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Gretchen Wright comes home

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette



Gretchen Wright grew up in Jericho but she didn't necessarily see herself returning home or even to the New England area after college. However, when she graduated from Duke University this spring a number of factors, including the pandemic, sent her back to her home town. In high school, Wright worked at the Jericho Center Corner Market and these days you can find her at the opposite end of

the green as the new Director of the Jericho Town Library. "The last few years I thought I could pursue library work as a career," Wright said. "I love books, I love people, and I love organizing. It was a series of things coming together at the right time."

Wright started working on October 26 and is happy to be presiding over the reopening of the building. "The next step is opening safely and responsibly so people can browse the shelves," she said. "That's the biggest short-term project." The library is now open by appointment Tuesday-Friday from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM and on Saturdays from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Patrons can call to reserve a 30-minute browsing session. Family groups will have the library to themselves, but solo visitors may share the space with one other person, in addition to Wright. "I'm really looking forward to having people back here," she said.

When COVID-19 protocol permits it, Wright is hoping to institute indoor programming. "The library already has so many great groups," she said, "including Dungeons and Dragons, knitting groups, and book clubs. The upstairs space is really great for kids, with lots of toys and hands-on games." Wright is hoping the library can start playgroups and storytime sessions when it is safe to do so. "I have a lot of ideas but we need to ease into it slowly," she said. "I think it will be a series of slow steps."

Much of Wright's prior work has been in museums and she sees a number of similarities between the two kinds of institutions. "Museums and libraries are two sides of the same coin in a way," she said. Two summers ago, Wright interned at the Newport Restoration Foundation in Rhode Island. She helped plan and implement their summer program schedule, which included seventeen different events at three different properties, ranging from lectures to family days and a flower arranging workshop. "I love to see people get excited about all kinds of topics," she said. This summer, Wright had a virtual internship with the Nantucket Historical Association, researching best practices for museum education during the pandemic. "One of the things we did was design craft kits that kids could take home," she said. "I'd like to try something like that here. There are a lot of similarities to this position and I hope to put my skills and experience to use."

Wright graduated from Duke with Highest Distinction as a Classical Civilizations and English double major and a Latin minor. Her favorite semester, however, was nowhere near North Carolina. "I studied in Rome during my junior year," she said. "The program was run by Duke but it had students from all over. Three of my classes never met in a classroom but rather at locations across the city. It was hard to go back to sitting in a classroom after that." Wright feels badly for students like her two younger sisters, who are currently in college and will probably never have the opportunity to study abroad because of the pandemic. "It was just a wonderful semester," she said. "We went to so many museums and I got a sense of what I love in them and what I don't. That's something I'm drawing on now in trying to make the library accessible, interesting, and fun for kids."

Although Wright loved her time in Rome, she also enjoyed some of the perks of Duke University including rooting for the men's basketball team. "I went to MMU and supported the team," she said, "but it was just after their glory days, and in college I was quickly swept up in the massive school spirit. I'll miss being able to go to the games." Wright isn't giving up her passion for the Blue Devils, but she is also a big fan of UVM hockey so some of her sports allegiance will stay close to home.

Even though the library wasn't initially open to the public, Wright said she has felt welcomed by the community. "The board gave me a card and flowers on my first day," she said, "and they are all super supportive. The general community has been really welcoming as well. People will knock on the door when I'm here and introduce themselves, and there have been a lot of positive comments on social media. I always knew Jericho was a great town and the people here have proven that. They have really been wonderful."

Riverside Triangle Sidewalk Scoping Project

Within the last three years, the former sawmill property (18+/- acres) in the designated Village Center of Riverside within the Town of Jericho has changed ownership, and the property is targeted for mixed use development. More information about that development may be found online at <https://jerichovt.org/Riverside>.

So far, the Jericho Market and the Union Bank have been constructed. Although 200 feet of sidewalk was constructed in front of the grocery store, there are no pedestrian facilities on the east side of VT Route 15 to the north.

Over the last 10 years, the Town has constructed sidewalks on the west side of VT Route 15, and crosswalks at VT Route 15 and River Road as well as one at Raceway Road and VT Route 15. The proposed extension of the sidewalk on the east side will complete the connections around the triangle, on both sides of VT Route 15 as well as expand connections to Mills River Park, Raceway Road, and Browns River Middle School and the Deborah Rawson Library on River Road.

The Town received funding from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) to hire the engineering firm of Stantec for a sidewalk scoping study to close the network gaps around the Riverside village triangle. This project will identify a preferred alternative for this important missing link along VT Route 15. The project area begins on the east side of VT Route 15, at the Jericho Market driveway and opposite Raceway Road, where an existing sidewalk to the south ends. It extends northward approximately 1600 feet and connects to the sidewalk on Park Street.

Stantec is currently compiling existing/future conditions data and developing a base map for the project area.

A Local Concerns virtual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday m December 16 at 6:00 PM to hear the public's issues and concerns. This will help the project team develop a clear understanding of the purposes and needs of the project. As an outcome of this meeting, the consultant will develop the project's draft Purpose and Needs Statement.

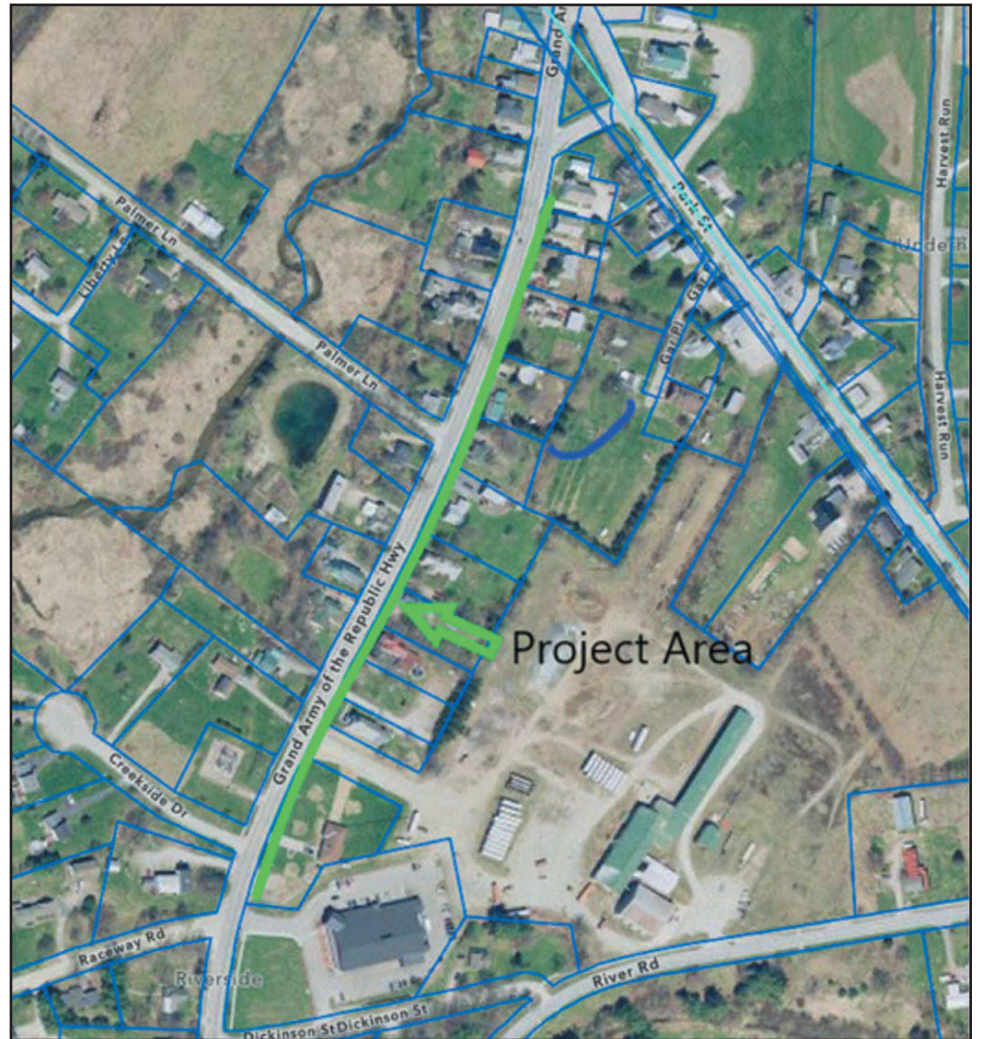
Westford news and information

The Town Office is CLOSED to the public at this time due to the spread of COVID-19. Office staff members are available to take phone calls 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday-Friday. We will try to accommodate you through email, phone, or snail mail as much as we can! Zoning Administrator hours are Monday and Tuesday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (by appointment only). The Town Office will be closed Thursday-Friday, December 24-25 for Christmas, and Friday, January 1, New Years Day.

The Selectboard will be holding FY'22 budget workshops. The Selectboard began working on the FY'22 budget in October. Upcoming workshops will be held on Thursdays, December 3 and 17. If needed, additional meetings will be held. The Board encourages residents to attend these meetings to provide feedback to assist the Board in developing a budget to be voted on in March 2021.

Senior Luncheons have been postponed indefinitely, per Carol Howrigan, President. As soon as I feel it's safe for you to leave your home and come out again, I'll let if you need a ride to get a flu shot, call me and I will see that you get to a place that is providing them.

Holiday Gift Cards: The town is collecting monetary donations to purchase Hannaford gift cards for Westford residents in need. The gift cards provide recipients with the ability to purchase food and household items as needed and according to their personal preferences. Monetary donations will be accepted through Friday, December 18. If you prefer, you can purchase the gift cards (ones that prohibit tobacco and alcohol purchases) yourself. Please mail or deliver your donation to the Town Office. The gift cards



Potential alternatives will then be developed. The early assumptions are that the following alternatives will be developed and evaluated:

- do nothing (no-build);
- a 5' wide sidewalk along the east side of VT Route 15, with a standard offset of approximately 6' from the edge of the VT Route 15 shoulder pavement;
- a 5' wide sidewalk along the east side of VT Route 15, with a varying offset from the edge of the VT Route 15 shoulder pavement to minimize impacts.

Short term improvements such as crosswalks, pavement markings, and the need for storm water treatment will also be considered, discussed, and included in the scoping report. Additionally, conceptual cost estimates will be included, as will identifying natural and cultural resource constraints, right of way, and utility conflicts.

The alternatives will then be evaluated and a final alternative will be chosen. A full report will be produced with a cost estimate for the preferred alternative.

will be mailed on Saturday, December 19 to Westford residents only.

WINTER IS HERE! Here's what you need to know about winter road conditions. Plowing begins when the snow has accumulated 2-3". Each plow route takes the road crew about four hours to complete. Sand is applied to all gravel roads. Some particles may be large enough to cause windshield damage. Use caution and avoid following other vehicles closely. Westford does not repair or replace mailboxes damaged by the plow.

Plowing from driveways across town roads is prohibited! Read the full Winter Road Policy online at <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Winter-Road-Policy.pdf>.

Each winter storm is different, roads may be icy and sand may be loose. Drive slowly, and know what your vehicle is capable of. Watch for walkers and wildlife. It will be more difficult to see pedestrians and recreational users of roads at this time of year, due to snowbanks. Walkers, bikers, and other users can do their part by wearing bright, reflective clothing.

Some VAST trails cross Westford Roads. Know where the trails are and watch for crossing snowmobiles. You can find a list of VAST trails online at <https://vtvast.org/trails.html>.

Several hunting seasons occur during early winter. Watch for vehicles parked on the side of roads for hunting access. Pedestrians and pets should wear orange/yellow reflective clothing during hunting seasons to help ensure they are seen. You can find a list of VT hunting seasons here online at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-seasons>.

