

# Meet the Underhill selectboard candidates

## Daniel Kelsey



Hello, Underhill neighbors! My name is Dan Kelsey, and I'm excited to be running for a seat on our Town Selectboard. My husband and I moved to our lovely home on Pinnacle Ridge in September 2021, along with our two adorable Brussels Griffon dogs, who remind us daily of the joy, energy, and love that this playful breed brings. (Does anyone remember Verdell from *As Good As It Gets?*)

I grew up along the beautiful Connecticut shoreline in the towns of Clinton and Chester, where community and nature were integral parts of daily life. In 2006, my career took me to New Jersey, but my heart has always been in a place like Underhill — a community that values its natural beauty and fosters a warm, inclusive environment.

In 2021, a year of many significant challenges but also fortunate moments, I married my husband, Andrew Seguel, and we decided to move to and make a new home in Vermont. My passions range from gardening and decorating to hiking and bird watching. I have been volunteering with the Vermont Institute of Natural Science to assist with transporting birds for rehabilitation. I treasure time spent with friends and am an avid supporter of our local Vermont breweries. I strongly believe in the importance

of maintaining an active lifestyle, including regular exercise, which not only enhances physical health but also contributes significantly to mental well-being and community vitality.

As a candidate for the Town Selectboard, I aim to bring my experiences and enthusiasm for community engagement to enhance our town's services and activities. I'm committed to promoting sustainable growth and maintaining the unique character that makes Underhill special.

Since relocating to Underhill with my husband in September 2021, we have been charmed by its stunning natural beauty and vibrant spirit of community. My aspiration to join the Selectboard springs from a profound admiration for our town's distinctiveness and my commitment to cultivating an environment where every person's voice is heard and valued.

Professionally, I have dedicated 18 years to Bayer Healthcare, where I serve as a Director in Research and Development within the Quality group. This role has sharpened my abilities in project management, critical thinking, and collaborative problem-solving — skills I am eager to apply to enhance our town's governance. My career has taught me the importance of meticulous attention to detail and proactive leadership, qualities essential for managing our town's diverse needs effectively.

Previously, I served on the board of directors for our former neighborhood's community club, an experience that enriched my understanding of balancing diverse opinions and managing resources effectively. These insights are directly applicable to the

challenges and opportunities faced by the Selectboard.

Outside of my professional life, I find joy in spending time with my family, friends, and our two dogs. I am passionate about gardening, birdwatching, and maintaining an active lifestyle. These hobbies do more than enrich my personal life; they reflect my commitment to the health and beauty of our community.

In Underhill, we are fortunate to experience a friendly and evolving community atmosphere — a testament to the values we collectively cherish. With a focus on fairness, honesty, and diversity, I am committed to fostering open, kind communication. My approach to town governance will be decidedly non-political, concentrating solely on what best serves our community and supports its growth and prosperity.

I am eager to become more involved in community activities beyond my current engagements. By serving on the Selectboard, I hope to give back to the town that has welcomed us with open arms and to help craft innovative solutions that will benefit all residents. I am committed to being an accessible, responsive, and proactive member of the Selectboard, ensuring that our initiatives and decisions are transparent and result-oriented.

I warmly invite you to share your ideas, concerns, and hopes for our town with me. Let's work together to shape a future for Underhill that mirrors the best of what we envision for our community. I respectfully ask for your support and your vote to serve on our town's Selectboard.

## Maureen Collins-Kolb



My name is Maureen Collins-Kolb and I am running for the Selectboard of the Town of Underhill. I am deeply committed to preserving the rural character and strong sense of community that make this such a special place to live.

My husband Jonah and I are parents of two young children attending Underhill Central School and we are active members and volunteers at the United Church of Underhill. We have worked to become deeply rooted in our community since we moved here.

I have lived and worked across the country, from a dude ranch in Colorado to rebuilding homes in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina to teaching health classes in Chicago's senior centers.

Before we moved here to be closer to family, my husband and I spent 10 years living in rural central Illinois, running our farm management business and starting our family.

With a master's degree in public health, my career has focused on health promotion and disease prevention for older adults and risk behavior prevention for adolescents. This public health training and background helped to shape my perspective on the importance of "upstream factors" that influence the health and success of a community — things like good sidewalks and access to green spaces, in addition to bigger things like schools and libraries, make a difference in how accessible healthy options are for all residents.

In addition to my professional background, I have been actively involved in community engagement and leadership roles. In Illinois, I served as a precinct committee person for my local party, and worked to help get out the vote, represented my local precinct for the party meetings, and supported efforts to

promote early and absentee voting. I was on the board of our county history museum for eight years, with five of those years on the executive board, and was the chair of the annual festival which brought in an average of 100,000 people to our town for that weekend.

I believe that communities thrive when people who care show up to do the work to keep it a place where people want to live, work, and recreate. Maintaining what is best about a community while evolving to respond to the ever-changing needs of the residents takes time and attention. It is my hope to have the opportunity to be a part of this process here in Underhill. My priorities are to serve the best interests of the town with integrity and empathy; and to collaborate with town employees, volunteers, and stakeholders to ensure that it remains a place where families want to raise their children and where older residents can age with dignity.

## Christopher Parker



Hello, my name is Christopher Parker. I've dedicated my life to serving my community with passion and commitment. Born in Rutland, VT, I moved to Florida with my family in the 1980s and recently returned to reside in Underhill, VT. I bring a unique perspective and a deep understanding of both my hometown and my adopted community.

Professionally, I have worked in the fire service for the last 35 years and currently serve as a Fire Department Administrator/Firefighter EMT with the Underhill Jericho Fire Department. In this role, I have demonstrated a strong commitment to public safety, community service, and efficient administration. My responsibilities include managing department operations, coordinating emergency response efforts, and ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

I am also close to completing my bachelor's degree in Fire Department Administration, with just 15 credits remaining. This will further enhance my expertise and prepare me to contribute even more effectively to public service.

As a proud father of three adult children who reside in South Carolina, I understand the importance of family and community support. My personal experiences have shaped my values and commitment to creating a better future for all residents of Underhill.

My platform is built on my extensive knowledge of local government and my vision for Underhill as a community of inclusivity, progress, positive change, and unity. I believe that by fostering open dialogue, embracing diversity, and working together cooperatively, we can overcome challenges and achieve our shared goals. I am committed to promoting transparency, accountability, and effective governance in all decision-making processes, ensuring that every voice in Underhill is heard and represented.

My goals include creating a thriving and prosperous future for Underhill and improving the quality of life for all residents. With a strong foundation in public service and a clear vision for the future, I am ready to bring my dedication and passion to the office of the Select Board. I am eager to leverage my skills and knowledge to instill positive change and ensure effective governance. For more information, please contact me at my email [Christopherparker72@yahoo.com](mailto:Christopherparker72@yahoo.com), or my cell 843-693-2698.

## Harland Blodgett



I've lived in Underhill for over 60 years. I went to school in Underhill Center and graduated from Mount Mansfield High School, class of '74. I worked in construction; sheetrock, metal studs, and building acoustical ceilings. I was employed by DonVac for 19 years and L&N Interiors for 14 years. I am married and raised three kids in Underhill. They all went to the Underhill ID School and Browns River Middle School and graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School as well. I am retired and volunteer at the Lamoille Valley Fish and Game Club, running muzzle loader competitions, and was the President of the club for four years. I was Cub Master of Underhill-Jericho

graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School as well. I am retired and volunteer at the Lamoille Valley Fish and Game Club, running muzzle loader competitions, and was the President of the club for four years. I was Cub Master of Underhill-Jericho

## Underhill special election to choose two new Selectboard members

A special town meeting and election will be held in Underhill on Tuesday, June 11 to elect two of four candidates running for the new Selectboard seats approved by voters last March. As with voting by Australian ballot at the March Town Meeting, a June 11 Special Town Meeting has been warned by the Town of Underhill, but the election itself is by Australian ballot with voting at the Underhill Town Hall, 12 Pleasant Valley Rd., Underhill Center. The four candidates running to fill the new positions are pictured and profiled in this edition of the *Mountain Gazette*. Those elected will serve a term that ends at Town Meeting on March 4, 2025, when new elections will be held.

Underhill will hold an information and discussion meeting on Wednesday, June 5 at 6:00 PM at the Underhill Town Hall. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, go online to <https://meet.goto.com/432286229> (to get the app and be ready when the meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>); or you may also dial in using your phone (Access Code: 432-286-229 United States: +1 (224) 501-3412).

Pack 620 for six years in the 1980s. From 2012-2019 I was a chartered organization representative for the United Church of Underhill and Pack 62; each June the Cub Scouts helped me with the community dinner at the Church. I have been an auditor for the Underhill Cemetery Committee for over 30 years and also an auditor for the Jericho-Underhill Water District for 20 years. I also enjoy fishing and hunting, Dutch oven cooking, and spending time with the grandkids. I've got some Dutch oven recipes to share if you are interested.

Position statement: I saw that Underhill had vacancies for Selectboard members and thought that after 60 years of living here, it would be a great way to give back to my community. I am retired and have the time for the position and clearly, after living and raising my family here for 60 plus years, you can see that I care about Underhill and its future.

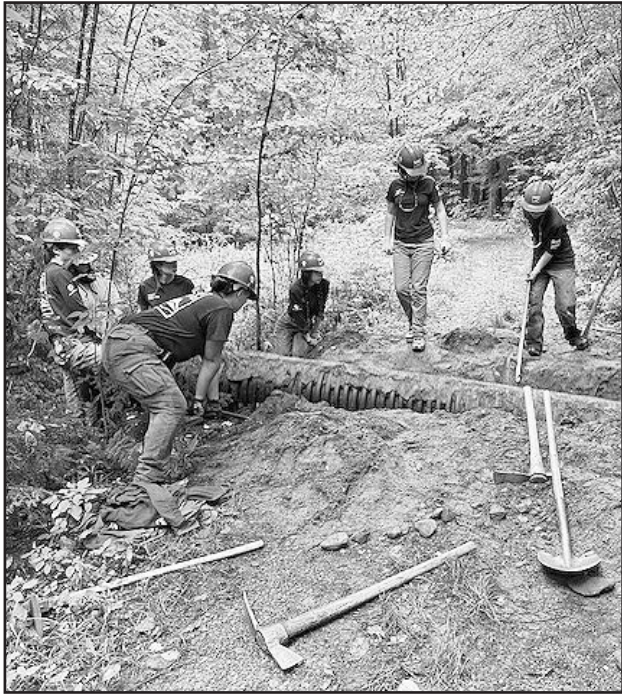
## Father's Day Fishing Derby Sunday, June 16



Fathers and kids of all ages, come to Jonesville on Sunday, June 16, for the Chittenden County Fish & Game Club's annual Father's Day Fishing Derby — considered one of the oldest fishing derbies in the nation — 8:00 – 11:00 AM. There will be prizes for children ages 14 and under, and trophies for age groups 5-14 years. Admission is free! Lunch will be available. Follow the signs from the Jonesville-U.S. Rt. 2 bridge to the Chittenden County Fish & Game Club, 1397 Wes White Hill Rd., Jonesville. Pictured above is two-year-old Jackson Heath and his dad Ben of Richmond, with Jackson's first ever trout!

PHOTO BY SUSAN WINTER

## NEWS



A crew from the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps working on improvements to the West Farm Trail in Cambridge's Brewster Uplands in summer 2023. The Loggers' Loop Trail network and the parking lot on Junction Hill Road will be closed for the first two weeks of June, starting Monday, June 3. The Pond Loop Trail and the upper parking lot on West Farm Road will be closed from mid-June through the end of August. Some sections of the Pond Loop Trail may have limited openings during construction in July and August. Please stay clear of work areas and respect all trail and parking lot closures during construction. Closure signage will be posted and updated throughout the summer. A trail closure map and project updates can be found on VLT's website at [www.vlt.org/brewster-trail-work](http://www.vlt.org/brewster-trail-work). PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Trail improvements at Brewster Uplands in Cambridge this summer

Restoration work will close trail sections and some parking areas June-August

Public trails at Brewster Uplands on Canyon Road off VT Rt. 108 will receive a major lift this summer, the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) has announced. Upgrades on nearly two miles of trails will enhance accessibility for people of all ages and abilities. They will also improve stream health and clean water in the Brewster River watershed.

Trail work this summer will take place on the Loggers' Loop Trail network and the Pond Loop Trail. Two associated parking lots on Junction Hill Road and West Farm Road will also be affected.

Work on both trail sections will be done by Rabbit Tracks Trail Works, LLC of Eden, starting in June. The Loggers' Loop network will be closed for the first two weeks of June, and the Pond Loop trail will be closed from mid-June through the end of August.

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

The Loggers' Loop Trail network — including the Junction Hill Trail, the Canyon Road Trail and the Old Carriage Road Trail — will reopen after work is completed in June.

The main parking lot on West Farm Road will remain open throughout the summer.

