

## 2023 flood property buyouts

By Jonathan DeLaBruere

Cambridge Town Administrator

Grant funding is available through Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) to cover 100% of the project cost for the voluntary purchase of properties (residential, commercial, or vacant parcels) that are at risk from flooding.

- If a property was damaged during the July 2023 flooding event, VEM may be able to fund the purchase of the property at the appraised value the day before the storm.

- If any federal funding was received following damages from this event (e.g., flood insurance payments or Individual Assistance), property owners need to save all receipts showing that funding was used for repairs.

- If a property was not damaged during this event but is at risk from flooding, VEM may still be able to fund the purchase of the property.

- If a property owner is considering pursuing a voluntary buyout, or if a municipality has property owners who may be interested, please fill out this intake form: <https://forms.office.com/g/JisdCq8LDL>. VEM will then direct you to the appropriate application materials in the next few weeks.

Once property buyouts are complete, any structures will be demolished, and the property will be maintained as green open space in perpetuity.

If you have questions or would like to request a site visit, please reach out to [dps.hazardmitigation@vermont.gov](mailto:dps.hazardmitigation@vermont.gov).

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Join the Harvest Market Parade

Join the Parade! What parade you ask? The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Market parade on Saturday, September 23, 2023. The parade line-up is at 8:40 AM in the parking lot of Browns River Middle School (River Road, Jericho), with the parade starting at 9:00 AM sharp. The parade will begin at BRMS and finish at the United Church of Underhill, Park Street, Underhill Flats.

Anyone is welcome to join the parade — groups, families, musicians, unicycles, tricycles, horses, dogs!

If you have music, please let us know so we can be prepared for how many music groups are attending — [parade@underhillharvestmarket.com](mailto:parade@underhillharvestmarket.com). Otherwise, no need to sign up, just be at the parking lot! Questions? Contact [parade@underhillharvestmarket.com](mailto:parade@underhillharvestmarket.com).

#### Harvest Market events and attractions

It is time again for the Old-Fashioned Harvest Market located at the United Church of Underhill, 7 Park Street, Underhill, Saturday-Sunday, September 23-24 — Saturday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Sunday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

All the usual festivities will be returning including Children's Games, Fry Hut, Cider Tent, over 100 vendors, Country Store, Book Nook, Lemonade, Refreshment Stand serving hamburgers, sausages, and hot dogs, Soup Tent with homemade soups (Saturday only), homemade Cookies, and of course, The Clutter Barn.

Old Fashioned Harvest Market would not be possible without our many volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer, please go to <https://underhillharvestmarket.com/volunteer-sign-up/> and see all the volunteering opportunities!

## 4-H'ers fare well at Champlain Valley Fair



Exhibitors in the 4-H Poultry Show, held Sunday, August 27 at the Champlain Valley Fair in Essex Junction show off their chickens after the competition. They are (from left): Lane and Evan Fortune, Georgia; Gabrielle Senecal, Fairfax; Josephine Kascha-Hare, Milton; Claire Romano and Nick and Marshall Raley, all from Fairfax; Henry Lawrence, Georgia; Ian Kascha-Hare, Milton; and Riella Lawney, Richmond. Missing from photo: Nora Raley, Fairfax.

PHOTO BY HOLLY FORTUNE

For many 4-H club members, the Champlain Valley Fair was not just fried dough, live music, and thrill-a-minute midway rides. For them the annual fair, held August 25-September 4 in Essex Junction, provided an opportunity to show the public what they learned in 4-H this year, as well as earn ribbons and premiums for their hard work.

Many of the 4-H events, including the judging jamboree and poultry show, took place on 4-H Day, Sunday, August 27. In addition, more than 20 4-H'ers marched in the afternoon parade that day, while others presented their team demonstration or action exhibit in the 4-H Hall.

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#### Westford Community Wastewater site walks

By Melissa Manka, Westford Town Planner

On Saturday, September 23, 10:00 AM, join the Planning Commission to visit a local example of a community in-ground leach field in Westford — the Westford Fire District #1 Public Water & Sewer System. On hand will be R.J. Moore, the 16-year veteran of oversight of this neighborhood wastewater system, as well as system users/neighbors to answer questions. The site is located off of Hillside Lane, almost directly across from 51 North Road. It has a 10,000 gallon per day capacity. More information is available at <https://www.wfd1.org/>. Directions: going toward Milton on the Westford/Milton Road, turn Left onto North Road, and Hillside Lane will be the first left. Please don't pull down Hillside Lane, instead park on North Road. Traffic cones will delineate the area to park.

Then at 12:00 PM, join project engineers, consultants, and the Planning Commission on a tour of the proposed community wastewater system in the Town Common Area, along Brookside Road and the northern field of the Maple Shade Town Forest. Meet at the Town Common.

Community wastewater information and events: <https://www.westfordfuture.com/>

Community Wastewater Project video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XclcUVJfpYE&t=1s>



Westford 4-H'er Madeline Langlois was named Junior Champion at the 4-H horse show held Saturday, September 2 at the Champlain Valley Fair in Essex Junction.

PHOTO BY MARGARET COAN/UVM EXTENSION 4-H

#### Jericho zoning permit inspections, office closure

By Terri Sabens, VPA III, Municipal Assessor

It's that time of year to get the fall permit inspections done. I will be out and about this month a day or two a week; I will have signage on my vehicle (*Jericho Official Business*). If you have an open permit and would like to contact me, please feel free to email me at [assessor@jerichovt.gov](mailto:assessor@jerichovt.gov) or call the Listers' office at 802-899-2640 x 107 to schedule a time for me to call or visit your property.

Also, the Jericho Zoning Office will be closed from September 27-October 11, when normal hours will resume.

#### Jericho Underhill Land Trust Annual Meeting October 2

By Livy Strong, Chair, Mills Riverside Park

Jericho Underhill Park District Board

You are invited! All are welcome! Come celebrate a busy year of land conservation at the Annual Meeting of the Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) on Monday, October 2, 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Underhill Town Hall, Pleasant Valley Road, Underhill Center.

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Members of the Whispering Pines 4-H Club of Westford presented an action exhibit, *Canning Shadows*, on how to make glow jars. Participants included Kinzie Grindle, St. Albans, and Josie Kascha-Hare, Saige Prisco and Lily and Samantha Provost, all from Milton. The club was chosen to present this action exhibit again at Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA later this month.

Twin sisters Lily and Samantha Provost also did a team demonstration, *Exhibiting Memories*, showing creative ways to repurpose ribbons that they have won in 4-H competitions. They will repeat this demonstration at the Eastern 4-H Horse Roundup in Kentucky in November as members of the State 4-H Horse Communications Team.

Thirty-six 4-H'ers took part in the judging jamboree, which featured two different Vermont products. The first part was an informational session led by 4-H alum Adele Biasini, who comes from a family of cheesemakers in Morrisville. She described the different kinds of cheeses including Swiss, cheddar, brie, and mozzarella, before asking the participants to taste and try to identify them.

Heather Darby, the University of Vermont Extension (UVM) agronomist, talked about hay and the qualities that farmers want for feeding their livestock. The 4-H'ers then judged four baskets of second-cut hay with 95% of them ranking the hay samples correctly.

The poultry show, which included fitting and showmanship, conformation, and general knowledge contests, attracted 11 competitors. Ryan Breen, Brandon, served as the show judge.

Fairfax 4-H'er Gabrielle Senecal earned blue ribbons in all three events. Participants who won blue ribbons in both fitting and showmanship and general knowledge and a red in conformation were Evan and Lane Fortune, Georgia; Josephina Kascha-Hare, Milton; Riella Lawney, Richmond; and Nick Raley and Claire Romano, both from Fairfax.

Ian Kascha-Hare, Milton, received a blue ribbon in fitting and showmanship and a red ribbon in conformation and general knowledge. Nora Raley, Fairfax, earned a blue in general knowledge and reds in the other contests. Henry Lawrence, Georgia, and Marshall Raley, Fairfax, also took part, earning red ribbons in all the contests.

Thirty-four 4-H'ers showed 50 animals in the 4-H dairy

show on Saturday, August 26. The competition was judged by Joseph Real, a former dairy 4-H'er from Georgia Center.

Caroline Allen, Ferrisburgh, was named Fitting and Showmanship Champion at the 4-H dairy show. Brailey Livingston, New Haven, was the Reserve Fitting and Showmanship Champion.

Winning breed grand championships were Ayrshire: Thomas Maloney, Malone, NY; Brown Swiss: Brody McAllister, Morrisville; Lineback: Brailey Livingston, New Haven; Guernsey: Thomas Allen, Ferrisburgh; Holstein: Mackenzie Chase, Bristol; Jersey: Isabella Wilbur, Orwell; and Milking Shorthorn: Adelyne Maloney, Malone, NY. Brailey's animal won Supreme Champion Junior Female while Mackenzie's entry was named Supreme Champion Senior Female.

4-H'ers who won championships at the fair's 4-H horse show on Saturday, September 2 were: Senior Champion: Alessandra Hoffman, Milton; Reserve Senior Champion: Kelsey Paradee, Swanton; Junior Champion: Madeline Langlois, Westford; Reserve Junior Champion: Paige Hemond, Waterford; Advanced Beginner Champion: Jenesy Zwart, Danville; Reserve Advance Beginner Champion: LeighAnn Judd, Wolcott; Beginner Champion: Saige Prisco, Milton; Reserve Beginner Champion: Kaylee Demars, St. Johnsbury.

Jolene Fontaine, Jericho, served as the announcer. The show was judged by Sherri Thornton, Burnham, ME, with Jimmy Sullivan, Swanton, acting as ringmaster.

Throughout the 10-day fair, visitors were able to view a number of exhibits in the 4-H Hall to learn more about 4-H.

Earning Best of Show rosette ribbons for these exhibits were: CLUB SCRAPBOOK: Whispering Pines 4-H Club, Westford; EXPRESSIVE ART: Alessandra Hoffman, Milton; PHOTOGRAPHY: Grace Peterson, Essex; POSTER: Nora Raley, Fairfax

TABLETOP DISPLAY: Mackenzie Chase, Bristol; UPCYCLE CLOTHING: Amelia Peterson, Essex.

Assisting 4-H Fair Superintendent Mary Fay of Westford with the 4-H events were Martha Blades, Jericho; Pam Senesac, Colchester; and UVM Extension 4-H Educators Margaret Coan, Martha Manning, and Martha Seifert.

Vivienne Babbott, Hinesburg; Hailee Blades, Jeffersonville; Anna-Lise Coolidge, Westford; and Madeline Tylenda, Essex Junction rode horses for the judging class. All four are either current or former 4-H members and have shown at past horse shows at this fair. In addition, Anna-Lise was interviewed by Vermont Public at the fair about her 4-H experience.

For information about the UVM Extension 4-H program, contact the State 4-H Office at 802-656-7630 or 800-571-0668 (toll-free in Vermont).

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Refreshments start at 6:30 PM, with a short business meeting at 7:00 PM. We are delighted to have Jaclyn Comeau, a wildlife biologist and the Black Bear Project Leader for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, as our guest speaker. Her topic will be about living with black bears.

For over nine years, Jaclyn has led black bear research and education in Vermont. As a Black Bear Project Leader, she works to coordinate and conduct research evaluating the effects on black bears of industrial wind development within large bear-scarred beech concentrations. She also captures black bears to fit them with satellite GPS collars. She studies black bear activity and habitat use via telemetry and remote camera data. She evaluates roads as potential landscape barriers in cooperation with Staying Connected Initiative. And finally, Jaclyn assists Vermont residents with resolving human-bear conflicts. Bring your questions and learn more about our important black bear neighbors.

Please contact the Jericho Underhill Land Trust at 802-899-2693 or [julandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:julandtrust@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Westford Fire Department seeking volunteers

By Chief Garrett Bartlett

#### Westford Volunteer Fire Department

The Westford Volunteer Fire Department is in need of volunteer firefighters. No experience is required; all training and equipment are paid through the Fire Department. We have a basic firefighter course that starts soon so it would be the perfect time to join.

Be there for your neighbors in their time and need, and join the family of some of the most selfless people Westford has to offer.

For more information, email [gbartlett13@hotmail.com](mailto:gbartlett13@hotmail.com) or come by the station, located at 35 Cambridge Road, every Monday night at 7:00 PM.

### Public hearing on draft management plan for Park

By Livy Strong, Chair, Mills Riverside Park Jericho Underhill Park District Board

The Jericho Underhill Park District board has been working on a draft management plan for Mills Riverside Park; the plan can be found on the Mills Riverside Park website at [https://www.millsriversidepark.org/fileadmin/files/Legal/JUPD\\_Management\\_Plan\\_06-07-23.pdf](https://www.millsriversidepark.org/fileadmin/files/Legal/JUPD_Management_Plan_06-07-23.pdf).

There will be a Public Hearing on Wednesday, October 18, 7:00 – 8:00 PM at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, River Rd., Jericho. Feedback is welcomed and can be sent to [jupdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:jupdistrict@gmail.com).

The Park District meets the first and third Wednesday of every month except July. The public is always invited. Meetings are at 7:00 PM at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library's project room with a separate entrance.

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## COMING EVENTS

## Ongoing Events

**Craft Group:** meets twice a month on Thursdays (September 21; October 5, 19), 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. Open to anyone interested in coming with any craft they like: crocheting, rug hooking, knitting, needlepoint, watercolors, jewelry making, macramé... you name it! If you have any questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or [atowerinvt@gmail.com](mailto:atowerinvt@gmail.com), or Julie Hehir, 802-899-3199 or [juliehhehir@comcast.net](mailto:juliehhehir@comcast.net).

**Cribbage Group:** meets the first Tuesday of the month (October 3), 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM in the meeting room at Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 8 River Rd., Jericho. It's okay if you're a little rusty — come join us for a friendly game.

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

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

## Coming Events

## Wednesday, September 20

**Jericho Town Republicans Caucus,** 7:00 – 8:00 PM, Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. All Jericho Republicans are invited and encouraged to attend. Please see the warning notice posted in the Jericho Town Clerk's office for agenda information.

## Thursday, September 21

**Winter Wellness Concert,** 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Jeffersonville Farmers' and Artisan Market Green, Old Main St., Jeffersonville. The 5/6 grade teachers from CES are partnering with the CES PTA for a benefit concert that will feature Jeremy Sicley from *Beg, Steal or Borrow* and other local musicians. We will start selling tickets at 5:30 PM. We will be offering snacks/drinks as well as a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds will go to the grade 4-6 Winter Wellness Program, which wouldn't be possible without our partnership with the Cambridge Area Rotary Club and our CES PTA.

**Chicken Pie Supper,** 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Binghamville United Methodist Church, intersection of Shaw and School Roads, Fletcher (next door to the Fletcher Town Clerk). Takeout only — drive up to the door from the circular drives and order, pay, and we will deliver food to your car. The dining room will be open if you wish to sit and eat, but with no wait service. Please RSVP (so we can be sure to have enough for everyone) to Charles Tinker, 802-849-2120, or Tara Sweet, 802-355-0768. Adults \$15, kids 5-12 \$6, under 5 free.