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The first night of Hanukkah is Thursday, December 10

Hanukkah begins this year at sundown on Thursday, December 10. A new Hanukkah stamp from the U.S. Postal Service depicts the lighting of the hanukiah on the last evening (Thursday, December 17 this year) of the Jewish holiday.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

2020 HOLIDAY GIVING, VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

United Way of Northwest Vermont's mobile-friendly Volunteer Connection search platform connects you to hundreds of volunteer needs with local nonprofits. Go to www.unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com or contact us at megan@unitedwaynwvt.org. Below are suggestions for Holiday Giving and for Holiday Volunteering.

HOLIDAY GIVING

OPERATION HAPPINESS, a Program of United Way of Northwest Vermont, helps families in Franklin and Grand Isle each year to provide and holiday meal, winter wear, and toys. This effort helps 1000 local families each year. For information on how you can donate, visit <https://unitedwaynwvt.org/operation-happiness> or contact Megan Bridges, megan@unitedwaynwvt.org.

LUND – Due to the many challenges of COVID-19 and our priorities in ensuring the health and wellbeing of our clients, staff, and community, Holiday Giving will be different in 2020. We are asking for Gift Cards in place of the traditional items. This will allow a counselor to work with their client in purchasing an item for their child and assist Lund for future needs. We would be grateful for gift cards in increments of \$25, \$50, and \$100 to any of the following: Amazon, Gas Cards, Grocery Store, Michaels, Old Navy, Target, TJ Maxx/Home Goods/Marshalls, Visa/Mastercard, Walmart. Gift cards can be mailed to: Julie C. Richards, Lund, 50 Joy Dr., S. Burlington, VT 05403.

A CHILD WAITS – Steps to End Domestic Violence invites volunteers to sponsor a child affected by domestic violence by fulfilling a holiday wish list. Volunteers will be provided with

the age and gender of the child and the option to buy up to two gifts, not to exceed \$50. Businesses and organizations are invited to consider sponsoring a whole family. Volunteers are also needed to accept presents and help sort them so that every child participating receives the items on their holiday list. Contact Bessie McManus, 658-3131, ext. 1068 or bessiem@stepsvt.org.

THE GIFT OF READING – Fletcher Free Library invites people to share the joy of reading during their 30th annual "Books for Children Gift Campaign." Choose from a list of books or make your own selections, then purchase books at Crow Bookshop or Phoenix Books for a discount. Books can be dropped off at FFL before Sunday, December 13. Books will be distributed to children through the Burlington Head Start preschools and COTS shelters. Contact Rebecca Goldberg, 865-7216 or rgoldberg@Burlingtonvt.gov.

H.A.N.D.S. (Helping and Nurturing Diverse Seniors) – Donations for Holiday Gift Bags to be delivered December 25. Every Christmas we provide a gift bag with our meal deliveries – shhh, please don't tell the seniors! Due to safety concerns this year, unfortunately we're cancelling the sit-down dinner. That means instead, we'll be making lots more deliveries all over the county. We need lots of gift bag donations and we'd love your help. We are seeking financial contributions in any amount, canned goods and food items, hats and gloves for both men and women, toiletries, art supplies, crossword puzzle books, \$20 Hannaford cards, and several other items. To learn more about how you can help with donated items, visit <http://handsvt.org/>. Please contact Jess, jessicahymanvt@gmail.com, if you have questions about donations.

HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT – Howard Center provides services to thousands of children, adults, and families each year, many of whom have very limited financial resources. Progress in addressing mental health, substance use, and developmental disabilities happens when basic needs have been met and when people have opportunities for personal enrichment. And so each year we ask for gifts that will directly support clients to buy food and other basics and enable them to participate in holiday observances and cultural and educational activities that enrich their lives. For more information and the donation form, go online to <http://howardcenter.org/community-education/howard-center-giving/>. Those interested in supporting can either send gift cards of their choosing in whatever amount they would like, or they can give online with a credit card (just choose "Help is Here Client Needs Fund" in the drop down menu), or they can mail a check. Gift cards and checks can be mailed to: Howard Center, attention Client Needs/Holiday Giving Fund, 208 Flynn Ave., Suite 3J, Burlington, VT 05401.

TOYS FOR KIDS OF VERMONT – Vermont Marine Corps League is once again collecting new, unwrapped toys during the Christmas season and oversees their distribution to children in need in Vermont. Because of COVID-19 this year we have set up a "Virtual Toy Barrel" so that you can purchase toys online (Amazon, Walmart, Target, Gamestop, Kohls, etc.) and have them shipped to us at JeriHill hardware in Jericho, VT. Visit and click on the donate link above to get the full details. Toys for Kids of Vermont is a volunteer program sponsored by the Vermont Marine Corps League which collects new, unwrapped toys during the Christmas season and oversees their distribution to needy children in Vermont. All money collected stays in Vermont and is used to purchase age appropriate toys to supplement donations,

and for older children.

SANTA CALLS – Ronald McDonald House Charities has heard from Santa and he still wants to see his friends from the Jingle Bell Express! Although we are unable to host you all aboard our holiday train ride this year, we can still celebrate the holidays together! This holiday season, Santa is making (virtual) house calls! With the help of ol' St. Nick, Ronald McDonald House of Burlington is able to offer personalized videos, Face Time calls, or phone calls with Santa to children across the globe. This is a donation-based virtual event: by making a donation at a certain level, you may opt to sign up for a day to have Santa call your child(ren). To learn more, visit <https://donorbox.org/santa-calls-2020>.

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERING

CHRISTMAS MEALS – Burlington Dismas House is looking for volunteers to help prepare portions of their Christmas meals at both houses. Volunteers are invited to join residents for the meal. Contact Kimberly Parsons, 658-0381 or kim@dismasofvt.org.

SWEETWATERS CARES – Thanksgiving Day marks our 30th year for this event and things will look a little different. The coat drive will kick off the day as usual. Donations (for clean, warm coats only) can be dropped off at Sweetwaters up until the day before Thanksgiving. The community dinner will be to-go only, 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM. Due to the nature of this year's event, there are limited volunteer spots available. Please call the restaurant to see how you can help, 802-864-9800.

RED BARREL MONITORS – Toys for Kids of Vermont needs volunteers to check the red "Toys for Kids" toy donation barrels at various sites throughout Chittenden County. Volunteers will be assigned one or more barrels to check, now through Friday, December 18, with most of the toys coming in the last couple of weeks in December. Collected toys will be delivered to the Salvation Army in Burlington or to a Williston collection site. A great job for a family. You do need your own transportation to barrel and collection site. To volunteer contact John Welsh, 872-0354. Volunteers will be provided with a Toys for Kids face mask.

Share some joy and support local seniors during the holidays

Share the joy of the holidays with our local seniors! United Way of Lamoille County's H.O.P.E. program (Help our Precious Elders) is a holiday program that connects local seniors to neighbors and businesses. Nonprofit agencies work with their senior residents to determine what holiday gift items they could use or would enjoy. We invite you (local residents and businesses) to "adopt" a senior (or two!) and purchase these items, wrap them, and deliver to our office (or an alternate site to be determined due to the COVID-19 restrictions). The program resembles Toys for Tots, except senior care residents are the ones receiving gifts.

We invite you to share holiday cheer and gifts to seniors who may be isolated from friends or family this holiday season.

If you are interested in sponsoring a senior, please call the office at 802-888-3252.

Wrapped gifts will need to be dropped off at a site (to be determined) by Monday, December 14.

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From the Desk of the Fire Warden: We are approaching snow season and as most of you know Vermont state law says when the ground is covered with snow, a burn permit is not needed. All other regulations — such as what is legal to burn, distance from existing structures, making sure your fire is completely extinguished before retiring for the night, nonuse of flammable materials to start your fire, etc. — will still remain in effect.

In addition, starting with the first snow and continuing ground coverings, I will not be reporting daily on the weather until we approach spring when all snow is gone. The system will be closed so that I may communicate any severe weather changes. As always, you are responsible for your burn and any damage that is caused as a result of your burn. If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to your fire, please call 879-1231. Dennis L. Angiono, Westford Fire Warden

News from Westford Rec: All fall activities have been changed to Activity Kits! Since we cannot gather for in-person activities, we are packing all the fun into boxes and delivering them to your doorstep! Sign up via email to valyoum@gmail.com. Saturday, December 5: Rock Painting. Saturday, December 12: Cookie Decorating.

VELCO offers help for past-due utility balances in Bolton

Amy Grover Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program (VCAAP) provides financial support to Vermont Electric Cooperative District #5, VCAAP customers who may face disconnection of service because of past-due balances for their electric, landline telephone, Vermont Gas, private water or water and sewer/wastewater charges. The program has recently expanded and now accepts applications for help with municipal water and sewer/wastewater departments, community water systems, fire districts, and other systems that provide water and sewer/wastewater services to consumers. For more information, go online to <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/vermont-covid-19-arrearage-assistance-program-0>.

Bolton seeking Volunteer Representative to the CSWD

By Amy Grover, Bolton Town Clerk and Treasurer

The Town of Bolton is seeking a Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) Representative to serve as Bolton's volunteer representative on that board. Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of the month. The Board of Commissioners is the governing body of the CSWD and sets policy on solid waste management for the member communities.

For more information about representing Bolton on the CSWD Board, please contact the CSWD at 872-8100.

The Town wants to extend our thanks and appreciation to Duncan Galbraith, who served as our representative for many years and only resigned due to moving from Bolton. Thank you, Duncan!

Cambridge Town Office now closed to public

By Mark Schilling, Cambridge Town Clerk

Until further notice, the Cambridge Town Office is completely closed to the public. There is no walk-in service available, and no visitors are allowed.

Notary Services have been suspended. License and permit applications, and other documents, are available online at www.cambridgevt.org.

Hunting Licenses are available online at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/licenses-and-lotteries/license-center>.

The Town Office staff is working remotely to assist you by email, phone, and online. To reach Cambridge Town Clerk's Office staff, email clerk@cambridgevt.org, or leave a phone message at 802-644-2251. We will do our best to respond as we are available.

Cambridge Rotary Skating Rink will not be open this year

By Peter Ingvaldstad, Jeffersonville

At our Cambridge Area Rotary meeting (recently) there was discussion about whether we should install and maintain the Ice Skating Rink this winter. Many aspects were discussed but I believe it came down to one major issue. That being COVID-19 and keeping our community members safe. A majority of our members voted to not open the skating rink this year. We hope that in the future we will again be able to provide this service to our community.

Cambridge Village Market spreads holiday cheer, feed neighbors

This holiday season, Cambridge Village Market is offering a way to share in the spirit of giving and spread some kindness and cheer. We have made a connection with the Cambridge Food Shelf and will be offering a food package for \$15. The package will consist of a variety of shelf-stable food items. Purchase them at the cash register and we will deliver them directly to the Cambridge Food Shelf.

Winter snowplowing alert levels in Jericho

By Todd Odit, Jericho Town Administrator

Unsure of how COVID-19 will impact the operations of the Highway Department this winter, we have instituted an Alert Level system to communicate what the public should expect for highway snow removal services. The town's website will be the source of the alert level. On that page you can sign up to receive an email when the alert level changes. Please go to <https://jerichovt.org/2020-2021-winter-alert> and click on "Subscribe" under "Stay Informed."

Jericho Post Office Deliveries

By Victoria Gragg, Postmaster, Jericho Post Office

A friendly reminder to everyone that your postal carriers will be out delivering mail and packages late into the afternoon and evening. With the increased volume of packages, your carrier will likely arrive to your house later than usual. Please be patient as we navigate this unprecedented holiday season. There will also be multiple carriers delivering on each route, if you receive your mail but not your package (or vice versa), please wait a little longer as your other items are on their way! Feel free to reach out if you have any additional questions or concerns at 899-3202.