Visitors are requested to stay clear of work areas and respect all trail and parking lot closures during construction. Information and updates can be found on VLT's website, [www.vlt.org/brewster-trail-work](http://www.vlt.org/brewster-trail-work).

Laird MacDowell of the CTC said: "The Cambridge Trails Committee applauds the Vermont Land Trust for hiring Rabbit Tracks Trail Works, LLC to rebuild the one-mile-long Pond Loop Trail to be fully wheelchair-accessible, providing a rare flat, wooded trail for all users to complement the LVRT (Lamoille Valley Rail Trail) and Cambridge Greenway gravel trails. In addition, VLT will resolve a major issue with lifted culverts utilizing the same local contractor on the popular Loggers' Loop trail, which will greatly improve the trail and make it more

bicycle friendly."

The Loggers' Loop Trail network and Junction Hill Road parking lot will be closed first half of June, starting the week of June 3. The network includes the Loggers' Loop trail and these adjacent trails: Junction Hill, Canyon Road, and the Old Carriage Road. Several lifted culverts will either be reset or replaced with shallow ford crossings that allow water to flow naturally across trails and forest roads. In addition, new water bars and grade reversals will be installed to improve drainage and help mitigate erosion and muddy conditions. These upgrades will improve stream and wetland function and enhance flood resilience in the watershed.

This project is slated to take two weeks. The parking lot on Junction Hill Road will be closed along with the trails during that time.

The Pond Loop Trail and upper parking lot on West Farm Road will close for two months. Once the Loggers' Loop work is complete, Rabbit Tracks Trail Works, LLC will transition to the Pond Loop Trail to complete accessibility upgrades on the trail, the pond overlook spur, and the upper parking lot on West Farm Road. This work is scheduled to start in the second half of June and should take eight weeks to complete. The entirety of the trail and the upper parking lot will be closed during that period.

Trail upgrades will incorporate best practices for universal trail accessibility provided by the U.S. Forest Service. The upper parking lot on West Farm Road will be improved to feature new ADA (American Disabilities Act)-compliant parking, better drainage and surfacing, and an improved driveway entrance.

"My family, friends, and I are very excited and thankful for all those involved in making these upcoming accessibility improvements possible," said Berni Kuntzelmann of Cambridge. "This is a beautiful asset to our community and should be enjoyed by all, which these improvements will help to do. I look forward to exploring the new, improved Pond Loop Trail and parking lot in my mobility chair ASAP!"

The 600+ acre Brewster Uplands property was donated to VLT in 2006 by the Bryan family for all to enjoy. The Bryan family bought the land in 1939 and, over several generations, tended the working landscape and developed an extensive trail network. Today, VLT manages and stewards Brewster Uplands as an outdoor resource for the community and to protect and enhance its natural resources.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Rabies-positive raccoon found in Underhill

By Deb Moore, Underhill Town Health Officer

Yesterday (Thursday, May 30) a rabies-positive raccoon was found in Underhill. There was no human or domestic animal contact as it was contained at the Wildlife Refuge in Underhill. Rabies is a serious health care concern and below is information to update you. If you have further questions after reading, please contact me as your Town Health Officer ([deb\\_moore\\_rm@yahoo.com](mailto:deb_moore_rm@yahoo.com)) or the Vermont Rabies Hotline number at 800-472-2437. Thank you for your attention in this important matter.

If your pet or farm animal was exposed to a wild or stray animal that might have rabies: contact your veterinarian. Pets should be vaccinated for rabies. State law requires dogs and cats to be vaccinated — even barn cats.

If you see a wild or stray animal acting strangely, or are concerned about a rabies exposure, call the Rabies Hotline (1-800-4-RABIES) or report it to your town's animal control officer.

Do not touch or pick up wild or stray animals — even baby animals — or try to make them into pets. Doing so can put yourself or your family at risk of exposure through a bite or a scratch. You can't tell if an animal has rabies just by looking at it. Interacting with young wildlife may result in them being orphaned or tested for rabies, which requires humanely euthanizing the animal. So, for their own sake, leave wildlife in the wild.

Learn more about rabies in Vermont — visit <https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/zooonotic-diseases/rabies>.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease of the brain that infects mammals and is fatal to both humans and animals. In Vermont, rabies is most commonly found in wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats, and woodchucks. Cats, dogs, and livestock can also get rabies if they have not been vaccinated. Rabies virus is spread through the bite of an infected animal. Rabies is transmitted only when the virus is introduced into a bite wound, open cuts on the skin, or onto mucous membranes like the mouth or eyes.

## Please report bear encounters

By Jennifer Silpe, Underhill Animal Control Officer

[Animalcontrol@underhillvt.gov](mailto:Animalcontrol@underhillvt.gov) / 802-373-0893

Please help us understand this increase in bear activity. The Vermont state biologist would like you to report all encounters with bears; even those that are not aggressive.

Here is the link to report: <https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/BearIncidentPublic/AddMyIncident.aspx>.

Thank you, Underhill, for continuing to pay attention to wildlife and respecting them, as we are the ones who encroached on their territory. If we heed the warnings and put away bird feeders, keep our outdoor cooking areas clean, and cover garbage, recycling, and compost, we will help keep the bears of Underhill alive.

Be well!

## Safe parking at Palmer Lane Maple in Jericho

From Paul and Colleen Palmer, Palmer Lane Maple, Jericho  
For our customers' safety and our neighbors' convenience, we ask our patrons to park in our designated parking areas, being sure to pull out of the road completely so as not to block the traveled portion of Old Pump Road.

We also ask that our parking areas only be used by customers and not used as public parking to go for a walk, run, or bike ride. We need all the parking we have at all times. We reserve the right to tow vehicles parked in our lots longer than the expected 30 minute maximum time.

During high volume traffic times, there are two alternate areas available for parking that are less than a minute walk from our

shop. For your safety, always use the designated crosswalks and pedestrian crossing signals.

—The front parking lot of the Jericho Post Office is available at these times:

- Monday-Friday, after 5:00 PM;
- Saturday, after 12:00 PM;
- Sunday, all day.

—The back parking lot of the Jericho Post Office is OFF LIMITS at all times, as Mail Carriers and Trucks need access to this lot at all times.

—The Jericho Elementary School (JES) parking lot is available at these times:

- Monday-Friday, anytime after 2:30 PM (September 1-June 15, when school is in session);
- Saturday or Sunday, anytime (September 1-June 15, when school is in session);
- Anytime when school is not in session.

For your safety, always use the designated crosswalks and pedestrian crossing signals.

## Underhill Jericho Memorial Day Parade on video

By Angelike A. Contis, MMCTV

Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) was at the annual Underhill-Jericho Memorial Day Parade, and recorded it for all to enjoy!

Enjoy the parade video online at <https://bit.ly/3yCigJS> (short for [https://youtu.be/pb\\_MMI5MxrU?si=bMDuwjtjyogpNGdI](https://youtu.be/pb_MMI5MxrU?si=bMDuwjtjyogpNGdI)).

## Public input sought in Bolton for plan to manage Wheeler Field

By Brian Roberge, Bolton Town Administrator

There will be an opportunity for members of the public to give input to the Wheeler Field Management Planning Group on the Wheeler Field Management Plan.

Come to the West Bolton Golf Club on Monday June 10, 6:30 PM to learn about survey results and field layout ideas. Give your input!

Sponsored by the Wheeler Field Management Planning Group; thanks to Jeff and Mary Brown for use of the Club.

## Reminder: rules dogs on trails in Westford

From the Westford Conservation Commission

Reminder from the Westford Conservation Commission about dog-owner behavior on our town trails:

- Please keep dogs leashed that are not under voice control.
- Be courteous to other trail users; some folks do not want dogs running up to them.
- Clean up your doggy doo-doo; bags are provided at kiosks at the Westford School.
- Keep dogs off private property; our town trails abut and intersect private property.

The weather is nicer now and there are more folks out on the trails. Be respectful so everyone can enjoy them!

## Town of Jericho highway updates

By Paula Carrier, Jericho Assistant Town Administrator

The Town of Jericho started street sweeping the week of Monday, June 3, weather permitting. Roadside mowing will be done on all paved town roads by Thursday, July 4.

The Highway Department will be painting stop bars, yield signs, and crosswalks starting the week of Monday, June 3, weather permitting.

Radar signs go back up on Skunk Hollow Road after June 3.

## Brenda Steady announces candidacy for Vermont House

Brenda Steady of Milton announced Thursday she will run a campaign for Vermont Representative in district Chittenden 25, comprised of Westford and East Milton. Steady's main campaign theme is making Vermont more affordable for current residents and Vermont's future.

"As Vermonters are experiencing a monumental increase in education tax, it is hurting property owners and renters alike. These increases are impacting our families and our seniors, with many leaving or thinking of leaving our state. I will vote for fiscally responsible legislation that will protect our citizens. As a local government official I am proud of the budget oversight I have supported which has limited our increases to lower than inflation."

Steady has a long history of public service as a local government official and advocate, having served as a select board member for six years and a school board member for nine years prior. As a former school board member she understands the issues related to Vermont's education funding system. According to Steady, "The system is really broken and we can see it now. I will support Governor Scott's leadership for education funding reform and general budgetary restraint."

Steady also shares the governor's concerns over the coming carbon tax. "A carbon tax will hurt the working people. My opponent promised she would vote against a carbon tax in 2022; however, she voted for S.5 which will implement a fuel tax."

Steady is also a long time Justice of the Peace. "I love performing weddings for people of all walks of life, no matter who they are. Celebrating the best in all of us is important to me."

Contact Brenda Steady, candidate for House, at 802-893-0516 or [steadyforhouse@gmail.com](mailto:steadyforhouse@gmail.com).

## CSWD fall Rover dates announced

By Alise Certa, CSWD Board

The Rover, Chittenden Solid Waste District's (CSWD) mobile household hazardous waste collection unit, accepts a wide variety of household hazardous waste at no charge from Chittenden County residents — business waste is not accepted. CSWD provides the Rover as a service to residents who cannot make the trip to the Environmental Depot, our permanent hazardous waste collection facility located in South Burlington.

The dates and locations of the Rover's fall schedule are:

- Saturdays September 7 — Underhill Town Garage;
- Saturday, September 28 — Bolton Fire Garage;
- Saturday, October 5 — Huntington Fire Station.

For times and information on what the Rover accepts, please visit our website, <https://cswd.net/hazardous-waste/rover/>.

Can't make it to the Rover? Avoid the lines and schedule an appointment year 'round at the Environmental Depot! The Environmental Depot accepts more materials than the Rover and is always the best place to take your hazardous waste. Making an appointment is easy — just visit our Depot page and click the "make an appointment" button: <https://cswd.net/chittenden-county-solid-waste-facilities/environmental-depot/>.

## News from the Jericho Town Hall

SelectBoard: In May, the SelectBoard held public informational meetings for each of the Village Centers to share the 60% Report of the Village Wastewater Study conducted by DuBois & King. The slides from each session can be viewed at <https://jerichovt.org/wastewater-feasibility-study>. Recordings of the meetings will be available.

Planning Commission: At its May 21 meeting, the Planning Commission viewed a presentation from their Bylaw Modernization Grant consultant David White in preparation

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## LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

VT Senate update:  
2024 session endsBy Kesha Ram Hinsdale, State Senator  
Chittenden-Southeast Senate District

May 20

The 2024 legislative session and 2023-24 legislative biennium has now ended. We are likely to have a veto session on Monday, June 17, though it is unclear what the Governor will veto until later this week.

It's been an honor to work alongside you to redirect Montpelier's attention to the working people of Vermont. We have passed historic affordable housing reforms, flood recovery and climate resilience, child care accessibility, labor organizing and workers' rights, Medicare expansion, and online protections for our kids.

As the first woman and first pregnant mother with a young child to serve as Chair of the Economic Development Committee in the Senate, I can truly tell you that it matters who sits at the head of the table. I am proud of our work to build an inclusive, welcoming, and fair economy for everyone.

I look forward to speaking with you about what we accomplished, and to respond to your thoughts and questions. At 24 weeks pregnant and with a precious one-year-old daughter, please just extend patience and grace with my response time!

Thank you for the privilege of serving, and enjoy the warm weather.

## Vermont House update

By Thomas Stevens, State Representative  
Washington-Chittenden House District

May 13

As it always does, the Legislature came grinding to an end with a final vote on the Fiscal Year '25 budget. This year, we gaveled out at 2:30 AM on Saturday, May 11. We worked long enough to miss seeing the Northern Lights when we were done!

I'm sure we will have a deeper and more thorough report on what bills passed and were signed (or not) in the coming weeks, but for now, a few highlights of the final weeks of the session as the House and Senate ironed out their differences and reached some compromises:

H.687 throughout the session was known as the "Act 250" bill in the House. By the time it arrived back in the House from the Senate, it contained many important elements of H.829 and H.639, which were two of our major housing bills. In the end, many positive reforms were made to Act 250 land use regulations. These changes should retain the principles of conservation while relaxing some zoning regulation in order to allow communities to build more housing units without hurting our anti-sprawl tradition. Housing sections included revisions to the recently created VHIP program, which allows property owners the ability to apply for funds to help renovate units, as well as funding for a series of pilot programs for upstream eviction prevention, which is estimated to prevent up to 400 evictions a year. Also included in H.687 were important flood risk disclosure provisions for owners selling their properties, created in response to the 2023 flooding.