**Cambridge Republican Town Caucus,** 6:30 PM, Cambridge Town Clerk's Office. On the agenda are election of a Town Committee, its officers and members, and new business.

## Saturday, September 23

**Rummage Sale at Jeff Church,** 9:00 AM, Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville. Lots of clothes, shoes, and jewelry to sell at prices that are not to be beat.

**Next Steps with Your Family History,** 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom. Are you ready to put a little more meat on the bare bones of your family tree? A little bit stuck? Do your family members roll their eyes when you start talking about genealogy? Go beyond the basics in your search for your family history. Ed McGuire will introduce the use of research logs, timelines, maps, and more. He'll also touch on why you might want to put some time into the history and languages that might be found in the area, as well as why you might want to research other family members, associates and neighbors. Ed McGuire is the current president of the Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society (VT-FCGS). He is a frequent speaker on genealogy research, DNA testing and Irish family history. Classes at the VT Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars; cost is \$10. Please visit our website [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org) for additional details and for registration.

## Sunday, September 24

**Shopping in Johnson in the 1950s and 1960s,** 2:00 PM, Holcomb House, 188 Main St. East, Johnson. Dean West and Bob West grew up on Main Street and will talk about the different stores that were there: the services they provided, the choices of merchandise available, and the people who kept the businesses interesting. Both worked at the Grand Union so can share their memories of working there too. All are welcome to this free event, presented by the Johnson Historical Society. Cookies will be served. Doors open at 1:00 PM. For more information contact Linda Jones, 802-635-7401. \

**Community Concert with Bethany Blake on harpsichord and organ,** 3:00 PM, First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, Main St., Essex Junction. The program will feature music by French and German composers, including Bach, Couperin, and Rameau. Concert proceeds will support COTS (Committee on Temporary Shelter) and First Congregational Church of Essex Junction. Tickets available online at <https://sevendaystickets.com/events/bethany-blake-9-24-2023> or by phone at the FCCEJ office, 802-878-5745. \$20 suggested donation, free for 18 and under.

## Thursday, September 28

**Cambridge Democratic Committee caucus,** 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Cambridge Town Office, 85 Church St., Jeffersonville. The purpose of the meeting will be reorganization of our committee officers.

## Saturday, September 30

**Tree Poetry Walk - Let a Tree Be Your Muse,** 12:00 – 3:00 PM, Jericho Center Green. The Jericho Conservation Commission and the Jericho Town Library are partnering to present a family-friendly community Tree Celebration. We are looking for poetry submissions to help us create a poetry walk among the trees at the Jericho Center Green. The theme of the poems should be Trees — beyond that we will leave it to your creativity. All ages are welcomed to submit a poem. Poems will be printed and posted in a public "poetry walk" display. Poems should be submitted in an editable word document to the Jericho Town Librarian, [catherine@jerichotownlibrary.org](mailto:catherine@jerichotownlibrary.org). The deadline for submissions is Monday, September 25.

**Case Studies of Names Lost in Vermont,** 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, on Zoom. Anyone who has researched their American French-Canadian heritage back to Canada knows how original names have been changed. Sometimes the trail gets obscured by not recognizing "dit" name variants. At other times, both a first and last name has been corrupted, garbled, or loosely translated. In many other instances, ancestral knowledge was simply lost. Suspecting that one of his U.S. History students had a French-Canadian name, Michael Dwyer once asked what the family's ethnic background was. Answer: "farmer." Neither the student nor anyone in his family had the faintest idea of their roots back to the pioneers of New France. In this presentation, Dwyer draws on 40 years of case studies of French names lost in Vermont and the research steps and resources he took to rediscover them. Classes at the VT Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars; cost is \$10. Please visit our website [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org) for additional details and for registration.

## Wednesday, October 4

**Restoring old growth forest characteristics,** 6:30 – 8:00 PM, on Zoom. Old-growth forests were once the predominant natural condition across New England and New York before European settlement; however, it is now one of the rarest. Though new old-growth forests cannot be created, there is an opportunity through both passive and active management to restore old-growth characteristics in our current forests. This session will focus on the new publication *Restoring Old-Growth Characteristics to New England's and New York's Forests*, the goal of which is to increase the amount of old-growth characteristics in the region by giving decision-makers the information they need to adopt old-growth restoration strategies in ways that complement their ownership goals, helping to sustain our native forests and their many benefits. Webinar presented by Paul Catanzaro, MA State Extension Forester and Professor at University of Massachusetts Amherst. For more information and to register, go online to <https://www.womenowningwoodlands.net/event/restoring-old-growth-characteristics-webinar>.

## Saturday, October 7

**Painted Theater Curtains,** 1:30 PM, Brick Meeting House, Westford Common, Westford. The Westford Historical Society presents Christine Hadsel's program and highlights Westford's own curtain. Handicapped accessible. Free and open to the public, though donations gladly accepted and appreciated. For further information please contact Caroline Brown, 802-878-8890, or Glenn Rogers, 802-878-4524.

**"STRIDES" Walk for Diabetes,** 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Mills Riverside Park, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. This walking event on the MRP trails is an effort to bring awareness about diabetes and its ramifications to our communities, with several walking trail options for taking a beautiful autumn stroll on the park trails. Informational tables at the Snowflake Bentley pavilion; onsite optional testing for diabetes. Post-walking refreshments and snacks provided. This is a no-cost event, although donations will be accepted in support of diabetes programs.

## Thursday, October 12

**CPR and First Aid Class,** 6:00 PM, Underhill Fire Station, 420 VT Rt. 15, Underhill. Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) and Northeast Emergency Training Solutions will offer an Infant, Child and Adult CPR and First Aid Class; \$20 per person. To sign up or for more information, contact Katie, [kmf0508@comcast.net](mailto:kmf0508@comcast.net).



## Harvest Crossing

What was all the excitement on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> behind the fire station in Underhill? It was the kick-off of the completion of phase one of Harvest Crossing; the literal kick-off is pictured above.

Harvest Crossing is a vision of the United Church of Underhill partnered with Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity to provide perpetually affordable homes for families in Underhill. This vision includes seven single family homes and one duplex, which will be available to qualified families in the 8.6 acres behind the United Church of Underhill in Underhill Flats.

The initiative includes three phases. Phase 1 is the purchase of the property; Phase 2 is the preparing the property for building; Phase 3 is the building and welcoming the new neighbors.

Phase 1 has included working for three years to prepare the property to ensure the land will be buildable. Research into available funding to help pay for the property and required property evaluations were included in Phase 1. To be eligible for government grants and funding, the following were completed: wetland delineation, archeological survey, assessment of property value. Additionally, a website was built and a preliminary engineering site sketch was completed.

The event on September 8 celebrated the milestones and people who helped accomplish finishing the first phase. Speakers at the event included Vermont State Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale; Elizabeth Egan, General Counsel, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board; Alex Farrell, Deputy Commissioner, VT Department of Housing and Community Development; Sean Thomas, VT Director, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Dan Steinbauer, Chairperson, Underhill Selectboard; Dave Mullen from Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity; and Dave Clift, Co-chair of the Harvest Crossing Planning Team. Many others who have helped and plan to help to realize the vision for Harvest Crossing were in attendance. All the people in attendance were excited to be part of the future of Harvest Crossing.

Phase 2 will include: meeting with the neighbors, working with the town to plan the subdivision, pursuing state and local permits, finalizing plans with McCain Associates our engineering firm. We will continue pursuing fundraising from our local community and obtaining grants from other public funding to achieve the \$600,000 goal. This money will be used to offset the costs of installing infrastructure.

Phase 3 will be turning over the land to Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, building the homes and welcome the new neighbors. The building of the homes will require hundreds of volunteer hours to complete the homes for new families.

UCU is a combined United Methodist and United Church of Christ congregation that hosts the popular Old Fashioned Harvest Market, always the last full weekend in September. This year the market will be September 23-24. Green Mountain Habitat for Mountain Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Their vision includes a world where everyone has a decent and affordable place to live, homes, communities, and hope.

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## Improvements to parking at Mills Riverside Park

By Livy Strong, Chair, Mills Riverside Park  
Jericho Underhill Park District Board

What's happening with the Mills Riverside Park Driveway? Since the spring of 2020, Mills Riverside Park has experienced a significant increase in daily visitors, exceeding 30%. This surge in visitors is due to the popularity of the off-leash area, hiking trails, farmers' markets, and playing fields. Consequently, the parking lot frequently reaches full capacity, leading visitors to park on the front lawn as overflow parking. Unfortunately, this has taken a toll on the field surrounding the existing parking area. Large sections of the field have been cordoned off for months because it was regularly used for overflow parking. This resulted in compaction and rutting, which led to pooling water issues.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2023 (ARPA) offered federal recovery funding opportunities for towns. Green spaces like Mills Riverside Park, which have experienced increased use, were eligible to apply for funding for upgrading to support the growing demand. Both the Towns of Jericho and Underhill, beneficiaries of ARPA funding, encouraged residents and town boards to propose projects for allocating this one-time federal funding.

The Jericho Underhill Park District (JUPD) board, representing both towns, submitted a proposal to the Selectboards, as well as the ARPA committee in Underhill. This plan aimed to upgrade the park's driveway for additional parking as well as grading and drainage improvements. This will increase parking availability and reduce annual maintenance costs. Both towns share a strong partnership and a common vision for a thriving Mills Riverside Park, leading them to fully support the JUPD proposal.

To execute this proposal, JUPD secured ARPA funding, along with internal funding. A formal bid process was initiated, which involved multiple meetings with contractors and revisions to bid deadlines. The VT State Division of Stormwater and town advisors guided the JUPD in narrowing the scope of the bids, resulting in the receipt of four competitive bids. After careful deliberation, Chris Poley of Terrain Tek Unlimited was awarded the project with a start date, dependent on weather conditions, set for Monday, October 9.

More information on the project will be posted on the Mills Riverside Park website at <https://www.millsriversidepark.org/projects/driveway-enhancements>, or contact JUPD board member [ctardie@gmail.com](mailto:ctardie@gmail.com).

## The Mountain Gazette

6558 VT Route 116, Starksboro, VT 05487

802-453-6354

[mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net)

Deadline September 28, 2023

Published October 5, 2023

Brenda Boutin - publisher, ad design/delivery  
Editor - Sara Riley

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## HEALTH NEWS

**Lions Club blood drive October 4**

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, October 4, 12:00 – 5:00 PM, please note the new times. The drive will be held at the Covenant Church at 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction.

There is a severe nationwide blood shortage so please consider making a donation. As always, the Lions Club will be serving pie with ice cream after you have donated. In addition to the pie donors will receive a \$15 *Amazon.com* gift card by email. Appointment times can be scheduled at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), code: COVENANT.

**Infant, child and adult CPR and first aid class at UJFD Underhill**

By **Andy Forsberg, Deputy Chief/EMS Supervisor, UJFD**

The Underhill Jericho Fire Department (UJFD) and Northeast Emergency Training Solutions will offer an Infant, Child and Adult CPR and First Aid Class on Thursday, October 12, 6:00 PM at the Underhill Fire Station, 420 VT Rt. 15, Underhill. The cost of the class will be \$20 per person.

To sign up or if you have questions or concerns contact Katie, [kmf0508@comcast.net](mailto:kmf0508@comcast.net).

**Tai Chi/Qigong classes in Underhill**

Qigong involves using exercises to optimize energy within the body, mind, and spirit, with the goal of improving and maintaining health and well-being. Qigong has both mental and physical components and involves the regulation of the mind, breath, body movement, and posture. It is the “mother” of Tai Chi.

Tiger, a Nam Hoa Temple Qigong form, will meet two days per week on Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 – 3:15 PM at the United Church of Underhill (UCU or the Harvest Market Church) for 10 weeks from October 2-December 13. The fee for the 10-week session (20 classes) is \$50. Prior experience with Qigong or Tai Chi is helpful but not necessary. Registration required before attending class.

Directly contact Nam Hoa Temple Certified Instructor Jo Osborne for further information or to register for class ([joannosborne2@gmail.com](mailto:joannosborne2@gmail.com)).

**Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County upcoming events**

Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County has a lot going on:

We are looking for classic and antique car owners to help us deliver meals on Thursday, September 21. Please get in touch with Nicole if you are interested, 802-888-5011 ext. 1

We have a fall bulb fundraiser happening this month. 50% of your purchase will go to our home-delivered meal program. You can order at <http://www.mowlc.org>.

Pottery Event for a Cause on Saturday, October 7. Tickets are on sale now at <http://www.mowlc.org>.

Annual Meeting with Brunch on Thursday, September 28, 10:00 AM at the Hub, 21 Munson Ave., Morrisville. RSVP to Nicole at 802-888-5011 ext.1 or to [meals@mowlc.org](mailto:meals@mowlc.org).

P.S. We are always looking for volunteers to help prep in our kitchen and deliver meals.

**Increased health risk from mosquito bites**

From the VT Department of Health

Summer may be coming to an end, but we all need to protect ourselves from mosquitoes, which can spread serious diseases and continue to be a risk until the first hard frost.

If you are in Grand Isle or Franklin County, take extra precautions against mosquito bites due to an increased risk of eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), a disease caused by a virus that spreads through bites from infected mosquitoes. In rare cases, EEE can be serious and life-threatening.

In Alburgh and Swanton, state officials strongly recommend people limit outdoor activities and events taking place between dusk and dawn — just before the sun sets, through the night, and until the sun rises — when mosquitoes are most likely to bite.

The risk for mosquito bites decreases as the weather cools, but EEE and West Nile virus (WNV) could be circulating in other parts of the state. Protect yourself by:

- wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants when outdoors;
- using EPA-approved insect repellent;
- getting rid of standing water;
- covering strollers and outdoor playpens with mosquito netting;
- fixing holes in screens or other gaps in windows and doors.

Learn more and find weekly updates of where WNV and EEE virus have been found in Vermont during mosquito season at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/mosquito-borne-diseases/eastern-equine-encephalitis>.

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**Free COVID tests in Westford**

By **Bree Drapa, Librarian, Westford Public Library**

Thanks to a partnership with the Vermont Department of Health, the Westford Public Library is able to offer free COVID-19 tests, up to two boxes per person (two tests in each box) — while supplies last.

These tests expire December 2023, even though they are marked May 2023.

Please do not enter buildings while sick. If you need a curbside delivery, let someone at the library (802-878-5639) know.

Tests are available at the Westford Town Office, the Westford Public Library, and the Westford Food Shelf. Please take from only one source.

**September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a time for community members to come together and raise awareness on this stigmatized and often taboo topic. The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Vermont (NAMI Vermont) is actively involved in advocating for better mental health care systems and erasing the stigma surrounding mental health and suicide throughout the state of Vermont. In addition to shifting public perception, we use this month to spread hope and share vital information with people affected by suicide. While suicide prevention is important to address year-round, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month provides a dedicated time to come together with collective passion and strength around this difficult but extremely important topic. Our goal is to ensure that individuals, friends, families, and the community have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help if they or someone they know may be experiencing thoughts of suicide.

Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background. Suicidal thoughts and suicide occur too frequently, but they should not be considered common. In many cases, friends and families affected by a suicide loss (often called “suicide loss survivors”) are left in the dark, not knowing why this happened. Too often, the feelings of shame and stigma prevent individuals from talking openly about suicide and getting the support that they need. Talking openly with others about suicide is an important first step in building a community that is unafraid to shed light on the difficulties of mental illness and letting others know that they are not alone in experiencing dark thoughts.

“We can all benefit from honest and open conversations about mental health and suicide. Just one conversation can change a life. You can make a difference by being there to listen and support someone who may be struggling to get help and access treatment. 9-8-8 is the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline that is available 24/7 for individuals and family members. NAMI Vermont’s Support Groups are another great resource to help individuals connect with someone who understands, who has been there.” said Laurie Emerson, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Vermont.

Suicide facts and statistics:

- In 2021, there were 142 deaths by suicide in Vermont.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Vermonters aged 10-34.
- The suicide death rate is four times higher for men than women.
- Hospital rates for intentional self-harm are more than twice as high for women as for men.
- LGBTQ students are almost five times more likely to attempt suicide than their non-LGBTQ counterparts.
- In 2019, more than half of all deaths by suicide were by firearms.
- 88% of firearm deaths were suicides in 2019.
- Transgender adults are nearly nine times more likely to attempt suicide than cisgender adults.

While these statistics may be upsetting, there are ways that you can help yourself and others to help prevent suicide from happening. If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health, suicide, or substance use crisis or emotional distress, reach out 24/7 to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) by dialing or texting 988 or using chat services at <http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org> to connect to a trained crisis counselor. You can also get crisis text support via the Crisis Text Line by texting VT to 741741. Visit <http://namivt.org/resources> to find a comprehensive list of resources available for those in crisis and other non-crisis mental health resources.

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) suggests five action steps to help someone in emotional pain:

ASK: “Are you thinking about killing yourself?” It’s not an easy question, but studies show that asking at-risk individuals if they are suicidal does not increase suicides or suicidal thoughts.

KEEP THEM SAFE: Reducing a suicidal person’s access to highly lethal items or places is an important part of suicide prevention. While this is not always easy, asking if the at-risk person has a plan and removing or disabling the lethal means can make a difference.

BE THERE: Listen carefully and learn what the individual is thinking and feeling. Research suggests acknowledging and talking about suicide may in fact reduce rather than increase suicidal thoughts.

HELP THEM CONNECT: Save the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline number (call or text 988) and the Crisis Text Line number (741741) in your phone so they’re there if you need them. You can also help make a connection with a trusted individual like a family member, friend, spiritual advisor, or mental health professional.

STAY CONNECTED: Staying in touch after a crisis or after being discharged from care can make a difference. Studies have shown the number of suicide deaths goes down when someone follows up with the at-risk person.

September is also National Recovery Month, a time to honor and celebrate the strong community of people who have experienced and are in recovery from substance abuse and addiction. Substance use disorders and mental illness are often co-occurring, meaning that someone who has a substance use disorder may also have a mental health condition (or vice versa). NAMI Vermont recognizes the challenges faced by those in recovery and celebrates members of the community for their strength in seeking help and showing others that recovery is not

only possible, but within reach.

Friends and family members of individuals with suicidal thoughts may benefit from taking a class to better help their loved one. NAMI Family-to-Family Class is a free, evidence-based eight-week course structured to help families and friends of individuals with a mental health condition understand and support their loved ones while maintaining their own well-being. NAMI Vermont is offering classes starting in September and October 2023. Visit <http://namivt.org/> to learn more about the program. You may also contact NAMI Vermont directly at [program@namivt.org](mailto:program@namivt.org) or 800-639-6480.

**Free chip-timed 5k Run, 2 Mile Walk for Migraine**

Miles for Migraine, a non-profit organization focused on improving the lives of people with migraine and other headache disorders, and their families, is pleased to announce their free sixth annual Burlington Walk/Run/Relax event on Saturday, September 23, 8:30 – 10:30 AM, at Veterans Memorial Park, Dorset St., S. Burlington. Attendees will gather to raise awareness about migraine and headache disease and raise funds to support local headache research at the UVM Medical Center Headache Clinic.

Migraine impacts 47 million people in the United States (one in six households), and about half of that number are individuals who are undiagnosed. The disease affects one billion people around the world and is recognized as the second leading cause of disability globally.

For more information and to register, go online to <http://btv.milesformigraine.org>. To volunteer: <http://btv.milesformigraine.org/volunteer>; to donate: <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/71801/miles-for-migraine-burlington-2023/fundraising-organization/43133#event-description>. Questions? Contact [Katie@milesformigraine.org](mailto:Katie@milesformigraine.org).

**Lions Club “Strides” for diabetes awareness**

Mark your calendar: STRIDE with our Lions to help keep diabetes away.

The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club is sponsoring a “STRIDES” Walk for Diabetes event at Mills Riverside Park (MRP) on Saturday, October 7, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

This walking event on the MRP trails is an effort to bring awareness about diabetes and its ramifications to the members of our communities. There will be several walking trail options for taking a beautiful autumn stroll on the park trails.

We will have informational tables at the Snowflake Bentley pavilion. We also plan to have someone onsite performing optional testing for diabetes.

Post-walking refreshments and snacks will be provided.

This is a no-cost event, although donations will be accepted in support of diabetes programs.

Please plan on joining us for a pleasant autumn outing for diabetes awareness.

**Friendly visiting volunteers needed**

From **Lauren Walsh, Volunteer Program Administrator**

**Age Well (formerly Area Agency on Aging)**

Age Well is seeking volunteers to provide regular social interaction and assistance to seniors in their homes. Help older Vermonters by delivering Meals on Wheels, providing friendly visits, going grocery shopping, running errands, assisting with medical appointments, organizing, bill paying, providing respite, doing minor home repairs, participating in Veterans Visiting other Veterans, and more. Volunteers feel an incredible sense of satisfaction and reward seeing the impact they have on those they support.

Time commitment is based on your availability — it can vary from one day a week to two days a month (Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM). Contact our Volunteer Department at 802-662-5249 or [volunteer@agewellvt.org](mailto:volunteer@agewellvt.org) for information.

Since 1974, Age Well has been part of Vermont’s Area Agencies on Aging, coordinating services and care for older adults throughout Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties. Age Well provides services and resources to older Vermonters (60+) such as Meals on Wheels, Community Meals, Restaurant Ticket Programs, Special Events, Care and Service Coordination, and Health and Wellness opportunities like Tai Chi. All programs and services are offered at no cost to those that receive services.

We are always looking for Friendly Visitors, Senior Companions, Meals on Wheels drivers, and Respite Volunteers!

**Contagiousness**

With schools back in session, one of the most common questions I get from parents is when can their child with a contagious infectious illness go back to school. Let me try to spread some information — rather than germs — on the topic of contagiousness.

*How long does being contagious last?*

For most infectious illnesses, the best sign of no longer being contagious is when your child’s fever has resolved for at least 24 hours off of acetaminophen or ibuprofen and they are acting like their usual selves. This means eating and drinking as they normally do and wanting to engage in play activities.

Unfortunately with some illnesses, as we’ve learned with COVID, it’s not quite that easy.

The decision as to when a child can go back to school may depend on the specific illness your child has had and a conversation with your child’s health care professional. For example, a child with cancer receiving chemotherapy or medications to lower their immune system may not be as ready to return to the classroom, especially if others in the class are sick.

*What the experts recommend*

Your child’s health care professionals can help give you the go-ahead based on recommendations grounded in scientific evidence. The American Academy of Pediatrics has specific guidelines and policies for returning to school for the vast majority of illnesses your child may experience, ranging from an ear infection (which is not usually contagious) to a stomach virus

Health continued on page 5

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

**He is gone!**

By Sue Kusserow

*Special to the Mountain Gazette*

“He is gone. And with him, he takes a part of summer.” The sorting and piling begins: One pile for skateboarding: “They go in first, Gramma.” Some things are too important to forget! “Remember, they don’t take up much space, and you always told us the importance of exercise. Chicago has different weather patterns.” I agree with him in theory, but after trying to squeeze in his carry-on, which includes some overdue papers for his last course and a nice note from a girl in his class. He finally gives up: “Gram, these vests are for cold weather and Chicago is warm now. Couldn’t you send them later? You know, you lived there, remember?”

So that’s where he’s going: School of the Art Institute of Chicago! He stuffs a pair of soccer shoes into a sweatshirt labelled “PUTNEY SOCCER.” It is difficult to imagine anything more in a carry-on!

Pile 2 are the essentials: clean underwear and socks, T-shirts, pants, and — of course — a reply note to the girl in his next class! We still have time to reminisce about the summer fading into moonlight, our neighborhood deer eating up our red tomato vines, the chirp of crickets, and the rush of tiny winds.

So the packing comes more to the point of necessities. We hear the names of who will be back this term for a junior year of sculpture and oils. And how many people you can fit into a three-room apartment.

The airport is buzzing with goodbyes, smiles from Dads, tears from Grammas. Mom is allowed (in a short speech) the amount of time it has taken to wash some seldom-used large hankies to be stuffed into the pockets of clean worn jeans (kept folded for churchgoing). But Mom adds that the summer has been fun for her, too.

Happiness, like most emotions, is a many part of feelings, small glimpses of sadness and joy mixed together to say “goodbye.” There are always things you could have said: a glint of jealousy, a regret over not finishing the WIDE knee patch that are common to most teenage boys. Grammas, like me, get an extra hug. And there is one last hug to remember this lanky boy who, over the summer, has turned into the beginning of a young man. Gramma remembers him in his toddler days, when he took his first steps and spoke his first words. We will now have time to reminisce over pile 3: photos taken together; even the dogs yelping at the back window, who say goodbye in their own way.

The gates close; the carry-on gets shoved under the seat, or hoisted, with groans, overhead.

Now it is over, the noise of the plane drifts down to the small group of relatives and friends, and a feeling of loss, of minor sadness, lasts for a few moments:

“She is gone, too. And with her, she took part of summer.” Her hair kept its golden color; it is hard to describe; its color drifts over her shoulders, pulled into a thick bun on hot days. There are streaks of a deep yellow which makes me want to use the descriptor bronze; yet it isn’t quite as brassy as that name would imply. It is goldenrod falling in nicely pallid streaks of yellow variations. Her skin is evenly tanned and could be called bronze, but with a nut-brown tone and beautifully touched by the sun. Summer is her season-to-shine! But, besides the summer gifts, she has a face that is known to stop others to look. She lights up when she smiles, and it is enjoyable to both.

Horses are her animal love. She rides well and isn’t afraid to discipline a horse when it’s needed. The horse will seem to understand, or at least change his/her behavior. Mount Mansfield is right outside her home, so hiking its many trails is another favorite challenge. With snow on the ground, she switches to skis: either downhill or cross-country.

She enjoys school — or a better term, education... Her choices of books and programs grow wider and wiser and she now likes to enter into debates and thinks carefully about how she might present her opinions. And she is reluctant to present what she doesn’t know... a valuable lesson she has learned.

So, the young ones, no longer described as children, transform into young adults. Luckily these two grandkids get along, laugh together a lot, and openly give each other hugs, praise and respect for others. As one of them says: “We are the best of friends.”

We love you! Bon voyage! Will and Ana!

**Our young people and the imperative of social-emotional learning**

By Bill Schubart

Our public schools have become the focus of our efforts to support youth mental health. Many parents are stressed beyond imagination because of the pandemic, flooding, and many other

Community columns continued on page 6



**HB Lozito to receive 2023 Con Hogan Award**

The Vermont Community Foundation and the organizing committee for the Con Hogan Award for Creative, Entrepreneurial Community Leadership are pleased to announce that HB Lozito will be honored with this year’s award. Lozito is the executive director of Brattleboro-based Out in the Open, which is working to build a multi-issue, multiracial social justice movement of rural LGBTQ+ people.

The annual award, established by a group of Con’s colleagues in 2015, celebrates his life’s work by recognizing a community leader who shares his vision of a better Vermont and seizes the responsibility for making that vision real. The awardee shows deep community involvement, generosity, enthusiasm, a collaborative approach, and a focus on data and measurable outcomes in their work.

Award continued on page 6

**Create and Connect Craft Day to benefit Josh’s House**

Please join us on Saturday, November 4 as we honor our veterans and give thanks for all of the blessings in our lives. This is a one-day, in-person event at the Community Center in Jericho, 329 Browns Trace, Jericho Center, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, that welcomes crafters of all kinds and is designed to focus on you and your projects. There will be giveaways, games, door prizes and more.

If you pre-register and are paid in full before October 1 the cost is \$50, non-refundable, per person. Your fee includes eight hours of nonstop fun and your own six-foot workspace. Lunch will be provided. Water will be provided all day.

All proceeds go to the Josh Pallotta Fund to benefit Josh’s House, a wellness and recreation center for our veterans.

Contact Tassie Blondin, [tassiecreates@gmail.com](mailto:tassiecreates@gmail.com), for additional information and to register.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**What I learned at the Westford wastewater informational meeting**

To the Editor,

Apologies for yet another post on the wastewater issue, but I wanted to attempt to get at the crux of the issue for all of those that are finding the discussion confusing. There are A LOT of details which can be reviewed on the various websites, but I want to keep this to the main points only.

Westford has a serious problem, and has had for years, even decades. The four town buildings around the Common are on overtaxed septic systems that may fail at any time. Though it’s easy to dismiss because it’s below ground and therefore out of sight, that’s the sober reality. I don’t believe either side would disagree on this point. This problem needs a solution, and the Planning Commission has proposed a viable one, and managed to cover the entire projected cost to build the system via grants. Again, I don’t believe any would disagree, though some might start to grumble a bit over the details. Finally, though the proposed system is projected to cost the town nothing to build (the \$400k bond is a backstop), it will incur ongoing costs paid by the taxpayers once it goes online. How much? It depends on a number of factors, but by my calculations for the average home it will probably land around \$125-\$150 annually. Again, I don’t believe there’s any real dispute over this.

So where is the disagreement? The question that’s being debated is: is the proposed system the right solution for the town? Those that oppose the plan feel it is being overbuilt intentionally to generate growth in the town and it will change the character of the Common. They also question the projections of the accounted cost of the project.

So come the November ballot on a possible \$400K bond, what is a Westford citizen to do? If we vote the bond down, the Planning Commission goes back to the drawing board to devise a solution that will pass muster with the voters and our taxes do not go up. For now. We also don’t solve the pressing problem that is before us and we also likely lose most if not all of the available grant money. Because of that, whatever alternative solution might finally be approved, even if it’s smaller scope, will likely cost us considerably more, and will still have an ongoing annual cost. Alternatively, if we approve the bond, work begins to finalize the planning and construction details on the proposed plan. Is it the best plan for the town? I honestly don’t know, but it certainly is a viable plan with a significantly small cost to the taxpayer and I trust the Planning Commission has done its due diligence. That’s enough for it to get my vote.