Jericho Center/Lower Bolger Hill Road stormwater survey

Many positive tasks have been completed for the Bolger Hill Stormwater project and now it's time for public input. Please complete survey, online at <https://forms.gle/s5mCCeapKYAu8JRX9>.

Town Trail Survey for Westford residents

Please take a moment to complete this brief survey. Your input and involvement is highly valued and appreciated. Click on this link to access the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TRJK7HZ>.

This survey is to obtain feedback about current Westford trail use and our community's vision for expansion and improvement of our trails. Thank you for adding your voice to this effort. Together we can make Westford a place where everyone can experience the thrill and adventure of exploring the land and forest where we live.

Note: The survey is completely anonymous. The survey does not request your contact information.

We look forward to seeing you on the trails this winter! — The Westford Recreation Committee & Trails and Conservation Committee

Westford's Mitten Madness!

We are so excited there is such a buzz around town already about the Holding Hands Across Westford project!

As a reminder, these large plywood mittens are on stakes and primed, ready for you to decorate as you choose. You can place them in your front yard by the road or on the Westford Common Hall lawn, "holding" hands with others. The *Shopify* site (<https://westford-common-hall.myshopify.com/>) is now open for purchasing mittens! You will see a picture of what you are buying and there are a couple examples shown of some finished mittens. All proceeds will go to the revitalization of the Westford Common Hall.

We will notify you through email when to pick up your mittens at the Common Hall. Thanks for your community spirit and support! — The Capital Campaign Committee for the Westford Common Hall

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Vermont politics: bridging the gap

By Bill Schubart

A friend from California recently asked me about two televised electoral charts she'd seen showing Vermont's electoral voting response. She pointed out that the presidential chart was blue, mottled here and there with red specks, while the gubernatorial chart was the inverse, largely red with small blue islands clustered around the larger towns.

I acknowledged the irony of Vermont voting solidly Democratic while also voting overwhelmingly for our Republican Governor Phil Scott, who himself voted for the Biden-Harris ticket.

"You need to understand Vermont," I replied, trying to summon a credible explanation, adding, "We vote for people not parties."

"So, you're different from the rest of the nation?" she challenged.

"Well, yes, somewhat," I parried.

Then I feigned an upcoming Zoom meeting and promised to call her back.

Although I've lived in Vermont since 1947, my political sensibilities weren't really honed until the late 1960s and the election of Democrat Phil Hoff, which ended a century of Republican Governors in Vermont. The first Governor I got to work with was in fact a Republican, Deane Davis, whom I got to know when I served as Chair of the Vermont Council on the Arts in the early '70s.

"Republican" in those days was a term universally deserving of respect. It denoted someone who believed in a social safety net, caring for those who could not care for themselves, and in protecting the environment against predatory development. Act 250 was the most progressive environmental legislation in the country, passed in 1970 during Republican Deane Davis' administration and with the support of a Republican legislature.

Vermont Republicans of that time believed in the balance expressed in Vermont's motto "Freedom and Unity," paying equal attention to personal freedom and the responsibilities it demands and the well-being of family and community, on which everyone's well-being depends.

These days when I'm asked to name Vermont's most effective governors, I see a look of confusion when I mention the mix of Phil Hoff, Dick Snelling, Deane Davis, Madeleine Kunin, and Phil Scott. Perhaps that's because I'm viewed as liberal and my list does not conform to party affiliation. My criteria — right or wrong — are principled and competent leadership rather than political ideology, humility, and the ability to delegate.

No leader is perfect, but good ones know their own limitations. They know they don't have all the answers and enlist the best managers they can find, regardless of their politics. They also know how to derive consensus and act decisively on it.

A good example is Governor Scott's leadership on the

COVID-19 crisis. Among the state governors, Scott is an exemplar, both in his humility and in his leadership. But in each case leadership depends on a responsible citizenry. During the pandemic most (but not all) Vermonters have been willing to follow scientifically-based preventive measures.

The steeper challenge is managing the present while planning for an uncertain future. Governor Scott has proven to be an excellent crisis manager. His skills preemptively managing a rapidly evolving future, however, are yet to be proven.

My own family was relatively liberal. My paternal grandfather worked for the FDR administration. My youthful naïveté and two years at UVM pushed me left. Then in 1963, I saw the rapid-fire assassinations of President Kennedy, presidential candidate Bobby Kennedy, and civil rights hero Martin Luther King. In an escape fantasy, I left for Woodstock with friends, only to read a year later about the Ohio National Guard firing 67 rounds in 13 seconds at demonstrating students at Kent State, killing four and wounding nine unarmed students. That radicalized me, like many others my age.

But my introduction to political discourse took place in the basement of Gillen's Department Store on Main Street in my hometown of Morrisville, where Fred Westphal held court, selling shoes and classical LPs. I was in junior high and loved classical music. Fred, who was a family friend, installed a "hifi" in an unused closet in our living room. When I was alone, I would turn it up and listen to a recording I'd saved up to buy, while standing on a chair and conducting an imaginary orchestra. And then I'd return to Gillen's basement to hear more music, delivered with a conservative diatribe.

Fred's hero was Cecil Rhodes, once Prime Minister of the Cape Colony in Africa and the man after whom the Rhodes Scholarships were named until recently. I teased Fred about his racist and ultraconservative hero, asking him why he didn't just move to Rhodesia. His answer was, "If I could figure out how to bring my Mercedes, I would." In an 1877 letter, Rhodes wrote that "the Anglo-Saxon race was the first race in the world." My friendship with later-to-become Vermont Senator Fred Westphal was a profound lesson in how to talk and be friends with someone whose ideas you revile, a social discipline we would do well to pursue today.

Since then, I've worked with governors and legislators of both parties on a variety of cultural, political, civic, and economic issues, and still do today.

In my time participating in and observing the Vermont political scene, I've come to understand that the politics of Vermont don't necessarily resemble what they are in the rest of the country. By and large, we understand that progress is incremental and demands compromise, which we still have the capacity to forge, although it will require lots more as we confront the daunting

issues we face such as hunger, housing, education, and healthcare.

Many commentators of both stripes would have us believe that we're seeing the onset of a civil war nationally. In reality, there remains much that binds us, especially within the tightly woven social fabric of our smaller communities as well as the neighborhoods in our cities.

What connects us is not the stuff of headlines. Most Vermonters remain unimpressed with ideological posturing; they want to see openness, constructive leadership, and change, as we have seen in our past.

Vermont is not drowning in its own politics. We still judge political aspirants by their character, accomplishments, and prospects. Like many Vermonters, I've voted for Republicans, Democrats, Progressives, and independents over the years.

I'm heartened that most of us still believe in the potential for good government to materially improve our lives. We may disagree on the means but not on the goal.

From the *Bennington Banner*, October 30, 1971:

Who'd ever believe it?

Sen. Fred Westphal of Lamoille County is by his own admission the most conservative of all candidates seeking the U.S. House Seat vacated by Sen. Robert Stafford.

Westphal opposes welfare, thinks Day Care Centers are a lot of foolishness, views revenue sharing as a "cruel hoax," hates Communist China and thinks it's insane for the President to go there. He likes the seniority system in Congress, "the more senior the better," and thinks the country might be better off if Congressmen spent less rather than more time in Washington.

On this basis, wouldn't you be able to predict his reaction to "youth culture," more familiarly known as "those darn hippies?"

But Westphal isn't always predictable and he said in an interview in Vermont Sunday News last week that he occasionally picks up "some of these hippie types" in his travels around Vermont.

"I'm absolutely surprised at how much we have in common. I'm surprised that they view most of the problems the same as I do. I know a lot of them surprised people with my bumper sticker on their cars, and some of them volunteered to help in my campaign," said Westphal.

And he added, "I disagree with those who go for the drug culture, a small percentage, but there's a lot of subcultures in the hippie movement, so that when you get acquainted with them, you find they're pretty puritanical; maybe that's why we're in so much agreement."

Now that's what we call bridging the generation gap. Or, between people like Westphal at least willing to listen, and his young audiences willing to discuss their ideas honestly, is there really so much of a gap after all?

The apartment dwellers spy

By Douglas Boardman

Special to the Mountain Gazette

The end of 1984, my wife Sandy got her transfer from IBM in East Fishkill, NY to Essex Junction, VT. She had been waiting for at least five years for a transfer back to VT. I sold my business within a week of her getting her transfer approval. She moved back to VT in January 1985 and three months later, I finished settling my business and selling our house and finally got everything turned over to the new owners. We were excited to be back in VT and bought a nice big house in Underhill. I was also looking for an investment property.

My first son was named after me, and when he was young, he didn't mind the "Jr." after his name. But as he got older, we realized there could be problems. It wasn't an issue until I went to apply for a loan and noticed that his student loans showed up on my credit report! If you do use the same first name for your child, don't use the same middle name!

Some apartment houses are a good investment, but apartment dwellers can drive you to drink or to sickness, especially when you have four apartments in one big house. The realtor who sold us our current house also showed me some apartment houses. I looked at a couple in Winooski that seemed like risky investments. One woman we met had three kids, mattresses on the floor, and crates for tables. She really had nothing but kept the place as clean as she could and felt lucky to have a roof over her head. The floor in the kitchen was so slanted that water would run out the door and onto the deck. I guess it was easy to clean, but hard to stand up on. I knew immediately that I couldn't be her landlord without giving her tables, chairs, and beds.

I finally settled on buying a four-apartment house in Richmond. On the surface, the Richmond house was a good investment. But you have to look at all sides and remember that you are dealing

with individuals that range from 25-85 years old. That includes an 80-year-old neighbor who had a shared driveway with my apartment house. She liked to question every person who came to visit with one of my apartment dwellers, and took it upon herself to tell me everything that was going on next door and up the rest of the street.

From a lawn chair on her front yard, she could sit out on nice days and look uptown to see what, if anything, was going on. I had a nice-looking shrub on my front lawn, which she complained from the beginning that it was blocking her view. She wanted to cut it down and after bugging me about it for weeks, I finally trimmed it so she could see without having to put her chair on the sidewalk.

We had an old dumpster that had a hole in the side of it, and I tried ordering a new one, but it was going to be a few weeks before one could be delivered. One morning the neighbor called to say that she had seen an animal go into the dumpster at midnight. She said she was sorry, but she nodded off around 3:00 AM and didn't see the animal come out. She wanted me to come straight over to check if the animal was still in there. I went over and, of course, the animal wasn't there. After he had eaten his fill, he left. She said she was really tired of watching the dumpster all night. I told her not to watch it and assured her that a new dumpster was on the way, so she didn't have to worry about it.

One of my dwellers had his bedroom on the side facing Mrs. "Twitch" and he saw her watching him, so he pulled his shade down. He was 20 and a drinker and had empty cans of beer stacked against his wall blocking the exit door. He did not have good judgment and never listened to me, but he did take the advice of an 80-year-old "Section-8" tenant with dementia. He asked her what to do about Mrs. "Twitch" watching his bedroom, and she said take all your clothes off and raise the shade! Mrs. "Twitch" called me right away about it and I told her he was in

his own bedroom and I could do nothing about it.

Another time, the 20-year-old also asked the "Section-8" woman how to stop the apartment dwellers above him from playing loud music. Instead of telling him to go up to the people and ask them politely to turn their music down, she told him to take a broom and punch the ceiling with it. Of course, it made a lot of holes and I had to replace the ceiling. He earned the "stupid" label big time. More on him and some of my other "noteworthy" dwellers coming up.

Next column: More apartment dwellers

The Mountain Gazette

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Route 15,
Jeri-Hill Plaza,
Jericho

The benefits of diversity

By Ethan Tapper

Chittenden County Forester

I often talk about encouraging "diversity" in our forests. The reaction of most people is that they want their forest to be diverse, but they might not know what that actually means or why it's important.