H.121 is an incredibly important and well crafted Data Privacy bill that includes elements of S.289, which was focussed on privacy for children. H.121 was opposed by those who benefit by having access to your personal data in order to sell it — mostly the big companies like Google or Amazon.

H.887 is the usually sleepy "yield bill," which is one of the "must pass" bills we consider every year. The yield bill is the basically the final word for the year regarding education spending. The state totes up the amount of money municipalities have voted to spend and divides it into the final statewide tax rate. The bill, this year, contained funding to "buy down" the tax rate. This is a rightfully controversial construct because it takes surplus funds and artificially lowers the tax rate in a way that must be paid for next year. This is because it is a one-time payment and not built into the funding structure. In essence, we'll be starting next year "in a hole" with respect to the Education Fund, and will have to account for this year's spending then. In the short term, the average increase has been lowered to approximately 13.5% statewide. Very high, to be certain, but nearly 40% lower than feared earlier this year.

There is no question that this was a difficult year, especially financially. The massive amounts of pandemic-related assistance funds have dried up, and establishing a workable budget that allowed for some programs created over the last several years to be continued took a lot of work. The House and Senate, as usual, had different ideas about priorities, and were able to work out those differences in a conference committee.

We will learn more in the days ahead about what is in store for us. The bills will make their way to the Governor, and he will choose to sign them or veto them, and if vetoed, we will head into Montpelier in mid-June to hold a Veto Session. After that, we will be able to provide you with a more succinct list of the bills we passed.

Thank you, as always, for your patience and support.

## Update from the Vermont Senate

By Irene Wrenner, Senator, Chittenden North

May 28

The legislative session ended in the wee hours of Saturday morning, May 11, after a marathon series of voting sessions. Apparently, Friday night was even more exciting back home, thanks to the aurora.

*Race to the finish line*

The last week of the session brought a rash of bills to our desks, including one to relax Act 250 and allow housing to be built with less permitting in certain areas.

H.687 was brought to the floor after a late-night compromise was worked out, leaving Senators little time — in between regularly-scheduled committee meetings the next day — to read and analyze it before being asked to vote.

Several legislators raised concerns during our floor session and proposed amendments to specific parts of the bill. Without a hint of irony, sponsors of the bill reminded their peers that this was a bit late in the process to make changes. Given insufficient time to understand its contents and implications, I voted No.

*New Division of Animal Welfare*

H.626 is an answer to a number of animal cruelty cases across the state and the ongoing lack of a designated governmental entity to address complaints. I supported this bill, which creates a new Division of Animal Welfare to be housed in the Department of Public Safety, and designates a single employee to develop a comprehensive plan for handling animal cruelty cases, once hired.

*Miscellaneous Ag bill*

The Senate passed an initial version of S.301, but was asked to consider two additions in early May. I approved of both updates. This bill now prohibits pet shops from selling dogs, cats, and wolf hybrids unless the pet shop lawfully offered animals for sale prior to July 1, 2024 and meets several qualifications. The measure is intended to eliminate the sale of puppies from puppy mills.

Another recent addition: banning the sale of "paws or internal organs of a black bear separate from the animal as a whole." Black bear gallbladders are used in Chinese medicine and their paws are used to make soup. The measure is intended to reduce poaching and the movement of bear parts to out-of-state markets.

*Timber trespass*

For decades large quantities of wood have been taken from Vermont forests without payment to landowners by certain loggers. The crime families are well-established and well-known, but no law has protected landowners' interests until H.614 came along. Fines and felonies for land improvement fraud are defined in this bill, which I supported.

*Right to Repair Ag Equipment*

H.81 would have allowed Vermont farmers and loggers to independently repair their agricultural equipment, but the bill died after lawmakers in the House and Senate failed to agree on details, much to my disappointment.

Lawmakers introduced the bill last year, and they were quickly met with an onslaught of lobbying opposition from national interest groups and equipment manufacturers. The bill would have compelled manufacturers like John Deere, Caterpillar, or Husqvarna to offer the manuals, codes, diagnostics, and equipment parts necessary to repair farm and logging equipment at fair market value. In the weeks before adjournment, a lot of language changed on the Senate end to favor the manufacturers. The Senate also appeared to run out the clock by delaying its third reading: by the time H.81 returned to the House, no time was left to negotiate differences between the two versions.

At the Westford Senior Luncheon on Monday, June 10, House Rep. Julia Andrews and I will discuss recently passed legislation that impacts seniors and answer your questions from this biennium. Look for me at the Westford Library for Cards and Coffee or their Concerts on the Town Common, in between door-knocking this summer. Yes, it's an election year. Register to vote at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/> if you're new to town!

Send email to [iwrenner@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:iwrenner@leg.state.vt.us). I post highlights from the State Senate and our district at [www.facebook.com/SenatorIreneWrenner](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorIreneWrenner). Thank you!

Coming events continued from page 3

community. You may bring your personal papers in a bag or box. A SecurShred employee will put your papers in the secure truck to be shredded, and you can even watch the shredding process! On-site parking.

**Sunday, June 9**

**Early Birder Morning Walk**, 7:00 – 8:30 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Who's singing, calling, nesting, or flying? Spring and early summer mornings are terrific for birding. Discover birds on an early morning ramble in the Museum's forest and meadows. Walks are led by experienced birders familiar with Vermont birds. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. Early mornings are often damp with dew and boots are definitely in order, as is bug spray/tick repellent. Park at 900 Sherman Hollow Road in the Museum parking lot. Free, suggested donation: \$10-\$15. Limited to 12 participants; register for Museum events at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum>.

**Monday, June 10**

**Land, Lives, and Legacy: Learn about Wills and Estate Planning**, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Shelburne Farms, Shelburne. Join us for free advice on where to begin — or how to refine — a legacy plan that provides for the people and programs you care most about. Learn from expert panelists who will share their latest strategies and insights, helping you navigate the complexities of preserving your assets, providing for your loved ones, and securing your legacy for generations to come. Whether you are new to estate planning or already have a will or trust in place, come get your questions answered and find valuable tools and tips. Free. Panelists: Livia DeMarchis, Vice President, Trust Company of Vermont; Emilye Pelow Corbett, Senior Philanthropic and Planned Giving Advisor, VT Community Foundation; Richard Flood, Principal, Flood Financial Services; Moderator Adam Bartsch, owner, Northeast Estates and Trusts; Susan Fowler, Retired Vermont Probate Judge. Pleaser register: <https://vlt.org/events/land-lives-and-legacy-learn-about-wills-and-estate-planning/>.

**Wednesday, June 12**

**The Rich History of Sports at Cambridge High School 1920-1967**, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, Warner Lodge, 49 School St., Jeffersonville. Presented by Spencer Noble, the program is free, and all are welcome. Sponsored by the Cambridge Historical Society. The building is handicapped accessible. Refreshments will be served — homemade, of course!

**Sunday, June 16**

**Early Birder Morning Walk**, 7:00 – 8:30 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Who's singing, calling, nesting, or flying? Spring and early summer mornings are terrific for birding. Discover birds on an early morning ramble in the Museum's forest and meadows. Walks are led by experienced birders familiar with Vermont

birds. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. Early mornings are often damp with dew and boots are definitely in order, as is bug spray/tick repellent. Park at 900 Sherman Hollow Road in the Museum parking lot. Free, suggested donation: \$10-\$15. Limited to 12 participants; register for Museum events at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum>.

**Saturday, June 22**

**Catalyst Church Craft Fair and Flea Market**, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Catalyst Church, Raceway Rd., Jericho. New date! If you've got some crafts or cool items you want to sell, email Portia at [athena87@gmail.com](mailto:athena87@gmail.com) to RSVP your booth. There is a \$20 booking fee; all fees will go towards helping cover the costs of our Summer Bible Camp.

**Sunday, June 23**

**Early Birder Morning Walk**, 7:00 – 8:30 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Who's singing, calling, nesting, or flying? Spring and early summer mornings are terrific for birding. Discover birds on an early morning ramble in the Museum's forest and meadows. Walks are led by experienced birders familiar with Vermont birds. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. Early mornings are often damp with dew and boots are definitely in order, as is bug spray/tick repellent. Park at 900 Sherman Hollow Road in the Museum parking lot. Free, suggested donation: \$10-\$15. Limited to 12 participants; register for Museum events at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum>.

**Sunday, June 30**

**Early Birder Morning Walk**, 7:00 – 8:30 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Who's singing, calling, nesting, or flying? Spring and early summer mornings are terrific for birding. Discover birds on an early morning ramble in the Museum's forest and meadows. Walks are led by experienced birders familiar with Vermont birds. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. Early mornings are often damp with dew and boots are definitely in order, as is bug spray/tick repellent. Park at 900 Sherman Hollow Road in the Museum parking lot. Free, suggested donation: \$10-\$15. Limited to 12 participants; register for Museum events at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum>.

**Sunday, June 30**

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in the Museum parking lot. Free, suggested donation: \$10-\$15. Limited to 12 participants; register for Museum events at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum>.

**Saturday, June 29**

**June Bird Monitoring Walk**, 7:30 AM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Join our monthly monitoring walk to record birds on the Museum's property. Please bring your own binoculars and dress for the weather. Free, suggested donation \$5-15. Limited to 12 people; please register for Museum events at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum>.

**Saturday, July 6**

**Annual Butterfly and Bug Walk**, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Beetles! Butterflies! And so much more! Join Vermont Entomological Society naturalists and entomologists for an exploratory stroll on the Birds of Vermont Museum grounds. Bring magnifying glasses and an insect net if you have one. Binoculars can be helpful. Do bring your water bottle and dress for outdoors. Pack a lunch and picnic after the walk. Pre-registration is helpful but not required, online at <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum>. Free; donations welcome.

**Saturday, July 13**

**Jericho Families in Nature family walk**, 10:00 AM at Old Mill Trails (meet in the parking next to the Old Red Mill in Jericho). Join Jericho Families in Nature for adventure on trails and in natural areas close to home with other local families! Free and open to all. Walks are about an hour, and we walk rain or shine. For more information and to register, go online to <https://bit.ly/4aCNIwf>.

**Thursday, July 18**

**Reception for The Power of Perspective Community Art Show**, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. Visitors are invited to our low-key informal welcome reception for our 2024 show. Meet artists, be inspired, ask questions, explore visual and written art at your own pace, and browse through the book of artists' statements. Read more about the show at <https://birdsofvermont.org/art/art-exhibits/>. Donations welcome; registration is helpful (especially for refreshment planning): see <https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum>.

**Sunday, July 21**

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Blueberry and Ice Cream Social**, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, District No. 5 Schoolhouse, 32 Pleasant Valley Rd., Underhill Center. Hosted by the Underhill Historical Society at the restored Old Schoolhouse. Bring your favorite blueberry dessert to share and enjoy ice cream, music, beverages, and fun conversation.

## COMMUNITY COLUMNS

## MMCTV news

By Angelike Contis, MMCTV

Hitting the field and stage: so far this year there have been 150+ hybrid municipal meetings, but with the warmer weather, Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) has been out in the field (literally) a lot!

Mount Mansfield Union High School (MMU) student Derek Hefel recorded the Underhill/Jericho Memorial Day Parade (view it at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pb\\_MM15MxrU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pb_MM15MxrU)). He's part of our terrific team of pros and students that have been streaming MMU spring sports, from softball to tennis. Watch (and please subscribe) on YouTube at <https://bit.ly/4bESvqU> (short for [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLm9TgJr7n7xfIRUinzBHfJ\\_D63K0Owr8](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLm9TgJr7n7xfIRUinzBHfJ_D63K0Owr8)). So far, we have filmed 15 games; thanks to AGS Vermont, Inc (known locally as Jericho/Richmond Market) for helping to underwrite the series! And a special shoutout to our Browns River Middle School volunteer Gabe! We share many of these games with our sister stations around Vermont. We've also streamed three MMU concerts in recent weeks and will stream the final concert on Thursday, June 6 and MMU Graduation (live from MMU) on Saturday, June 15.

Coming to the Airwaves Near You: on Friday, May 17, MMCTV got the FCC's seal of approval for our Low Power Radio application. We have three years to build and already are running with the name WRUJ (for Richmond, Underhill, and Jericho). If you'd like to get involved, please reach out! We are getting a group together and will draw on board member Kate Blufson's extensive experience with community radio as a starting point.