What about the risk of future growth and the threat to the character of the Common? A couple of points made at the

meeting I found helpful. There are precisely two properties available currently for development on the Common. Just like any other building project, any additional development will have to go through the design and approval process and conform to the town use code. It will also have to obtain a source of sufficient potable water to supply what is built — there is no “city water” in Westford. I know from personal experience that is a significant limitation. The state requires all new wells have a flow 5 gallons/minute per house. For our house built in the last five years, that required drilling an 850’ well and fracking to get state approval. So though some have floated the possibility that the area within the Common might be inundated with new development if we approve the bond, that possibility honestly does not bear the weight of reality.

Finally I would note that one of the rallying points of those that oppose the current plan is that you should “Vote ‘No’ to preserve the Common.” I would conclude that the exact opposite is true — to preserve the Common we need a wastewater solution that will allow all four town buildings to continue to serve the town. The plan on the table does that.

Stuart Pratt  
Westford

Health continued from page 4

(which certainly can be).

Best practices

Of course the best way for a child not to pick up a contagious germ is to:

- practice good hand washing;
- be fully vaccinated including against viruses like the flu and COVID;
- be able to cough into a tissue, or their elbow if no tissue is available, but not into their bare hand.

Hopefully, tips like these will spread easily when it comes to realizing that your child’s health care professional is ready to work with you and your child to best determine when they are no longer contagious and can return to school or play activities.

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

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\*Funding is subject to availability and eligibility. For the most up to date rebate information visit [www.efficiencyvermont.com/floodrebates](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/floodrebates).

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

## VT Energy Works offers free training for weatherization jobs

Energy Works is a statewide program that prepares Vermonters for fulfilling careers in the green energy sector by combining job training with forward-thinking employers. The training is a two-week program in Colchester, September 24-October 4, that provides access to fulfilling careers in weatherization or heat pump installation.

These fields are experiencing an unprecedented demand for skilled, entry-level professionals, often starting at \$20+ dollars an hour with benefits.

Because of the demand in these industries, career advancement is readily available. No experience necessary. Participants can earn up to a \$1000 stipend upon completion. Transportation and childcare assistance is available for the duration of the training. Industry-recognized credentials are included at no charge.

To learn more about Energy Works and the upcoming training in Colchester, visit <https://vtadultlearning.org/workforce-development/#energyworks>. For questions or more information contact Ann Janda, CCRPC Senior Energy Project Manager, [ajanda@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:ajanda@ccrpcvt.org).

## Legal Services Vermont free family law clinic September 26

Legal Services Vermont is hosting a free Family Law Clinic for low-income Vermonters on Tuesday, September 26, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Over the phone or video conference, a lawyer can answer questions about divorce, parentage, custody, visitation, child support, and more. It is by appointment only and space is limited. Find information about eligibility at <https://vtlawhelp.org/family>.

Call Legal Services Vermont at 1-800-889-2047 and leave a message with your name and contact number. Please be sure to mention the Family Law Clinic. An advocate will call you back to screen for eligibility and schedule your appointment.

Legal Services Vermont is a nonprofit legal services law firm based in Burlington. We serve all of Vermont.

## Award honors the first black woman elected to Vermont legislature

Emerge Vermont, the state's premier organization for recruiting and training Democratic women to run for office, announced today that former Representative Louvenia Dorsey Bright is the recipient (posthumously) of the 2023 Governor Madeleine M. Kunin Achievement Award.

Louvenia Dorsey Bright was the first Black woman to be elected to the Vermont Legislature. She represented South Burlington and served in the House from 1988-1994. The award will be presented to her family by former Representative Kiah Morris and current Representative Saudia LaMont, who are the second and third Black women ever to serve in the Vermont Legislature. Joining them for the award presentation will be Emerge President A'shanti Gholar.

Bright lived out her remaining years in Illinois, but her family has remained engaged in Vermont and New England. Her husband Dr. William Bright II was Associate Dean of the College of Education at the University of Vermont before retiring in 1995. Her son Bill Bright III worked for Senator Patrick Leahy, and her daughter Rebecca Bright Pugh has had a long career teaching and is currently an education consultant for Savvas Learning.

Current Senator Kesha Ram Hindale is the second woman of color to serve in the Vermont Legislature after Bright and a co-founder of Emerge Vermont and the Bright Leadership Institute, which is an organization that helps advance leaders of color in Vermont and is named for Bright. She has remained in touch with the Bright family and called to share news of the award in early August.

"It was an incredibly serendipitous and bittersweet call, because Louvenia Bright had passed away just days before. No one outside of the family knew then, so it was almost a divine experience that the Brights were able to hear how loved Louvenia still was and is as a pioneer in our state in the days after her death," stated Sen. Ram Hinsdale. "Whether you knew her or knew of her legacy, she changed the state for the better, and we hope others will join us in remembering and honoring the difference she made."

"It is with heavy but joyous hearts that we accept this award on behalf of my mother. We're honored and humbled that her work is still being celebrated and that her legacy will live on. Her work on race and gender, equity, inclusion, and opportunity is still relevant today and we hope her story will inspire the next generation of leadership in Vermont," said her son, Bill Bright.

The award, bestowed in honor of Governor Kunin, is given annually to a Democratic woman in Vermont with significant political achievements. Recipients must meet criteria including maintaining a consistent focus on mentoring and supporting women in their political, professional, and educational pursuits; focusing on policy work that expands opportunities for others; and evidence of her work having an impact on the lives of other Vermonters.

Rep. Bright is the seventh recipient of the award. Past recipients include Sallie Soule, former state legislator and Commissioner of Employment and Training (2017); former Vermont Treasurer Beth Pearce (2018); Jane Stetson, former Democratic National Committee Chair (2019); Mary Sullivan, former state legislator and Democratic National Committeewoman (2020); former

Speaker of the House Gaye Symington (2021); and former House Judiciary Committee Chair Representative Maxine Grad (2022).

"We are honored to recognize Louvenia Dorsey Bright at our upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration," said Elaine Haney, Executive Director of Emerge Vermont. "She was a trailblazer who through her service broke a significant barrier for women of color in Vermont. The fact that there have been only two other Black women elected to the Legislature since her groundbreaking election speaks to how much more work must be done to achieve equitable representation in Vermont government."

The Kunin Achievement Award will be presented to the family of Representative Bright at Emerge Vermont's upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, September 23 at 6:30 PM. The event will take place at The Barn at Lang Farm in Essex Junction and tickets are now available, online at <https://vt.emergeamerica.org/former-rep-louvenia-dorsey-bright-to-receive-2023-emerge-vermont-kunin-achievement-award-posthumously/> (scroll to bottom of page).

## Sam Rowley of GMTCC recognized by Vermont Land Trust

Farmer Sam Rowley has won a conservation award, the Vermont Land Trust (VLT). Farmer and teacher Sam Rowley of the Green Mountain Career and Technology Center (GMTCC) received VLT's Land & Lives Award at the land trust's annual member meeting in Barnard on Wednesday, September 13. Given by VLT, the award recognizes qualities of leadership, resourcefulness, and inclusiveness that have made an enduring difference in the well-being of Vermont's land and people.

Farmer and teacher Sam Rowley teaches sustainable farming to high school students through GMTCC in Lamoille County. Sam's students learn and practice skills with him at Robtoy Farm in Cambridge, which VLT leases to GMTCC. The farm is part of Brewster Uplands, a property with farms and trails that was donated to VLT for all to enjoy.

"Sam is an incredible collaborator and partner," said Abby White, Vice President of Engagement at VLT. "He adds depth and connection through education, bringing more life and engagement to land that VLT holds for the public good."

Born in Brattleboro, Sam spent his early years in the Boston area, the Adirondacks, and in Ethiopia. After graduating from University of Vermont with a degree in Plant and Soil Science, Sam lived for a year in Kenya. There, he worked with farmers beekeeping, interned at the Butterfly Centre greenhouse, and visited many Kenyan national parks.

After returning to the U.S., Sam managed the UVM Extension/4H Youth Agriculture Project Farm and worked on small farms in the Brattleboro area, before becoming Horticulture Instructor at Windham Regional Career Center. Sam then

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Through Lozito's (they/them) leadership, Out in the Open has expanded what it means to be part of the rural LGBTQ+ community. For over a decade, Lozito has been instrumental not only in creating safe and thriving places for rural LGBTQ+ people but also in building long-term visibility, knowledge, and power in the community, searching out previously uncollected data to support this work. They have helped redefine what it means to be queer and live rurally.

Originally from rural Maine, Lozito became interested in organic gardening and farming but grew up during a time when LGBTQ+ people were told they needed to move to cities to find community and safety. For Lozito, it was not the LGBTQ+ community that needed to move, but rather the rural narrative that needed to change. They have spent more than 20 years organizing in the rural LGBTQ+ community.

They moved to Washington State in 2002 to attend Whitman

College, majoring in environmental studies and politics, which included a study abroad in India. Lozito worked on a community organic garden in college, on bioregionalism in Portland, OR, and on food justice in Oakland, CA. But their love of rural life drew them back to Maine and an organic farm in Freedom. Moving to Brattleboro in 2011, Lozito immediately began work in Vermont to bring visibility to the already thriving rural LGBTQ+ community, help people find each other, and create welcoming events and spaces.

Lozito is a 2013 Senior Fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program, a 2019 Better Selves Fellow, one of the Advocate Magazine's 2022 *50 Champions of Pride*, an alum of the Vermont Changemakers Table, and Marlboro College's Nonprofit Board Fellowship Program and Nonprofit Management certificate program, a board member of Vermont Public, the founder and creator of projects including the Out in the Open

Summit for Rural LGBTQ+ Folks, the Vermont Trans Audio Retreat, the Rural LGBTQ+ Power & Belonging Fellowship, and a key collaborator in the Andrews Inn Oral History Project. This last project led to the placement in Bellows Falls of one of Vermont's two historic markers honoring LGBTQ+ history.

Lozito will receive the \$15,000 Con Hogan Award, to be used however they choose, at a ceremony at Vermont College of Fine Arts on Wednesday, October 11, at 4:30 PM. Visit <https://vermontcf.org/conhogan> for more information about the award and to register for the event, which is free and open to the public.

Members of the Con Hogan Award committee are Will Belongia, Paul Cillo, Jon Cocina, Steve Dale, Scott Johnson, Etan Nasreddin-Longo, Jericho Parns, Arnold Isidore Thomas, and Diana Wahle.

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pressures, and they look to their schools to repair what's broken. But is it right to place the entire burden on the schools?

Teachers are teachers, not mental health professionals. The innate human skills of our best teachers can provide help and direction for children in their care, but they would be the first to say they're not mental health professionals. And increasingly, educators seek the help of mental health professionals (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2023/08/31/mental-health-crisis-students-have-third-therapists-they-need/>) in the management of difficult students and a better classroom culture.

Youth spend most of their waking hours in schools, so if we are going to find a place to meet them and deliver services, it makes sense that schools should be a part of the answer to this problem. We must reimagine our schools in ways that support students and families to enable learning.

We hear the term "social-emotional learning" (<https://casel.org/fundamentals-of-sel/>) (SEL) more and more. SEL refers to the process through which individuals learn and apply a set of social, emotional, and related skills, attitudes, behaviors, and values that help direct students. This includes thoughts, feelings, and actions in ways that enable them to succeed in school. In SEL, the teacher pays attention to the whole child and is trained in trauma-informed counseling ([https://www.cdc.gov/orn/infographics/6\\_principles\\_trauma\\_info.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/orn/infographics/6_principles_trauma_info.htm)) to determine if adverse childhood experiences (<https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/aces/index.html>) are affecting a learner's behavior and ability to learn. Trauma-informed counseling then sets a course for engaging family and support services to help the child succeed in the classroom and in their own social experiences.

We have an opportunity here in Vermont to bring a new level of informed leadership to the issue of social-emotional learning. With many educational leadership positions open across the state, there is discussion about certification for trauma-informed principals.

We must come to understand that teaching and mental health services to learners must become more intertwined. Educators must learn new ways to promote mental health and create a learning classroom by better understanding how to engage students, their families, how to better plan how, and where in the school infrastructure student/family support meetings can be held.

Children in need of mental health counseling need private places within schools to meet with teachers and healthcare

professionals. Schools with limited space often end up using inappropriate spaces like storage and janitorial spaces for meetings with children and families.

Schools that have no available office space are experimenting with discrete drop-in pods where counseling meetings can occur. At a cost of \$20K, they are considerably less expensive than new construction. An elementary school in Burlington has installed such a pod and Green Mountain Mobile Therapy Center (<https://www.greenmountainmobiletherapy.com/>) has a portable office in a trailer that they can bring on site.

In May, I wrote about the precarious state of the wellbeing of our young people (<https://schubart.com/we-are-letting-our-children-down/>). It was a hard piece to research, write and, I'm told, to read. It detailed the many ways statistically we have failed our young here in Vermont and in the nation.

In a recent report, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/2023/increased-sadness-and-violence-press-release.html>) says 57% of U.S. teen girls feel persistently sad or hopeless. 100% of all teens report increasing mental health challenges. Nearly one in three seriously considered suicide in 2021. 52% of LGBTQ+ people have experienced poor mental health and 22% attempted suicide last year. 41.5% of Americans under 30 are experiencing anxiety and depressive disorder symptoms.

To get an overview of the extent of malaise plaguing our young people, one need only screen the new documentary *Anxious Nation* (<https://anxiousnation.com/the-film/>) available to screen on Prime, Apple, and Google. NAMI Vermont is screening it for free across the state (<https://namivt.org/blog/anxious-nation-comes-to-vermont-free-film-screenings-statewide/>) in September and October. It's a sobering documentary and receiving positive reviews from scientific journals.

Have the economic burdens imposed by under-employment, poverty, hunger, and homelessness put such pressure on parents and their children that families fall prey to our failures? Unless they come from a shrinking background of economic and social privilege, many of the young people I speak with have lost any hope of going to college or ever having a house and raising a family in it.

Are the social norms that once regulated to some degree a common sense of community behavior and encouraged achievement so eroded by our screen and celebrity cultures that our young people are now lost?

When I get discouraged about the choices we often make as a society — essentially pitting profit against community wellbeing — I look to the accomplishments and success of our young people as a sign that all is not lost and that our world may well have a future.

The recent success of the 16 young Montanans, from five to 22 years old, in the Montana Supreme Court (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/08/17/montana-climate-lawsuit-impact/>) who claimed that "climate change has jeopardized their recreation, traditions, mental and physical health" greatly lifted my spirits. Our young people spoke out and the law required us to listen.

Watching some thirty kids recently gather in a formal garden in Craftsbury to perform Shakespeare's Twelfth Night (<https://www.gettheetothefunnery.com/craftsbury.html>) and therefrom elicit all the underlying nuance, comedy, and farce made my summer.

I try never to miss a performance of the Youth Opera Company of Vermont (<https://youthoperavt.org/>). Just watching teens studying and performing grand opera lightens my spirit and refuels my hopes for our world.