In an ecological context, diversity means several different things. The term is usually used to describe species diversity, the number of different species of trees in a forest. In this sense, a forest with a lot of different species of trees is "very diverse."

A lesser-known type of diversity is structural diversity, which I think of as the way that the forest is growing. Structural diversity can be defined as the arrangement of different ages and sizes of trees in a forest; a forest with patches of young trees, old trees, and middle aged trees — and all ages and sizes of trees growing together — is "structurally diverse."

"Structural diversity" can also refer to the presence of different types of dead trees: dead-standing trees ("snags") and dead wood on the forest floor of all different shapes and sizes. While it may seem counter-intuitive, dead wood in the forest is incredibly important (arguably as important as living trees) for a ton of different ecological functions. These range from providing habitat for everything from birds and mammals to the tiny bugs and fungi that make our forests work, to influencing forest hydrology and forming rich soils for future generations of trees.

Readers of this column know that I advocate for both species diversity and structural diversity constantly. I do this because diversity supports everything that we want to manage forests

for. Diverse forests store more carbon, and we expect them to be better-suited to a changing climate. They provide habitat for a wide range of Vermont's wildlife. Studying old growth forests also shows us that species and structural diversity are important parts of how forests naturally grow and develop, which we want to emulate in any management that we do.

Think about the importance of diversity as a forest having "more tools in its toolkit." Forests with a lot of species and structural diversity are more resilient — able to remain healthy and productive amidst great stress and change — and adaptive — able to respond differently to the varied forms that disturbance and stressors take. Diversity protects forests from stressors that target a single species of tree — like the emerald ash borer — or a single size of tree — like a windstorm that wipes out a forest's overstory but leaves the understory intact. These qualities are important to any forest, but are especially crucial in a changing climate, when we expect natural disturbances to increase in intensity and frequency and for climatic changes to impact different tree species differently.

We want to cultivate diversity both within our forests and across the landscape. When managing for diverse forests, most people encourage Alpha diversity, the sheer number of different species and conditions in their forest. Looking solely at Alpha diversity, "edges" — where forests meet non-forested areas — are some of our most diverse habitats, used by huge numbers of tree, plant and animal species.

If you managed a forest for maximum Alpha diversity by creating a ton of "edges," you would help some wildlife species

Community continued on page 4

Our Retail Stores are Open!
Stop in and see us, we have missed you!



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Factory Location, Route 15, Jericho • 802-899-3373
SnowflakeChocolate.com

COMING EVENTS

**IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL and SOCIALLY DISTANCED
Wednesday, December 2**

Lions Blood Drive, 1:00 – 6:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane, Essex Junction. Please consider donating the gift of life this holiday season at this event sponsored by the Jericho-Underhill Lions Club. You can schedule an appointment at <http://redcrossblood.org/> and entering COVENANT. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Understanding Your Land at Different Scales, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, online. This webinar will help landowners to see their parcel at different scales, first on the ground, talking with landowners about their stories of the land; then we'll zoom out to use BioFinder to see the ecological context in which the parcel sits. Presenters Andrea Shortleeve, Jens Hilke, and Andy Wood. Register at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Thursday, December 3

Woods Whys webinars, 7:30 – 8:30 PM, online. **Woods Whys: An Exploration of Forests and Forestry** by Michael Snyder. When you find a great book, do you wish you could chat with the author? Now you can. Every first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM, Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation Commissioner Michael Snyder will join us for a reading and discussion of one or more of the collected essays in **Woods Whys**. Whatever your level of experience, from novice to seasoned professional, you'll find Michael to be not only an exceptionally knowledgeable forester but also an engaging storyteller. Each essay aims to teach people more about trees, forests, and forest management, and by doing so to help them become more connected to the woods around them. Bring your own questions for an interactive reading celebrating the magic of forests. Sponsored by the VT Woodlands Association and the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Registration is required; contact lisa@vtcoverts.org.

Saturday, December 5

Composting with Worms, 10:00 AM, on Zoom. Learn to harness the power of amazing earthworms to turn your food scraps into plant food. A perfect compost option for apartment dwellers! Worm composting bins are one way for households to keep food scraps out of the landfill, take action to reduce climate change, increase soil health, and follow Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (Act 148). Worm bins turn kitchen food scraps into compost that can be used to nourish gardens, lawns, and houseplants. Register in advance, online at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3tu04-A9QFOO-W8tLZz_4A.

Using MyHeritage Library Edition, on Zoom, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM. Our library computers now have access to MyHeritage Library Edition and our members can log on to it from home. With over six billion historical records and millions of family trees, it is a tremendous resource for genealogists. Marcie Crocker will introduce you to MyHeritage's Library Edition and explain how to effectively search all that material. She will also explain the difference between this offering and an individual subscriber's account. If you have European roots this database is particularly valuable given MyHeritage's long-standing focus on Europe and the Middle East. Join us, get familiar with this powerful tool and maybe pick up a few valuable tips to help you clear up some of your family mysteries. Classes at the Vermont Genealogy Library this fall will be online presentations using Zoom. They take place on Saturday mornings from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, including Q&A. The class fee is \$10. To register, go online to www.vtgenlib.org.

Sunday-Friday, December 6-11

Annual Maple Conference, daily sessions online. The conference kicks off on Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 PM with a panel of industry experts. Three interactive hour-long sessions will be offered daily Monday-Friday, December 7-11 at 9:00 AM, and at 12:00 and 5:00 PM. These will focus on maple business management, maple industry regulations, sugarbush health, marketing and media, and maple production and innovation. All sessions will be recorded for future viewing. To register, go to www.vermontmaple.org/maple-conferences. Attendees must register for each session they wish to attend. Registration for each session closes 24 hours before its scheduled start time.

Monday, December 7

Updating your town plan for Act 171, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, a Community Wildlife Program Virtual Workshop. Since January 1, 2018, towns and RPCs are required to identify forest blocks and habitat connectors, as well as plan for development in those places in ways that minimize forest fragmentation. This requirement asks towns to look at the larger patterns of forests and dive into the science of what is known about connectivity in their region at multiple scales. Some of the data involved is immediately actionable, but some of the models warrant caution and additional research. Tune in to hear how VT Fish & Wildlife Department can help your town interpret available data and translate it into actionable planning and policy. Presenters: Jens Hilke and Andy Wood. To register, go online to www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Community continued from page 3

but neglect those that need something different, like wildlife that require large, unbroken forest blocks. You might create great foraging habitat for a species, but nowhere for them to breed, nest, or rear their young. You would also be encouraging a habitat type that we already have in abundance — as our landscape becomes more developed and fragmented, there are plenty of edges and comparatively little unbroken “interior” forest. For these reasons, in addition to Alpha diversity you should consider Beta Diversity — the “uniqueness” of a site. While a forest or habitat may not support a lot of different species, it might provide something unique — a critical habitat for a few species — and so be worth protecting.

When species diversity, structural diversity, Alpha diversity, and Beta diversity combine, they form complex, resilient, and ecologically-functional landscapes. These are landscapes which are beautiful — supporting our quality of life and the character of our communities — functional — providing clean air, clean water, and many other benefits that make our world work — and productive — producing local renewable resources and other economic and cultural opportunities like forest-based recreation — into the indefinite future.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. He can be reached at his office at 111 West St., Essex Junction, at 802-585-9099, or at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov.

Tuesday, December 8

Assessing and Mitigating Deer Impacts on Woodlands, 12:00 or 7:00 PM, webinar. White-tailed deer are prevalent throughout most eastern U.S. woodlands. As selective browsers, they preferentially reduce the abundance of some plant species and as a result may indirectly increase the abundance of less palatable plant species. Several methods are available to assess if deer are impacting tree seedlings and other understory plants. Property size and ownership objectives influence the option available to limit deer impact. This webinar will address methods to assess deer impact as well as small and large-scale methods to reduce their impact on forest vegetation. To register, contact lisa@vtcoverts.org.

Taking Your Casual Birding Up a Notch with Audubon Vermont: Birding 102, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, webinar. Whether you recently started birding or you are a long-time birder ready to improve your skills, you can join Audubon Vermont for an hour of skill building. From birding-by-ear to selecting binoculars, we will share tips, tools, and resources to get you birding, from your windows to your favorite hiking trail. To register, please visit <https://bixbylibrary.org/event/taking-your-casual-birding-up-a-notch-with-audubon-vermont/>. Contact Ashley Bolger, ashleybolger@bixbylibrary.org, with any questions.

Woodland Legacy webinar, 7:00 – 8:00 PM. This webinar will cover the topic of legal liability companies. LLCs are considered by some woodland legacy planning experts to be the most robust and flexible legal entity available to woodland owners wanting to leave a woodland legacy. We will provide woodland owners with an understanding of LLCs, how they are formed, their value in legacy and estate planning, essential but not required provisions, the pros and cons of LLCs versus other legal structures, and more. Sponsored by Vermont Woodlands Association. To register, contact lisa@vtcoverts.org.

Wednesday, December 9

Preventing Establishment of Invasive Species: Early Detection as a First Line of Defense, 7:00 PM, on Zoom. Join VT Land Trust Stewardship Manager Jennifer Garrett and VT Land Trust VHCBA Americorps Land Management Coordinator Jack Minich for a discussion on how to recognize and address new invasive plant incursions. Learn about early detection monitoring and how to recognize some new-to-Vermont (or soon to be here) invasives to watch for in your community. Free. Register in advance at https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZlofumqrz0jGdV8ZBQ7v1P_KBOw0PpcN5sB.

Woods, Waters, and Wildlife: Putting the Pieces Together, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, online. This webinar will focus on the natural community and species scale components that are present on private lands. We'll learn more about available data in BioFinder and see what that looks like on the ground and how an understanding of these issues might affect how you manage your land. Presenters Andrea Shortleeve, Jens Hilke, and Andy Wood. Register at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Thursday, December 10

Ask a Naturalist: Winter in Vermont – Evening Edition, 5:30 – 6:30 PM. This program will bring naturalists from Audubon Vermont, Birds of Vermont Museum, and Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas together to talk about what is happening outside. While we can talk generally amongst ourselves about what is exciting outside during our long, dark winters, this program will work best if you bring a question or two (tuning in to listen is also okay)! Questions on migration, hibernation, plants, wildlife, etc., are all welcome topics. This program will require advance registration. When you register (<https://act.audubon.org/a/ask-naturalist-winter-vt-evening-webinar>), please consider making a donation, which will be shared amongst the organizations. This program is suitable for folks of all ages. Classes and other groups are welcome.

Saturday, December 12

Cookie Decorating in Westford, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Red Brick Meeting House, Westford. Sponsored by Westford Recreation Department. For all ages; drop-off okay for ages 6 and up. Cost is \$20. All supplies are provided and participants bring home all of their creations. Limited to 12 participants (first come, first served); please sign up via email to Meghan, valyoum@gmail.com.

Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy's Celtic Christmas at Home, 8:00 PM, a virtual event. Natalie and Donnell and their family invite the world into their home to witness their music, life, and preparation at Christmastime. Mostly music (Mac Morin, piano; Mark Kelso, drums; Remi Arsenaault, Bass; Elmer Ferrer, guitar), the event will also include candid moments around the kitchen, decorating the tree, and other bits of holiday chaos. Tickets, \$20, and more information are available at <https://www.flynnvt.org/Events/2020/12/Natalie-MacMaster-Donnell-Leahy-Virtual-Christmas>.