*No-Nonsense Gardening* with Mary Houle: if you've ever admired the flowers outside of Richmond Town Hall, or the greenery within, it's the work of master gardener and longtime Richmond resident Mary Houle. MMCTV invited Mary to share some of her expertise in the new series *No Nonsense Gardening*. MMCTV's Madeline Daly has made it happen, producing the first set of short videos. Watch online at <https://bit.ly/3yEZCRy> (short for <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLm9TgJr7n7xfAeV-pG75knzK17S6nmRFN>).

Eclipse fever: crowdsourced totality goes viral as a whopping 21 people and six folks from MMCTV contributed to our Eclipse recap video! Go online to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhaefogveqE> to relive April 8 totality. 1400 views so far and counting... enjoy!

Planting filmmaking seeds: MMCTV director Angelike has been assisting a group of sixth graders at Camel's Hump Middle School who are putting final touches on a video about planting a new row of seedlings on the banks of the Winooski River near Richmond's Volunteers Green. Following up on a similar effort in 2021, they are offering a line of defense against future floods.

2024 summer camps: MMCTV has expanded its summer educational offerings by having two weeks of TV camp this July. The first week (July 8-12) is for grades 5-6 and the second week (July 15-19) is for grades 7-8. Here's the link to register online: <https://bit.ly/4e1ITt6> (short for [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSefAccc\\_yPJI3bi3cf5EMOaxVSw\\_vv0RawCy5qybWuWE\\_KRA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSefAccc_yPJI3bi3cf5EMOaxVSw_vv0RawCy5qybWuWE_KRA/viewform)). For the fifth year, we will be a part of Crowdsourced Cinema VT, where students remake a scene from a Hollywood movie. This year's film is *Home Alone*. We'll also work in a civics component, where students will learn a little about the local democratic process, through a side project. Finally, MMCTV will again be a partner in Deborah Rawson Memorial Library's Animation Camp, June 24-28.

Eco programming: continuing on the green theme of this newsletter, here are two more viewing suggestions. MMCTV field producer Tegan Greenberg recently recorded the program *Healthy Soil, Healthy Earth* (<https://archive.org/details/ttojhealthy-soil-healthy-earth-04222024>) with local farmers and soil experts at the Jericho Community Center; and *Beavers: Beacons on Hope* (<https://archive.org/details/vlcbeavers-beaconsof-hope-04182024>) with Author Leila Philip (*Beaverland*) in Shelburne.

## Bears and people in Vermont

By Sara Riley

A bear was euthanized — shot — by a VT Fish and Wildlife game warden in Underhill on Friday, May 24. There had been many reports of its bold and aggressive behavior by more than a few residents over the previous several weeks, and reportedly game wardens were actively looking for this bear. A news report (<https://www.mynbc5.com/article/aggressive-bear-euthanized-underhill-vermont/60899168>) said that instead of retreating, the bear had moved aggressively toward the game warden.

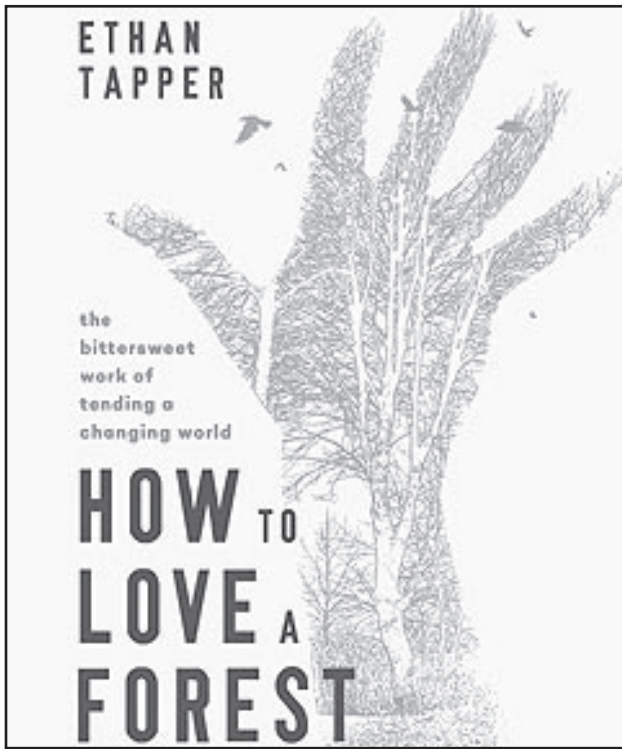
The good news is that the threat posed by an aggressive bear is now eliminated. I hope I never come face to face with an irritable and/or hungry bear.

The bad news is that a wild animal had to be destroyed, a very sad thing. Those who defend the bear — after all, bears were here first; it was just trying to find food, to survive — are not wrong, but there is more to the story.

Ten years ago and more, there were not so many bears in our woods, so humans tended to encounter them far less often. I have walked the woods in New England all my life (the past 35 years mostly in and around Underhill), and for most of that 65+ years I did not see more of bears than a single footprint, once. But in recent years Vermont (and likely other states) has made an effort to protect bears and to increase their numbers. This has been successful. Now we read of them all over New England, including striding confidently through a Vermont village (scared the bejeezus out of me), in the suburbs of southern Connecticut, in the deep woods of Maine, and everywhere in between.

A year or so ago while walking my leashed dog in the forest land above my property, I was approaching a very dense grove of young popple trees. Suddenly there was a LOUD, deep, breathy, grunted warning HOUFF HOUFF HOUFF coming from the thicket. Only three animals in our woods are large enough to make so loud and deep a sound, and no deer or moose would do so. I immediately backed up 30', then turned and quietly went away, back down the hill. No need for a visual to confirm that it was a mama bear with cub(s). Anything else would have melted back into cover and I'd never have known it was there.

But not all encounters can be avoided. And with so many bears now, more bears are competing for their normal food sources in the woods. Bears are not gregarious; their increased population



After eight years, Ethan Tapper has moved on from being Chittenden County Forester — but is not leaving Vermont and not leaving readers without his vision of forest management. His book *How to Love a Forest, a reimagining of forests and our relationship to them, will be published in September. You can pre-order *How to Love a Forest* at <https://ethantapper.com/book>, and from there find links to keep up with Tapper's news and work.* PHOTO COURTESY OF ETHAN TAPPER

## How to Love a Forest

By Ethan Tapper

As I write this, I'm finishing up my last couple weeks as the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. My last day in this role was May 31, marking eight years to the day since I started this job in 2016. Over the last eight years I've met thousands of you in the woods, led hundreds of public events and written more than 70 articles for a dozen community newspapers. I've written Forest Management Plans for the Andrews Community Forest, the Westford Town Lands, the Catamount Community Forest, the Huntington Community Forest, the Huntington Town Forest, the Milton Town Forest, the Indian Brook Conservation Area, and the Carse Addition to the Hinesburg Town Forest. I've been humbled to receive several honors and distinctions, most recently as the National Outstanding Inspector of the Year for the American Tree Farm System. Serving as the Chittenden County Forester has been a massive honor, and a dream come true — and now it's time for me to do something else.

For six years, I woke up every morning at 5:00 AM and wrote for an hour before heading to work in the woods. Gradually, these writings became a book called *How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World*, which will be coming out in September. I was inspired to write *How to Love a Forest* by my work as a forester, as well as by my experience caring for my own 175-acre parcel — “Bear Island” — that I bought in 2017. I found that there were lots of books about forests and other ecosystems and the threats that they face, but none about what we actually do about it: what it means to love an ecosystem in a world of young, simple, degraded forests, in a climate crisis and a biodiversity crisis, in a changed and changing world. Bear Island became a catalyst for the book — a forest that had every problem that a forest could have. I had to ask myself if it would be a greater kindness to Bear Island to leave it to suffer alone, or to do everything in my power to make it healthy again.

In a world in which many people believe that loving forests means simply leaving them alone, *How to Love a Forest* proffers a more complex vision: that in this moment truly caring for forests means taking action to protect them, and that the actions we must take will often be as counterintuitive, uncomfortable, and bittersweet as cutting a tree to make a forest healthy again. *How to Love a Forest* is a reimagining of forests and our relationship to them that is beautiful and hopeful and empowering. You can pre-order *How to Love a Forest* anywhere that books are sold or at <https://ethantapper.com/book>. Pre-ordering really helps, so please pre-order if you can!

I will also be starting my own consulting forestry company — Bear Island Forestry. Bear Island Forestry will provide consulting forestry services to private landowners: advising landowners, writing Forest Management Plans, and overseeing forest management projects. Bear Island Forestry's work will be grounded in the principles of ecological forestry: managing forests for biodiversity, ecological integrity, and resilience above all else. I will also be consulting with government agencies, NGOs, and companies to incorporate these principles into their work, as well as to improve their communication around ecosystem management projects. Learn more about Bear Island Forestry at <https://www.bearislandforestry.com/>.

Finally, I will be continuing to do public speaking, social media, and public education, and outreach. I am very active on Instagram, using the handle [@HowToLoveAForest](https://www.instagram.com/HowToLoveAForest), as well as on YouTube and TikTok (also at [@HowToLoveAForest](https://www.youtube.com/HowToLoveAForest)) and Facebook. You can stay apprised of what I'm up to by signing up for my email list at <https://ethantapper.com/>.

My hope is that this career shift will allow me to effect a larger change in our understanding of forests and what it means to care for them — building a larger platform from which to advocate for forests, responsible forest stewardship, and conservation. I hope that you will follow along, pre-order the book, and that you'll be hearing from me soon!

*Ethan Tapper is a forester and author from Bolton. Ethan previously served as the Chittenden County Forester, before leaving to start his own business — Bear Island Forestry — in 2024*



## Bee-like imposter — all buzz, no sting

“Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.”

The hands can't hit what the eyes can't see.”

— famous saying in the ring from Mohammed Ali.

*Bare-eyed Mimic Fly, Mallota bautias* (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/170351549>) is a species of hoverfly (Diptera: Syrphidae) ...known for being particularly bee-like. It is found in eastern North America. — Wikipedia  
*The Bare-eyed Mimic Fly is often found in groups at the top of a hill or other elevated area. When it flies it produces a loud buzz. It does not bite or sting.* — Minn. Seasons  
PHOTO BY BERNIE PAQUETTE

must push some of them out of the woods and into contact with humans and their grills, trash, compost, pets, and chickens.

So we have a problem. We love bears — in the woods, not in our backyards if we are sensible. But between so many more bears and so many more people living in one habitat, more conflict is bound to occur.

People are unlikely to be willing to abandon their beloved homes in the woods. And the natural habitat of bears is those woods.

The only option is to follow the advice VT Fish and Wildlife gives about living with bears: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/living-with-wildlife/living-with-black-bears> and <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/press-release/composting-bears-mind>. “No one wants bear conflicts to escalate to the point that killing the bear is necessary to protect public safety,” said Game Warden Lt. Robert Currier in a prepared statement. “Vermonters have a responsibility to stop these kinds of conflicts before they escalate. Proactive conflict prevention is the safest thing for the bears and for people.”

## Now is the time for Mental Health First Aid

By Bill Schubart

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and in our world today there's plenty of reason to want to be aware.

Vermont has established as a policy if not in practice that physical and mental health deserve and must receive an equitable healthcare commitment and investment. But our metrics for mental health wellness, especially among our young and aging populations, show that we're failing in delivering on physical and mental health parity. Still, there are some positive changes in the works.

The mental health system has been allowed to deteriorate for years. What was left of the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury was closed permanently in 2011 after severe damage by hurricane Irene and has never been replaced. Its existence was an acknowledgement that mental illness requires treatment, but it delivered care that ran the gamut from inspired (The Pig Barn and its innate understanding of the healing capacity of caring for animals) to inhumane (the cells in the basement where “mental defectives” were essentially incarcerated) which ended in the early '60s.

In 1915, the Brandon Training School opened. Named originally “The Vermont State School for Feeble-minded Children” — no doubt in response to the rising enthusiasm for eugenics at UVM — it further reflected our poor knowledge of the science and epigenetics of mental health, and closed permanently in 1993.

We've learned a lot in the intervening years. We now understand the critical role that trauma plays in disrupting both mental and physical health. In the '50s when I was a child, no one had ever heard of or imagined what we now understand as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). That's not to say they didn't exist, but a sort of “family code of honor” meant that one kept them to oneself. Whether sexual abuse, physical abuse, pregnancy out of wedlock, family suicide, an incarcerated family member, alcoholism, or drug addiction (yes, pharmaceutical drug addiction was common back to World War I; it existed in my own family), these facts were kept quiet. The good news for mental health today is that we acknowledge these issues more freely. This has opened new paths to treatment such as “trauma-informed awareness and counseling” and recovery.