The Vermont Youth Orchestra Association (<https://www.vyo.org/about/>) brings children to the community and healing of great music performance as well. More than 300 musicians in grades 1-12 from 63 regional schools gather to learn, study, and perform music in performing ensembles, orchestras, training programs, and a private lesson program.

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (<https://www.vycc.org/>) works with diverse young people to create experiences in the natural world that teach mutual support and team building, create a culture of belonging and mutual accountability, and safety.

The Mental Health Initiative (<https://unitedwaymvt.org/community-impact/special-initiatives/mental-health-initiative/>) integrates and shares the resources of over 150 Vermont community-based mental health resources and initiatives to shine the light on local resources and collaborations for family, friends, and neighbors.

Although these successes may lift our spirits and hopes for our young people, we must not deceive ourselves into believing that all is okay with our coming generation.

## LIBRARY NEWS

**DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Curbside pick-up is still available. Call the library at 802-899-4962 to arrange.

**Adult programs**

Thursdays, September 21, October 5, 19, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Crafters Group. Join us at DRML for a few hours of crafting and conversation. All are welcome, beginner to expert, in any craft you can transport. Hope to meet you there! For questions please contact Amy Tower, 802-355-9671 or [atowerinvt@gmail.com](mailto:atowerinvt@gmail.com), or Julie Hehir, 802-343-0034 or [juliehhehir@comcast.net](mailto:juliehhehir@comcast.net).

**Adult programs**

Thursdays, September 28, 5:30 – 7:30 PM: Mah Jongg. Join us as we explore the tile game of winds, dragons, and number tiles. If you like Rummy-style card games, you'll love Mah Jongg! All genders and experience levels welcome!

Thursday, September 21, 7:00 PM: Library Board of Trustees meeting, in-person. A virtual meeting is available for those who wish to remain remote. Please contact Holly ([dawsonmemlib@gmail.com](mailto:dawsonmemlib@gmail.com)) to receive the link.

Saturday-Sunday, September 23-24, Saturday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Fall Book Sale at the Big Red Barn next to Mills Riverside Park. Please join us for the annual DRML book sale to support the library! On Friday, September 22, 4:00 – 7:00 PM, there is a special early bird shopping event which requires a \$5 admission fee; this lets you shop the day before the general public sale on Saturday and

Sunday. No admission cost on Saturday and Sunday. Please bring your own bags for shopping.

Tuesday, September 26, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. We will be discussing The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman. If you need a copy call the library or request a copy on our online catalog using your library card. We meet in person in the program room. A Zoom link is available; email Holly, [dawsonmemlib@gmail.com](mailto:dawsonmemlib@gmail.com), for a link.

**Youth programs****Ongoing**

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM: Baby Story Time [birth to PreK] Join us to meet other parents, caregivers, and little ones! We will play finger games, do lap bounces, sing, dance, and read a story or two. No registration necessary.

Fridays, 11:00 AM: Stories and Songs with Beth and David London. Beth and David are back for their ever-popular song and story hour. We hope you can join us to enjoy the fun and meet other parents, caregivers and little ones!

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

Friday, September 29, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: LEGO Club [ages 6+] Let's play with LEGOs! Build your new classroom or your dream school, construct on your own or with a buddy. There's no wrong way to play. Please remember to sign up for this popular program when you call, email, or visit the library.

Thursday, September 21, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Origami Peace Cranes [all ages] Celebrate World Peace Day by dropping in to make origami cranes (and other origami creations). We can string



them all together and put them up in the kids' room, or take yours home to decorate there.

Saturday, September 30, 7:00 – 9:00 PM: Cosmic Bowling! You all did it! We read nearly 650 hours as a community this summer and we are so proud of you. As a treat we're going to let you go bowling— in the library! Wear your neon clothes and stop at the front desk to get assigned a lane. Each group will get to bowl one game so everyone gets a chance.

Please visit [drml.org](http://drml.org) or call 802-899-4962 for the most up-to-date information.

Contact information: [rawsonlibrary@drml.org](mailto:rawsonlibrary@drml.org); [www.drml.org](http://www.drml.org); 802-899-4962.

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moved to Lamoille County to his current position, running the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Program at GMTCC.

"I am delighted to accept this award from a visionary statewide organization acknowledging the life I live as a farmer, teacher, and Vermonter," said Sam.

**Seeking volunteers****for Old Red Mill Craft Shop**

Cheryl Thomas, Jericho Historical Society  
Red Mill Dr, Jericho

The Old Mill Craft Shop and Snowflake Bentley Museum are open! Hours are 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday-Saturday. Come check out the 2023 Snowflake Ornament and other gifts from our new vendors. It's never too early for holiday shopping!

Have some free time now that school has started? I am looking for volunteers to fill out the front counter schedule. You may pick the same day every week or however often you are available: for example, every other week or once a month.

Also coming up in October is a presentation by Joseph A. Citro, a Vermont author and folklorist who has extensively researched and documented folklore, hauntings, ghost stories, paranormal activity... stay tuned for more details.

**United Way volunteer opportunities**

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

FLOOD RECOVERY — The State of Vermont has asked that people interested in volunteering register at <http://vermont.gov/volunteer>. Volunteer needs in the wake of the storm are evolving and we know the need will be great and ongoing. The state will connect volunteers who register to local United Ways to coordinate responders, so volunteers do not endanger themselves and first responders. Here's a link to a to more information about United Way's Flood Response: <https://unitedwaywvt.org/flood-response/>.

HAVE A HEART — The 2023 Vermont Heart Walk is returning to the Burlington area on Saturday, October 21 and is offering volunteers the opportunity to help with setting up the event, hanging banners and signage, registration, handing out water, and breakdown/cleanup. The event opens at 8:30 AM and the walk begins at 9:00 AM. To be part of this exciting event, contact Chelsea Kondratowicz, [chelsea.kondratowicz@heart.org](mailto:chelsea.kondratowicz@heart.org).

GET THE POINT! — VSECU Point to Point is dedicated to helping end hunger in Vermont. The 2023 Point to Point event will be supporting the Vermont Foodbank on Saturday, September 23. To learn about volunteer options contact Volunteer Coordinator Stephanie Loscalzo, [sloscalzo@vsecu.com](mailto:sloscalzo@vsecu.com).

FILL THE EMPTY BOWL — Spectrum Youth & Family Services will be holding its Empty Bowl Dinner on Tuesday, October 10 at UVM's Davis Center. Volunteers are needed to help with food pickup, set up, serving, registration, cleanup, and more. Contact Charlotte Steverson, [steverson@spectrumvt.org](mailto:steverson@spectrumvt.org).

A BRIEF RESPITE — Age Well's Respite Squad Volunteer Program provides support to individuals and families that are caring for loved ones at home. They are seeking volunteers to provide a much-needed break to care givers once a week for three hours to enable them to address their own needs and well-being. Volunteers build trust and bonds with the families they assist and provide them with crucial assistance. Contact Age Well's Volunteer Department at 802-662-5249 or [volunteer@agewellvt.org](mailto:volunteer@agewellvt.org).

SORT AND STOCK — Green Mountain Habitat ReStores are in need of volunteers to help with their intake of used clothing. Volunteers sort, hang and stock gently used donations. A perfect opportunity who can come in two to three hours a day a few times a week. No experience needed. Both weekday and weekend shifts are available. Contact [volunteer@vermonthabitat.org](mailto:volunteer@vermonthabitat.org).

A PAINTER'S TOUCH — Dismas House on Buell Street in Burlington provides a safe and nurturing environment for individuals transitioning from incarceration back into society. In their continuing efforts to improve living conditions for residents, they are looking to paint and refresh rooms within the house to provide a more inviting atmosphere. They are looking for volunteer individuals and/or groups to paint five resident rooms. All supplies and equipment will be provided. Contact Ainsley Foley at 802-658-0381 or [ainsley@dismasoft.org](mailto:ainsley@dismasoft.org).

ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH — NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health) sponsors Mental Illness and Recovery workshops for family, friends, peers, and community

members seeking information on common and major mental health conditions. The one-day workshops include information on the components of recovery, treatment, medication options, evidence-based practices in Vermont, and community resources and services. They are looking for volunteers with a personal connection to mental illness (either a family member or close friend) to teach workshops in two-person teams. Volunteers will attend a one-day training session and should commit to at least one workshop a year, typically on a Saturday from 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM. For further information, contact 802-876-7949 or [program@namivt.org](mailto:program@namivt.org).

**Updates for VTrans projects in Williston, Bolton, Richmond**

Thursday, September 14

**Richmond - Bolton - U.S. Rt. 2 Rehabilitation**

Traffic impact: Traffic Control with one-lane of alternating travel; motorists can expect moderate traffic delays during all working hours. Please slow down and follow the posted speed limits.

Project update: Completed installation of the second lift of pavement between Baker Street and the I-89 Exit 11 interchange. Continued adjusting the sewer structures to pavement grade within the Richmond Village.

Construction activities: The following is the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning September 17, 2023:

Sunday-Friday, 7:00 PM – 6:30 AM:

- continue adjustment of the drainage structures between Lemroy Court and Baker Street;

- continue signal upgrade work at the VT Rt. 117 and U.S. Rt. 2 Intersection and the Richmond Park and Ride intersection.

Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM:

- weather permitting, begin the final lift of paving at the eastern most end of the project in Bolton proceeding westerly to Lemroy Court;

- weather permitting, continue paving the second lift of pavement from Kenyon Road to the Richmond/Williston town line;

- continue shoulder work throughout the project limits.

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

Completion date: July 2024

**Williston Intersection Project: U.S. Rt. 2 and Industrial Avenue**

Traffic impact: Flaggers will be present during daytime work hours to allow for construction vehicles in/out of the construction area with minimal impact on the traveling motorists. Motorists can expect lane closures with traffic control present during nighttime work operations.

Construction update: Continued sidewalk and curb installation. Completed installation of catch basin grates.

Construction activities:

Below is the anticipated work schedule for the week beginning September 17, 2023:

Sunday-Wednesday, 7:00 PM – 6:00 AM:

- weather permitting, final paving throughout the project limits; please note, if paving is rained out, paving will take place the next available night.

Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM:

- topsoil and general site cleanup work throughout the project limits.

Please follow the posted speed limits!

Project type: Installation of new drainage improvements and full-depth reconstruction.

Location: U.S. Rt. 2 and Industrial Avenue intersection

Projected completion: fall 2023

Please email [sbarrett@coibsinc.com](mailto:sbarrett@coibsinc.com), reference U.S. Route 2, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

**Richmond — U.S. Rt. 2 Bridge #29 Replacement**

Traffic impact:

- U.S. Rt. 2 — Traffic control will be present allowing for one-lane of alternating travel.

- Monday-Friday I-89 both southbound and northbound passing lanes will be closed from 5:30 AM – 3:00 PM and both the southbound and northbound right shoulders will be closed all within the project.

Project update: continued forming the pier wall; continued support of excavation on the east side of the bridge for abutment #2; continued installing fill in front of the Richmond Fire Station. Construction activities: The following is the anticipated work

schedule for the week beginning September 18, 2023:

Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM:

- placement of concrete for the pier wall;
- continue support of excavation on the east side of the bridge for abutment #2 work;

- continue installing fill in front of the Richmond Fire Station to build up the ground.

Please use caution and follow the posted speed limits!

Project type: Complete bridge replacement

Please email [sbarrett@coibsinc.com](mailto:sbarrett@coibsinc.com), reference Bridge#29, Richmond, if you would like to receive weekly project updates via email.

Completion date: September 2025

**Lamoille FiberNet partners with Fidium Fiber to build network**

Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (CUD) is excited to announce a new long-term partnership with Fidium Fiber to bring reliable, high-speed, fiber broadband internet services to the 4800 unserved and underserved Lamoille County homes and businesses. Lamoille FiberNet chose Fidium Fiber because of their low-cost options for customers, the speed with which they plan to build the network, and Fidium's track record for delivering highly rated customer service. Fidium, owned by Consolidated Communications, plans to invest almost \$10 million dollars to supplement the \$14.9 million in grants Lamoille FiberNet is requesting from the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB).

The 630-mile network will be built in two phases. Phase 1 represents 550 miles and is scheduled for 2024, including all unserved and underserved addresses in Belvidere, Eden, Johnson, Hyde Park, Morristown, Waterville, the Lamoille FiberNet portions of Elmore and Wolcott, and significant portions of Stowe and Cambridge. Lamoille FiberNet has applied to VCBB for funding to complete Phase 1. Phase 2, which is the remaining portions of Stowe and Cambridge, is planned for 2025 and will require additional but substantially less grant funding. Once the detailed design is completed in late fall, schedules will be shared with towns to ensure the construction process runs smoothly.

"Affordability is a key reason Fidium Fiber was chosen to serve Lamoille County. Their prices are significantly lower than most providers and they offer the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) for qualifying households," said Lisa Birmingham, Lamoille FiberNet's interim executive director. "This partnership also presents substantially less financial risk for our CUD and includes multiple performance and customer service commitments, including an extensive installation policy which will substantially reduce out-of-pocket costs for consumers. Customers in towns that have pledged local ARPA funds to Lamoille FiberNet may get financial assistance on installations as well."

**Lamoille FiberNet CUD gets go-ahead for broadband**

From Lamoille FiberNet Communications

Union District Board

The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) approved Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District's (Lamoille FiberNet) \$ 13,588,636 construction grant application at the VCBB's September 11 meeting.

"This grant means that, by the end of 2024, we can bring high-speed internet to almost all the homes and businesses in our CUD that are unserved or underserved," said Jeff Tilton, Waterville resident and chair of Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (CUD).

The construction grant will fund broadband for approximately 4800 unserved and underserved Lamoille County homes and businesses, and the 630-mile network will be built in two phases. Phase 1 represents 550 miles — connecting 4170 addresses — and is scheduled to be completed in 2024. Phase 1 will connect all unserved and underserved addresses in Belvidere, Eden, Johnson, Hyde Park, Morristown, Waterville, the Lamoille FiberNet portions of Elmore and Wolcott, and significant portions of Stowe and Cambridge. Phase 2, which is the remaining portions of Stowe and Cambridge, is planned for 2025 and will require additional, but substantially less funding. Detailed design and town-by-town construction plans for Phase 1 will be developed later this fall.

For more information about Lamoille FiberNet, visit [www.lamoillefiber.net](http://www.lamoillefiber.net).

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### JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

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

Looking for someone to lead whittling program/workshop: Do you whittle? Would you feel comfortable sharing your expertise with other community members? Jericho Town Library would love to offer some whittling programs, and we are looking for folks who might be interested in leading a one-time activity or maybe even a series of events. Please reach out to [catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org](mailto:catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org) or 802-899-4686.

Do you love libraries, literature, or helping out with community events? If so, we'd love to have your help at the Jericho Town Library! We're also interested in hearing community feedback about what programs you'd like to see offered in the summer and fall. Please contact [catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org](mailto:catherine@jerichotownlibraryvt.org) or 802-899-4686 if you'd like to volunteer your time or a program idea!