Tuesday, December 15

Wildlife on the Move: Protecting Landscaping Connections One Parcel at a Time, 12:00 – 1:00 PM, online. Join the Vermont Land Trust for this virtual event; register at <https://vlt.org/event/wildlife-on-the-move>. Animals such as bear, moose, and bobcat need large, undeveloped areas to survive. Vermont's land links wildlife habitat between New York, New England, and Canada. Many people and groups are working hard to protect wildlife corridors so these animals can survive, and thrive. Join us as we explore these corridors and the threats facing animals. We'll take a closer look at the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor in Waterbury and Stowe.

Wednesday, December 16

Managing Woodlands for the Benefit of Reptiles and Amphibians, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, on Zoom. Vermont is home to at least 40 herpetofauna species, including 19 reptiles and 21 amphibians. Do you know which species live on your property? Do you want to manage your woodland in a way that benefits these species? Join VT Coverts as we host VT Fish and Wildlife Herpetologist Luke Groff to learn about our state's native reptiles and amphibians and the habitats they depend on. Many of our reptiles and amphibians are relatively small and secretive and, although you may rarely see them, they play a critical role in VT's natural communities. Learn how you can support the conservation of VT's herpetofauna. Register in advance for this meeting online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZ0vfumtprzliG9FATiiFJE27q1k0S0UA-vmF>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

CHURCH WORSHIP

Virtual services at MMUUF

Join us for virtual Sunday services at the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship!

October 25, 9:30 AM: “Engage or Shelter?” In this service, long-time member Dana Baron will explore the role of our spiritual community in addressing the social and political chaos that is unfolding around us. Many of our members and friends are taking action individually, but is there or should there be a role for our Fellowship as a whole? Should we engage in the struggle collectively? Or should our Fellowship provide shelter — spiritual, emotional, and even physical — from the storm?

Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Sunday Services — 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. Please email info@mmuuf.org for how to join us on Zoom. Learn more at www.mmuuf.org and www.uua.org.

Jericho United Methodist Church outdoor worship service

With optimism for cooperative weather throughout the month of September, Jericho United Methodist Church is hosting its weekly worship service outdoors and in-person. All are welcome! Bring your mask and lawn chair and join us behind the church on September Sundays at 10:00 AM. We are located adjacent to Jericho Town Hall, with a shared driveway and parking. There will be music, prayer, and message from our new pastor, Rev. Sean Delmore. If weather challenges our gathering outdoors, we will revert to Zoom virtual worship, a decision made on Fridays. Feel free to email for updates or a Zoom invitation ~ Jen (luitjens@yahoo.com)

Bell Ringing at United Church of Underhill

The United Church of Underhill has been ringing their church bell each morning to let everyone know that they are being thought of during these extraordinary times. We have changed the time to 10:00 AM because we have changed the Sunday worship time to 10:00 AM.

As you hear the ringing let it be a time to pause, reflect, and be thankful for all we have.

Online church services in Jeffersonville, Waterville

By Rev. Devon Thomas

Hey all, the folks at the Second Congo Church in Jeff and the Waterville Union Church would like to invite all who feel called to join us for our online church services Sunday at 10:30 AM. We are now having weekly Zoom services and any who would like to watch can do so via our Facebook pages. You can find those linked below.

So, as we like to say at the church: 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!

Peace

<https://www.facebook.com/watervilleunionchurch>

<https://www.facebook.com/SecondCongregationalUCC>

Jericho Congregational Church is here to help

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our lives in numerous ways that we never could have imagined. Many of us are now working from home, home schooling, and in some cases, separated from those we care deeply about. We at Jericho Congregational Church want you to know that we are here for you during this unsettling time. If you need a listening ear or someone to pray with about any of the impacts of this crisis, please contact us at 858-5452 or jcchelps@gmail.com. You are not alone, and we are here to help.

Online worship service at Good Shepherd

Please consider joining us for online worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church starting 9:00 AM every Sunday morning. You can connect with each podcast/video service from Sunday morning through Wednesday of every week.

Centering Prayer Meditation Practice is now available on Fridays. Thanks to Alan's leadership and Zoom-genius, you can now take part in Centering Prayer Practice from your own home every Friday at 8:30 AM. Everything you need to know is at goodshepherdjericho.org. Click on *Menu* and then *Weekly Centering Prayer Meditation*. It is easy to join in. The Practice is geared for beginners through established meditators.

We are an open-minded Christian community 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 non-judgmental, all-embracing spiritual home. Join us at goodshepherdjericho.org. No matter who you are, how you are physically or spiritually, or where you are on life's journey, we welcome you in the name and love of Christ.

Please contact Rev. Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas, Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for more information or with any questions, at 802-503-9666 or pastorthomas@goodshepherdjericho.org.

Calvary Episcopal Church is Zooming!

Calvary Episcopal Church is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors. While the church building is currently closed, worship services are being held on Sundays at 9:30 AM via Zoom. All are warmly invited to attend! The Zoom link can be found on Calvary's website: <http://calvarychurchvt.weebly.com/>. Hope to see you soon!

LIBRARY NEWS

Holiday Book Giving Trees for Westford Public Library

Help support the Westford Public Library by donating books from our Book Giving Tree! Due to COVID restrictions, we are moving our “trees” online.

Phoenix Books is still offering a 20% discount on books purchased through them, or you may purchase books wherever you choose. Items purchased at Phoenix will be left there for the library to pick up later. Items purchased elsewhere may be dropped in the Library’s dropbox. You can stick a note in if you

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gratitude: Underhill telephone pole banner project

To the Editor,

Please forgive me if I forget you on this list... I mean well.

Thanks Rita, for the heartfelt acknowledgement of the Town Banners.

The project is ongoing, so there are more blank banners that can be painted over the winter! If any one feels moved to participate in the deep winter months, send me an email (maryhillstudios@gmail.com).

Thank you Christopher Butler, who hung all the banners up this spring.

Thank you Rick Heh, who hung new banners up this fall.

Thank you Rita St. Germaine, Essie Howe, Lee Thompson, Phylliss Geiss, who help make ongoing decisions about the project.

Thank you Nancy Davis, Cheryl Baker, Ginny Pekarik, Chris Widlund, Viviana Hardy, who sewed the banners.

Thank you Larry Leighton, for cutting the old tents up (perfectly) and getting the fabric ready for sewing.

Thank you Chantal O’Connor, Jessica Butler, Betsy Chapek, Alexandra Hartman, Henry and Julie Butler, Lucy and Emily Carson, Chris Widlund, Jamie Brillhart, Phylliss Geiss, Francine Mellott, Andrea Parikh, Sara Mabley, Carol Truesdell, Margie Larson, for painting banners.

Thanks to the Underhill Historical Society for funding the project, eight years in a row. To make a donation, send a check to: Underhill Historical Society, PmOm Box 153, Underhill, VT 05490.

Mary Hill
Underhill

Correction on Old Red Mill riverbank collapse

To the Editor,

In the September 19, 2020 edition of the Mountain Gazette, in the opening paragraph of an update to the Old Red Mill story, it is stated that riverbank collapse was due to “several high water events.”

Actually, the collapse occurred on October 31, 2019 as a result of torrential rain which flooded the parking lot, which then spilled over and collapsed the bank. If that could be clarified, I would be most appreciative.

I am the contact for the Jericho Historical Society, if you have any questions concerning this or any other matter.

Thank you for your coverage of the Old Red Mill.

Sincerely,
Louise Miglionico
Jericho

Sleet, Snow, Big Winds/Banners

To the Editor,

Well, it seemed like a brave and colorful idea...

In the last eight years we haven’t left the banners up past October, so I knew it might wreck them over the winter... but it seemed worth the effort during such challenging times in our world. I was hoping I could “do my part” with our community banner project.

I can’t discover a vaccine (sorry), or help in the ICU, but gosh darn I can make sure you’ll see images on your way to work, or the store, that might make you smile, or giggle, or remember how much you love living in a small town.

Mostly I wanted to do it for the kids.

But the winter weather is too destructive on our sweet little banners.

Thanks Rick, for re-hanging, and now taking down the show. We’ll do it as usual, next spring.

P.S. Thanks Rita St. Germaine and her neighborhood for painting this fall. I knew I would forget someone!

Mary Hill
Underhill

United Way of Lamoille County Teen Gift Card Program

Share the holiday spirit with local teens! This year has been particularly challenging. For some local families this holiday will look different, with fewer gifts for Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, or other cultural celebrations.

We invite you to extend your gift-giving to local teens.

The United Way Teen Gift Card Program offers you the opportunity to connect with families who are income eligible and provide a gift to a teenager in that family.

We’re calling out to residents and businesses to purchase gift certificates or gift cards in \$25 increments and send them to our office: United Way of Lamoille County, 20 Morrisville Plaza Suite B, Morrisville, VT 05661.

United Way will distribute the cards so the family may either purchase a gift for their teen or allow the teen to use the gift card themselves. Popular cards used in this program are Amazon, Kohl’s, American Eagle, and Old Navy. (Please, no cash, or iTunes or VISA gift cards.)

Your generous donation will brighten this holiday season for our 13-18 year-old neighbors. If you are interested in donating a gift card for the 2020 holidays, please send your gift cards by December 14.

would like the book dedicated to someone special.

All books should be purchased and/or dropped off by Saturday, January 16. Thank you!

Below is a link to the books we would like this year — please sign up for the book(s) you are going to purchase by going online to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0449a9ad2ba1f49-book>.

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

As of Tuesday, November 24, the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library has stopped appointments and has gone back to curbside only. COVID numbers in the state are rising and we want to keep our community members safe! We will open again for appointments once we see the numbers declining.

Curbside hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 – 7:30 PM; Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:00 – 5:30 PM; and Saturdays, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM. You may place items on hold at <https://drml.bywatersolutions.com>. You will receive an email or a phone call when your item is ready. Just let us know what day you would like to pick it up by calling 899-4962 or emailing rawsonlibrary@drml.org. Items may be returned in the book drop any time. Items are quarantined up to a week before they are checked in. Our WiFi remains active and is accessible from the parking lot or other areas adjacent to the building. WiFi is available 24/7. A password is not needed to connect. Please be aware that our WiFi does not offer a secure connection..

Youth programs

Love comics and graphic novels, but can’t make it to the library? Check out our new online comics platform! Simply go online to <https://deborahrawsonmemoriallibraryvt.librarypass.com/>, enter your active library card barcode (which is case sensitive), set your own PIN and you’re in! Send questions and comments to youth_librarian@drml.org. And check out this video of the new books that have arrived on the Youth shelves in the last month: <https://youtu.be/5NEk40aIga8>

Adult programs

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are free and open to all, but registration is required. To register, please email program_assistant@drml.org.

Tech Talk: Zoom 101, Thursday, December 3, 2:00 PM. This new series of programs is designed to demystify digital technologies. Have questions you’d like answered? Send your suggestions for future programs to Erik, program_assistant@drml.org. This program uses the application Zoom. Need assistance in joining the program? Contact Erik, program_assistant@drml.org.

Anne Frank’s Neighbors: What Did They Do? Sunday, December 6, 2:00 PM. Although Anne Frank’s diary is the most widely read nonfiction book in the world after the Bible, little attention has been paid to her neighbors — the people who lived alongside the Jewish population as persecution intensified. Mary Fillmore examines the choices they faced and the decisions they made in the face of those choices. Why did some people ignore the situation, while others felt compelled to resist? What

HEALTH NEWS

Are you or a loved one struggling with substance use?

VT Helplink is your resource for finding substance use treatment and recovery services in Vermont. Our compassionate, trained specialists can help you or your loved one take a step towards recovery. Referral services are free and confidential. Go online to <https://VThelplink.org>.

Say “yes” to managing teen negativity

Parents have been quite positive about asking me questions regarding their teen’s negativity — so let me say yes to providing some guidance on this topic.

Negativity may be a way for your teen to manage their concerns or stresses, especially during these challenging times of the pandemic. By being negative or complaining to you, a teen may feel better because they are venting their fears and worries. Here are some ways to manage your teen’s moods and keep smiling.