The newest approach in cutting-edge science is calling into question the very existence of “mental illness” as we have understood it, while clearly acknowledging the existence of the symptoms of mental illness. New research at Harvard Medical School and McLean's Hospital, presented in the book *Brain Energy* by Christopher Palmer M.D., the Director of the Department of Postgraduate and Continuing Education at McLean Hospital and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at

Community columns continued on page 7









## OBITUARIES



**Douglas Robert Boardman, Sr.** passed away from natural causes Thursday morning, May 9, 2024, at his home in Underhill Center, VT. He was 87 years old. He was born on a farm in Tunbridge, VT to Ted and June (Rogers) Boardman and grew up in East Montpelier, VT. As the oldest child, he was responsible for starting the wood stove at the one-room schoolhouse down the road. He met the love of his life, Sandra Jean Somers, the oldest daughter in the iconic Somers Hardware family, while a student at Montpelier High School. Like characters in a fairy tale, they were born on the same day, same year, in different parts of Vermont. Destiny brought them together, and their love story lasted for more than 60 years until Sandra's death in 2014. Doug was active in track and baseball at Montpelier High and joined the U.S. Navy after graduation. He proudly served as a postmaster on the USS *Norfolk* and traveled the world. Sandy joined him at the naval base in Malta and they started their family. He was very proud of his Navy service. Upon leaving the Navy, Doug earned an associate's degree in business, later owning a plumbing and heating supply house in Poughkeepsie, NY. When Doug and Sandy returned to Vermont and settled in Underhill Center in 1985, he started Boardman Enterprises, eventually becoming one of the oldest certified master plumbers in Vermont, and he

never officially retired... Doug was a long-time little league coach in both New York and Vermont and loved coaching. He also supported and took great pride in the accomplishments of his children and grandchildren. Doug and Sandy enjoyed traveling and visited every state except Alaska, which he still wanted to visit. After Sandy's death he began a new pastime writing a popular column in the *Mountain Gazette*, which chronicled (\*) his adventures growing up in Vermont and beyond. He was preceded in death by his parents, his beloved wife Sandy, his son Jeffrey, and grandson Lucas Richardson. He is survived by his children: Doug Jr. and wife Jacqui Gale of Johnson, VT; Pamela Burkhardt and husband Will of Emigrant, MT; Randy and wife Sharon of Jericho, VT; and Stephanie Richardson and husband Peter of Barre, VT; and by his grandchildren (Evelyn, Caleb, Cole, and Maggie) and his son-in-law Joe Perry. He is also survived by his sisters Vivian and Gail, brother Greg, sister-in-law Linda (Somers) Bongiolatti, "best friend for life" Bill Bugbee and his wife Pearl, and many nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held on Monday, May 20, 2024 at Guare and Sons Funeral Home in Montpelier, VT with family viewing and a service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Mount Mansfield Villages, [www.mountmansfieldvillages.org](http://www.mountmansfieldvillages.org), which was a great help to Doug and his family during the past two years. Those wishing to express online condolences may do so at [www.guareandsons.com](http://www.guareandsons.com).

(\* We at the Mountain Gazette are saddened to hear of Doug

*Boardman's passing. We well remember and enjoyed reading his columns — what a lot he had to say, all of it interesting and most of it with wry humor that was a joy to read. We send condolences to his family and friends; he will be missed. — Brenda Boutin and Sara Riley)*



**Roger Morin, 74**, formerly of Underhill, VT, a kind and vibrant soul who touched the lives of many, peacefully succumbed to his battle with Alzheimer's disease on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh, NY. Roger was a man of warmth and charisma, who was a friend to everyone. His heart belonged to the joys of golfing, horseback riding, skiing, and dancing. It was through his passion for horses that he found his beloved wife Katherine, also known as Bea. For 12 beautiful years, Roger and Bea forged horse camping memories during summer months amidst the serene and hilly landscapes of Vermont. Their adventures extended to retracing Roger's ancestry in Québec, exploring Percé, Montmagny, and Ham Nord, and meeting long lost cousins. Roger was a member of the Vermont Horse Council for many years, ultimately becoming president in 2011. Roger was also a member of The Lucky Trail Riders and Dog River Trail Clubs.

Obituaries continued on page 11

## WORSHIP SERVICES

**Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

Sunday services at MMUUF are held at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June. Services are led by members of the fellowship and by invited guest speakers, including visiting UU ministers and leaders of other faiths. Each service explores a different topic. Worship, reflect, and sustain one another, within an inclusive spiritual community, built on values of honoring and affirming the worth of every person, striving for justice, participating in the world community, and respecting the natural web of existence. Services will be held at our Barn, located opposite Packard Road at 195 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, and also over Zoom; please contact [info@mmuuf.org](mailto:info@mmuuf.org) or 802-899-2558 for how to join virtually. Learn more at <https://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 10:00 – 11:00 AM, in person or on Zoom. 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, Pete Anderson  
Sunday School at 8:30 AM for all ages  
Fellowship time at 9:30 AM  
Worship Service at 10:00 AM  
Nursery care provided  
Youth group 6:15 PM Sundays in our Sunday school building

**All are welcome at Good Shepherd, Jericho**

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

## Miscellaneous continued from page 9

traffic. This work is independent of the Cambridge-Johnson VT 15 Resurfacing Project.

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

Construction activities: crews will continue drainage work along VT 15 in Cambridge and conduct ledge removal throughout the project limits. There is potential for crews to lower structures along VT 15 in Johnson.

**Rebates available for new water heaters****From Efficiency Vermont**

They say there's no such thing as a free lunch... but there are (some) free water heaters. With federal funding, for a limited time you may be eligible to get up to 100% of your costs reimbursed to replace your old water heater with a new, energy-efficient heat pump water heater, which can cut your monthly energy costs in half.

Here are the details: moderate-income Vermonters are eligible for 90% of costs covered (up to \$4500); lower-income Vermonters are eligible for 100% of costs covered (up to \$5000).

Even if you don't qualify for the above rebates, you can still receive \$600 back and pair your project with low-interest financing through Efficiency Vermont's Home Energy Loan. Federal tax credits and additional electric utility incentives can help you save even more.

View the offer details online at <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/hpwh>.

There are a lot of other great incentives that you might be eligible for, too. Our new calculator makes it easier than ever to see all of your options in one place, customized for your household. Check out the other incentives customized for your home at <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/calculator>.

**Respite care for foster parents**

There is often confusion around respite care: what it is, how to access it, and how to offer it because it just may be the right and best way for someone to ease into foster care.

What is respite? Respite provides foster parents with breaks so

they can get things done, relax, and re-energize. It also provides children with opportunities to experience new things and develop new relationships with other caring adults. Respite providers care for children for short periods of time such as a few hours, a weekend, or up to a week or two. This can also include giving children and youth daily rides to and from school or weekly rides to after school activities.

Sometimes foster families feel nervous or guilty about using respite care. Everyone needs a break! People with their own biological children get babysitters, depend on their relatives and their friends. Respite doesn't have to be a long event. It may just be for a few hours or a few days. Taking care of yourself helps you take care of the children. Sometimes you get a placement and you already had plans lined up. What works really well is finding a respite provider who will provide ongoing respite.

Children often really enjoy respite too. It's a break for them sometimes, too. Many respite homes make it a mini-holiday for the kids by doing special things and having special treats.

You can call 1-800-649-5285 if you need help after hours, on weekends, and on state holidays.

How can families offer respite care? Many families provide respite care before taking on full-time care. Some respite families are retirees or grandparent age. They love seeing kids for the weekend and getting to dote on them regularly when the foster family needs respite. It's perfect for families that don't feel like they can make the commitment to school, doctor's visits, and other appointments.

In Vermont, to provide formal respite care, you:

- must be at least 18;
- can be single, married, living with a partner, or joined through civil union;
- must not have had a foster care license denied or revoked.

Applications are considered regardless of disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity/expression, race, religion, or sexual orientation.

You'll be reimbursed a nightly or hourly rate.

How to get approved for respite care:

- call the Resource Coordinator in your local Family Services District Office;
- complete the application the Resource Coordinator provides.

Respite can be provided in your home, the child's foster home, or the community. If you'll be providing respite in your

home, a worker may visit your home to make sure it meets the requirements:

- we conduct background checks on members of your household;
- the district office approves or denies your respite application.

**Free symposium on working with asylum-seekers**

Everyone is invited to a free, interactive, practical symposium on Friday, June 14, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM at Vermont Law and Graduate School, Chase Center, South Royalton, focused on welcoming New Americans to Vermont. Join others from around Vermont to learn about and discuss working with and advocating for asylum seekers and other Vermonters seeking humanitarian immigration relief. The event is hosted at Vermont Law and Graduate School (VGLS) in South Royalton and co-sponsored by Vermont Asylum Assistance Project, Vermont Asylum Support Network, Vermont Afghan Alliance, and the VGLS Center for Justice Reform Clinic.

This symposium will cover the law, practice, and experience of asylum-seeking in Vermont. This event is for everyone and no previous experience is required. The event is also available via live streaming, or via a recording.

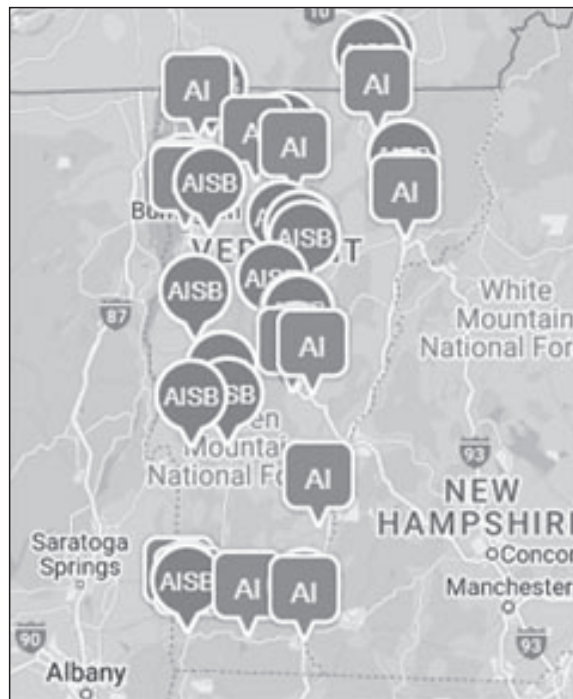
Professionals and individuals with lived experience from around Vermont will discuss topics including the basics of humanitarian immigration law, the ways in which immigration status impacts access to services and benefits, practicing cultural humility and trauma-informed advocacy, language access, and know-your-rights for undocumented Vermonters. The event will also include a collaborative workshop with professionals and lay advocates serving asylum seekers, undocumented Vermonters, and other Vermonters seeking immigration relief, on best case management practices.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, registration is free and a complimentary lunch will be served. If you can't join in person, we will stream online and also record for those who RSVP.

To register and for more information, the program flyer, and detailed agenda go to [www.vermontlaw.edu/news-and-events/event/welcoming-new-americans-symposium](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/news-and-events/event/welcoming-new-americans-symposium).

Contact [info@vaapvt.org](mailto:info@vaapvt.org) with any questions. Submitted on behalf of the Chittenden Asylum Seekers Assistance Network.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER



Visit Vermont public art with a new interactive map from the Vermont Arts Council — Public art influences the way people see and connect with a place. Murals, sculpture, memorials, functional or landscaped architectural elements, community art projects, digital media, performances, and festivals all add value, providing opportunities for people to experience art, even for those who have never set foot in a gallery, museum, or theater. And it can be a key attribute in making communities healthier and more vibrant. Now you can learn more about Council-supported public art projects around Vermont with our new interactive map. Find public installations of sculpture, visual art, kinetic art, and more across Vermont and get directions to them with a click. Learn more about public art and use the map online at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/programs/public-art/>. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The Emile A Gruppe Gallery** in Jericho presents a new show titled *Window on Vermont*, featuring works by members of the Green Mountain Chapter of the Embroiders' Guild of America. Included in the show is a *Myriorama* — a sequence of same-sized pieces featuring Vermont themes, stitched by Vermonters, that hang on a common rail. Through Sunday, June 9, artists from the Guild will be at the Gallery every weekend to give informative talks and share information about their work. Please see the Gallery website (<https://www.emilegruppegallery.com/current-show>) for a schedule of events. Items for sale include notecards, pins and ornaments among other larger items, all of which are great gift ideas. Emile A Gruppe Gallery, Barber Farm Road, Jericho.

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

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

**Underhill Food Truck Night Summer Schedule:** Underhill Food Truck Nights are back for another summer of food and live music, presented by the Underhill Recreation Committee! Mark your calendars for the following dates: Friday, June 21: *Red Hot Juba*; Friday, July 19: *King Me*; Friday, August 16: *The Buckhollers*; Friday, September 20: Blake Matteson, followed by the *Barn Rats*. All Food Truck Nights are in Moore Park in Underhill Center and are from 5:00 – 8:00 PM except for September 20, which is 5:00 – 7:30 PM. Hope to see you there!