Jericho Town Library offers a home delivery service for patrons unable to physically access the library. If you would like to sign up for a one-time or recurring delivery of library materials, email [library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org](mailto:library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org), call 802-899-4686, fill out a paper form (available on our website, [jerichotownlibraryvt.org](http://jerichotownlibraryvt.org)) or complete this Google form: <https://forms.gle/m7NCEUEKF5dZjKK7>.

#### Children's events

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

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

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

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

Find us on Facebook and Instagram (@[jerichotownlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/jerichotownlibrary)) for regular updates on our programs, services, and collections. 802-899-4686, [library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org](mailto:library@jerichotownlibraryvt.org), [www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org](http://www.jerichotownlibraryvt.org).

### VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY JEFFERSONVILLE

A Harvest Dinner to be held on Wednesday, October 18 will be a fundraiser for the Varnum Memorial Library. The dinner will be held at The Family Table Restaurant, 4807 VT Rt. 15, Jeffersonville, 6:00 – 9:00 PM. A limited number of tickets will be on sale in September. To pre-order your tickets, contact Lesley Nase, [lnasemoonspinner@gmail.com](mailto:lnasemoonspinner@gmail.com) and you will be given a member's name to contact; or tickets are available at the front desk in the library. Reserve your tickets early as they will be going fast!

Tuesdays, 10:00 AM: Toddler Time

Tuesday, September 19, 3:30 – 4:00 PM: Afternoon Storytime

Tuesday, September 26, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Crafternoon

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM: StoryTime

Wednesday, September 20, 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Crafternoon

Wednesday, September 27, 3:30 – 4:00 PM:

Wednesday, September 27, 4:30 – 6:00 PM: Dungeons and Dragons

Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Coffee and Conversations

Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:00 PM: Baby and Me group

Fridays, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Technology and Tea

Saturday, September 30, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: Tea Party!

Saturday, September 30, 11:00 – 11:30 AM: Greek Myths and Marionettes

Johnson Public Library is opened in their modified space in the Masonic building at the corner of Pearl St. and VT Rt. 15, but Johnson patrons are still welcome to use their accounts at the Varnum Library. All materials for Johnson are still being accepted at the Varnum and we will transport materials if patrons are unable to make it during their open hours.

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

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

### WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Video Streaming Service *Biblio+* is a free streaming service offering movies, TV, documentaries for all ages including lots of Brit/BBC content — free with your library card, no limits, watch as much or as little as you like. You need a current library card and to know your library card number — contact the library for help with that or if you need to renew. Sign up with your library card at <http://www.biblioplus.com> to start streaming their selection of films and TV series today! The *biblio+* app is available for download on Apple devices (iPhone, iPad, Apple TV), Android

phone and tablet, Amazon Fire TV, and Roku, or stream directly from [www.biblioplus.com](http://www.biblioplus.com). The library now offers streaming videos for many reasons: we have DVDs, but not everyone has a DVD player anymore; sometimes you want to watch something in the middle of the night and the library is not open; libraries are about enrichment and entertainment, and that does not always come from books! This service will not replace Netflix; it's not full of the latest blockbusters. It has many of the TV shows and content that we traditionally have been inter-library loaning for people or had been requested to purchase. Think of it as one more thing you can watch. One more service brought to you by the Westford Public Library!

Interested in learning a new language? The library has a free service for this called Mango Languages! Visit the Resource tab on our website or go online to <https://connect.mangolanguages.com/westfordpubliclibrary/start>. To sign up, create an account with your email, library card number (starts with 2vrs5), and a password of your choosing. Mango for libraries offers over 70 world language courses expertly designed to adapt to a diverse range of learning needs, styles, and backgrounds. Give your community the benefits of lifelong learning and the confidence needed to communicate in a new language.

A heartfelt thank you to Patty Pittala and Leanne Saddlemire for their years of service as Library Trustees. We appreciate their creativity and vision and their hard work on the Westford Community Fund. We also want to welcome new trustees Marianne Bassford and Becky Roy.

Thursdays, 11:30 AM: Storytime. We know the transition from summer to back to school can be tough, going from outside to inside can be different, so we will take it slow and get used to our new format this month. We sing songs, read stories, move and do crafts! No sign up needed, all ages are welcome. September 21: no storytime. September 28: Fall.

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

Tuesday, September 26, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Coffee and Cards. Cribbage, Euchre, Hearts, Rummy — whatever your game, we will play it. Meetup with folks at the library for coffee, conversation, and cards. A great opportunity to socialize and keep those card playing skills sharp! Open to anyone, but especially looking to connect with seniors.

Wednesday, September 27, 7:00 – 8:00 PM: Adult Book Group discussing *True Biz* by Sara Novic. The students at the River Valley School for the Deaf just want to hook up, pass their history finals, and have politicians, doctors, and their parents stop telling them what to do with their bodies. This revelatory novel plunges readers into the halls of a residential school for the deaf, where they'll meet Charlie, a rebellious transfer student who's never met another deaf person before; Austin, the school's golden boy, whose world is rocked when his baby sister is born hearing; and February, the hearing headmistress, a CODA (child of deaf adult(s)) who is fighting to keep her school open and her marriage intact, but might not be able to do both. As a series of crises both personal and political threaten to unravel each of them, Charlie, Austin, and February find their lives inextricable from one another — and changed forever. This is a story of sign language and lip-reading, disability and civil rights, isolation and injustice, first love and loss, and, above all, great persistence, daring, and joy. Absorbing and assured, idiosyncratic and relatable, this is an unforgettable journey into the Deaf community and a universal celebration of human connection. Print copies available at library; ebook and audiobook copies available on Libby.

Tuesday-Saturday, September 26-30: Bring in costumes for the first ever costume swap! Costume Shop is Thursday-Saturday, October 5-7 and October 12-14. Recycle those great, outgrown costumes. All sizes and themes. Bring in your clean, ready to wear costumes and accessories anytime the week of September 26-30. We will gather and sort them. Then come shop the costumes October 5-7 and October 12-14 during regular library hours. You do not have to bring things to come get new to you costumes. Save the environment and save some money! If you would like to help with this, please let Bree know.

Friday, September 29, 6:30 – 8:00 PM: "All Together Now" Puzzle Art. Did you make a puzzle piece? Would you like to show it off to family and friends? Come for some snacks and goodies and celebrate your art. Didn't make a piece - come anyway and appreciate all the artistic talent in Westford. Display will be taken down at the end of September and pieces will be available to pick up throughout October.

Tuesday, October 3: September Trails Passport Winner drawn.

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

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

The Westford Food Shelf is now open twice a month, on the first Wednesday of each month (October 4), 4:30 – 5:30 PM, on the third Saturday (October 21), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. With increased openings, they need more inventory! The Westford Public Library has food collection bins at all curbside pickups from now on. These bins are for non-perishable food and household items.

Find us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/westfordpubliclibrary)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/WestfordVT\\_pl](http://www.twitter.com/WestfordVT_pl)). Bree Drapa, Librarian. 802-878-5639; [www.westfordpubliclibrary.org](mailto:www.westfordpubliclibrary.org); [westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com).

### FAIRFAX COMMUNITY LIBRARY

We are so happy to be celebrating the library's 50th birthday this year! The library officially opened as a combined school and public library in 1973. It was then that the Fairfax Free Library was invited to move into a renovated section of the BFA Fairfax Elementary School. Joining with the High School library and the Historical Society library, it became known as the Fairfax Community Library. Please join us for a 1970s-themed open house at the library and help us celebrate 50 years of reading, programs, and fun on Thursday, September 28, 5:30 PM!

Please sign up at least one week before the program date; all

events free unless noted. Please contact [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) or 802-849-2420 to register for events!

#### Youth events

Wednesday, September 20, 3:00 PM: Egg Carton Animal Portraits. Make a 3-D animal portrait with egg cartons! Materials provided. Please contact [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) or 802-849-2420 to register!

Wednesday, September 27, 1:00 PM: Minecraft creature jars. Make a Minecraft creature and create a little habitat for it! Materials provided. Please contact [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) or 802-849-2420 to register!

#### Adult events

Thursday, September 21, 4:00 PM: Library Book Club. The book this month is *Indian Givers* by J Weatherford. Book club will meet in the library. A Zoom link will be available for anyone who wants to attend remotely. If you would like to borrow a copy of the book, or request the Zoom link, please contact the library at [libraryfairfax@gmail.com](mailto:libraryfairfax@gmail.com) or 802-849-2420. All are welcome!

#### Family events

Thursday, September 28, 5:30 – 7:00 PM: 50th Anniversary Celebration! The library is turning 50 this year! To celebrate, we are throwing a 1970s-themed party! Join us for food, crafts, and fun. There will be a small trivia competition as well, starting at 6:00 PM, so get your teams ready! No registration required. All are welcome!

For up-to-date information about programs, visit our website [www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org](http://www.fairfaxvtlibrary.org) where you can also find a link to the interactive Google calendar.

The library offers passes to local museums and parks; view our full list of passes at <https://fairfaxvtlibrary.org/passes.html>.

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

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

### RICHMOND LIBRARY

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

Blood pressure monitors available: Is it time to take a reading on your blood pressure? The Library has several blood pressure monitors to loan.

Trustees' Meetings are on the second Monday of the month (September 11, October 9) via Zoom until further notice.

The Friends of the Richmond Free Library Booksale is scheduled for Friday, December 1 (5:30 – 8:30 PM) and Saturday, December 2 (9:00 AM – 3:00 PM), with a bag sale 2:00 – 3:00 PM on Saturday. All proceeds benefit the summer youth program and many other library services. We are accepting donations Monday, September 18-Friday, November 17. Bring donations to the circulation desk for review during operating hours. (One box at a time, please.)

Weekly Children's Programs resume: Children's programs resume after Labor Day and run September-May, and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Storytime/Playgroup. The good times kick off with stories and songs in the Library's 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 for as long into the fall as weather allows. Once the days are too cold for outside play we will see if a transition to inside playgroup is wise. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Kids from infant – five and their grown ups are invited to join the fun.

Mondays, 10:30 AM: Baby Laptime. This short, active storytime is for our youngest little book lovers and their grown ups. We'll look at picture books, sing simple songs, do some rhyming and bouncing, and sometimes get out the shakers and scarves. We will spread out in the library community room and adults will mask up. This program is designed for infants and early toddlers.

Need Tech Help? We're very happy to announce that Jim Poulin of Richmond has volunteered to help patrons take charge of their devices! Are you stuck on how to use Libby or Hoopla? Does your Windows laptop go on strike when you tell it to do something? Jim can help and will be at the Library the last Wednesday of the month, 5:00 – 6:30 PM.

New: Cookbook Club — Calling all bakers, cooks, and foodies! Richmond Free Library is starting a cookbook club. Each month we'll read the same cookbook and prepare and share recipes at the next meeting. The first meeting will be on Saturday, October 14 at 12:00 PM. Can't make it in October? We'll have copies of *My Vermont Table* available at the library for our November meeting.

September 20, 6:30 PM: Documentary Screening and Discussion: Plastic Wars. What happens to all that plastic? Why don't we have alternatives to single-use plastics? With the plastic industry expanding like never before, and the crisis of ocean pollution growing, *Frontline* and NPR investigate the fight over the future of plastics. Join us for a screening of this impactful documentary.

Thursday, September 21, 7:00 PM: Mystery Book Group. Contact Maureen Parent (802-434-2055 or [mparent@gmavt.net](mailto:mparent@gmavt.net)) with any questions. Join us in the Mezzanine to discuss *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb. Ray McMillian is a Black classical musician on the rise — undeterred by the pressure and prejudice of the classical music world — when a shocking theft sends him on a desperate quest to recover his great-great-grandfather's heirloom violin on the eve of the most prestigious musical competition in the world.

Saturday, October 14, 12:00 PM: Cookbook Club, first meeting. Calling all bakers, cooks, and foodies! Richmond Free Library is starting a cookbook club. Each month we'll read the same cookbook and prepare and share recipes at the next meeting. Can't make it in October? We'll have copies of *My Vermont Table* available at the library for our November meeting.

Lawn Games (new): Thanks to support from the Richmond Recreation Committee we have several fun lawn games to loan out, or if you prefer, enjoy a game on the back lawn when you visit the library: Bocce Ball, Cornhole, and Ladderball. We also have several pairs of excellent trekking poles to lend — try out a

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## ART / MUSIC / THEATER

The **Westford Music Series** concerts will be held once a month on a Sunday, from 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Westford Common Hall, 21 Brookside Rd., Westford. The lineup for the 2023-2024 season is as follows: October 15, *Twangtown Paramours*; November 12, *Marsh Lights*; December 17, *Carol Ann Jones and Friends*; January 21, *FREVO*; February 25: *Will Patton Ensemble*; March 24, *Dale and Darcy Trio*; April 7: *Heliand*; May 5, *Howling Waters*.

The **Emile A Gruppe Gallery** welcomes back artist **Tom Walters**, presenting his exhibit of all-new Vermont landscape paintings, *Reaching New Heights*. The exhibit will run through Sunday, September 24. The Emile A. Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho. For more information contact 802-899-3211 or [www.emilegruppegallery.com](http://www.emilegruppegallery.com).

**Kathleen Berry Bergeron** of Jericho will offer Beginner and Intermediate Watercolor classes in Richmond beginning in late September. The classes run for six weeks and are morning sessions from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM. A materials list will be provided. Start an amazing journey or keep learning new techniques. You will love it! Space is limited. Contact Kathleen at [paint78@hotmail.com](mailto:paint78@hotmail.com) if interested; check out her work at <http://www.kathleenberrybergeron.com>.

**Bryan Gallery in Jeffersonville** announces the grand opening of its latest dual exhibitions: the Main Gallery will highlight the timeless allure of landscapes in *Land & Light & Water & Air*, while the Middle Room Gallery will intrigue with the captivating world of *Nature's Abstraction*. Both exhibitions are open. This year (2023) marks 16 years of Land & Light exhibitions with *A Testament to Tradition and Innovation* in a signature exhibition that pays homage to this storied tradition. Showcasing the works of over 90 talented artists, the exhibition presents an array of Vermont, New England, and Northeastern traditional landscape paintings that capture the interplay of land and light in their most picturesque moments. *Land & Light* runs through Saturday, December 23. Simultaneously, the Middle Room Gallery will feature *Nature's Abstraction: A Dive into the Intricate Patterns of the Natural World*, an exhibition that delves into the intricate and enigmatic beauty found in the natural world with a captivating display of abstract art. Visitors are invited to explore the hidden patterns, colors, and forms that lie beneath the surface of nature's grandeur. The exhibition celebrates the fusion of artistic vision and natural wonders, with a fresh perspective that transcends traditional representation. *Nature's Abstraction* runs through Sunday, November 5. The Bryan Memorial Gallery, 180 Main

St., Jeffersonville; open Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM or Monday-Tuesday by appointment. For more information contact Stephen Gothard, 802-644-5100 or [info@bryangallery.org](mailto:info@bryangallery.org).