Don’t let your teenager’s negative mood make your mood negative as well. If you don’t react to their negativity with your own negativity, your teen will likely move on more quickly to overcome the problem. For example, if they complain about your cooking, don’t tell them they complain about everything. Instead, don’t take it personally and say nothing or simply say, “I’m sorry you don’t like it,” and move on.

Try to identify the pattern of your teen’s negative moods. Are they mostly in the morning or after school? Perhaps your teen tends to turn negative at times when what they really want is your attention — and by being negative they think they can get it. Stay positive at those times and focus on giving your teen even more attention when they are not negative, and your teen may be better able to moderate those negative moods. Having them express their thoughts, both positive and negative, in a journal can also help.

Offer some activities that can distract, relieve, or calm your teen’s negative mood, rather than ask them to abruptly develop a cheerful disposition. You can offer one of two options to choose from to get them out of that mood, and if they don’t pick one, then go about your business and end the discussion. If they do choose an option you have offered, then help them get into that activity and praise them for finding a way to channel that negative energy.

Remember: you are not responsible for the choices your teenager makes about being negative versus positive, but you are responsible for how you respond to the negativity — and my advice is don’t go to the same negative place your teen is hoping you will go to with them.

Hopefully, tips like these will not be ones to complain about when you want to channel your teen’s negativity into more positive actions and conversations.

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

can we learn from them as we face the humanitarian crises of our own time? This program is presented through the Vermont Humanities Council’s Speakers Bureau. This program uses the application Zoom.

Mah Jongg, Mondays, December 7, 6:30 PM, and 21, 1:00 PM. Please join us as we explore the tile game of winds, dragons, and number tiles. If you like Rummy-style card games, you’ll love Mah Jongg! We’ll be meeting on the free website MyJongg.net, with a Zoom call allowing us to chat once again. All are welcome, no experience necessary! This program uses the application Zoom and the website MyJongg.net.

Deborah Rawson Book Lovers — Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 PM. DRBL is a monthly adult book discussion group. This month’s selection is *Kitchen Confidential* by Anthony Bourdain. New members are always welcome to drop in on any meeting, which is always the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. For more information on how to join in, contact Christine@staffa.com. This program uses the application Zoom.

For a full list of online resources, including digital e-book and audio book services, classes including language courses, and compilations of filmed programs, please visit <https://www.drml.org/how-to-use-a-closed-library/>.

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

JERICO TOWN LIBRARY

Hello Jericho! You may have previous information about Jericho Town Library reopening by-appointment this week. Given the rising Vermont COVID-19 cases and the new information and restrictions from the governor, I wanted to give you all a brief update of our reopening plan.

We are going ahead with reopening, with a few changes to our original plan. We will now be admitting only one individual or one family group during each 30-minute time slot. You can still sign up for a browsing session (either individual or family) on our Calendly page: calendly.com/jerichotownlibrary.

We will also be conducting a very brief health screening at the door, including a quick temperature check with a contactless

Libraries continued on page 6

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

New COVID related restrictions

By Thomas Stevens, State Representative, Washington-Chittenden

Unfortunately, Vermont is seeing an uptick in COVID cases. On Friday, November 20, Governor Scott announced a series of restrictions with respect to social distancing and limitations on businesses. These restrictions are meant to mitigate the negative effects of COVID in our state, and they are happening at a time when we are more likely to gather inside together as friends and family.

Please keep your local businesses, especially restaurants, in mind over the next several weeks. They have already been scrambling, as have families with children and the schools and child care centers and daycares associated with them, to find a way to stay available to the public, and to stay in business. I appreciate having dinner cooked for me and my family once a week or so.

Here are the new restrictions, taken from an email from the administration:

To slow the spread of COVID-19 as cases and hospitalizations rise in Vermont and throughout the nation, Governor Scott announced Friday several temporary limitations on social gatherings and business operations.

Public and Private Multi-Household Social Gatherings Prohibited — Attendance at all public and private social gatherings, indoor and outdoor, including social gatherings incidental to ceremonies, holiday gatherings, parties and celebrations, shall be limited to participation with only members of a single household. Individuals who live alone may gather with members of their immediate family residing in a different household.

Restaurant Hours and Seating Limits — Restaurants must close in-person dining at 10:00 PM, but may provide curbside and delivery service after 10:00 PM. For in-person dining, restaurants must seat only one household per table, in accordance with existing capacity limits and the new restriction on multi-household gatherings.

Closure of Bars and Social Clubs — Bars and social clubs will be closed for in-person service until further notice. Curbside and delivery service is allowed.

Pausing Recreational Sports — Youth and adult recreational sports activities, not related to Vermont Principals Association sanctioned school sports, are suspended until further notice.

Telework Requirements — All businesses, non-profits, and government entities shall reinstitute telework policies for all employees to the maximum extent possible. In-person meetings are strongly discouraged and should be held by telephone or video conference whenever possible.

Contact Tracing and Testing Requirements — All restaurants and other businesses hosting non-essential activities shall maintain a 30-day log of employee and guest names and contact information in case contact tracing is required by the Health Department. These individuals are consenting to be contacted by the Health Department Contact Tracing Team. Further, all Vermonters are directed to comply with requests made by the Contact Tracing Team. Finally, college students returning home in Vermont (from in-state and out-of-state schools) shall quarantine for 14 days or seven days with a negative COVID-19 test and testing is strongly encouraged.

Child Care Stabilization Payments - Time-Sensitive

By Theresa Wood, State Representative
Washington-Chittenden

If you are a regulated child care and early learning provider, please see the new, very time-limited program for you and your employees. This was established in recognition of the role you have played in keeping our youngest Vermonters safe so their parents can work during this pandemic. If you are a parent and are seeing this, please pass along to your childcare provider.

Here is the link to get more information and apply: <https://def.vermont.gov/cc-workforce-stabilization>.

PEOPLE - OBITUARIES



Zona Carrie Harvey Bryce, 77, passed away on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at her home surrounded by her loving family, following a brief illness. Born February 6, 1943 in Jeffersonville, VT, Zona Carrie Harvey was a twin daughter born to the late Stanley and Hazel (Mashia) Harvey Sr. She graduated from Cambridge (VT) High School, Class of 1961. Zona married her high school sweetheart Olin Stewart Bryce Jr. on July 1, 1961 and they made their home together on the family dairy farm in Cambridge's Pleasant Valley, with the iconic view of Mount Mansfield as the backdrop. Zona worked whole-heartedly alongside her husband, maintaining the dairy farm, raising their six children, and volunteering in the community whenever she could. She had a deep devotion to family in both good times and bad. She gave great care to her parents and to her siblings in their time of need, for which she will be always be remembered. She is survived by her beloved husband Olin and six children, Marcia (Timothy Connors), Todd, Toni (Robin), Terri (Sherry), Margo (Shaun Donahue), and Tyler (Jill); twelve grandchildren, Codi (Miranda), Ashley (Steve Jean), Shelby, Shawn Connors, Ryan Connors, Chapin (Alexa), Olivia, Katharine, Thomas, Jared, Emily, and Joshua; as well as three great-grandchildren. The extended family includes Suzanne Harvey-Safford; Esther Meyer; Lucille, James, and Richard Bryce; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Zona also leaves behind many life-long friends whom she treasured. Zona was predeceased by all of her siblings including her twin Zilda (Maynard), Beverly (Clayton Russell), Katherine (Desmarais), Marlene (Lloyd Dezotelle), George and Stanley Harvey Jr., as well as Olin's siblings

Virginia Hanker, Carroll Bryce, and Glenna McGowan. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Lamoille Home Health and Hospice, 54 Farr Ave., Morrisville, VT 05661, and the Lamoille Area Cancer Network, P.O. Box 38, Lake Elmore, VT 05657, as the family is grateful for the care and support they gave Zona during these trying times during this global pandemic. A.W. Rich Funeral home is handling the arrangements. A private family viewing will be held at the Bryce Sugarhouse, with a private family graveside service in the family plot in the Jeffersonville Village Cemetery.



Karen Ann DeRoehn Ferro lost her very courageous five-year battle with several cancers on Friday, November 20, 2020. It comforted her to know that her brother, Alan, was there with her and making sure her cats were being taken care of. That is when she peacefully passed. Karen was born on November 5, 1955 in Rumford, ME to Robert and Jeanette DeRoehn. She attended St. Theresa's School for years 1-8 and graduated in 1973 from Mexico High School, where she was involved with many activities. Karen went on to study at Champlain College in Burlington, VT, and remained in that area for the rest of her life. She worked for American Airlines at Logan Airport, living in Boston for the week, and enjoying her beautiful home in Jericho, VT on the weekends. She finally decided commuting was too much and worked in the hospitality industry for the Marriott in Burlington, retiring in May 2020. Karen very much enjoyed traveling and was well known for her "surprise" appearances at her cousin Debbie's musical gigs from Maine, to Florida, to Missouri. She

also loved her annual vacation to York Beach, ME. Karen was the ultimate cat lover and mothered many strays and adopted felines over the years. It is fitting that donations in her memory be sent to Affectionately Cats, 60 Commerce St., Williston, VT 05495. Karen is survived by her brother, Alan DeRoehn of Rumford, ME, and his son, Cory DeRoehn and family; her brother, Gary DeRoehn, of Mexico, ME, his wife Linda, and daughters Valerie and Chelsea. She will be dearly missed by several cousins and dear friends. Karen had a survival spirit like no other. Always with a smile and that insanelly infectious laugh would bring anyone's mood to the top.

"To the skeptics: If you want to ignore or choose not to believe the science, there's not much we can do to stop you. But the number of people in hospitals is growing because some care more about what they want to do, rather than what they need to do to help protect others. The consequences of an overwhelmed healthcare system will have a far greater impact on our economy and welfare than all the prevention and mitigation measures. The skeptics are right, they can do what they want. But please don't call it patriotic or pretend it's about freedom. Real patriots serve and sacrifice for all, whether they agree with them or not. Patriots stand up and fight when our nation's health and security is threatened, and right now, our country and way of life are being attacked by this virus, not (by) the protections we put in place." — Phil Scott, Governor, Vermont

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Free VSCS Virtual Job and Internship Fair

Are you looking for work, an internship, or a volunteer opportunity?

The Free Virtual Job and Internship Fair organized by the Vermont State Colleges System offers a great way to connect with businesses throughout Vermont and beyond. The Virtual Fair runs through December 31.

See the Virtual Job and Internship Fair web page, <https://www.vsc.edu/job-internship-fair/>, for direct access to the 237 businesses, organizations, and schools announcing opportunities through the Fair. You can also sign up to receive job and internship updates from the VSCS at that web page.

Northern Vermont University Career Services staff are available to answer your questions. Contact Beth Walsh, Director of Career Development NVU-Johnson, at Beth.Walsh@NorthernVermont.edu.

Jericho Underhill Land Trust membership drive

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

A gift idea for yourself or others: the gift of permanent land conservation! What would our community feel like without Mills Riverside Park, Casey's Hill, or the Tomasi Meadow?

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Your membership contribution is tax deductible and allows us to continue our work. JULT receives no other funding. Thank you for your support!

You can become a member or renew your membership to JULT online through our PayPal form; it accepts major credit cards. Just go to our website at <https://www.jult.org> and look for "Support JULT." You can also help JULT through your membership contribution by sending a check to JULT, P.O. Box 80, Jericho, VT 05465. Please go to our website for more information at <https://www.jult.org>. We are working on land conservation opportunities right now!

Teens Teaching Technology

Trouble with technology? Teens Teaching Technology is a great way to learn more! Come with a problem, or just to learn. Please contact Annie Rheame, 802-309-8158 for details.