**Jeffersonville Art Jam — save the dates:** the Cambridge Arts Council looks forward to seeing you at the Jeffersonville Art Jam on Saturdays, June 22 and 29 (rain dates Sundays, June 23 and 30), 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. The festival takes place on Main Street in Jeffersonville, beginning at the Visions of Vermont Gallery (100 Main St.) and extending eastward on the south side of the street. This free event features gallery shows, artist demos, a sidewalk art festival, live music, food and

fun — something for everyone. If the weather cooperates, we may also have sidewalk art events on Sundays (June 23 and 30) as well. Events and venues so far include: Visions of Vermont hosting the Northern Vermont Artists Association's 93<sup>rd</sup> June Juried Show, which ends June 29; the Carriage House Gallery featuring work by landscape masters Emile Gruppe, Aldo T. Hibbard, Thomas Curtin, Robert Blair, Eric Tobin, and others; music under the mini circus tent at 1:00 PM (June 22 Mango Jam Zydeco, June 29 tbd); a sidewalk art fest with artist booths; Bryan Memorial Gallery presenting three shows: 40 Years Together (celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary), New England Waterways and Legacy 2024. Please contact 802-644-1418 or [cambridgeartsvt@gmail.com](mailto:cambridgeartsvt@gmail.com) if you have questions or ideas for the Art Jam.

**Fall Open Studio / Underhill Art Council:** There is a motion afoot to have a gathering of local artists and artisans on Saturday, October 5 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM in the Underhill Town Hall. The idea would be similar to past efforts by our artistic community; however, the focus would be to have a day to show and sell artwork and fine craft as a part of the Vermont Open Studio supported by the Vermont Crafts Council. The intention is to make available a place for those artisans who don't have their own studio space or folks who might like to join in a collective. There may be a small nominal fee to participate. Those funds would go directly to support Open Studio. We imagine adding in food vendors and music as possible to the event. If you are interested in this potentially fun and colorful activity or have questions, please email Betsy Chapek, [echapek4@gmail.com](mailto:echapek4@gmail.com).

**Weekly Burlington Literature Group meets on Tuesdays, via Zoom:** Michael Sevy of Jericho co-leads this weekly virtual book group and would welcome new committed readers to our sessions. The group met for years meeting in person, but since the has met via Zoom every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. We break down interesting, challenging books into weekly segments of 60-100 pages to discuss form, content, and our impressions in a friendly online forum. Details can be found at <https://nereadersandwriters.com/> or by emailing [info@nereadersandwriters.com](mailto:info@nereadersandwriters.com). Our next author is Nobel Laureate Patrick Modiano and we will be reading two of his novels, *Missing Person* and *Suspended Sentences*. Schedule details for *Missing Person*: June 4, Chapters 1-16; June 11, Chapter 17 to end. Schedule details for *Suspended Sentences*: June 18, Afterimage; June 25, *Suspended Sentences*; July 2: *Flowers of Ruin*.

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

**At Bryan Fine Art Gallery in Stowe through Sunday, July 14:** *Evoking Vermont's Landscape*. Six talented Vermont artists showcase their original interpretations of the state's diverse scenery, celebrating Vermont's natural surroundings in works that capture the spirit of Vermont, each artist bringing their own flair and interpretation. Participating artists: Ken Rush, Danby; David Pound, Stowe; Steve Clark, Vergennes; Kate Follett, Jacksonville; James Rauchman, Morrisville; Mathew Pardue, N.

**SongFarmers**, a community music jam — a place for friends and neighbors to play music just for the fun of it. SongFarmers meets on every third Wednesday of the month (June 19), 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Jericho Community Center, Browns Trace, Jericho Center. For people of all ages who want to play folk, Americana, blues, bluegrass, Celtic, and more on acoustic instruments — no electronics except keyboard and bass. Everyone who wants to will have a chance to lead songs. Common tunes with simple chord progressions are encouraged so that everyone can play along. Both songs and instrumentals are great. Please note this is not a performance, open mic, or lesson. Folks who want to sing, or just enjoy the gathering, are welcome. Bring snacks and drinks if you like, but no alcohol. Free. Registration is appreciated; contact [CommunityJamJUVT@gmail.com](mailto:CommunityJamJUVT@gmail.com).

Obituaries continued from page 10

He helped coordinate the Extreme Trail Challenge presented at the Everything Equine and Canine Exhibits of the Essex County Fair Grounds in Vermont during 2013 and 2014. Roger was a proud Division 1 U.S. Army veteran of the Viet Nam War. Upon returning home, he supported numerous American Legions and Veterans of Foreign War organizations. Trained as a mechanic, he established several auto repair businesses, leaving a lasting mark over the years in Florida and Vermont. His last business spanned three decades in Underhill, VT. After gaining a passion for the sport from his father, Roger played golf on courses in New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, and anywhere else he happened to be visiting. Prior to becoming ill, he especially enjoyed Tuesday evenings with his Plattsburgh, NY Barracks golf league. Roger leaves behind his cherished family: wife Katherine (Bea), stepson Mike Bilyeu, grandson Aedan Bilyeu, son Mac Verdi with wife Kristen, and granddaughters Brianna, Giavanna, and Giulianna, his mother Lucille, sisters Crissy Starai, Lorainne Tomlinson,

Paulette and husband Petter Appolonia, brother-in-law Glenn Call and wife Eileen, as well as many aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, and cousins. He was predeceased by his sister Annette, brother Bobby, father Maurice, horses Chance and Domino, and bulldogs Matty and Fangy. To his beloved grandson Aedan, Roger was not just a grandfather but a kind and generous Pépé, leaving behind cherished memories. A memorial to honor and celebrate Roger's life will be arranged at a later date. To share a photo, story, or offer online condolences, please visit <http://www.rwwalkerfh.com>. The arrangements have been entrusted to the R.W. Walker Funeral Home, 69 Court Street, Plattsburgh, NY. A memorial service was held at Calvary Episcopal Church, 370 VT Rt. 15, Underhill, VT on Saturday, May 25, 2024; a private burial took place following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Community Hospice & Palliative Care, 4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257, or make a gift online at <https://thefoundationcares.org/give/>.

**Christine Wheatley (Burns)**, Kit to those who knew her, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 5, 2024 surrounded by her family after an 18-month struggle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in Freeport, Maine. Kit's full obituary may be found in the March 7, 2024 edition of the Mountain Gazette (<https://www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com/>), then select 2024 followed by March 7; page 8-9). A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM at St. Thomas Church, Underhill, Vermont, followed by a burial in St. Thomas Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Kit's name may be made to Hospice of Southern Maine (<https://www.hospiceofsouthernmaine.org>) or to the ALS Association, Northeast Territory (<http://www.als.org>).



## SCHOOL NEWS

**Cambridge Community Pavilion update and call to action****From Deb Nevil, CES PTA**

The Cambridge Elementary School (CES) Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has some good news to share: the Better Places Crowdfunding campaign for Cambridge Community Pavilion was launched on May 1! We have a \$20,000 goal to receive a 2:1 matching grant through DHCD's Better Places program. As of May 14, we have raised \$10,810.

Cambridge residents will soon be able to enjoy a 30'x42' timber frame pavilion with electricity thanks to the crowdfunding campaign. Please join us to get to our goal. There are donation levels for everyone.

Please find our crowdfunding site and donate at <http://patronicity.com/cambridgecommunitypavillion>.

We are requesting a call to action! We would like this project to represent all in this community, as the pavilion will be there for all to use. We are challenging the community in the following ways:

- 100 people donate \$10;
- 50 people donate \$20;
- 25 people donate \$40;
- 20 people donate \$50;
- 10 people donate \$75; or
- 5 people donate \$100.

The campaign is sponsored by the VT Department of Housing

and Community Development's Better Places program, and offered through the crowdfunding platform developed by Patroncity. The campaign is led by the CES PTA.

If the campaign reaches its \$20,000 dollar amount by June 30, 2024, the Cambridge Community Pavilion will receive a matching grant of \$40,000 from DHCD's Better Places program.

Please share the news with your friends and families. We have great things planned for this wonderful community!

**MMUUSD last day of school June 18****From John Alberghini, MMUUSD Superintendent**

Planning for summer care and camps has become increasingly difficult for families over the past several years as school cancellations due to weather, flooding, and other emergencies have extended the school year. In an effort to support families in effectively planning for the summer, we are setting the last student day for this year on Tuesday, June 18.

Based on the number of emergency school closures so far this year, we will meet our traditional number of 178 school days. The state requires 175 student days. Therefore, if we have additional school closures, MMUUSD will repurpose the student days for staff professional development and set the last student day on Tuesday, June 18. This is a practice that will continue in subsequent school years.



*The Cambridge Historical Society is sponsoring The Rich History of Sports at Cambridge High School 1920-1967, a presentation by Spencer Noble, at Warner Lodge, 49 School St., Jeffersonville, on Wednesday, June 12, 7:00 – 8:00 PM. The program is free, and all are welcome. The building is handicapped accessible. Refreshments will be served — homemade, of course!*

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

We have room for your ad.  
Call Brenda Boutin  
at 802-453-6354  
for more information  
or email  
[mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net)

## SENIOR NEWS

**Age Well Grab'n'Go meals**

Age Well provides services to individuals 60+ and their spouse or caregivers, and a disabled person(s) living with the senior, regardless of financial status, who completes a yearly registration form; please contact Maggie Gordon, 802-434-3155, to register. Forms are updated each fiscal year, which begins on October 1. Suggested donation is \$5.

Jericho's Age Well Grab'n'Go Senior Meal this month is June 12, with pickup at Community Center in Jericho (CCJ), 329 Browns Trace, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Suggested Donation \$5. These are nutritious "heat and eat" meals. This month, the meal is meatloaf with brown gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, wheat bread with butter, apple crisp with topping, and milk. Please register by Friday, June 7 by contacting CCJ Manager Jen Greenwood, [ccjvermont@gmail.com](mailto:ccjvermont@gmail.com) or call/text 802-274-4024.

Bolton will now have Age Well Grab'n'Go meals delivered to the Bolton Fire Station on the second Wednesday of each month

(June 12); pick up times between 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. To order a meal, please contact Robin Pecor-Brunell, 802-434-3042 or [rpecor@hotmail.com](mailto:rpecor@hotmail.com), by the Friday before the meal is to be delivered.

Richmond will offer Age Well Grab'n'Go meals on Thursdays, June 6 and July 4, with pickup between 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church Richmond, 64 W Main St., Richmond. Please call 802-865-0360 to order a meal by Friday before the meal is to be delivered.

Underhill offers its Grab'n'Go Senior Meal on Wednesday, June 26, St. Thomas's Church, 6 Green St., Underhill Center. Pickup times: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Menu: beef Stroganoff with mushroom sauce over rotini, Brussels sprouts, wheat roll with butter, peaches, milk. Please register by Thursday, June 20 by contacting Teri, [office@stthomasvt.com](mailto:office@stthomasvt.com) or 802-899-4632. No delivery available; suggested donation \$5.

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

*You are invited!*

**The Mountain Gazette will publish  
the 2024 Senior photos from  
Mount Mansfield Union High School  
in the June 20 issue (deadline June 13).**

**Please help us in honoring  
these wonderful students  
with a congratulations ad.**

**Pricing starts at \$33.00  
for a business card.  
Larger sizes available.**

**Please see the attached rate card  
on page 14 for more information  
or email Brenda Boutin  
at [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net).**

SPORTS NEWS



**Trail update at Mills Riverside Park**

By Bruce Blokland

The Fieldstone West Loop trail is approximately half a mile in length and has an undulating elevation gain of 60 feet. It is accessed by walking up the main Connector Trail, from the park's bridge. The Connector Trail passes the playing fields, the pavilion, and Eagle's Meadow before it begins to climb to reach the Fieldstone West Loop trailhead.

The Fieldstone West Loop is clearly signed, and the trail is

marked by yellow triangles affixed to trees. Walkers can easily find their way as they wander through a hardwood forest and past lichen-encrusted stone walls. Poor drainage, seeps, and heavy rainfalls, combined with ever-increasing foot traffic contributed to damaging erosion and constant muddy trails. It is perhaps the most-traveled trail in the woods.

In order to combat the erosion and eliminate the muddy sections, the Jericho Underhill Park District (JUPD) hired Rabbit Tracks Trail Works to repair a large section of the Fieldstone West trail. The repair work began last summer but due to constant rains and poor trail conditions through the summer of 2023, the work was not completed.

The spring of 2024 proved to be fairly dry, and Rabbit Tracks was able to tackle the remaining sections of trail remediation in mid-May. Generally speaking, the repairs to the Fieldstone West Loop trail incorporated the installation of many new culverts, extensive ditching, French drains, and elevating the trail tread above the muddy sections utilizing geo-grid anchored with stone and covered with a fine aggregate stone surface.

Rabbit Tracks completed the trail repairs on Friday, May 24; the trail remained closed to foot traffic until May 26 to allow the finished aggregate surface to settle and firm up.

JUPD also asks that horses remain off the Fieldstone West Loop until mid-June.

Users of the Mills Riverside Park trail network include walkers, runners, mountain bikers, horseback riders, cross-country skiers, and snowshoers. What these travelers will find now is a trail surface that is smoother, dryer, less muddy, and much firmer — and will remain so for many years to come.



**MMU sports photos: lacrosse, tennis, ultimate**

From Terry Healy, Jericho

Here are the latest batch of photos for MMU. As always, best viewed on something larger than a phone. I hope you like them.