**Call to Artists: Trees For All Seasons:** Trees have often been a backdrop in works of art, this is an opportunity to put trees in the limelight. Established and emerging artists are invited to submit one or two pieces of artwork in any medium including photography. The exhibit is scheduled from October-December 2023 in the Jericho Town Hall. The main requirement is that the work must be able to be hung on a gallery hanger system and not a photo picture frame hanger. Registration forms are due by Friday, October 6, 2023. For registration materials and information, contact Catherine McMains, [catherine.mcmains@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.mcmains@gmail.com). Registration materials and other information can also be found on the Jericho Town website, <http://jerichovt.org/>. The exhibit is one of an ongoing series of shows that are part of a collaborative effort between the Town of Jericho and a committee of volunteers involved in the arts. Committee members include Catherine McMains, SelectBoard; Emilie Alexander, gallery owner; and artists Dianne Shullenberger and Carla Hochschild.

## OBITUARIES

## Robert Slayton celebration

Please join us to celebrate the life of Robert Slayton on Saturday, September 23, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM, at Catalyst Church, 100 Raceway Rd., Jericho, VT. (To read his obituary, go online to <https://www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com/> and under Archives, click to select "2023" and then the "July 6" edition; the obituary column is on page 10.)

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Our beloved father, grandfather, and brother **Bryant K. Gile**, 74, passed away on Saturday, September 2, 2023 after a brief illness. Bryant was born and raised in Richmond, VT, the son of Homer and Virginia (Phelps) Gile. He married Judith Wagner on November 5, 1974 in the Salt Lake City LDS Temple. Bryant joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at age 22 and was a devoted member for the remainder of his life. He held a strong belief in the doctrine of eternal families and is now reunited with his beloved wife, Judy, who preceded him in death on November 13, 2005. Bryant served

in many volunteer roles in the Church including at the ward (congregational) and stake (regional) level. Bryant had many fond memories of serving with Church members throughout the state of Vermont. Bryant graduated from Richmond High School in 1967 and from the University of Vermont in 1971. In 1973, he became a rural letter carrier with the United States Post Office. Bryant spent the majority of his 33-year career delivering mail to the residents of Richmond and the surrounding area. Bryant developed many friendships with individuals and families on his mail route. Bryant retired from the USPS in 2006 and moved to Utah to be closer to his daughters and grandchildren. In Layton, UT, Bryant worked as a delivery driver for Jimmy's Flower Shop. He spent his final years in assisted living close to his daughters at Legacy House of Logan, Utah. Service to his community was a hallmark of Bryant's life. In addition to delivering mail to the

residents of Richmond, Bryant spent years as the custodian for the town offices, library, and other local businesses. He was a founding member of the Atari Club and as such his family were one of the first in town to have a personal computer. Professionally, Bryant served with many committees for the USPS. In the 1990s the Gile family began hosting children from New York City for several weeks each summer through the Fresh Air Fund. Bryant eventually volunteered as a Fresh Air Fund Friendly Town Coordinator for several years. Bryant is survived by his four daughters: Norma Jean (Nathan) Nitz, Lorelei (Scot) Ferre, Martha Muster, and Loretta (Ben) Rippon; and his eight grandchildren: Lydia, Annabelle, Charlotte, David, Guinevere, Piper, Sofia, and Michael. Bryant was proud of everything his daughters and grandchildren have accomplished. Bryant is also survived by his brothers Dennis (Sherry) Gile, Bradley (Barbara) Gile, and sister-in-law Donna Gile; nieces and nephews Veronica (Kenny) Paquette, Melinda (Doug) Johnston, Carl (Theresa) Gile, Neil (Suzy) Gile; and many grandnieces, grandnephews, and cousins. Bryant was preceded in death by his wife Judy Gile, parents Homer and Virginia Gile, and his brother Larry Gile. Funeral Services were held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at the Richmond Congregational Church, Richmond, VT. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to The Fresh Air Fund, <https://freshair.org/donate/>. Arrangements were under the direction of Lindquist's Layton Mortuary, Layton, UT.

**William Jewell, 1938-2023** — Bill moved to a small cape on Beartown Road in Underhill Center, VT in 1960 and worked hard to build a life for his family. He delivered tires to farmers throughout the countryside, working for Goodyear in Burlington, VT for many years. He knew all the best spots for a hot dog, a slice of pie, or a quick nap. He loved cooking and food, especially Vermont corn. The family grew a huge garden in the summer, and Bill continued to garden throughout his life. William and his first wife, Doris, entertained often and were well known in the Pleasant Valley. Bill married Jean Howe in 2006. After many years of being snowbirds between Vermont and Florida, they settled in Sebastian, FL. Bill continued to garden, and they enjoyed a simple life in paradise. They also enjoyed driving around in Jean's classic Ford Mustang convertible. They were both dedicated to their church, First Baptist Church Barefoot Bay, and were actively involved in the church community. William was married to Doris Kufer Jewell from 1958-2000. They have three daughters and their families: Diane and John Bennink of Monkton, VT; Lori and Tom Delia



of Charlotte, VT; and Christine Jewell and her late husband, William Knapp, of Waterbury, CT. He was known as "Pop" to his grandchildren, Alessandro and Enzo Delia. Bill is survived by Jean Howe Jewell; by her sons and their families: Brett Howe and Claudia Weinmann of Washington, D.C. and their children Simon and Juliet, and Scott and Gemma Howe of Princeton, NJ and their son Roman. Bill and Jean loved to spend time together with their grandchildren, and they traveled often to visit and have adventures together. Bill has a twin brother, Robert Jewell, who lives in Poughkeepsie, NY with his wife Mary; they have two children, Robert Jr. and Debbie Dickinson-Jewell, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. William was predeceased by his brother John and nephew James. A celebration of life memorial service was held on Sunday, September 10, at First Baptist Church Barefoot Bay in Sebastian, FL. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to First Baptist Church Barefoot Bay.

**June Cook Stowe, 95**, passed away at the McClure Miller Respite House, Colchester, VT on Monday September 12, 2023. She was born in Underhill, VT on June 4, 1928, a daughter of the late Henry and Grace Landon Cook. June attended a two-room schoolhouse in Underhill Center. She was the Valedictorian of her high school class. After high school June attended UVM as a Secretarial major. For many years she was employed at General Electric in Burlington, VT. One of the highlights of her career was meeting Ronald Reagan when he visited the plant. June also spent several years employed at the Vermont Social Welfare Department of Burlington. She married her beloved husband Harold Stowe in 1955 and has since been a resident of South Burlington, VT. June greatly enjoyed fishing and walking her dogs in the woods. She enjoyed canoeing the rivers and marshes, watching fish, turtles, muskrats, terns, ducks, and geese. She and Harold had four children: Pam Erickson of Barre, VT, Thomas Stowe of South Burlington, VT, Brian Stowe (deceased) of Johnson, VT, and Randall Stowe of South Burlington, VT. June is also survived by four grandchildren Tyler Stowe, Joshua Stowe, Sara Hussein, and Lisa Crowningshield and her sister Shirley K. Lascelles of Burlington, VT. Besides her parents and son, she was also predeceased by her brother Kenneth Cook and sisters Beverly Amblo and Phyllis Frost. Family and friends were invited to call at Ready Funeral Home, Burlington on Sunday, September 17, 2023. Arrangements were in the care of Ready Funeral and Cremation Services. To send online condolences please visit [www.readyfuneral.com](http://www.readyfuneral.com).



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pair on your next hike.

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

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

#### BROWNELL LIBRARY, ESSEX JUNCTION

Contact us at [frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org](mailto: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](mailto:frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org).

#### ESSEX FREE LIBRARY

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

Closed Monday, October 9, in observance of Indigenous People's Day.

Free COVID Test Kits and Gun Locks Still Available. No library card or ID needed.

All Together Now Smartphone Photo Contest Winners are on Display in the Adult Area through the end of September. Enjoy the beautiful and creative photos taken by your neighbors! A big thanks to all who participated by submitting photos or voting.

Think Pink! Check out the vintage Barbie display in the Adult Area!

Showcase your collection at the library! What do you collect? Matchbox cars, small artwork, baseball cards, model planes/boats/cars, vintage textiles or hats, stuffed animals, something else that will fit in our display cabinet? Please read the display policy (page 10 of Library Policies posted online) and fill out the

form if you're interested. Thanks!

September is Library Card sign-up month! Come on in, there are so many ways to Library — books, movies, digital content, games, sewing machines, guitars, telescope, museum passes, programs, crafts, storytime, and more! How do you Library??

#### Children's area

Leaf Peeping In The Library! Through October 31, there will be bright autumn leaves hiding throughout the library, and it's up to you to find them all! Grab a tally sheet, explore the library to find the leaves, write down how many you find, and enter your guess for a chance to win an autumn-themed picture book!

Exploration Station — ongoing. See the blue table for this week's challenge.

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

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

Fridays: Grab'n Go Craft Kits. While supplies last.

Storywalk ® along the back garden fence: *The Snail and the Whale* by Julia Donaldson.

#### Adult area

Tuesday, October 5, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Noontime Book Group. *The Scent Keeper* by Erica Bauermeister, a moving and evocative coming-of-age novel about childhood stories, families lost and found, and how a fragrance conjures memories capable of shaping the course of our lives.

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

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

Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM: Hand & Foot Canasta. Meets on the Mezzanine.

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

Mezzanine.

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

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

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

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

## COLLEGE NEWS

**Cormac Abbey** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Spring 2023 Dean's List at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY.

**Tyler Baker** of Underhill, VT has been named to the Summer 2023 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH.

**MegAnne Gilmore** of Jeffersonville, VT finished in 13<sup>th</sup> place overall out of 67 runners in the Virginia Tech Invitational, where Gilmore competed as part of her team from Radford University, Radford, VA. Gilmore now holds the fourth spot in the 4K Women's All-Time Top 10.

**Kurt Moore** of Underhill, VT has received the Elmira College Key Award for academic and community leadership at Elmira College, Elmira, NY. The EC Key Award is presented to outstanding students in their junior year of high school or preparatory school. Recipients receive an \$80,000 scholarship over a four-year period, \$20,000 per year, upon enrolling at Elmira College.

**Emily Tanski** of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Summer 2023 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH.

## WORSHIP SERVICES AND INFORMATION

### Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

### Jericho United Methodist Church

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

### United Church of Underhill

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

### Second Congregational Church, Jeffersonville

The Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services, Sundays at 10:30 AM. Know that no matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at our

church; or in this case, our web-space! <https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>

### Jericho Congregational Church

"An Historic Church Proclaiming an Eternal Message"  
On the Green in Jericho Center, VT  
Senior Pastor, David Coons and Youth Pastor, Peter Anderson  
Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages  
Fellowship at 9:30 AM  
Worship Service at 10:00 AM  
Nursery care provided  
Youth group 6:15 PM Sundays in our Sunday school building

### All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho

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

### Calvary Episcopal Church

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

### St. Thomas Catholic Church

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

### Covenant Community Church — "Come As You Are!"

What is the Covenant? The unique character of the Covenant is expressed in the design of the logo — people united in Christ, people serving people in God's name, and people bringing people

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

Sunday: Bible Study, 9:00 – 9:45 AM; Worship Service: 10:00 – 11:00 AM; Coffee Hour: 11:00 AM – ?  
Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex (VT Rt.15 across from John Leo's)

### 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](mailto:watervilleunionchurchvt@gmail.com); 32 Church St., Waterville.

## Olam Chesed Jewish education this fall in Stowe

Olam Chesed Club is an engaging weekly afternoon program that brings kids together from across the region to explore the joys of Jewish community, traditions, ritual, and prayer through creative arts, games, and deep discussions inspired by our sages. We celebrate holidays, experience Torah stories, and learn about the Jewish values, such as *tikkun olam* (healing the world) and *tzedakah* (charity), which shape our lives. Hebrew language learning is woven through our Wednesday curriculum; for example, this year's theme is *ahavah* אהבה love — and students also meet in small leveled online pods.

This is not the Hebrew School you grew up with! We build ice sculptures, tell stories through sand play, write and perform rap songs, and more! For students in second through sixth grade.

Contact the director of education: [Beth.Liberman@jcogs.org](mailto:Beth.Liberman@jcogs.org) or 802-505-3657 if you'd like your child to join this vibrant group of amazing kids, or even just come try it out.

The program is held at the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe, Cape Cod Road, Stowe, on Wednesdays through December 6, 4:15 – 6:00 PM; includes snack and pizza. The program also includes a half-hour Hebrew pod on a separate day scheduled by age and level.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Underhill/Jericho playgroup resumes for new school year

The Underhill/Jericho Playgroup will be resuming this fall! This open playgroup will be held in the UID Building's multipurpose room at 10 River Rd., Jericho every Wednesday from 9:30 – 11:00 AM. We will begin on Wednesday, September 6 and follow the MMUUSD calendar.

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

Email [underhill.playgroup@gmail.com](mailto:underhill.playgroup@gmail.com) to sign up for reminders and updates. Hope to see you there!

### JES PiE is September Hannaford Community Bag Program beneficiary

For the entire month of September, store leadership at Hannaford's Essex Junction location has selected JES Partners in Education to receive a \$1 donation from every purchase of the \$2.50 Hannaford Community Bag.

The Community Bag Program facilitates community support with the goal to make a difference in the communities where shoppers live and work. More than \$1.2 million has been donated to over 5000 local nonprofits since the program launched in October 2015.

JES Partners in Education (PIE) is a nonprofit parent and school partnership organization at Jericho Elementary School. The organization aims to enhance and strengthen the educational and social environment for JES students. Together, we as parents and caregivers, faculty, and staff make a difference in ways large and small. Past and ongoing projects include building an outdoor classroom, purchasing a new keyboard for the music classroom, and beautifying the grounds.

All JES families are encouraged to join us! Learn more about JES PIE by visiting <https://bit.ly/JerichoPIE>, find us on Facebook and Instagram or email [jerichopie1@gmail.com](mailto:jerichopie1@gmail.com).

For more information on the Hannaford Community Bag Program, visit [hannaford.2givelocal.com](http://hannaford.2givelocal.com).

### The Curtis Fund grants more than \$2.1 million in scholarships

The Curtis Fund, a supporting organization of the Vermont Community Foundation, has awarded more than \$2.1 million in scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year to students from every county in Vermont. Curtis Fund scholarships support students pursuing two- and four-year degrees and certificate programs at postsecondary institutions. The Curtis Fund's mission is to make it possible for Vermonters, regardless of personal income, to obtain the education or training they need to build purposeful lives.

"What started as one woman's goal to help Vermonters gain a postsecondary education more than 110 years ago has grown to a fund that supports more than 750 students annually," said Amy

Mellencamp, president of The Curtis Fund board of directors. "Emma Eliza Curtis left a gift in her will in 1910 to help Vermonters secure an education, regardless of personal income. Her gift and vision have inspired hundreds of people to also help fund scholarships for Vermonters in need."