LRSWMD announcements

FACILITIES NOTE: Please be prepared for last minute facility closures as we enter into cold and flu season amid the COVID pandemic. We encourage caution among our employees when they may be feeling ill to protect both you and our staff; therefore, we may have to close facilities at the last minute when staff members are unable to report to work. We will do our best to communicate these closures far and wide if this happens and ask for your kindness and understanding in this situation.

JOIN OUR CREW: If you are wondering what it takes to manage all of those materials that people bring us every week, or you anticipate needing a little extra cash with the holidays on the horizon — we can help! We are looking to add a few members to our weekend crew. Start immediately making \$15 an hour. Get in touch with James, 802-730-4952 or facilities@lrswmd.org, for more information. Applications can be picked up at any LRSWMD location.

PLU BINGO: It's coming to an end... our produce sticker bingo game will end in December. Get your last few cards at any LRSWMD location and turn it in full of 36 PLU stickers by December 31 for a chance to win the final PLU Bingo prize. Don't be discouraged though, a new promotion will start next year!

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District & Lamoille Soil serves towns in Lamoille County including Cambridge and Jeffersonville; 29 Sunset Dr., Morrisville; 802-888-7317, www.lrswmd.org.

Winter Horse Camp — online

Sugarwoods Equestrian Center is excited to announce an online opportunity for kids to connect with their peers and learn about their favorite topic — horses! Our instructor Olivia Asper will be hosting an online horsemanship program is ideal for any horse crazy kid. The program will include learning, arts and crafts, interaction with other horse crazy kids, and (weather permitting) playing with the horses at the farm in Belvidere. No horseback riding experience required.

The program will run in four sessions, four weeks each, 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Monday-Friday. Campers will attend one day per week, as many sessions as they would like. Each session will be focused on a different aspect of the horse world. \$35 per day. Payment due prior to the beginning of each session, through PayPal or Venmo.

Session A: January 4-29, online;

Session B: February 8-March 5, online;

Session C: March 15-April 9, online or at the farm (outside);

Session D: April 12-May 7, online or at the farm (outside).

COVID precautions will be in place for in-person days in the spring.

Please email sugarwoodsequestriancenter@gmail.com for more information and to register. Registration closes on Wednesday, December 16.

Richmond Food Shelf Thrift Store temporarily closing

The Thrift Store portion of the Richmond Food Shelf is closed. Our apologies for any inconveniences but it is the right step, for now.

The Food Shelf remains open Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Thursdays 4:00 – 6:00 PM, and Saturdays 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. We will be closed on Christmas and New Years Day.

Thank you for your understanding. — The Board Members of the Richmond Food Shelf and Thrift Store

Utility bill assistance available

By Charlie Van Winkle, District Representative VT Electric Cooperative (#5), Underhill

VEC members, please do not wait to apply if you need assistance with past due bills due to loss of income stemming from the pandemic. The state's COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program (<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/vermont-covid-19-arrearage-assistance-program-0>) continues to offer financial assistance to members, both residential and non-residential, for balances over 60 days past due that are attributable to economic hardship due to loss of income caused by the pandemic. VEC Members should find out if they are eligible promptly and apply as soon as possible because funds are limited, and applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis. The application deadline is Tuesday, December 15.

Find information and apply online at the link given above, or call VEC at 800-832-2667. Non-VEC members are also eligible, this is for any type of utility service, not just electricity!

No Scout Troop 627 Christmas trees this year

With the current orders in place from Governor Scott and the Green Mountain Council's and Troop 627's desire to help keep Scouts and community members safe, we have made the difficult decision to not hold our annual Christmas Tree Sale at Jolley's in Jericho.

We greatly appreciate your continued support and understanding during these unprecedented times. The Scouts and families will miss engaging with the community during the 2020 Holiday Season. We all look forward to better times and hope that you all remain healthy. We are planning to resume sales again in 2021.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season!

Community Bank closes branch lobbies — drive-through only

Community Bank N.A. has been closely monitoring updates and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and local, state, and national authorities about the evolving situation of COVID-19 (coronavirus). The bank made the proactive decision to close all branch lobbies and operate solely through available drive-through service as of November 25. All branch lobbies are available by appointment only, including locations with and without drive-through service.

Community Bank understands the vital importance of customers having access to their accounts and encourages customers to continue checking <http://cbna.com/> for updates. Customers should note that lobby appointments can also be made by calling local branches.

Community Bank's ATMs and secure night depositories will remain available during this time. Additionally, the bank's online, mobile, and phone banking options will allow customers the convenience of banking from home. Online and mobile banking tools provide 24/7 digital account access and the ability to transfer funds, check account balances and activity, pay bills and more. Customers may also apply to open a personal deposit account or apply for a personal loan online at cbna.com. If customers aren't enrolled yet in online or mobile banking, they can visit <http://cbna.com/> or contact customer service, 1-866-764-8638, Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

2020 United Way volunteer opportunities

United Way of Northwest Vermont's mobile-friendly Volunteer Connection search platform connects you to hundreds of volunteer needs with local nonprofits. Go to www.unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com or contact us at megan@unitedwaynwvt.org.

LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER PROJECTS FOR A GROUP? — ReSOURCE has various painting to projects to complete throughout the store and warehouse. If you and a group of family, friends, or coworkers want to help the community through ReSOURCE's dual mission of less waste in our landfills and training to increase job opportunities for youth and adults, please contact volunteer@resourcevt.org.

HELP AT FRANKLIN COUNTY BLOOD DRIVES — American Red Cross. Are you available to support us at upcoming blood drives in Franklin County? Join us to provide excellent and enthusiastic customer service to enhance the blood donor experience. Engage with blood donors to promote blood donation and set the stage for long-term commitment to regular blood donations. Apply at <https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer.html>.

DOES YOUR STUDENT NEED VOLUNTEER HOURS? Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity ReStores in Williston and Milton are both looking for student support this fall and winter. Shifts are flexible (come during the week, after school, or on weekends) and no experience necessary. Tasks include: sorting clothing, unloading incoming donations at the back door, sorting and moving items onto the sales floor, pricing items, testing electronics and small appliances, and keeping the store tidy and organized. Volunteers must be 16 years or older. Contact Allison DeVoe, adevoe@vermonthabitat.org.

DELIVER MEALS TO OUR HOMEBOUND NEIGHBORS — Age Well Meals on Wheels program needs your help now more than ever. Deliver nutritious meals to homebound elders in Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, and Addison counties. Drivers pick up food at a central location and deliver to residential locations on their route. Time commitment varies from one day per week to one day per month, from approximately 10:30 – 11:45 AM. Background, license, and insurance check. Contact our Volunteer Department, 662-5249 or volunteerservices@agewellvt.org to learn more.

ART / MUSIC / THEATER



NOVEMBER 20-29

The Vermont International Film Festival has partnered with the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival to present Split/Screen, an eight-month curatorial collaboration. From November 2020 through June 2021, the festivals will co-present a monthly series of films online. Learn more about Split/Screen at <https://vtiff.org/vtiff-now/split-screen/>.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Virtual Christmas with Natalie MacMaster

Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy's *Celtic Christmas at Home*, Saturday, December 12, 8:00 PM, a virtual event. Natalie and Donnell and their family invite the world into their home to witness their music, life, and preparation at Christmastime. Mostly music (Mac Morin, piano; Mark Kelso, drums; Remi Arsenault, Bass; Elmer Ferrer, guitar), the event will also include candid moments around the kitchen, decorating the tree, and other bits of holiday chaos. Tickets, \$20, and more information are available at <https://www.flynnvt.org/Events/2020/12/Natalie-MacMaster-Donnell-Leahy-Virtual-Christmas>.

Vermont Stage presents Winter Tales (digitally!)

Please join us from 12:00 PM on December 9, until 12:00 AM on December 16, for Vermont Stage's 16th Annual *Winter Tales* holiday tradition. Due to health and safety concerns, this production will be a digital event this year, available December 9-16 from www.vermontstage.org.

Pour yourself a cup of hot cider, grab a plate of molasses cookies, and enjoy the show from the comfort of your home. Purchase your tickets online at www.vermontstage.org and buy a wonderful gift for your family and friends today.

Women's Festival of Crafts has gone virtual

The 31st Women's Festival of Crafts is thrilled to announce that we are still here creating and have gone virtual for the 2020 holiday season. Shop with over 80 unique Vermont artists from the comfort of your home!

We will be showcasing many past vendors and an array of new artists this year. No need to sign up for anything, just head to our website www.womensfestivalofcrafts.com at your leisure for direct links to all of this year's vendors.

Make sure to follow our Instagram (@womensfestvt) and FB (@womensfestivalofcrafts) for special promotions and product features, through Friday, December 18. We hope that you shop small and local again this holiday season. We miss seeing all of our customers in person and we thank you for the many Women's Fest events you've supported in the last 31 years!

Artist Development Grants support digital pivot

Since announcing a special round of Artist Development Grants in early August, the Vermont Arts Council has awarded

31 grants to artists in nine counties, and of them 19 supported an artist's "digital pivot" in some way.

These include nine website launches or redesigns, six purchases of equipment or services for digital media, and four online courses or digital media consultations. Of the artists receiving these awards, six of them are teaching artists working in Vermont schools through our Artists in Schools program.

Another round of Artist Development grants is open, and artists adapting their work for COVID-19 are encouraged to apply. The deadline has been extended to Monday, January 11. Learn more and apply online at <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/artists/artist-development>.

Spruce Peak Arts Winter Concert series begins December 5

This year's Spruce Peak Arts Winter Concert series will bring seven live performances, including options for limited, safe, in-person attendance, as well as for live-streaming. The mix of limited in-person seating and live-streaming of events is to ensure the health and safety of our patrons and community.

The series kicks off on Saturday, December 5 at 7:00 PM with Patti Casey and Colin McCaffrey, two of Vermont's most beloved musical treasures. Both grew up in Vermont, and both are internationally known as award-winning songwriters and singers.

Next in the series will be Dave Keller's *You Get What You Give* CD release concert on Saturday, December 19 at 7:00 PM. The award-winning singer, guitarist, and songwriter is known for his trademark Southern soul and blues music. His latest release is born from witnessing our nation's anger and pain following George Floyd's murder in June. Keller turned to a place of solace — music — and set forth to work on a new album to raise money for racial justice and equity.

Protocols for in-person attendance include mask-wearing, social distancing standards, reduced seating capacity, hand sanitizing, health checks, and extensive cleaning protocols. To learn more, please visit our Health and Safety Policy page, <https://www.sprucepeakarts.org/safety-and-health-policies/>.

Tickets are \$25 for in-person attendance, \$15 for live-stream. In the event that Vermont guidance shifts to restrict in-person attendance, existing in-person tickets will be changed to live-stream. In-person ticketholders will have the option of a credit, refund, or making a donation with the remainder.

The Winter Concert Series will run through March 2021 with additional performers and dates to be announced in the coming weeks.

Call for applications: Artist Development Grants

The Vermont Arts Council is now accepting applications for its next round of Artist Development Grants. The deadline for this current round is Monday, January 11, 2021.

Artist Development Grants support artists at all stages of their careers. Grants can fund activities that enhance mastery of an artist's craft, or skills and activities that increase the viability of an artist's business. New this year: Grants can also support teaching artists in developing the skills necessary to provide instruction in K-12 schools remotely during the COVID-19 crisis.

Funding may also support aspects of the creation of new work when the activity allows the grantee to accept a rare and important opportunity.

Eligible expenses for such activities include, but are not limited to: advanced study of technique or practice with a mentor; attending a professional conference to build business or artistic skills or knowledge; contracting professional services including photographic documentation of work, contract preparation, or business incorporation, creation of accounting systems, developing e-commerce on a website, creation of marketing materials, etc.; marketing, planning, purchasing some materials, or renting space for new exhibitions or performances; adapting and responding to the current COVID-19 crisis; travel within the United States.