- MMU Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. South Burlington, May 17: <https://lostinvermont.com/mmu-boys-varsity-lacrosse-vs-south-burlington>
- MMU Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Hartford, May 20: <https://lostinvermont.com/mmu-girls-varsity-lacrosse-vs-hartford>
- MMU Boys Tennis vs. Middlebury, May 10: <https://lostinvermont.com/mmu-boys-tennis-vs-middlebury>
- MMU Boys Ultimate vs. Multiple, May 11: <https://lostinvermont.com/mmu-boys-ultimate>
- MMU Girls Ultimate vs. Milton, May 14: <https://lostinvermont.com/mmu-girls-ultimate-vs-milton>
- MMU Girls JV Lacrosse vs. CVU, May 15: <https://lostinvermont.com/mmu-girls-jv-lacrosse-vs-cvu>

**Underhill Town Pond Opening Party June 8**

From the Underhill Recreation Committee

There will be an opening party for the Underhill Town Pond and Recreation Area on Stevensville Road on Saturday, June 8, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Come down to the pond for a celebration party!

The pond will be open for swimming, there will be an ice cream truck as well as the normal fun and games like tennis and pickleball.

Hope to see you there!

**August 25 Dinner at the Vineyard to benefit youth basketball**

As summer schedules are filling up, save the date and mark your calendars for the second annual Dinner at the Vineyard to benefit Mount Mansfield Youth Basketball League (MMYBL) on Sunday, August 25, 4:00 – 7:00 PM (rain date Monday, August 26). Hosted at the Huntington River Vineyard. Reservations will be required, \$20/adult and \$10/child. More information will be available in early August when reservations are being accepted. Please spread the word... we hope to see you there! For more information or with questions, contact [admin@mmybl.org](mailto:admin@mmybl.org); Instagram [mmybl\\_vt](https://www.instagram.com/mmybl_vt).

**Registration open Wolverine Youth Football**

Registration for the 2024 Fall Season Wolverine Youth Football is open! Our website <https://ceyfa.org/> provides lots of information about our program. Registration (with payment) is due on or before August 1, 2024. Find the registration form and payment information at <https://ceyfa.org/> under the Registration tab (scroll down).

The CEYFA (Chittenden East Youth Football Association) Wolverines program serves student athletes in grades 1-8 in the towns of Jericho, Underhill, Richmond, Huntington, and Bolton. We are one of approximately 16 teams that comprise the Northern Vermont Youth Football League (NVYFL). Our mission is to offer each athlete the opportunity to enjoy the sport of football in a positive and safe environment. All coaches are certified by

the USA Football Organization for the highest of safety standards and the health and well-being of our student athletes.

The Wolverine program runs mid-August through October, with a long history of Championship football.

The teams are comprised of Flag Football and Tackle Football:
 

- Flag — grades 1-4 play 7vs.7 flag football without equipment. The teams are further broken down into grades 1-2 and 3-4.
- Tackle — grades 5-8 with equipment provided. The teams are further broken down into grades 5-6 and 7-8. Player weight limits are unlimited, but to run/catch offensively the league has set limits to enhance safety of all players.

The Wolverines will also have plenty of preseason activities this summer starting Tuesday, June 18. These optional workouts, training, and just having fun are open to all age groups. All are welcome to stop by and discover what the Wolverines are all about.

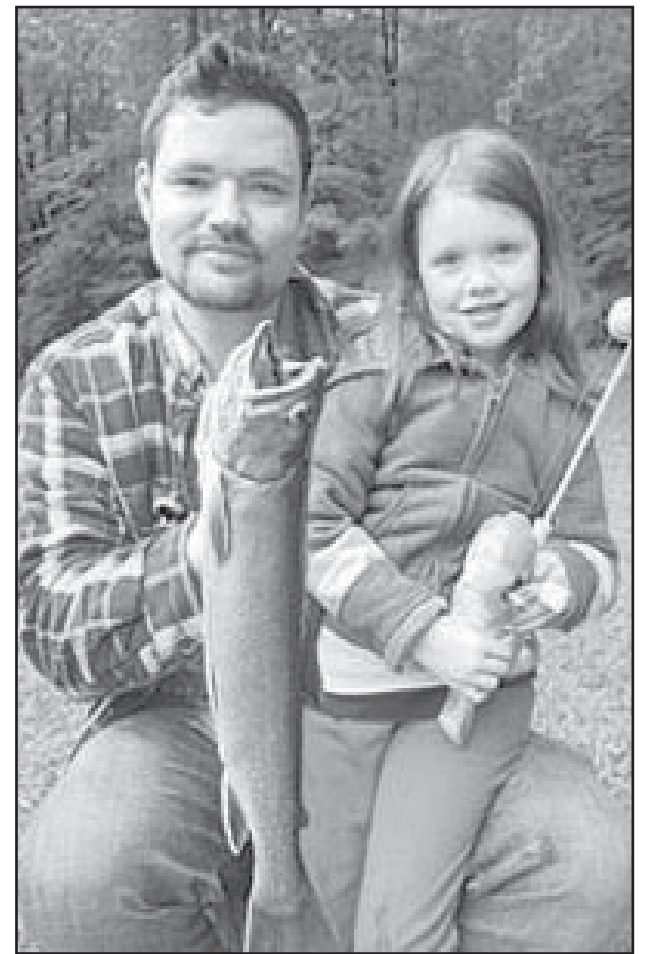
Come be part of a team, build strong relationships, learn life lessons, and build memories that will last a lifetime while learning the game of football!

**Cambridge Rec recommends**

Pick-up Pickleball and Basketball! Tai Chi! Pilates! The full schedule of what's available from the Cambridge Recreation is online at <https://cambridgeccvt.myrec.com/info/activities/default.aspx>.

Kick It by Eliza, with Amy — Wednesdays, June 12, 19, and 26 at 5:30 PM at Cambridge Community Center. \$12 per class.

Summer Aqua Fitness at Smuggs: Aqua Deep and Aqua Strong. Aqua Deep at Courtside Pool starts Friday, June 21 and runs weekly at 9:15 AM. Buoy belts will be provided. Aqua Strong is at Mountainside Pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15 AM, beginning June 18. A Summer Pass is not required for these class offerings. For class description and pricing, visit <https://www.smuggs.com/>. Email AEA instructor Laura Thomason, [moveinthewater@gmail.com](mailto:moveinthewater@gmail.com), for more information.



Five-year-old Nala Brooks and her dad Thomas of Richmond with a first place trophy in her age group for taking home a whopping 18-inch brook trout, one of the larger (brook trout) ever taken in the derby's history. This year, the Chittenden County Fish & Game Club's annual Father's Day Fishing Derby is on Sunday, June 16, 8:00 – 11:00 AM.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Summer Free Fishing Day June 8**

Vermont's annual statewide Summer Free Fishing Day is Saturday, June 8 this year, and it will be highlighted by a free family fishing festival in Grand Isle as well as opening day of the state's regular bass fishing season.

"Vermont's Free Fishing Day gives resident and nonresident anglers the opportunity to go fishing without a license for the day in Vermont lakes and streams," said Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick. "Free Fishing Day is a great opportunity for an experienced angler to be a mentor to friends who have not gone fishing before. A day on the water could lead to a lifetime of great experiences and healthy local food."

Free Fishing Day in Vermont also will be celebrated at the "Grand Isle Family Fishing Festival," to be held at the Ed Weed Fish Culture Station at 14 Bell Hill Rd., Grand Isle. The festival will run from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

Designed for young or novice anglers and families, this exciting event offers basic fishing instruction and the chance for kids to catch big trout in a hatchery pond. No prior fishing experience is needed, and Vermont Fish and Wildlife will be supplying fishing rods, reels, and bait for use by participants.

Vermont's regular bass season also opens on June 8, marking the start of some of the hottest bass fishing action in the northeast. The season opens each year on the second Saturday in June and extends through the last day of November.

To learn more about fishing in Vermont or to purchase a fishing license, go online to <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/>.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



*Sam Gaulty of Jericho is the new Events Manager at VLT, helping to plan and execute VLT's events on the land as well as online. A graduate of UVM's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, Sam joined VLT in April after serving as the Program Coordinator at Generator Makerspace in Burlington for three years. He has also led outdoor programs and taught at an independent school. In a happy coincidence with his current role at VLT, Sam is a volunteer on the Jericho town committee for Mobbs Farm, a natural area open to the public for recreation that VLT helped protect in 2022. "I'm very excited to work with VLT, especially through events," said Sam. "I love helping to deepen people's understanding and relationship with the landscape. There are so many opportunities and I'm excited to work with partners, communities, VLT staffers and others to continue to offer great programs while developing new opportunities!" Whenever possible, Sam heads outside — on bikes, boats, skates, and skis; or (if it's rainy) he might stay in to make greeting cards out of old magazines.*

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

COLLEGE NEWS

**Angela Bellizzi** of Cambridge, VT has been named to the Winter 2024 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH.

**Hayden Felkel** of Jericho, VT graduated from Paul Smith's College, Paul Smiths, NY in May 2024. Felkel earned an AAS in Arboriculture and Landscape Management.

**Zachary Fisher** of Waterbury, VT, a member of the Class of 2024 at Stonehill College, Easton, MA, will begin working at British Petroleum after graduating from Stonehill College on Sunday, May 19, 2024.

**Ceilidh Rose Kiegle** of Jericho, VT, a senior majoring in literature, was named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2024 semester at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY.

**Linden Malmgren** of Jericho, VT was sworn in as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Armenia. She is one of 21 new volunteers to serve in the country. Malmgren earned her bachelor's degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. She will serve as an education volunteer in Armenia.

**Shaelyn McAnulty** of Underhill, VT has been named to Winter 2024 Dean's List at Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH.

**Jessica Pouliot** of Westford, VT has been named to the Dean's List for the Winter 2023 Practical Nursing term at Vermont State University, Randolph Center, VT.

**Grace Solod** of Underhill, VT, graduated with a bachelor's degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA. Solod majored in Biology and Biotechnology.

**Emily Tanski** of Waterbury, VT has been named to the Winter 2024 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH.

**Elizabeth Walko** of Jericho, VT has been named to the Winter 2024 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH.

# MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATE SHEET 2024

6558 VT RTE 116, STARKSBORO, VT 05487

802-453-6354 [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net)

[www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com](http://www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com)

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

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

**Total regular circulation 3500**

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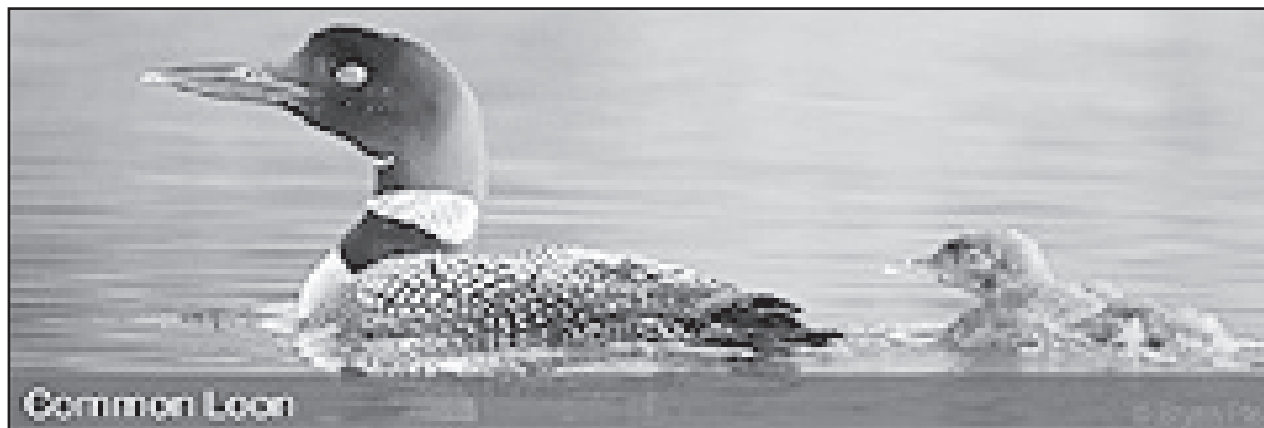
**Copy - 12:00 Noon**

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**[www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com](http://www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com)**



A loon chick follows its parent on a lake in Vermont. PHOTO FROM [HTTPS://VTECOSTUDIES.ORG/WILDLIFE/BIRDS/WATER-BIRDS/COMMON-LOON/](https://vtecostudies.org/wildlife/birds/water-birds/common-loon/)

### Fish Lead Free Project encourages anglers to protect loons

The Fish Lead Free Project launched by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) in partnership with local lake associations and the VT Fish & Wildlife Department aims to help anglers adopt loon-friendly fishing practices more easily.

VCE and partners have installed collection tubes at boat access areas at 24 bodies of water across the state for anglers to easily and safely discard lead sinkers plus unwanted monofilament lines and hooks. By getting lead out of people's tackle boxes, loon biologists hope to reduce future loon and other wildlife mortalities.