Obtaining a degree or career training through a certificate program after high school remains the best pathway for upward mobility, but affording a postsecondary education is out of reach for too many Vermonters due to the high cost. According to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, between 37-52% of a low-income family's income is needed to support a full-time student attending a four-year institution after financial aid.

The Curtis Fund has made two significant investments to help students pursue certificate programs through the Jessica Pomerleau-Halnon Scholarship Program and The Curtis Fund Commitment: A Comprehensive Scholarship for Early Childhood Educators.

The Jessica Pomerleau-Halnon Scholarship Program supports students earning a certificate in a career-focused program, including but not limited to licensed practical nursing (LPNs), computer coding, childcare, graphic design, bookkeeping, utility line workers, electricians, and more. Certificates are short-term, career-focused educational or training programs that prepare students to meet workforce needs.

The 2023-2024 academic year is also the inaugural year for a pilot program for Vermonters seeking to become early childhood educators. *The Curtis Fund Commitment: A Comprehensive Scholarship for Early Childhood Educators* provides scholarships for the full cost of attendance (tuition, fees, and a stipend of up to \$12,000 that can be used for housing, food, and transportation) to students who wish to earn a childcare certificate at the Community College of Vermont (CCV). Sixteen students are enrolled either part-time or full-time in this scholarship program. The students include recent high school graduates as well as individuals already working in the field but without a certificate or degree.

"The high cost of educating early childhood educators along with the low wages they earn upon graduation is a significant deterrent for students interested in entering the profession," said Shana Trombley, executive director of The Curtis Fund. "This is why The Curtis Fund is providing comprehensive scholarships to help students earn the education they need to launch their careers as early childhood educators—debt free."

The Curtis Fund scholarships are available thanks to the original foresight and generosity of Emma Eliza Curtis. Since then many others have been inspired to help students achieve their educational goals by donating to The Curtis Fund. To learn more about how you can support scholarships either with a gift today or by making a legacy gift, please visit <https://www.thecurtisfund.org/donate>.

### Jericho student a 2024 National Merit® Scholarship semifinalist

On Wednesday, September 13 officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) announced the names of more than 16,000 Semifinalists in the 69<sup>th</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program, and Alexander J. Aridgides of Jericho, a Mount Mansfield Union High School (Jericho) senior, is among them. He and the others named as semifinalists have an

opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 95% of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 320 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2024 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join nearly 375,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

### Helping kids settle in in a new school year

By now children will have started school and be in the process of adjusting to new people, surroundings, and routines. Each child will have their own way of settling in. Some children may have had difficulty during the initial stages of transition, some will have made the transition without any difficulty, others may be continuing to struggle, and some will be up and down. Sometimes difficulties do not come up during the first days of school — instead, they appear later on. This is not unusual as transition is a process rather than just a single event and like any process, there may be bumps along the way. Difficulties usually decrease over time and parents and carers should begin to notice some signs that their child is settling in at school. As we support children during the transition, they will start to feel secure, relaxed, and comfortable, enjoy learning, build relationships with others, and feel as though they belong and are included at school.

#### Multiple influences on transition to school

There are many factors that can influence your child's transition to school, and the experience of transition is unique for every child. All of the factors listed below can play an important role in supporting children to make a successful transition.

- individual factors — e.g., the unique characteristics and strengths of each child and their general pattern of emotional reaction to change;
- family factors — e.g., parent and carer involvement, parenting practices, and parent and carer attitudes towards school;
- factors relating to peers — e.g., having a friend at school and positive relationships with classmates;
- school factors — e.g., the school environment, learning experiences, teachers, equipment in the playground, and similarities or differences to prior to school setting;
- community factors — e.g., availability of and access to supports and services, social values in the community, and government and education policies.

#### Helping children cope

Schools continued on page 11

SPORTS NEWS

**Cambridge Basketball Association needs volunteer coaches**

The Cambridge Basketball Association is looking for volunteer coaches for the upcoming 2023-2024 basketball season, which runs from November to mid-February. See below for openings:

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Co-Ed Intramurals (one practice/week, 1.5 hours)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Co-Ed Intramurals (one practice/week, 1.5 hours)
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Co-Ed Intramurals (one practice/week, 1.5 hours)
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Travel Team Boys (One-two practices/week, one-two games per week, give or take)

All volunteer coaches must complete mandatory CPR and First Aid Training. They also must pass a background check.

No experience is necessary; we are willing to train and help design practice plans to ensure developmental progress in our student athletes and coaches.

Please contact Katie French, 802-798-2575 or [cambridgevtbasketball@gmail.com](mailto:cambridgevtbasketball@gmail.com), for more information.

**Westford Bike Park is open**

By Lori Miller, Westford Recreation Committee member

The Westford Recreation Committee is extremely excited to announce that the new Westford Bike Park opened for riding on Friday, September 15! A grand opening of the park will be held mid-October, and we will announce the details soon.

Please enjoy Westford's newest outdoor recreation spot safely! Remember to wear a helmet when riding. There will be signs posted indicating the challenge of each different part of the track. Ride within your ability and look at the jumps before you ride them.

The trails ARE directional — they are downhill only, so please be sure not to ride up the trails. When heading out to the trails, please stay up on the hill or ride along the gravel road that leads out to the park; don't ride your bike across the school soccer fields or through the playground areas.

Please help care for the new trails by allowing 24 hours for trails to dry after any significant rainfall in order to prevent erosion and damage.

Happy riding, everyone! Break out your Strider, Nishiki, BMX, Stumpjumper, or whatever mountain bike, and hit the trails!

**Vermont Climbing Festival September 22**

The fifth annual Vermont Climbing Festival is scheduled for Friday-Sunday, September 22-24 at Cochran's Ski Area, Cochran

Road, Richmond. All climbers are welcome to join for a weekend of camping, climbing, workshops, clinics, competitions, music, and more!

This year, our keynote speaker is North Face athlete Mo Beck. Proceeds support the work of CRAG-VT to protect and preserve Vermont Climbing.

Pre-register online at <http://www.cragvt.org/festival>.

**Westford Rec adult pick-up basketball**

By Amanda Gifford, Westford Recreation Coordinator

Play ball! Well, Basketball anyway — have some fun, get a workout, make new friends.

Westford Rec is sponsoring pick-up basketball on Wednesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, for ages 16+ at the Westford School gym, Westford Elementary School, Brookside Road, beginning October 4-January 3 (excluding when the school is closed for holidays, breaks, snow days).

There will be two sessions: a fall session, October-January, and a spring session, February-June. The cost is \$5 to just drop in; or \$20 for the fall session, \$25 for the spring session, or \$40 for both sessions.

Register online at <https://forms.gle/xjtzzHqn6C24FmYM6>.

**Hunters reminded of rules on importing deer, elk**

Hunters traveling outside Vermont to hunt deer or elk need to keep in mind that a regulation designed to protect Vermont's wild deer from chronic wasting disease remains in effect, according to a reminder from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the brain and nervous system in deer and elk. Abnormal prion proteins produce lesions in the brain that cause disorientation and emaciation in conjunction with other abnormal behaviors. This highly contagious disease is always fatal to deer. For the latest information on CWD, check these websites: [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) and [www.cwd-info.org](http://www.cwd-info.org).

The potential exists for CWD prion proteins to be introduced to the environment through the bodily fluids of CWD-positive deer, elk, or moose, and then persist in the environment for extended periods of time.

Vermont rules on importing and possession of deer or elk from areas with chronic wasting disease (CWD) and captive hunt areas or farms:

It is illegal to import or possess deer or elk, or parts of deer or elk, from states and Canadian provinces that have had chronic wasting disease, or from captive hunt or farm facilities with the following exceptions:

number, which is then recorded on your hunting license.

For more information on hunting in Vermont, be sure to get a copy of the 2023 Hunting & Trapping Guide and Syllabus of State and Federal Hunting Regulations for Migratory Game Birds in Vermont available free from license agents statewide and from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

**Unallocated antlerless deer permits available:** The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department held its annual permit lottery for muzzleloader antlerless deer permits on September 13 and says it now has unallocated muzzleloader antlerless deer permits available for use in the antlerless-only October 26-29 season and the regular December 2-10 season. The unallocated permits are available because not enough people applied for them in the lottery. These permits can be purchased for \$10 on the department's website or at any local license agent on a first come, first served basis.

Here are the Wildlife Management Units with the number of muzzleloader antlerless permits available online and at local license agents statewide on September 14: A-649, B-1786, F1-1397, F2-535, I-45, K-2343, M-4, N-1117, O-285, Q-250.

A person who won a permit in the lottery may not purchase a second permit unless they take a deer with their first permit and then only if they have not reached their four-deer annual limit.

• meat that is cut up, packaged, and labeled with hunting license information and not mixed with other deer or elk during processing;

- meat that is boneless;
- hides or capes with no part of the head attached;
- clean skull-cap with antlers attached;
- antlers with no other meat or tissue attached;
- finished taxidermy heads;
- upper canine teeth with no tissue attached.

Vermont's CWD importation regulations currently apply to hunters bringing in deer or elk carcasses from the following states and provinces that have detected CWD in either captive or wild animals: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Alberta, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan.

"CWD is a very persistent disease that can resurface after years of absence," said Nick Fortin, Vermont's deer biologist. "Vermont's CWD regulation is designed to help prevent CWD from infecting Vermont's deer and the drastic population reduction measures that would be required if it appears here. Hunters bringing deer or elk from any of the CWD-listed states or provinces into or through Vermont simply have to get them processed according to the regulation before doing so."

A fine of up to \$1000 and loss of hunting and fishing licenses for one year are applicable for each deer or elk imported illegally.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife is also reminding hunters that using any type of natural deer urine-based or deer body fluid attractant scents is prohibited in the state because of the CWD threat.

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Schools continued from page 10

There are a number of ways you can help children learn to cope during challenging times. Some suggestions include:

- Listening to your child and acknowledging how they are feeling — e.g., "It sounds like you're worried about who will pick you up from school tomorrow." This can be a good opportunity for you to find out from your child what they are worried or concerned about.
- Talk with your child to find out what they think might happen — e.g. "Can you tell me what you think might happen?"
- Provide realistic information if your child is over-estimating the likelihood of a particular event occurring or they cannot think things through logically — e.g., "We won't forget to pick you up and Mrs. Smith will be with you until we arrive."
- Reassure your child when they feel unsafe or worried — e.g., "It is a big playground but there is an area for just the little kids to play."
- Help your child to label their scary thoughts if they are feeling overwhelmed by them — e.g., "That's just a scary thought. You don't have to keep it."
- Demonstrate a coping skill for your child — e.g., using positive self-talk: say out loud, "I'm being brave, I can do it."
- Hold off on starting other new activities, particularly when children are starting school. This can be helpful so that they only have one challenge to deal with at a time, like getting used to school.
- Encourage and talk positively about their attempts to cope. Prepare for challenges by helping your child come up with a plan for coping. Break the challenge into smaller steps or parts. The plan will work best if you and your child come up with the steps together (from easiest to hardest), and if they agree to attempt the first step. It is important to start with something that your child is likely to be able to do successfully, as this can build up their confidence and help them to feel good about themselves.

Providing positive feedback and encouragement helps children move on to the next step.

When your child feels comfortable with the first step ask them if they are ready to give the next step a go. It may take some time for your child to feel ready to move on to the next step. It is not uncommon for children to need to go back to an earlier step next time and work through the steps again. It can take time and practice to get to the final step and achieve their goal. The aim is for children to feel confident in managing the step before attempting a harder one.

**Midnight Girl**  
By Kimberly Madura

Save me from  
being and nothingness.  
You were there when  
it counted  
and isn't that everything,  
you went down into  
the wreck with me,  
in truth  
in full release  
with full relief,  
after so long  
thinking you were gone,  
how did you know,  
I prayed for a miracle,  
I dreamed a dream,  
I asked for help,  
you who understood,  
I'm so glad it was you,  
you were the perfect person.

SENIOR NEWS

Friendly visiting volunteers needed

From Lauren Walsh, Volunteer Program Administrator, Age Well (formerly Area Agency on Aging)

Age Well is seeking volunteers to provide regular social interaction and assistance to seniors in their homes. Help older Vermonters by delivering Meals on Wheels, providing friendly visits, going grocery shopping, running errands, assisting with medical appointments, organizing, bill paying, providing respite, doing minor home repairs, participating in Veterans Visiting other Veterans, and more. Volunteers feel an incredible sense of satisfaction and reward seeing the impact they have on those they support.

Time commitment is based on your availability — it can vary

from one day a week to two days a month (Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM). Contact our Volunteer Department at 802-662-5249 or [volunteer@agewellvt.org](mailto:volunteer@agewellvt.org) for information.

Since 1974, Age Well has been part of Vermont's Area Agencies on Aging, coordinating services and care for older adults throughout Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties. Age Well provides services and resources to older Vermonters (60+) such as Meals on Wheels, Community Meals, Restaurant Ticket Programs, Special Events, Care and Service Coordination, and Health and Wellness opportunities like Tai Chi. All programs and services are offered at no cost to those that receive services.

We are always looking for Friendly Visitors, Senior Companions, Meals on Wheels drivers, and Respite Volunteers!

Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County upcoming events

Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County has a lot going on:

We are looking for classic and antique car owners to help us deliver meals on Thursday, September 21. Please get in touch with Nicole if you are interested, 802-888-5011 ext. 1


We have a fall bulb fundraiser happening this month. 50% of your purchase will go to our home-delivered meal program. You can order at <http://www.mowlc.org>.

Pottery Event for a Cause on Saturday, October 7. Tickets are on sale now at <http://www.mowlc.org>.

Annual Meeting with Brunch on Thursday, September 28, 10:00 AM at the Hub, 21 Munson Ave., Morrisville. RSVP to Nicole at 802-888-5011 ext.1 or to [meals@mowlc.org](mailto:meals@mowlc.org).

P.S. We are always looking for volunteers to help prep in our kitchen and deliver meals.

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**OFFICIAL WARNING**  
**JERICHO UNDERHILL PARK DISTRICT**

**PUBLIC HEARING on the DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**October 18, 2023**

**THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE JERICHO UNDERHILL PARK DISTRICT OF JERICHO AND UNDERHILL ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED AND WARNED TO MEET AT THE DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY'S PROJECT ROOM AT 8 RIVER ROAD IN JERICHO, VERMONT ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT FOR MILLS RIVERSIDE PARK.**

The Draft Management plan can be found on the Mills Riverside Park website at [https://www.millsriversidepark.org/fileadmin/files/Legal/JUPD\\_Management\\_Plan\\_06-07-23.pdf?c4c77bd472e85de17cdb322f439e45febf0eb0a6](https://www.millsriversidepark.org/fileadmin/files/Legal/JUPD_Management_Plan_06-07-23.pdf?c4c77bd472e85de17cdb322f439e45febf0eb0a6)

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Please contact Chuck Bolton Real Estate 802-864-0552 or [chuckbolton@comcast.net](mailto:chuckbolton@comcast.net) for further information. A drone arial and floor plan video are available.