Applications are evaluated in three areas: impact, planning, and budget. Priority is given to first-time grantees and proposals for rare or unique opportunities.

Who may apply: artists who: have been residents of Vermont for a minimum of one year prior to the application deadline and are residents at the time the award is granted; are eighteen years of age or older at the time of application; have submitted all required reports on any prior Council grants; meet all of the above requirements and are applying as a representative of an artist group.

Who may not apply: artists whose projects involve activities for which college credit is given; artists who have received any other Arts Council grant in the same fiscal year to support the same project; artists who have received an Artist Development Grant between September 2020-June 2021.

For full details and the online application, visit vermontartscouncil.org/artistdevelopment.

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GREENLEAF CONSULTING, INC

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE RATES – 2021

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

The *Mountain Gazette* store-delivers 4,500 - Bolton, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Jericho, Underhill, Westford, Essex Junction, Essex, Essex Center, Fairfax, Huntington, Hinesburg, Jonesville, and Richmond.

TOTAL CIRCULATION – 4500 COPIES

The *Mountain Gazette* is owned and operated by Brenda Boutin. Boutin has a B.A. in Graphic Design and is the Graphic Designer. Ads are designed for you at no added cost.

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Unitarian Church, Burlington. Join the Chittenden County Historical Society for The Spirit of Christmas Past: Four Centuries of Christmas in New England, a presentation by Kenneth C. Turino on Zoom, Sunday, November 22, 2:00 PM, that will look at how Christmas was transformed from a rowdy celebration to a family-centered event — how the Christmas tree became popular, halls were decked, and Santa Claus came to town. Pre-register online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZMtce-hrDMuHdVDHusy9E8DeugC4Bryk24R>. You will receive a confirmation email with the information needed to join the presentation online.

PHOTO FROM UVM LIBRARIES

TOWN OF JERICHO

The Town of Jericho will hold a Local Concerns Meeting on **Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 6:00 PM** via Zoom for the Riverside Triangle Sidewalk project. This sidewalk scoping study will address the network gap around the Riverside Village triangle. Specifically, this project will identify a preferred alternative for the missing link along Vermont Route 15.

Public participation and comment at this meeting is welcomed and encouraged using the following methods:

- Access the November 19 Zoom meeting for free on your computer, smartphone or tablet: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84442244520?pwd=aUJsQjRFQWVYVE5nWTBVSU51NDV3QT09>. This method allows for video and audio connection.
- Call-in to the meeting: (646) 558 8656, enter the Zoom meeting ID #884 4224 4520, enter passcode #558566. This option allows for audio only connection.
- MMCTV live video recording on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MMCTV15/live> and live on the MMCTV local Comcast Cable Channel 1086. Note that these MMCTV options will not allow for live public comment.

Project materials may be viewed or questions may be asked on the Town website: www.jerichovt.org/riverside-sidewalk. For more information contact Katherine Sonnick, Jericho Town Planning and Development Coordinator at ksonnick@jerichovt.gov.

Westford School PTO Buy Local is back!

It's that time of year again! The best time of the year, and in 2020, it truly is a huge highlight!

BUY LOCAL! BUY LOCAL! BUY LOCAL!

Buy Local is our biggest PTO fundraiser Westford School, and this fundraiser gives you lots of opportunities to shop local as we've partnered with many great local businesses to offer \$10 for \$20, coffee club cards, and discounts!

Sweet Clover Market • Westford Country Store • J&L Hardware • Eastman's Bakery • The Nest • Firebird Cafe • Danish Woolen Delight

Follow this link for buying vouchers: <https://westfordpto.myshopify.com>.

We're especially fortunate this year to not only have the opportunity to offer the above local businesses vouchers, but we have received donations from Erica's Diner, Fairfax Pharmacy, Essex Equipment, and Martone's Market. Thank you!

To ensure we are practicing and adhering to COVID-19 cautionary measures, we are offering to ship your vouchers for a small fee. We will also offer two windows of contact-free pick up (outside) at Westford School on Saturday, December 12 and Sunday, December 13, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

For more information of if you have questions, please contact westfordpto@gmail.com.

Westford School PTO thanks you for your continued support of the Westford School and community!

Hiring Now!

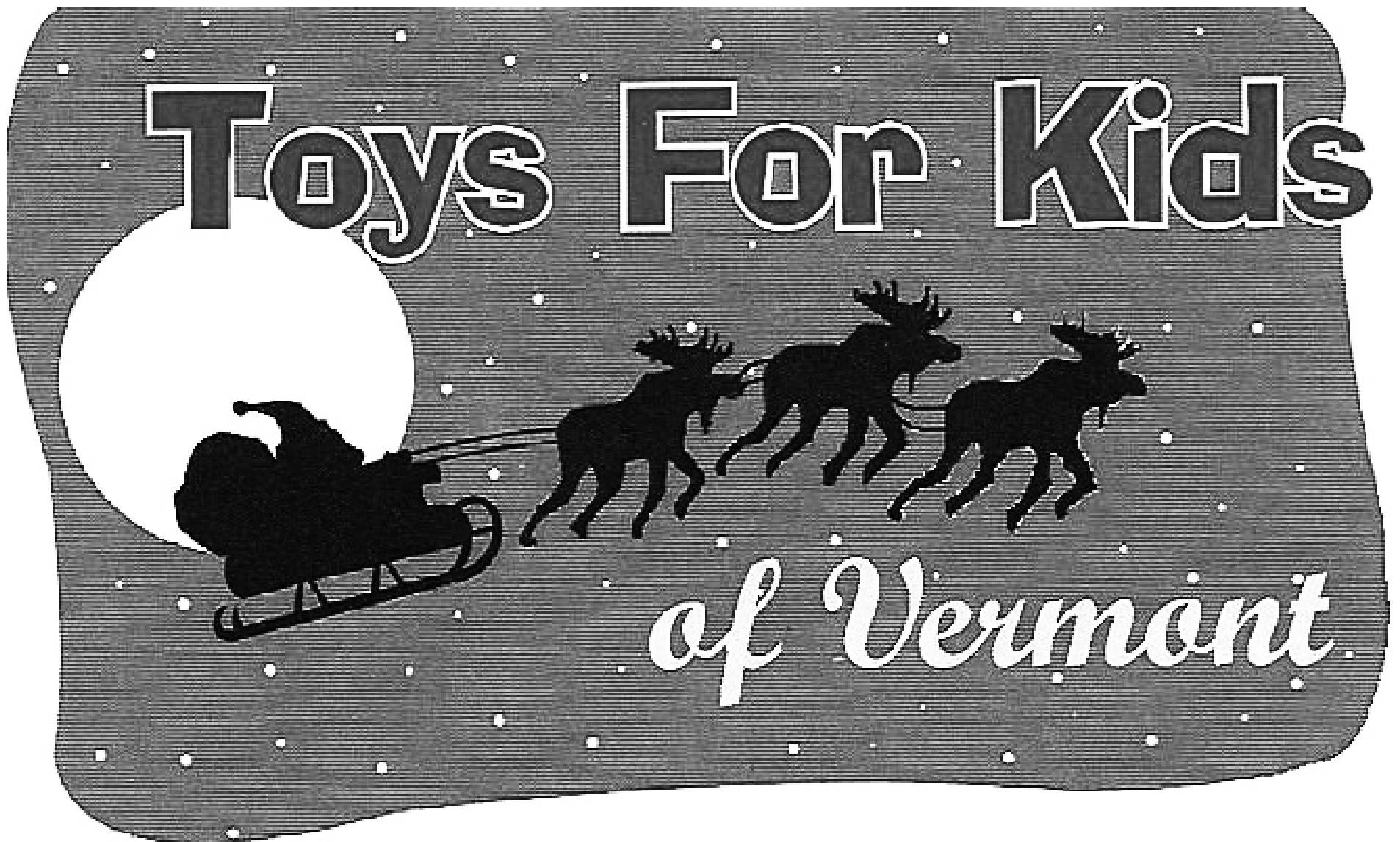
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Toys For Kids needs donations for 2020 holidays

Donald Cook Detachment, Marine Corps League

Thousands of Vermont kids live below the property level during “normal” times. In addition, the 2020 COVID-19 worldwide pandemic has affected many Vermont families and their kids. The pandemic has further impacted many businesses in our area through business closures, lay-offs, and folks working from home. Toys for Kids collection efforts have also been impacted through loss of approximately 30-35 barrel collection locations and monitors to empty these barrels (see our website www.toysforkidsvt.com for a dynamic list of current barrel locations in your area).

Kids would not have a “Good Toy Day” at Christmas if not for the efforts of Toys for Kids, a 100% volunteer, non-profit program. Toys for Kids, coordinated by the Marine Corps League, is the largest Christmas toy collection program in Vermont for needy kids. With the help of NBC Channel 5 TV and many business sponsors, volunteers work diligently during the Christmas season to monitor and empty hundreds of our signature red Toy for Kids barrels. All new, unwrapped toys collected are turned

over to agencies like the Salvation Army for distribution to needy families in Vermont. We ask you to generously buy at least one toy for a kid.

This year has been full of challenges and the effect of this on Vermont kids is our main concern. Local agencies estimate that we should expect about a 25% increase in demand for toys in 2020. Loss of barrel locations will significantly impact our ability to provide toys to more than 500 kids at Christmas. With all they have been through in 2020, we do not want the kids to lose Christmas.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, we understand that you may be worried about going to stores to shop for toys to fill our toy barrels. Toys for Kids has implemented a virtual method to help you shop online. You can ship your on-line toy purchases to:

Toys for Kids of Vermont, c/o Jerihill Ace Hardware, 249 VT Rt. 15, Jericho, VT 05465

Once we receive and unbox your online shipments, the Toys for Kids team will deliver them directly to our local agencies. Please consider buying online from many of our local toy stores,

who have been hit hard by the 2020 pandemic. Buy early, ship early in order to avoid Christmas shipping congestion.

In addition to toys for children up to age 14, we depend on your generous financial donations throughout the year to buy \$35 Visa gift cards at Christmas for 15-17 year old kids. If you would like to help us financially, please mail a check to:

Toys for Kids, PO Box 4092, Burlington, VT 05406

You can also donate via PayPal thru our website www.toysforkidsvt.com and select *Donate*.

Thank you for your toys and financial donations so needy kids can have a “Good Toy Day” at Christmas. For more information, identifying potentially new barrel locations, or if you would like to be a barrel monitor, please contact any MCL member or John Welsh (Toy for Kids State Coordinator) at 802-872-0354.

Donald Cook Detachment, Marine Corps League
P. O. Box 4092, Burlington, Vt. 05406



Send your letters to Santa

Santa's elves delivered a very special Santa Mailbox outside the Westford Public Library the day after Thanksgiving. Write Santa a letter and deliver it to the mailbox by Friday, December 18 and Santa will answer you before Christmas. Create your own letters, draw a picture, or request special North Pole stationery from the library in your curbside order (begins December 2). Thanks to the Westford Recreation Department for providing this!

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Jericho residents, Catch 22 make contribution to Howard Center

Jericho residents Gail and Tim McKenna recently made a generous contribution of \$5555 to the Howard Center, Burlington, from their CATCH 22 Flag Football fundraiser. 2020 marks the sixth year the McKennas have made a donation in an amount that signifies important dates in their lives. The donation will support Howard Center's critical work in the community that helps individuals and families with mental health, substance use, and developmental services. Since the McKenna's Catch 22 Football fundraiser began more than 20 years ago, the organization has made donations to several community organizations, including the Shriner's Hospital and the Vermont Children's Hospital. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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