=player.

Also, we are eagerly seeking individuals with time and energy to serve who may be interested in joining our board, as well as volunteers interested in working with us in other capacities, such as fields and equipment and program boosterism. Thanks!

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Words with Meanings

By Kimberly Madura

(Merriam Webster)

Anxiety: Solicitous Desire

Solicitous: full of desire; eager; anxiously willing; anxious desire

Desire: craving for; lust for; coveting; the impulsion of physical and mental appetite or need; governed by cravings

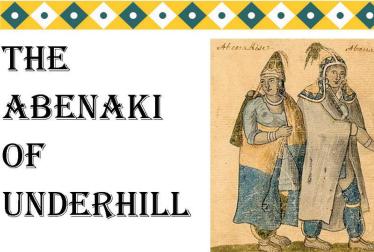
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Thank You For Caring

March is National Social Work Month. Social Workers have a commitment toward the safety and wellbeing of children. You can too! Become a foster, kin, or respite care provider to a child or youth in need. Find out how at:

https://dcf.vermont.gov/foster



What: 'In the foothills of

Moosehead Mountain: the Underhill Abenakis and the Land'

When: March 28, 2022 7 PM Presenter: Dr. Frederick M. Wiseman

Where: on-line, refer to Underhill Town Website

Underhill has been and always will be an important place for the Vermont Abenakis to hunt, fish, gather the bounty of the land, and trade with their neighbors. From 6,00-year-old arrowheads turned up by the plow along Brown's river to memories of Baskets to Gypsies



traveling Route 15in the early 20th century, and the native ancestry and identity of modern town residents, these traces confirm an enduring Underhill presence of the first Vermonters. Join Professor Fred Wiseman as he shares his research on the Vermont Abenaki experience in Underhill and adjacent areas. Using slides and sharing examples of artifacts, he will discuss history, ecology,

and lifeways, including native crops and farming, hunting, and fishing, There will be time for questions and answers following the presentation. Sponsored by the Underhill Conservation Commission. Call Betsy for questions at 802-899-4576.