In 2007, a ban on the sale and use of lead sinkers one-half-ounce or less in Vermont yielded mixed results. Within the law's first decade, loon mortality rates attributed to lead tackle decreased three-fold. However, VCE has documented a substantial increase in lead fishing gear mortalities from 2019-2023, averaging two to three loons dying from lead each year.

"Despite efforts to reduce instances of lead poisoning in loons it remains one of the leading causes of death among the state's adult loons," says VCE loon biologist Eric Hanson. "Since 2019, 20% of all adult loon deaths were attributed to ingestion of lead sinkers, monofilament lines, and hooks."

Lead is widely known for its neurotoxic effects on both

people and animals. When it comes to loons, consuming even a small split lead fishing sinker is fatal. Typically, by the time a loon shows symptoms of lead poisoning it's too late, and the only humane option is euthanization. "Thankfully, affordable non-lead sinker options exist," says VT Fish & Wildlife's Bird Biologist Jill Kilborn. "And we wanted to provide a convenient option for safely disposing of lead tackle as anglers swap out with safer alternatives."

VCE's lead gear collection tubes have a unique design that is based on a model created by Friends of Waterbury Reservoir. At each site, volunteers and lake association members will monitor tube use, while VCE will track data and properly dispose of collected tackle. Lead tackle collection tubes are located at the following boat access areas on Vermont lakes and ponds: Caspian, Dunmore, Echo (Charleston), Elmore, Fairfield, Fairlee, Great Averill, Harvey's, Hortonia, Iroquois, Joe's, Little Averill, Morey, Neal, Ninevah, Parker, Raponda, Ricker, Shadow (Glover), St. Catherine, Waterbury, Woodbury, and Woodward. Many solid waste collection sites will also recycle metals.

Please keep an eye on the VCE webpage <https://vtecostudies.org/projects/lakes-ponds/common-loon-conservation/vermont-loon-conservation-project/loons-and-lead-tackle/> for an updated list as more sites become available.

To learn more about lead tackle and loons, email [loon@vtecostudies.org](mailto:loon@vtecostudies.org).



The Mountain Gazette is a hometown newspaper serving Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, and Westford; it has been doing so for the past 23 years.

The newspaper works to deliver information of interest to a wide variety of readers, including but not limited to news and news briefs, health information, legislative reports, letters to the editor, library news, obituaries, art/music/theater, senior citizens, school news, and sports. We present columns written by community members and others we deem interesting, such as one by Chittenden County Forester Ethan Trapper.

The paper is a vehicle where readers can submit poems, short stories, and photos for publication. Another column features college news and notes.

In June we print the photos of the graduating class from Mount Mansfield Unified Union High School.

We would like to invite you to join our advertising community.

Your ad would appear in our printed paper. We store-and business-drop (and place in libraries and town offices) printed papers in our core communities of Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, and Westford, as well as in Essex, Essex Junction, Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, and Fairfax.

Each edition of the Mountain Gazette is loaded to the home page of our website [www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com](http://www.mountaingazetteofvermont.com); the website also maintains an archive that preserves the entire paper including advertisers for every edition since 2008. For each edition, we post a link to the current edition on our website to our Facebook page.

Please contact Brenda Boutin, publisher and advertising manager, at 802-453-6354 or [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net) for more information or to discuss advertising.

Thank you.

*You are invited!*

The Mountain Gazette will publish the 2024 Senior photos from Mount Mansfield Union High School in the June 20 issue (deadline June 13).

Please help us in honoring these wonderful students with a congratulations ad.

Pricing starts at \$33.00 for a business card. Larger sizes available.

Please see the attached rate card on page 14 for more information or email Brenda Boutin at [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net).

We have room for your ad. Call Brenda Boutin at 802-453-6354 for more information or email [mtngazette@gmavt.net](mailto:mtngazette@gmavt.net)

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## Seeking donations for Camp Dream

**By Kate Fooshee, Camp DREAM Activities Coordinator**  
Camp DREAM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit in Fletcher. We offer free summer camp to kids in low-income housing, and we are looking for some loans/donations if you are getting rid of anything!

Loan, mid-June to mid-August: two goats (non-milking); and four to six ducks.  
Donations: PFDs; dehumidifier; couch/ futons; metal shelves; kayaks; canoes; free-standing canoe rack.

If you would like to learn more about the organization, here's our website: <https://www.dreamprogram.org/dream-adventure-base>. Please feel free to contact Kate ([katefooshee@gmail.com](mailto:katefooshee@gmail.com)) with any questions! Thank you for your generosity.

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

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

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

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

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

## Wreck Camp: a Happy Accidents Art Summer Day Camp

At Wreck Camp, campers ages 4-11 explore artistic processes, build summer bonds, and have camp fun! The camp will be held on weekdays (Monday-Friday) at the Jericho Elementary School, 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM.

The camp is run by local comics cartoonist and licensed art educator Ben Cohen.

- Each week has a theme:
- Superhero: July 22-July 26;
  - Robot: July 29-August 2;
  - Magical: August 5-August 9;
  - Monsters: August 12-August 16.

Sign up for one week at a time, or the entire month. Space is limited, but you can reserve a spot today — join online at <https://www.thewreckcamp.com>.

## VTSU Johnson Summer Athletics Camps

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

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

- Boys Basketball Camp, Sunday-Thursday June 16-20, day and overnight;

- Boys and Girls Volleyball Camp, Monday-Thursday, June 24-27, day only;
- Boys and Girls Soccer Camp, day only, three sessions, all Monday-Friday: July 8-12 (session 1), July 15-19 (session 2), July 22-26 (session 3);
- Girls Softball Camp, Sunday-Thursday July 14-18, day and overnight;
- Girls Basketball Camp, Sunday-Thursday August 11-15, day and overnight.

## Girl Scout camps in Vermont

Registrations are open for Girl Scout day camps and overnight camps for this summer! Our nearest day camp is located in Richmond on a lovely parcel in the woods, and our overnight camp is in Thetford, VT. If that's your jam, come join us!

Here are the postings from Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains:

Join us for a summer of fun at Camp Twin Hills! Camp Twin Hills is located in Richmond, VT and offers one-week and two-week sessions for campers in kindergarten through grade 10. Visit the link to learn more about our programs and bus routes: <https://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/en/activities/camp-and-outdoors/twin-hills.html>.

Join us for a summer of fun at Camp Farnsworth! Camp Farnsworth is located in Thetford, VT on Lake Abenaki and offers sessions ranging from four days to two weeks for campers in grades 1-12. Visit the link to learn more about our programs: <https://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/en/activities/camp-and-outdoors/farnsworth.html>.

## Lake Champlain Yacht Club's Junior Sailing Camps

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

Registration is open for the 2024 season. Don't miss out on all the summer fun! Sessions are week-long half-day and full-day for new and experienced sailors. LCYC's program builds confidence and independence. Instructors are U.S. Sailing certified and maintain Red Cross First Aid and CPR qualifications.

For more information go to <https://lcyf.info/junior-sailing>.

## Summer camp registration open at Saxon Hill School

Register today for summer camp at Saxon Hill School in Jericho!

Weekly camps at Saxon Hill School provide the ideal experience for children looking to explore the wonders of nature through discovery and adventure. Saxon Hill School camps engage children with art, adventure, creation, construction, nature, and fun.

Our camps are designed for children ages 3-6. All weeks of summer camp will include outside play and time for self-guided exploration. At Saxon Hill School, our approach is to follow the lead of children and learn through play. In the spirit of child-led adventure, counselors will aim to focus each week on children's interests and passions as identified on the registration form. Registration is now open!

Camps run weekly from June 10-August 12, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

See our website for more information and to register: <https://saxonhillschool.org/summer-camp.html>.

## Chittenden County Soccer School

By Eric Barker

Registration is open until Saturday, June 22 for Chittenden County Soccer School (CCSS) 2024, Monday-Friday, July 8-12 at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. All players receive a camp tee and team award. We have a dedicated and experienced coaching staff returning again this summer to bring the "love of the game" to all our players.

Individual ball skills, teamwork, game tactics, full-sided and small-sided games, and goalkeeper training are all part of our daily plan!

There are half-day and full-

day camp options, and age groups range from 5-16+.

Please email [barkereric15@gmail.com](mailto:barkereric15@gmail.com), with any questions. Or visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/view/chittendencountysoccerschool/home>.

## BCA Summer Camps

Secure a summertime filled with creative fun for the young artists in your life — Burlington City Arts' (BCA's) summer camp registration is now open. With an abundance of unique offerings for ages 6-17, half-day options to combine to create a full-day camp (see catalog at <https://secure.rec1.com/VT/burlington-vt/catalog>) and an Aftercare Art Club that goes until 5:00 PM, you can create a custom camp experience that supports your whole family.

Spaces are limited and they go fast, so be ready and browse the options, submit a scholarship application (<https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/form/apply-for-a-youth-scholarship>), create an account or locate your login at <https://secure.rec1.com/VT/burlington-vt/catalog> and be ready with your camper's full information for checkout. You can also peruse our camp registration FAQs ([https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Camp\\_2024\\_FAQ\\_edited.pdf](https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Camp_2024_FAQ_edited.pdf)) to get all the tips and tricks that will make registering a breeze.

## Green Mountain Conservation Camp registration open

If you are 12-14 years old and want to learn about Vermont's wildlife and gain outdoor skills, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Green Mountain Conservation Camps (GMCC) this summer. If you are a GMCC alum, 16 or younger, consider coming back for another summer.

The one-week camp programs are held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and at Buck Lake in Woodbury. Campers participate in hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing, and more. Natural resource professionals come to the camp to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities.

Conservation Camps open Sunday, June 16 and continue until Friday, August 16. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging, and equipment, and financial assistance is available.

Information and registration are available at <https://vfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc>.

For more information, contact [FWGMCC@vermont.gov](mailto:FWGMCC@vermont.gov) or call 802-522-2925.

## Vermont summer programs at Smugglers for kids ages 7-15

This summer, dive into the adventure that awaits at Smugglers' Notch Resort in Jeffersonville. Smugglers Camp is your ticket to extraordinary summer memories, filled with unique experiences you won't find anywhere else. Transportation is available for \$10 per day, per child round trip to and from Burlington, Jericho, and Essex. The cost is \$119 (one program is \$129) per day, per child, for programs available Monday-Friday, June 17-August 30: High Adventure Mountain Bike; STEM Projects, Problems, and Puzzles; Wilderness and Survival Skills, Arts and Crafts, and Discovery Camp.

For more information and to register: <https://www.smugglers.com/pages/summer/kids/vermonter-camp.php>.

## Stowe Children's Theatre: Seussical Jr. camp

Stowe Children's Theatre is excited to get to know your camper this summer! Our creative team has chosen *Seussical Jr.* because this show features student performers, student producers, student costumers, and student stage managers like none other!

This summer, we have four camp options for your young Actors and Producers:

Option 1: Costume Design Camp for burgeoning fashion designers, where we will dye fabric, sew, design, and hot glue all week — no experience sewing is necessary. For information, <https://stowechildrenstheatre.com/product/seussical-jr-costume-design-camp-2024/>.

Option 2: Performing Camp for those who want to get out on the stage. This two-week camp requires no experience performing, dancing, or singing — this camp option caters to the first-timer and those who have loads of experience, all are welcome! We will sing, dance, and act this show to life! Ages: 8-16. For information, <https://stowechildrenstheatre.com/product/seussical-jr-performing-camp-2024/>.

Option 3: Production Camp for those interested in the arts of Scenic Design and Lighting Design. Learn together what it takes to put all of the technical elements of a show together; no experience needed. For information, <https://stowechildrenstheatre.com/product/seussical-jr-production-camp-2024/>.

Option 4: Stage Managing. Have a camper who was born to be a boss? This is the camp for them! This two-week camp teaches the skills necessary to manage an entire production. Stage Management Campers will learn how to record staging notes, manage daily rehearsal schedule, cue lighting, actors, and more. Information at <https://stowechildrenstheatre.com/product/seussical-jr-stage-management-camp-2024/>.


We are offering a 25% tuition discount for siblings. Feel free to use the CODE: [geisel24stowe](mailto:geisel24stowe).

Questions? Contact Molly the Director, [stowechildrenstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:stowechildrenstheatre@gmail.com) or 802-730-4157.

Join us for

**MOUNT MANSFIELD COMMUNITY TELEVISION'S**

**TV PRODUCTION CAMP**



This year campers will be recreating a scene from the blockbuster "Home Alone" as part of the Crowdsourced Cinema VT project.

**CAMP WILL BE HELD AT MMCTV IN THE RICHMOND TOWN CENTER**

**GRADES 5 + 6 | July 8-12**

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**GRADES 7 + 8 | July 15-19**

**MMCTV**

Register at [www.mtmansfieldctv.org](http://www.mtmansfieldctv.org)



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